

TUESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM BROWNE CONDEMNS THE BRAZILIAN INSURRECTION

Story on Page 2



From left: Itajah Simmons (Ministry of Energy), Dishawn Yearwood (Ministry of Energy), and Kenroy Francis (SLBMC). As a part of its Energy Transition in the Caribbean Project, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission recently donated LED lightbulbs valued at EC\$19,500.00 to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre's (SLBMC's) ongoing lighting upgrade project. *Story on page 6*

Local News



Prime Minister Gaston Browne has condemned the "attack on democracy" in Brazil

Election Countdown:

8

days left

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has condemned the storming of the Congress in Brazil by supporters of the country's former leader, Jair Bolsonaro.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne also denounced the actions of right-wing groups who surrounded the Supreme Court and the Presidential Palace.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

The Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister said, "Mr. Bolsonaro lost the Presidential election, found to be free and fair by Observers from international organizations, including the Organization of American States, and the will of the electorate must be fully respected".

"These attacks on institutions of government by groups seeking to overturn the results are assaults on democracy, which will not be tolerated by the governments and peoples of the hemisphere", Prime Minister Browne stressed.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda stands in support of democratically-elected President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and his government, and we will make this position clear at the OAS and at the UN, in the coming days," the Prime Minister added.

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ELECTION Day

THIS IS ANOTHER ABLP YOUNG PEOPLE PRODUCTION

ABEC making final elections preparations

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) is getting ready for the final full week of activities with general elections just eight days away.

ABEC's spokesman, Ian Hughes, said preparations are well in hand and that he is satisfied with the pace being made by the department.

Hughes said his staff has finished packing poll boxes with the supplies that Presiding Officers will need in the polling stations on election day. Included are items that are essential for the smooth operation of each polling station.

"These boxes have been packed and are ready for distribution by next Monday and Tuesday. All the supplies are these such as pencils, staple machines, scissors, and labels et cetera.

"What are not included are the ballots, the ink, the seal and the registers. These will be handed out on Election morning," he explained.

With the ballots now printed, Hughes said emphasis has moved to com-

pleting the constituency transfers requested by voters and reissuing lost voter ID cards.

According to Hughes, a team from ABEC will travel to Barbuda today to process requests for replacement cards for voters there.

Meanwhile, ABEC is also preparing this week for the arrival of the election observer teams who will observe the 18th January polls.

The Commonwealth Secretariat team will arrive in Antigua and Barbuda today while the CARICOM observers are expected between Thursday and Friday.

At this point, Hughes es-

timates that ABEC is about a week ahead of schedule in its preparations for the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, the first phase of training for election day workers ended last night with an assessment that more than one thousand applicants were required to complete. Once the test results have been evaluated, about seven hundred people will be engaged to work on election day.

These seven hundred people will man polling stations across the nation and assist with the voting process. They will also be required to undergo additional training before 18th January.



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- MANAGEMENT

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Local News



ABLP: UPP minimum wage promise is a trick; most workers already earn more

“The UPP’s false promise to raise the minimum wage to \$10 an hour is nothing short of grandstanding because the overwhelming majority of public sector workers already earn more than \$10 an hour.”

Was the response from the Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) E. P. Chet Greene following a United Progressive Party announcement on the weekend that it will increase the national minimum wage if elected to office.

Greene pointed out just hours after the statement that, “...public service workers already earn more than \$10 an hour, the UPP promise is just an effort to deceive the electorate”.

“The UPP is promising less than public servants enjoy”, Greene stressed.

The Chairman Greene also emphasised that the ABLP government, just weeks ago, in consultation with the private sector and unions, agreed to increase the minimum wage for all workers to \$9.00.

Except for a small number of unskilled workers in the private sector, Greene made it clear that most private sector employees already earn \$10 or more per hour.

“Therefore, even for the private sector employees, the promise to raise the minimum wage to \$10 an

hour is just trickery and of no real benefit to the majority of workers.

“The ABLP government recently decided to increase the legal minimum wage from \$8.20 to \$9.00, purely to benefit unskilled persons. The government did so, in consultation with the private sector, because if private persons did not agree, they would dismiss workers so as to stay within the sum of money they could afford and, they would pass on the difference to the consumers,” said Greene.

He continued that the emptiness and “trickery” of the UPP’s promise is evident as their promise is



Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) E. P. Chet Greene

not supported by the careful, wide-reaching consultations undertaken by the ABLP.

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Tue 10 | Day

81°

21%
SE 10 mph

A few clouds from time to time. High 81F.
Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity
70%

UV Index
8 of 10

Sunrise
6:39 am

Sunset
5:50 pm

Tue 10 | Night

73°

23%
SE 7 mph

Mostly clear skies. Low 73F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity
80%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
9:03 pm

Moonset
9:19 am

Waning Gibbous

Senator Govia says UPP's election manifesto is "Comic Relief"

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's (ABLP) Senator Shenella Govia has labelled the United Progressive Party's (UPP) manifesto "Comic Relief."

Released online on Sunday, the UPP's manifesto is titled "Seven Pillars for Relief, Recovery and Shared Prosperity".

During an interview on Pointe On De Streetz on Monday, Govia said the UPP's manifesto simply reiterated its empty promises and deceptions. Govia went on that the UPP is also incapable of delivering on its proposals as the candidates they have put forward lack the ability to deliver real development and advancement for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"What is interesting for me, I find it as the 'Seven Comic Relief Pillars' because this is just a bunch of promises.

"You know, first of all when I look at the team, just a bunch of jokers because I am looking at this team and I am wondering who would be our minister of tourism," Govia said.

"Who would be our minister of agriculture and who would be our minister of housing? We have revolutionised housing in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Who would be our minister of finance? Can't be Harold Lovell again. He has been the worst per-



Senator Shenella Govia

forming finance minister in the hemisphere. It's just a bunch of promises and lies."

The Seventh Pillar outlined in the UPP's manifesto is Youth Empowerment. Govia said the opposition party's promise to empower young people is also without merit as they failed to do so when they governed Antigua and Barbuda from 2004 to 2014.

"What shocked me was the part when they spoke about youth empowerment and that is when I realised that it's just a bunch of promises and lies.

"The United Progressive Party governed Antigua and Barbuda between 2004 and 2014 and there

were no opportunities for young individuals.

"Even in the Senate right now, they had the opportunity to appoint four individuals and the youngest on the United Progressive Party in the Senate is Demani Tabor, who is well over 35. Then you have Shawn Nicholas, Richard Lewis and Johnathan Joseph.

"So, there was an opportunity for the UPP to show to the people of Antigua and Barbuda that truly they will give the young people of Antigua and Barbuda opportunity and they have not."

Unlike the UPP, Senator Govia said the ABLP is the only political organisa-

tion in the country which has moved to truly empower the young people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"Then they talk about board position make-up and if elected, they are going to have 25 percent of the individuals serving on boards. The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party government, we are doing that right now!

"If you look at the make-up of our Senate - and I am not talking about the current makeup, I am talking about the makeup of our Senate from since 2014 to present - You had Senator Shenique Fortune, Senator Michael Freeland was in his 30s at the time, Senator Knacyntar Nedd, Senator Adrian Lee of Barbuda.

"So, you have seen the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party government has truly empowered young people.

"Every single board has a young individual serving on the board at this time, under the age of 35 and some are even under the age of 30. We live what we preach.

"So, we are not making promises; the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party government, we have demonstrated, especially the Gaston Browne-led administration, because I have lived it, I have endured it and I have experienced it."

Local News



The national economy is improving

More signs are becoming evident that the economy is on an upward trajectory as government revenues over the past year have continued to increase.

Government's collections from the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) recorded a significant increase in 2022 compared with 2021.

According to the IRD, its 2022 collections exceeded the previous year by nearly \$40 million.

Figures made available to Pointe Xpress by the Commissioner of the IRD, Ralph Warner, showed that in 2021, EC\$333.4 million in revenue was collected.

In 2022, however, that figure jumped to EC\$371.4



million, an increase of \$38 million.

According to Warner, improved collection of the Antigua Barbuda Sales Tax (ABSt) was the greatest contributor to the gains recorded.

Coupled with data released last week by the Customs Division, these figures point to greater collections

for the government and are a positive indication that the economy is continuing to expand as a result of robust economic activity.

Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, has reported that for the year just ended, collections topped EC\$382.09 million compared to 2021 when EC\$338.62 million, an in-

crease of EC\$43.47 million or 12.84 percent, was recorded.

Boddu described 2022 as "a recovery year" adding that the division had been able to "claw" its way back to near its pre-COVID revenue performance.

"The pre-COVID year yielded EC\$389.55 million, which means that the gap was only EC\$7.46 million, or 1.96% less than 2019," Boddu said.

Antigua and Barbuda's recovery from the two-year COVID-19 pandemic, and its negative economic impact, appears to be firmly set on the road to full recovery as this year's figures are expected to surpass the records set in 2019.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre continues to light the way to savings

As a part of its Energy Transition in the Caribbean Project, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission recently donated LED lightbulbs valued at EC\$19,500.00 to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre's (SLBMC's) ongoing lighting upgrade project.

The proposal for this latest funding was completed by experts from the Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation, Transport and Energy (PUCATE).

In addition to saving on energy costs, the new fixtures will help the hospital attain a number of other energy-efficiency and other goals outlined for the project.

The new lighting fixtures are self-contained which eliminates the need for ballasts. This helps to great-

ly reduce maintenance requirements. The project also improves the facility's quality of lighting with soft bright LED lights and removes the heat of fluorescent lighting which ultimately assists in lowering air conditioning costs.

"This project began in 2020 following a level 3 audit conducted by PUCATE," said Gary Thomas, SLBMC's Director of Administration. "Since then, they have partnered with us to help secure funding for LED lights so we can realize those energy savings provided by upgrading. Making the transition to LED lighting not only allows for a more environmentally friendly facility for patients and staff but also reduces maintenance and energy costs. The savings gained will be channeled into further upgrades for

the facility. Another factor of this energy conservation project is the reduction of the hospital's carbon footprint."

Officials from the Ministry of Energy commented, "It is our delight at the Ministry of Energy to partner with both regional and international funding agencies, in particular the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). This partnership helps us as a nation in meeting one of our National Determine Contributions goals, which aims at enhancing building resilience and making government buildings energy efficient by reducing our energy consumption. We the Ministry look forward to continuing working together to make Antigua & Barbuda resilient within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sector."



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

In the matter of the Representation of the People Act Cap 379 of the Revised Edition 1992 of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda

And

In the matter of the provision for the making of Rules by the Electoral Commission pursuant to section 36 (1) of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act #17 of 2001:

Rules made by the Electoral Commission:-

- 1) No Radio and Television Station operating in Antigua and Barbuda shall prevent or cause to be prevented any Political Party or a Candidate nominated to run at the General Elections scheduled to take place on January 18th 2023 from broadcasting information necessary to promote the Candidacy of that candidate at the ensuing Elections.
- 2) No Print Media operating in Antigua and Barbuda shall prevent or cause to be prevented any Political Party or Candidate nominated to run at the General Elections scheduled to take place on the 18th Day of January 2023 from publishing any print material in order to promote the Candidacy of that Candidate at the ensuing Elections.
- 3) No Radio or Television Station or Print Media operating in Antigua and Barbuda shall distort or cause to be distorted any material given to it for broadcast or advertisement in print to promote the Candidacy of a Candidate at the ensuing Elections.
- 4) No Radio or Television Station or the Management thereof shall charge more than the ordinary and or hourly rate for advertisement of material to promote the Candidacy of a Candidate at the ensuing Election in order to prevent that Candidate from being able to broadcast or advertise the said material at an affordable rate.

Penalty

Any Radio Station, Television Station, Print Media or Servant thereof that contravenes any of the Rules hereby provided shall be guilty of an offence and shall on summary conviction be fined the sum of \$10, 000.00 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 1 year.

Letter to the Editor



Lovell's refusal to debate Browne and Massiah is shameful and cowardly

Dear Editor,

I have been away so this will be NOMAD's last letter before the Elections. In fact, I had intended to address the question of which Party is likely to succeed at the polls, and to comment on campaign strategies, the likelihood of the ABLP retaining government or being replaced and how many seats etc.

However, the recent refusal of Harold Lovell to face and debate Prime Minister Gaston Browne and

Leader of the Democratic National Alliance Joanne Massiah, has pushed me in a different direction.

Bear in mind that this invitation to debate came from an independent Media House – Twin Island Media of highly respected Julian Rogers and two also well-respected locals, Kieron Murdoch and Darren Matthew Ward.

Let me say at the outset that Harold Lovell's refusal to debate after loudly proclaiming that he

would, providing certain things were put in place, is a shameful act of political cowardice. NEITHER PM BROWNE NOR DNA LEADER MASSIAH set any pre-conditions. Lovell needs to explain to all Antiguan and Barbudans why he has flip-flopped.

In the absence of an official media statement from Lovell. I took to browsing Facebook and the MY UPP FB page to see if there was any statement or to see what the usual UPP

apologists had to say. One comment caught my eye. It was a post from Lionel Michael, former Chief Health Inspector, now resident in the BVI. He is a serial poster, usually with anti-government comments, and in support of Lovell and the UPP. Truth be told, his comments are for the most part incoherent and puerile.

In his comment, he supported Lovell's refusal to debate and I quote, "He right, just so you know Lovell is exceptional at debating." Michael gives no evidence to support this claim, but taking him at his word, plus the fact that Lovell is an Attorney and former member of Parliament, WHY THEN is he afraid to face Gaston and Joanne in a debate? WHY?

The reasons stare us in the face. Readers will recall that in a previous letter, NOMAD had enumerated a series of giveaways including to pay all debts due to the private sector, to pay one hundred million dollars in severance to LIAT workers even though government has no legal liability, to reduce the price of gas by \$3, reduce ABST and a host of other giveaways, amounting to almost ONE BILLION DOLLARS when the annual salaries of government workers were added

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Letter to the Editor

PAGE 9

cont'd from pg 8

in. He also promises to reduce customs duties on a number of items.

All of this without stating how these giveaways were going to be financed. **WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM?** During the debate, Mr. Lovell will be asked to explain these reckless promises when elected. For sure, he will bankrupt WIOC and all the hundreds of Antiguan who bought shares in WIOC will be out of money. Plus, with no WIOC, who will supply fuel to APUA to run electricity and water, not to mention the 55,000 vehicles.

Then there is the question of whether the UPP will re-introduce Personal Income Tax, to fund these giveaways, or, seek financial assistance from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), as has been suggested on several occasions, by UPP Candidate Pearl Quinn Williams, who is touted to become Finance

Minister in a UPP administration. These are some of the hard questions that are sure to be posed by Julian Rogers and Kieron Murdoch.

Last but not least, Mr. Lovell has made a number of statements on various friendly media, which are totally false. In his regular interviews with friendly Dave Lester Payne, he is allowed to soliloquize with helpful prompting from Payne and be assured that he will never be asked to answer how he will pay for all the giveaways.

Then there is the Captain's Corner hosted by Shaun Nicholas, the Party's General Secretary, who also lobs soft ball questions and he is freely allowed to expound at length on these fantasies, while Ms. Nicholas nods her head in apparent approval.

Recently, Sean Bird had to rush from his office to take control of Lovell's interview on ZDK and had

to intervene many times to protect him.

Harold Lovell, appearing in a debate with PM Browne and DNA Party Leader Massiah would be a disaster for Lovell, as both will expose him and his lies, with dire effects. Of course, it would also show the UPP that they made a grave error in getting rid of Massiah for Lovell. Lovell would be fact checked by the moderators on his insane giveaways, ill thought-out policies and his persistent lies over the past several years.

Consequently, his only choice was to cut and run. He prefers to take the political blows for not debating rather than be humiliated in the debate. There can be no other explanation.

Remember neither Gaston nor Joanne placed any pre-conditions on the debate format. They simply agreed and said, "Bring it on."



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How Trump's allies stoked Brazil Congress attack

By Mike Wendling

The scenes in Brasilia looked eerily similar to events at the US Capitol on 6 January two years ago - and there are deeper connections as well.

"The whole thing smells," said a guest on Steve Bannon's podcast, one day after the first round of voting in the Brazilian election in October last year.

The race was heading towards a run-off and the final result was not even close to being known. Yet Mr Bannon, as he had been doing for weeks, spread baseless rumours about election fraud.

Across several episodes of his podcast and in social media posts, he and his guests stoked allegations of a "stolen election" and shadowy forces. He promoted the hashtag #BrazilianSpring, and continued to encourage opposition even after Mr Bolsonaro himself appeared to accept the results.

Mr Bannon, the former White House chief strategist, was just one of several key allies of Donald Trump who followed the same strategy used to cast doubt on the results of the 2020 US presidential election.

And like what happened in Washington on 6 January 2021, those false reports and unproven rumours helped fuel a mob that smashed windows and stormed government buildings in an attempt to further their cause.

'Do whatever is necessary!'

The day before the Capitol riot, Mr Bannon told his podcast listeners: "All hell is going to break loose tomorrow." He has been sentenced to four months in prison for refusing to comply with an order to testify in front of a Congressional committee that investigated the attack but is free pending an appeal.



Protesters smash windows as they invade the presidential palace in scenes reminiscent of the US Capitol riot in January 2021

Along with other prominent Trump advisers who spread fraud rumours, Mr Bannon was unrepentant on Sunday, even as footage emerged of widespread destruction in Brazil.

"Lula stole the Election... Brazilians know this," he wrote repeatedly on the social media site Gettr. He called the people who stormed the buildings "Freedom Fighters".

Ali Alexander, a fringe activist who emerged after the 2020 election as one of the leaders of the pro-Trump "Stop the Steal" movement, encouraged the crowds, writing "Do whatever is necessary!" and claiming to have contacts inside the country.

Bolsonaro supporters railed online about an existential crisis and a supposed "communist takeover" - exactly the same type of rhetoric that drove the rioters in Washington two years ago.

Casting doubt on voting systems

The links between Mr Bolsonaro and the Trump movement were highlighted by a meeting in November between the former president and Mr Bolsonaro's son at Mr Trump's Florida

resort.

During that trip, Eduardo Bolsonaro also spoke to Mr Bannon and Trump adviser Jason Miller, according to reports in the Washington Post and other news outlets.

As in the US in 2020, partisan election-deniers focused their attention on the mechanisms of voting. In Brazil, they cast suspicion on electronic vote tabulation machines.

A banner displayed by the rioters on Sunday declared "We want the source code" in both English and Portuguese - a reference to rumours that electronic voting machines were somehow programmed or hacked in order to foil Mr Bolsonaro.

A number of prominent Brazilian Twitter accounts which spread election denial rumours were reinstated after the election and acquisition of the company by Elon Musk, according to a BBC analysis. The accounts had previously been banned.

Mr Musk himself has suggested some of Twitter's own employees in

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CARPHA says COVID variants affecting China, US, and UK already in circulation in the Caribbean

The Executive Director of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Dr. Joy St. John, says several coronavirus (COVID-19) variants that are causing surges in the United States, the United Kingdom and China have “been circulating in the Caribbean since last year”.

But Dr. St. John urged regional countries against shutting down their borders or implementing travel restrictions as a means of curbing the spread of the virus.

Speaking Thursday at the latest edition of the virtual series on “Global Health Reporting Initiative: Vaccines and Immunization in the Caribbean,” organised by the Jamaica-based Media Institute of the Caribbean, the CARPHA official said the agency is working with member states in dealing with the situation.

“We have not been seeing the surges that are (affecting) the rest of the world. We have seen surges as I said before linked to other viruses, like the RSV, influenzas H2 and three.

“And so, we are scientifi-

cally unjustified in trying to stop any particular country from coming to the region because we feared of the various COVID variants,” she said, adding “we are not seeing the level of illness that we saw when Delta was circulating rapidly in great numbers.

“I have to tell you that we are detecting some cases of Delta sporadically across the region,” she told the participants, adding that it was important for people in the region to be vaccinated or receive their booster shots so as to curb the spread of the virus.

“I hope I have explained to you the importance of

knowing your region. The Caribbean region is not in a state where we need to be going back to any draconian measures,” she added.

The CARPHA official said there have been several articles relating to what’s taking place in China, which has had a “very draconian measure on the general population” and had eased up last month.

She said coinciding with the increase in travel “we have seen mild to severe disease, hospitalisation, and the official reports signal deaths. There are reports as well that some countries think the number of deaths reported by China are underestimated”.

She said she wanted the participants to realise that once you open up your borders “you are going to be open to other respiratory diseases and in fact the Caribbean in the latter half of 2022, especially in the final quarter...what we saw in terms of severe disease, hospitalizations, and some deaths was other respiratory viruses, not COVID-19 so much.

“Yes we saw some COVID-19 illness but not like before, not like during Delta, but we saw issues with RSV, we saw issues with influenza, issues with H2, and three commonly known as Bird Flu...across the Caribbean.

CARPHA is the single regional public health agency for the Caribbean, legally established in July 2011 by an inter-governmental agreement signed by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries. (CMC)



cont'd from pg 10

Brazil were "strongly politically biased" without giving details or evidence.

Some of Mr Trump's opponents in the US were quick to put the blame on the former president and his advisers for encouraging the unrest in Brazil.

Jamie Raskin, a Democratic Party member of the US House of Representatives and a member of the committee that investigated the Capitol riot, called the Brazilian protesters "fascists modelling themselves after Trump's Jan. 6 rioters" in a tweet.

Regional News

Brazilian officials vow crackdown on pro-Bolsonaro rioters

AP - Brazilian authorities vowed Monday to protect democracy and punish thousands of supporters of ex-President Jair Bolsonaro who stormed and trashed the nation's highest seats of power in chaos with striking similarities to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

The protesters swarmed into Congress, the Supreme Court and presidential palace on Sunday. Many have said they want the Brazilian army to restore the far-right Bolsonaro to power and oust the newly inaugurated leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Justice Minister Flávio Dino said the acts amounted to terrorism and coup-mongering and that police have begun tracking those who paid for the buses that transported protesters to the capital.

In a news conference late Sunday, Brazil's minister of institutional relations said the buildings would be inspected for evidence including fingerprints and images to hold people to account, and that the rioters apparently intended to spark similar unrest nationwide.

"They will not succeed in destroying Brazilian democracy. We need to say that fully, with all firmness and conviction," Dino said.

"We will not accept the



Protesters, supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro, clash with police as they storm the Planalto Palace in Brasília, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. Planalto is the official workplace of the president of Brazil. AP Photo/Eraldo Peres

path of criminality to carry out political fights in Brazil. A criminal is treated like a criminal."

Rioters donning the green and yellow of the national flag on Sunday broke windows, toppled furniture, hurled computers and printers to the ground.

They punctured a massive Emiliano Di Cavalcanti painting in five places, overturned the U-shaped table at which Supreme Court justices convene, ripped a door off one justice's office and vandalised an iconic statue outside the court.

The monumental buildings' interiors were left in states of ruin.

So far, more than 1,200

people have been detained, the justice ministry's press office said Monday.

But police were noticeably slow to react - even after the arrival of more than 100 buses - leading many to ponder whether authorities had either simply ignored numerous warnings, underestimated the protesters' strength, or been somehow complicit.

Public prosecutors in the capital said local security forces had at very least been negligent. A supreme court justice temporarily suspended the regional governor. Another justice blamed authorities for not swiftly cracking down on budding neofascism in Brazil.

After his Oct. 30 electoral defeat, Bolsonaro, who has gone to Florida, has been stoking belief among his hardcore supporters that the electronic voting system was prone to fraud — though he never presented any evidence.

His lawmaker son Eduardo Bolsonaro held several meetings with former U.S. President Donald Trump, Trump's longtime ally Steve Bannon and his senior campaign adviser, Jason Miller.

Results from Brazil's election — the closest in over three decades — were quickly recognized by politicians across the spectrum, including some

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Bolsonaro allies, as well as dozens of governments.

And Bolsonaro surprised nearly everyone by promptly fading from view.

He neither conceded defeat nor emphatically cried fraud, though he and his party submitted a request to nullify millions of votes that was swiftly dismissed.

Brazilians have used electronic voting since 1996 that security experts consider less secure than hand-marked paper ballots because they leave no auditable paper trail.

Brazil's system is, however, closely scrutinised and domestic authorities and international observers have never found evidence of it being exploited to commit fraud.

Still, Bolsonaro's supporters refused to accept the results. They blocked roads and have remained camped outside military buildings, urging the armed forces to intervene. Dino, the justice minister, referred to the encampments as incubators of terrorism.

Protests were overwhelmingly peaceful, but isolated threats — including a bomb found on a fuel truck headed to Brasilia's airport — prompted security concerns.

Two days before Lula's Jan. 1 inauguration, Bolsonaro flew to the U.S. and took up temporary residence in Orlando. Many Brazilians expressed relief that, while he declined to participate in the transition of power, his absence allowed it to occur without incident.

Or so it had been, until Sunday's havoc.

"Bolsonarism mimics the same strategies as Trumpism. Our Jan. 8 — an unprecedented manifestation in Brazilian politics — is clearly copied from Jan. 6 in the Capitol," said Paulo Calmon, a political science professor at the University of

Brasilia.

"Today's sad episodes represent yet another attempt to destabilise democracy and demonstrate that the authoritarian, populist radicalism of Brazil's extreme right remains active under the command of former President Bolsonaro, the 'Trump of Latin America.'"

U.S. President Joe Biden tweeted that the riots were an "assault on democracy and on the peaceful transfer of power in Brazil," and that he looked forward to continuing working with Lula.

In a news conference from Sao Paulo state, Lula read a freshly signed decree for the federal government to assume control of security in the federal district.

He said that the so-called "fascist fanatics," as well as those who financed their activities, must be punished, and also accused Bolsonaro of encouraging their uprising.

Bolsonaro repudiated the president's accusation late Sunday. Writing on Twitter, he said peaceful protest is part of democracy, but vandalism and invasion of public buildings are "exceptions to the rule." He made no specific mention of the protesters' actions in Brasilia.

"He is evidently the intellectual mentor of what is happening, so he cannot dissociate from it," said Mario Sérgio Lima, political analyst at Medley Advisors.

"These groups were created by him, by the radicalism he imposed on politics. There is no way to undo that. ... It seems his group has already crossed the Rubicon."

Unlike the 2021 attack in the U.S., few officials would have been working in the top government buildings on a Sunday. And videos showed limited presence of the capital's military police.

One video showed one group of protesters easily pushing through a

police barricade, with only a few officers using pepper spray.

Another showed officers standing by as protesters stormed the Congress, including one using his phone to record what was happening.

"This was a gross error by the federal district's government. It was a tragedy foretold," said Thiago de Aragão, director of strategy at Brasilia-based political consultancy Arko Advice.

"Everyone knew they (the protesters) were coming to Brasilia. The expectation was that the federal district's government was going to mount a response to protect the capital. They didn't do any of that."

Lula said at his news conference there was "incompetence or bad faith" on the part of police, and he promised some would be punished.

Federal District Gov. Ibaneis Rocha confirmed on Twitter he had fired the capital city's head of public security, Anderson Torres.

Local media reported that Torres is in Orlando for vacation, and that he denied having met with Bolsonaro there.

Soon after, Brazil's Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered Rocha removed from his position as governor for 90 days.

He wrote in his decision that the day's events could only have transpired "with the consent, and even effective participation, of the competent public security and intelligence authorities," and called Rocha's actions "intentionally omissive."

"Two years since Jan. 6, Trump's legacy continues to poison our hemisphere," U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, who chairs the Senate's foreign relations committee, tweeted, adding that he blamed Bolsonaro for inciting the acts.

"Protecting democracy & holding malign actors to account is essential."

Regional News

Guyanese President condemns 'attack' on Brazilian democracy

CMC - Guyanese President Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali has joined a list of global leaders who are condemning yesterday's raid of the Brazilian Presidential Palace and Congress by supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

In a post on Facebook, Ali commented: "We condemn every attempt and attack against the Presidency and democratic institutions of Brazil. Those who utilise violence to subvert democracy must be brought swiftly to Justice. We call on all stakeholders to be responsible and not be part of this unacceptable behaviour. Guyana stands with the law-abiding people of Brazil and the institutions of the state in defence of democracy."

Ali, who is currently in India, was one of several regional leaders who were in the Brazilian capital when Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was sworn in as president for a third time.

Bolsonaro, who left the country for the United States prior to Lula taking office, has rejected the results of



Guyanese President Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali (left) greeting Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at his swearing-in ceremony in Brasilia, Brazil.

last October's election.

His supporters claimed the results were rigged and they have urged the military to intervene.

Bolsonaro's team attempted to have the electoral court nullify ballots cast on electronic voting machines but it was rejected.

In a tweet, Bolsonaro called on his supporters to refrain from engaging in

violence.

"Peaceful demonstrations, in the form of the law, are part of democracy. However, depredations and invasions of public buildings as occurred today, as well as those practised by the left in 2013 and 2017, escape the rule," he wrote.

Lula promised to bring rioters to justice.

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British Royal Navy rescues all five crew of stricken Caribbean tug

CMC - The British Royal Navy says it recently rescued all five crew of an ocean-going tug in the Caribbean Sea when the vessel started to sink in choppy waters.

In a statement on Saturday, the Royal Navy said the HMS Medway – which has a permanent presence in the region, was conducting her first patrol of the year when the crew – “plucked the tug crew off the large barge of sand they had been towing when their tug began to flood.

“When the vessel’s engines failed, they took refuge on the barge – but not before sending out an SOS around 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 20 miles west of the island of Sint Maarten, near to the British Overseas Territory of Anguilla,” said the Royal Navy in a statement.

“Patrol ship HMS Medway with her 50 crew was



little more than a dozen miles away and picked up the Mayday straight away,” it added.

After consulting with the regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Martinique, the Royal Navy said the ship altered course and increased speed, reaching the stricken tug and barge in little more than 20 minutes.

“Whilst we were cautious, as we made our approach to the barge and tug, we were able to reassure the

crew and transfer them clear of the barge safely,” Griffiths said. “They were hugely grateful.”

The Royal Navy said the five-tug crew were not injured but were shaken and relieved to be rescued.

“They were carried back to HMS Medway and have now been handed over to a search and rescue boat from Anguilla, which arrived as the rescue ended,” it said.

“The whole ship’s company leapt into action as soon

as we made the decision to respond,” said Lieutenant Commander Carla Higgins, Medway’s executive officer in temporary command of the 2,000-tonne patrol ship.

“The swift thinking and actions of the team were fantastic, and we were thankful to be conducting routine maritime security operations in the area to become the on-scene commander working with the local authorities and assist the crew to safety,” he added.

Japan provides US\$3 million to help Haiti fight cholera

CMC - The Government of Japan has granted Haiti emergency aid of US\$3 million in response to the ongoing cholera outbreak.

According to Japanese officials, the aid will be delivered through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

“This emergency grant aid will al-



low implementing humanitarian assistance in the areas of health, water and sanitation, and food in Haiti,” the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in a media release on Friday.

“Japan will continue to work

closely with the international community toward improving the humanitarian situation in Haiti,” it stated.

After more than three years with no reported cases of cholera in Haiti, on 2 October 2, 2022, the national authorities reported two confirmed cases of *Vibrio cholerae* O1 in the greater Port-au-Prince area.

To date, Haiti has recorded 452 deaths, 1,550 confirmed cases and 22,649 suspected cases of cholera.

Donors offer over \$9B for Pakistan after devastating floods

AP - Dozens of countries and international institutions on Monday pledged more than \$9 billion to help Pakistan recover and rebuild from devastating summer floods, with the sum set to balloon further at a U.N.-backed conference to help the country through what the U.N. chief called “a climate disaster of monumental scale.”

The flooding killed more than 1,700 people, destroyed more than 2 million homes, and covered as much as one-third of the country at one point, causing damage totaling more than \$30 billion, officials say. Large swaths of the country remain under water, with millions living near contaminated or stagnant waters, the U.N. says.

After a midday break, Pakistani Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb tweeted that \$8.57 billion had been offered up to that point — exceeding an initial target to meet half of the government’s estimated needs of some \$16.3 billion to respond to the flooding. The other half is expected to come from the Pakistani government itself.

She listed the top donors as the Islamic Development Bank, with \$4.2 billion; the World Bank, at \$2 billion; the Asian Development Bank, at \$1.5 billion. She said the European Union had pledged \$93 million, Germany \$88 million, Chi-



People stand in a long queue and wait to buy subsidised sacks of wheat-flour from a sale point in Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023. People are suffering from the recent price hike in wheat-flour in Pakistan. (AP Photo/Muhammad Sajjad)

na \$100 million, and Japan \$77 million. The United States said separately it was doubling its allocation, announcing another \$100 million on top of a similar amount already committed to Pakistan.

The interim tally from Aurangzeb did not include, for example, a pledge of \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia. Wealthy and traditionally generous Nordic countries and others were continuing to announce their commitments Monday afternoon.

The conference has shaped up as a test case of just how many wealthy nations will pitch in to help developing-world countries like Pakistan manage the impact of climatic swoons, and brace for other disasters.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres attended in-person and other world leaders such

as French President Emmanuel Macron and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan took part virtually.

“We need to be honest about the brutal injustice of loss and damage suffered by developing countries because of climate change,” Guterres told the gathering. “If there is any doubt about loss and damage — go to Pakistan. There is loss. There is damage. The devastation of climate change is real.”

Guterres said that people in South Asia are 15 times more likely to die from climate impacts than elsewhere, and his “heart broke” when he saw the devastation left behind from Pakistan’s floods.

“No country deserves to endure what happened to Pakistan,” he said. “But it was especially bitter to watch that country’s generous spirit being repaid with a climate disaster of monumental scale.”

In November’s U.N. climate talks, countries agreed to set up a fund for loss and damage caused by climate change. The details of the fund will be worked out by a committee this year. Vulnerable nations like Pakistan would be expected to receive compensation from the fund.

Many scientists, policymakers and others say emissions of heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, mostly by industrialised countries, over generations are largely to blame for a warming global climate.

Many countries already doled out cash, supplies and other support for Pakistan in the immediate follow-up to the flooding — and Monday’s conference co-hosted by the U.N. and Pakistani government, and attended by 44 countries as well as many international organisations, aimed to complement and build on previous outlays.

Thousands of Pakistanis are still living in open areas in makeshift homes and tents near the stagnant water in southern Sindh and in some areas in southwestern Baluchistan, the two worst-flood hit provinces in Pakistan.

UNICEF warned Monday that up to 4 million children are still living near contaminated and stagnant flood waters, risking their

cont'd on pg 17

Nigeria kidnappings: Dozens abducted waiting for train in Edo state

BBC - At least 32 people have been abducted at a train station in Edo state, southern Nigeria, the authorities say.

Among those taken were station staff and passengers waiting for a train.

The security forces, helped by local hunters, have launched a search-and-rescue operation for the victims.

There have been increasing concerns about attacks in the country. The latest incident comes in the month before a presidential election where security is a major campaign issue.

Reports say that on Saturday a large number of gunmen, armed with AK-47s, shot in the air as they entered the station in Igueben before seizing the trav-



People had switched to travelling on trains as some highways had become unsafe, a local official said

ellers and staff and taking them to a nearby forest.

Some of those who managed to flee sustained bullet wounds, eyewitnesses have been quoted as saying. One woman with a baby also reportedly escaped and found her way to a neighbouring community where she has been rescued.

The kidnappers also released two children as

it was "believed that they felt the children will slow down their movements", a local resident is quoted by the Vanguard newspaper as saying.

Edo state government spokesperson Chris Osa Nehikhare said that many people had started using the train as the local road had become "a no-go area, with huge ransoms being collect-

ed from families of [kidnap] victims".

Incidents of kidnapping for ransom, as well as gunmen targeting communities for political reasons, have been on the rise in recent years in Nigeria.

In December, a major rail service linking the capital, Abuja, with the northern city of Kaduna, resumed nine months after at least nine passengers died during a gun attack on the train line. Many others were taken away as hostages and the last one was released in October.

Insecurity is one of the key campaign issues ahead of Nigeria's general elections in February when a successor to President Muhammadu Buhari will be chosen.

cont'd from pg 16

survival and well-being, more than four months after a national state of emergency was declared in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Sharif likened the flooding to "a tsunami from the sky." He said the flooding immediately affected 33 million people and destroyed more than 2 million homes, adding that the ferocity of the flowing water damaged over 8,000 kilometres of roads (nearly 5,000 miles), and more than 3,100 kilometres of railway track.

"Today's meeting is an attempt to give my people another chance at getting back on their feet," Sharif said.

"We are racing against time" to help the victims amid a harsh winter, and in the worst-affected areas where schools and health systems have collapsed, he added.

Alluding to a catchphrase often used in military contexts, he said: "Pakistan needs a new 'coalition of the willing': One that can save lives and put them on a path to responsible global citizenship."

Pakistan played down initial expectations of big-ticket contributions, and has downgraded what was originally billed as a pledging conference to a "support" conference — in anticipation that not just funding will be offered up by donors.

Organisers hope the conference will underpin a recovery and build resilience after the punishing floods between June and October, which also damaged 2 million houses and washed away 13,000 kilometres (8,000 miles) of roads.

At one point, a third of the country

was submerged.

The world body says funding raised so far for Pakistan's flood victims will run out this month, and an emergency appeal launched in October has garnered only about a third of the \$816 million sought for food, medicines and other supplies for Pakistanis.

Pakistan plays a negligible role in global warming and emits less than 1% of heat-trapping carbon dioxide, but like other developing countries, it has been vulnerable to climate-induced devastation, experts say. The country has seen extreme heat, glacial melt and rising sea levels in recent years.

Climate scientists found that the floods in Pakistan were worsened by global heating although economic, societal and construction-oriented factors also played a role.

Biden inspects US-Mexico border in face of GOP criticism

AP - President Joe Biden walked a muddy stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border and inspected a busy port of entry Sunday on his first trip to the region after two years in office, a visit shadowed by the fraught politics of immigration as Republicans blame him for record numbers of migrants crossing into the country.

At his first stop, the president observed as border officers in El Paso demonstrated how they search vehicles for drugs, money and other contraband. Next, he travelled to a dusty street with abandoned buildings and walked along a metal border fence that separated the U.S. city from Ciudad Juárez.

His last stop was the El Paso County Migrant Services Center — but there were no migrants in sight. As he learned about the services offered there, he asked an aid worker, “If I could wave the wand, what should I do?” The answer was not audible.

Biden’s nearly four-hour visit to El Paso was highly controlled. He encountered no migrants except when his motorcade drove alongside the border and about a dozen were visible on the Ciudad Juárez side. His visit did not include time at a Border Patrol station, where migrants who cross illegally are arrested and held before their release. He delivered no public remarks.

The visit seemed designed to showcase a smooth operation to process legal migrants, weed out smuggled contraband and humanely treat those who have entered illegally, creating a counter-narrative to Republicans’ claims of a crisis situation equivalent to an open border.

But his visit was likely to do little to quell critics from both sides, including immigrant advocates who accuse him of establishing cruel policies not



President Joe Biden talks with Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, second from left, as they walk along a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso Texas, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas is at right. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

unlike those of his hard-line predecessor, Donald Trump.

In a sign of the deep tensions over immigration, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, handed Biden a letter as soon as he touched down in the state that said the “chaos” at the border was a “direct result” of the president’s failure to enforce federal laws. Biden later took the letter out of his jacket pocket during his tour, telling reporters, “I haven’t read it yet.”

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy dismissed Biden’s visit as a “photo op,” saying on Twitter that the Republican majority would hold the administration “accountable for creating the most dangerous border crisis in American history.”

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego welcomed Biden’s visit, but said a current lull in arrivals prevented the president from seeing how large the group of newcomers has been.

“He didn’t get to see the real difficulties,” said Samaniego, who was in the local delegation that greeted

Biden. “It was good that he was here. It’s a first step. But we still need to do more and have more time with him.”

Elsewhere in El Paso where Biden did not visit, hundreds of migrants were gathered Sunday outside the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where they have been sleeping outdoors and receiving three meals a day from faith groups and other humanitarian organisations.

The migrants included several pregnant women, including Karla Sainz, 26, eight months along. She was travelling in a small group that included her 2-year-old son, Joshua. Sainz left her three other children back home in Venezuela with her mother.

“I would ask President Biden to help me with a permission or something so we can work and continue,” she said.

Juan Tovar, 32, one of several people in her group, suggested he also had political reasons for leaving his home country.

cont’d on pg 19

cont'd from pg 18

"Socialism is the worst," he said. "In Venezuela, they kill us, they torture us, we can't talk bad about the government. We are worse off than in Cuba."

Noengris Garcia, also eight months pregnant, was travelling with her husband, teen son and the small family dog from the tiny state of Portuguesa, Venezuela, where she operated a food stall.

"We don't want to be given money or a house," said Garcia, 39. "We just want to work."

Asked what he's learned by seeing the border firsthand and speaking with the officers who work along it, Biden said: "They need a lot of resources. We're going to get it for them."

El Paso is currently the biggest corridor for illegal crossings, in large part due to Nicaraguans fleeing repression, crime and poverty in their country. They are among migrants from four countries who are now subject to quick expulsion under new rules enacted by the Biden administration in the past week that drew strong criticism from immigration advocates.

Biden's recent policy announcements on border security and his visit to the border were aimed in part at blunting the impact of upcoming investigations into immigration promised by House Republicans. But any enduring solution will require action by the sharply divided Congress, where

multiple efforts to enact sweeping changes have failed in recent years.

From Texas, Biden travelled south to Mexico City, where he and the leaders of Mexico and Canada will gather on Monday and Tuesday for a North American leaders summit. Immigration is among the items on the agenda. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador met Biden at the airport Sunday night and joined him in the presidential limousine for the ride to Biden's hotel.

The numbers of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border has risen dramatically during Biden's first two years in office. There were more than 2.38 million stops during the year that ended Sept. 30, the first time the number topped 2 million. The administration has struggled to clamp down on crossings, reluctant to take measures that would resemble those of Trump's administration.

The policy changes announced this past week are Biden's biggest move yet to contain illegal border crossings and will turn away tens of thousands of migrants arriving at the border. At the same time, 30,000 migrants per month from Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela will get the chance to come to the U.S. legally as long as they travel by plane, get a sponsor and pass background checks.

The U.S. will also turn away migrants who do not seek asylum first in a coun-

try they travelled through en route to the U.S. Migrants are being asked to complete a form on a phone app so that they can go to a port of entry at a pre-scheduled date and time.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters aboard Air Force One that the administration is trying to "incentivize a safe and orderly way and cut out the smuggling organisations," saying the policies are "not a ban at all" but an attempt to protect migrants from the trauma that smuggling can create.

The changes were welcomed by some, particularly leaders in cities where migrants have been massing. But Biden was excoriated by immigrant advocate groups, which accused him

of taking measures modelled after those of the former president. Administration officials disputed that characterization.

For all of his international travel over his 50 years in public service, Biden has not spent much time at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The only visit that the White House could point to was Biden's drive by the border while he was campaigning for president in 2008. He sent Vice President Kamala Harris to El Paso in 2021, but she was criticised for largely bypassing the action, because El Paso wasn't the centre of crossings that it is now.

Trump, who made hardening immigration a signature issue, travelled to the border several times.

AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
ENGLISH HARBOUR	35 2580A	447

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Wednesday the 11th day of January 2023 at 11:00am the above residential property at Piccadilly.

The property is under the ownership of **TESSA DONAWA-DANIEL**. The land is a 43,500 sq. ft. (1 acre) plot with an approximate 6,969 sq. ft., 2 storey reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 ½ bathrooms.

The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 464-7653 and 562-7653.

Dated this the 19th day of December 2022

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

Sports News



Australian Open: Players can compete if they have Covid-19

BBC - Players at the Australian Open will not need to take Covid-19 tests and could play if they have the virus.

"We just wanted to follow what's currently in the community," tournament director Craig Tiley said.

"We have gone a step further by making a recommendation around staying away when you're ill."

Last year players had to test daily and isolate if positive and also had to be vaccinated, while in 2021 the event took place in a bi-secure bubble.

Nine-time champion Novak Djokovic, who is unvaccinated, was deported



The Australian Open starts on Monday, 16 January and runs until Sunday, 29 January

last January just before the tournament because of his Covid-19 status.

"We've made it clear to our players, as well as our staff, if anyone is feeling unwell, stay home, our medical staff will continue to monitor that, with the play-

ers individually as well." Tiley added.

"It's a normalised environment for us and, not dissimilar to the cricket, there will potentially be players that will compete with Covid-19."

Last week cricketer

Matt Renshaw continued to play for Australia in a five-day test match against South Africa in Sydney after testing positive for Covid-19.

The Australian Open starts on Monday, 16 January and runs until Sunday, 29 January.

Cristiano Ronaldo: Al Nassr forward will make debut on 22 January

BBC - Cristiano Ronaldo will make his Al Nassr debut on 22 January against Ettifaq, confirmed manager Rudi Garcia.

The Portugal forward was unveiled by the Saudi club last week but is suspended after knocking a phone out of a fan's hand following Manchester United's defeat by Everton in April.

The 37-year-old missed the first game of the Football Association's two-match ban on Friday.

But he could feature in an exhibition match against Paris St-Germain.

Lionel Messi's side will take on a team made up of players from Al Nassr and Al Hilal in Riyadh on 19 January, and Garcia told L'Equipe that Ronaldo is likely to feature.

"It [Ronaldo's debut] won't be with



Cristiano Ronaldo

the Al Nassr jersey. It will be a mix between Al Hilal and Al Nassr," he said.

He will make his first Al Nassr appearance in the Saudi Pro League later that week against Ettifaq.

Ronaldo, who signed a lucrative deal with the Saudi club until 2025

reportedly worth more than £177m per year, will miss their league game against Al Shabab on Saturday.

Former Lille and Lyon coach Garcia said he hopes Ronaldo can rediscover the enjoyment of playing football after a difficult two-month period during which his United contract was terminated and Portugal lost in the World Cup quarter-finals.

The star left United following a controversial interview in which he criticised the club.

"In recent months, between Manchester United, the national team and also at a private level, he has not had easy moments," Garcia said.

"If he finds the pleasure of playing again, it will be a good goal to achieve."

Zinedine Zidane: FFF president Noel le Graet sorry for 'clumsy' comments

BBC - French football federation president Noel le Graet has apologised for "clumsy remarks" he made about Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the national team.

In an interview with French radio, 81-year-old Le Graet said he "wouldn't even have taken his call" if Zidane had been in touch.

Le Graet said on Monday the comments "do not reflect" his views.

France boss Didier Deschamps signed a new contract until 2026 on Saturday.

"I would like to apologise for these remarks, which absolutely do not reflect my views nor my consideration for the player he was and the coach he has become," Le Graet said.

"I gave an interview to [French radio station]



Didier Deschamps (left) has been head coach of France since 2012 and Noel le Graet (right) said the French football federation not considered parting with him.

RMC that I should not have given because they were looking for controversy by opposing Didier and Zinedine Zidane, two greats of French football.

"I admit that I made some clumsy remarks which created a misunderstanding."

Zidane won the 1998 World Cup as a player alongside Deschamps and two La Liga titles and three consecutive Champions

League titles as Real Madrid manager before his departure last year.

France and Paris St-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe described Le Graet's comments as "disrespectful".

France's Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera demanded an apology from Le Graet for "a shameful lack of respect".

Real released a statement calling for an "im-

mediate rectification" following Le Graet's "inappropriate" comments.

Deschamps guided France to a second successive World Cup final in December, when they lost to Argentina on penalties.

Asked whether Zidane called him about the France head coach's job, Le Graet said: "I wouldn't even have taken his call. To tell him what? 'Hello sir. Don't worry. Look for another club. I just agreed a contract with Didier.'"

"It's up to him what he does. It's not my business. I've never met him and we've never considered parting with Didier.

"He can go where he wants, to a club. He would have as many as he wants in Europe, a big club. But a national side is hardly credible, to my mind."

History-making Frappart on Women's World Cup referees list

AP - The six female match officials who worked at the men's World Cup in Qatar including history maker Stéphanie Frappart were also selected Monday by FIFA for the 2023 Women's World Cup, which will have 13 men in the video review team.

French referee Frappart made World Cup history in December handling Germany's 4-2 win over Costa Rica in the group stage.

Frappart's assistants for that game, Karen Diaz of Mexico and

Neuza Back of Brazil, also will go on to the women's tournament being played July 20-Aug. 20 in Australia and New Zealand.

Referees Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan and Salima Mukansanga of Rwanda, plus assistant Kathryn Nesbitt of the United States — who worked one of the lines for England's 3-0 win over Senegal in the round of 16 — are also on FIFA's list of selected officials.

The 33 referees and 55 assistants **cont'd on pg 22**



Referee Stephanie Frappart talks with Germany's Kai Havertz during the World Cup group E soccer match between Costa Rica and Germany at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, on Dec. 1, 2022. AP Photo/Moises Castillo, File

Sports News



Dominatrixx lose ground but still lead Team Three-Hand Domino Competition

Dominatrixx's lead has been reduced but the club remains at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) Accumulated Team Three-Hand Competition which is taking place at the ABNDA headquarters in Ottos.

Dominatrixx's 35-point lead was cut to 25 points during the fourth week of matches which took place when the competition resumed last weekend following the Christmas and New Year holidays.

During last weekend's matches, Dominatrixx amassed a total of 636 points to retain the top position in the 15-team competition while the Bolans Revellers A Team reclaimed second place from Double Six who were relegated to third place.

Bolans Revellers A Team advanced with a total of 611 points, just one point ahead of Double Six.

The Bolans Revellers C Team has also overtaken Triple Dynamite to move into fourth place.

Bolans Revellers C Team now has 607 points, six more than Triple Dyna-



Dominatrixx is still leading the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's Accumulated Three-Hand Competition after the fourth week of matches at the national organisation's headquarters in Ottos on Friday, 6th January, 2023. (File photo)

mite who now occupy fifth position.

Bolans Revellers C Team recorded their highest score in a match to win the opening encounter when the competition resumed last Thursday.

Bolans Revellers C Team amassed 90 points to finish ahead of Moise Eagles Warriors with 77 points while Willikies Superstars B Team secured 66 points.

Bolans Revellers A Team won the second of five matches that were contested last Thursday, scoring 77 points to finish ahead of Bravo with 72 points and Double Six with 66 points.

Five more games were played last Friday to complete the fourth week.

Legacy won Friday's opening encounter by accumulating 82 points with Willikies Superstars B Team getting 77 points, one more than the Bolans Revellers A Team.

Bravo and Ramplers both recorded a score of 83 points to finish ahead of Parham Strikers with 68 points in the final match of the week.

Bravo occupies sixth place with a total of 600 points. Next are Unstoppables with 592 points, Moise Eagles Warriors with 587 points, Ramplers with 585 points and Bolans Revellers D Team with 577 points.

They are followed by Willikies Superstars A and B teams with 573 points each, Legacy with 571 points and Parham Strikers with 544 points.

The Bolans Revellers B Team is still occupying the cellar position with 530 points.

The competition will conclude with the fifth and final week of matches later this week.

cont'd from pg 21

are all women though only six women are among the 19 video match officials chosen for the 64-game tournament. The VAR review system made its Women's World Cup debut at the 2019 tournament in France.

The United States will seek a third straight title in the first 32-team edition of the Women's World Cup.

Bethesda & Empire Nation open ABCA 10 Splash with wins

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles and Empire Nation both made winning starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) 10 Splash competition.

Bethesda Golden Eagles cruised to a nine-wicket win over Combined Schools in the first game of a Zone B triple header at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Combined Schools could only muster 38 for 6 off their allotted 10 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Yannique Watley top scored with 14 off 11 balls while Chad Walsh picked up 2 wickets for 5 runs.

Bethesda then wrapped up the match by coasting to victory at 42 for 1 with 23 balls to spare.

Opener, Anthony "I Roots" Martin, meanwhile, made 24 off 17 balls.

Fellow opener Shacoy Floyd was not out on 10.

Elsewhere, Empire crushed Freetown by 10 wickets in the third game on Sunday. Freetown was limited to 70 for 6 off their 10 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Rolston "Triss" Phillip made 16 off 18 balls and captain Austin Richards Jr. chipped in with 12.

Empire then coasted to victory at 74 without loss with two overs to spare.

Damian Lowenfield slammed 49 off 31 balls with 6 fours and 2 sixes while fellow opener Tyrone Williams Jr. contributed 25 off 17 balls.

All Saints Pythons secured their second successive win by claiming an eight-wicket victory over Jennings Tigers in yesterday's second encounter.

Set 78 to win, All Saints Pythons achieved victory at 79 for 2 with three balls to spare.



Empire Nation's batsman Damian Lowenfield, right, accepts his man of the match award from First Vice-President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association Kenry Lewis at the end of his team's encounter against Freetown in the ABCA 10 Splash competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on 8th January, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABCA)

Captain Michael Dover hammered 39 off 33 balls with 2 fours and 2 sixes while Demetri Lucas struck an unbeaten 28 off 13 balls. Paul Miller took 2 wickets for 7 runs.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Jennings Tigers were restricted to 77 for 4 off their 10 overs.

Captain D'Ahri Francis hammered 32 off 16 balls, including 3 fours and 2 sixes while fellow opener Elijah Peters

contributed 21 off 25 balls.

Conroy Semple captured 2 wickets for 13 runs.

The ABCA 10 Splash will continue with a Zone B double header at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium tomorrow.

CUB Bethesda Golden Eagles will face Jennings Tigers at 2:30pm while Combined School will oppose Empire Nation at 5:30pm.

Grenades trounce SAP to return joint-top of Premier League

Jennings Grenades romped to an emphatic 7-1 victory over SAP to rejoin leaders All Saints United at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League yesterday.

Forward, Tev Lawrence, scored a hatrick to lead Grenades to a convincing win in the Round South Derby which was the feature match of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Centre.

Lawrence scored two quick goals with conversions in the 7th and 11th minutes as Grenades took control of the match from the start.

Quinton Griffith scored with a well-executed free kick in the 16th minute to make it 3-0.

Carl Osbourne scored in the 22nd minute, and a goal by Rakeem Henry in the 38th minute gave Grenades a 5-0 lead.

Ridel Stanislaus joined in the goal-fest as he netted in the first half's added on time (45+1) as Grenades extended their advantage to a 6-0 halftime lead.

Tyrique Tonge managed to score a consolation goal for SAP when



Jennings Grenades' forward #7, Tev Lawrence, (second right) is congratulated by teammates after scoring one of his three goals in their Premier League encounter against SAP at the ABFA Technical Centre at Paynters on 8th January, 2023. (Photo: ABFA)

he converted a penalty in the 63rd minute. Lawrence then completed his hatrick by scoring Grenades' final goal of the match in the 71st minute.

Grenades' fifth win in six outings ensured the team from Jennings re-joined All Saints United with identical records at the top of the 16-team competition with 15 points each.

The third loss in six appearances has left SAP hovering mid-table on seven points.

There were wins as well for the two Premier League teams from Gray's Green - Empire and Greenbay Hoppers.

Forward, Rakeem Joseph, scored a brace as Empire claimed their second win in five outings by defeating Five Islands 3-0 in yesterday's second encounter.

Joseph scored in the 21st and 25th minute to give Empire a 2-0 halftime lead and Calroy Douglas sealed his team's win with an 87th minute conversion.

Chad Williams scored a late winner in the first minute of added on time (90+1 minute) as Greenbay Hoppers snatched a 2-1 victory against Pigotts Bullets in yesterday's opening encounter.

Jamarlie Stevens scored in the first half added on time (45 +1 minute) to give Pigotts Bullets a 1-0 halftime lead.

Ammiel Joseph then scored an equaliser for Greenbay Hoppers when he converted in the 49th minute.