




POINTVILLE EXPRESS

MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 10 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MORE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS FOR BARBUDA

Story on Page 5



The Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's Next Level Megacade on Sunday attracted thousands of supporters in an overwhelming display of the party's popularity heading into the polls on Wednesday.

Local News

Browne gov't to offer full support to UK, German corruption investigations

PM Browne says his government will support any United Kingdom or German police investigations into Asot Michael.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says his government is fully prepared to cooperate with British law enforcement authorities in any investigation they intend to conduct into Asot Michael's alleged involvement with

Peter Virdee and bribery allegations.

On Thursday in a social media post, Browne said he intended to pen a letter to the acting Director of Public Prosecutions "about ensuring the full cooperation of the office of the DPP and other law enforcement agencies on Asot's bribery case".

Browne continued that his administration does not



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

"recognize or support any immunity for Asot Michael in his attempt to rip off the state of millions of dollars."

While still a member of the Browne cabinet in 2017, Michael was arrested upon his arrival to London on the morning of 23rd October and questioned by the National Crime Agency in connection with alleged bribes that were offered to Michael to negotiate lucrative deals in the Caribbean.

Michael was released, without charge, several

hours after he was detained.

To date, Michael has not been charged with any act of criminal wrongdoing in relation to the National Crime Agency's ongoing investigation into the allegations of a transnational fraud and bribery plot.

Michael has also said while Virdee did offer him a motor vehicle and luxury watch, he declined both and never received any bribes, gifts, or other monetary incentives from the embattled British billionaire.



Alcohol sales forbidden on election day

Businesses in Antigua and Barbuda are being reminded by the police that the sale of alcohol is forbidden on Wednesday, election day.

In a statement, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB) outlined that the ban is in accordance with the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, which states that, "No intoxicating liquor shall be sold, offered for sale, or given away at any premises situated in any of the constituency in which an election is being held to which a licence was issued under the said Act



any time between the opening and closing of the polls on polling day."

Those who defy the order risk losing their liquor licence, the RPFAB cautioned.

"The Commissioner of Police is appealing to the

owners and operators of all premises licensed to sell intoxicating liquor, including other establishments that may be exempted by law, to refrain from getting involved in this unlawful act."

Meanwhile, as general elections draw closer,

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, is soliciting the public's cooperation in maintaining the peace before, during and after the ballots are counted.

A total of 60,915 people are eligible to vote in seventeen constituencies in Wednesday's polls.

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, the United Progressive Party, the Democratic National Alliance and a few independent candidates are in the final stages of campaigning in what has been described as the "most important" election since the country attained political independence in 1981.



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Local News

Six young people benefit from St. Peter's first Business Hub

Six young people were presented with the keys to their units at the newly erected Business Hub in Parham, the first of its kind in the St. Peter constituency.

The presentations were made at the launch of the Business Hub on Saturday during a ceremony in which the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's candidate for the constituency, Rawdon Turner, launched his 2023 Election Manifesto.

Turner said the Business Hub will provide an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to grow and develop their businesses which will help them to become self-sufficient and independent.

"We are providing an opportunity for them to learn and to develop as young people entering business.

"It's a case of learning to fish for yourself, not to depend on handouts.

"When you have the opportunity to work for yourself, it not only allows you



to provide for yourself but, as your business expands and grows, you can provide employment.

"We, therefore, would not all be seeking a job in the government sector," Turner said.

The ABLP's St. Peter candidate said there is a need to grow the country's private sector and added that the Business Hub, manned by young people, is

a step toward achieving this outcome.

The entrepreneurs selected to operate in the Business Hub are;

- Aaliyah Mussington whose company, Jenee-Sardonyx, provides an array of furniture and clothing services;

- Abdie Williams of Bayside Bakery;

- Jenee Henry of Nee Shoynte Beauty which man-



ufactures soaps, lip balms and skincare products;

- Churtal Lee of Churtal's Unique Touch that provides hair care services including braiding;

- Shadae Williams of Toast 268 which offers milkshakes, frappes and themed cuisine and,

- Kimani Gardner who is well known for his ital cuisine. He said the new location will allow his business to grow by reaching a wider clientele.

Meanwhile, Turner's manifesto – My Vision for St. Peter – details his plans for the constituency, including the development of a marina at Parham Harbour, upgrading sports facilities and establishing community centres.

Mon 16 Day		Mon 16 Night	
81°		73°	
20%	ENE 3 mph	24%	NE 5 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds light and variable.		Generally fair. Low 73F. Winds light and variable.	
Humidity 72%	UV Index 9 of 10	Humidity 82%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:40 am	Sunset 5:54 pm	Moonrise 1:12 am	Moonset 12:54 pm
		Waning Crescent	

Major plans in the pipeline for Barbuda

Barbuda is in line for more development under the stewardship of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party when it is returned to government after this week's general elections.

Senior members of the ABLP were in Codrington, Barbuda, last week to support Knacyntar Nedd, the party's candidate for the island-constituency.

The ABLP's political leader, Gaston Browne, was among the speakers to address a public rally in Barbuda held in support of Nedd.

He used the opportunity to debunk the misinformation and outright lies which have been spread on the sister island with the goal of portraying him negatively.

Prime Minister Browne recalled his long history of providing assistance to Barbuda and its people dating back to his days as a banker when he adopted a policy of assisting Barbudans with loans.

He said this continued when he became prime minister as he has continued his efforts to develop the island and bring advancement to its people.

Browne reiterated his commitment to develop Barbuda in tandem with Antigua and reiterated his



pledge that Barbuda would soon become a net contributor to the national treasury.

He also outlined a series of major infrastructural developments that are in the pipeline for the island.

"We have an agreement with the PLH Development that a large percentage of the taxes that they generate will go towards building ten miles of concrete roads in Barbuda. We want these to be climate resilient roads and the plan is to have them lined with trees to enhance the aesthetics.

"We also intend to bury the utility lines underground, thus eliminating

the potential damage from future storms," Browne disclosed.

According to the prime minister, because Barbuda is a "clean canvas" there will be no need to acquire property.

He said the plan also includes the development of as many as two four-lane roads which will provide for the future needs of the island.

The prime minister also discussed plans for the new airport which will soon be opened in Codrington.

"We will commence within the next eighteen months to two years, the expansion of the landing

strip at the new airport in Barbuda. We will add another two thousand linear feet so that an American Airlines aircraft may land on the island.

"That means Barbudans will soon be able to have direct flights to their destinations in North America without having to travel to Antigua," he stated.

Browne said even if Barbuda on its own cannot fill these larger flights, he has held talks with the premier of Anguilla for a joint Barbuda-Anguilla-USA service.

"This is not a 'pie-in-the-sky' thing. It is real," he declared.

Local News



Appeal Court to resume in-person sittings

The Eastern Caribbean Appeal Court is resuming in-person sittings after it resorted to conducting hearings virtually over the past three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Justice, Dame Janice Pereira, said at the begin-

ning of the Law Year that she was happy that the court will resume in-person sittings, the first of which will take place in Anguilla.

Noting that video conferencing platforms such as ZOOM allowed the Appeal Court to hold sittings in each

territory, she also pointed out that these technologies cannot replace the impact of in person sittings.

"It is truly remarkable that this week is the first time that the Appeal Court is having an in-person sitting since March, 2020.

"For our continued productivity in difficult times, these video conferencing tools have been a boon.

"That said, it is recognised that there is no perfect substitute for an in-person courtroom environment, particularly for trials where judges are sometimes required to observe witnesses and manage juries," she said.

Dame Janice added that across the ECSC member countries and territories, the justice system will continue to see a blended approach of in person and virtual sittings.

"I hope that going forward, we will continue to see increased reliance on this blended approach to court sittings and that eventually, trials in the court rooms will be fully resumed.

The Chief Justice added that the Appeal Court is expected to conduct more frequent sittings once regional air travel becomes easier.

"It has been far too long since we visited many of the member states and territories and we look forward to sittings of the Court of Appeal becoming more commonplace," she stated.

She made a commitment that the justice system will embrace the lessons learnt over the past three years and to continue adapting to meet new challenges to safeguard a fair, impartial and independent justice system.

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Ocean Cats raises trophy in Atlantic Challenge



Photo credit: Atlantic Campaigns

The Spanish team, Ocean Cats, was declared the overall winner of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, which is described as the world's toughest row.

Joaquim Planells, Juan Bautista Romero, Sergi Franch and Martí Ramírez rowed into Nelson's Dockyard just after 1am on Friday, completing the race that began in La Gomera Canary Islands, in 31 days, 17 hours and 9 minutes.

As the overall winner, the four-member team lifted the coveted MacAskill Trophy.

They took on the challenge to raise funds for and highlight the work of Surfrider Foundation Europe, a non-profit organisation involved in the fight for the protection of the ocean and its users.

With family, friends and other supporters staying up late to welcome them, team Ocean Cats from Spain disembarked their vessel to loud cheers and applause.

CEO and race director of Atlantic Campaigns, Carlston Heron, was among those on hand to welcome the rowers.

"To see you take off in La Gomera, to see the preparation you have gone through has been focused. You had one thing on your mind and that was to win the race. I am happy to give you the McAskill Trophy as the winner of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge 2022."

An Ocean Cats team member spoke of the journey they undertook and the challenges they encountered in the At-

lantic Ocean after leaving La Gomera on 12th December, 2022, including the failure of the battery system on their vessel.

"We got lucky that we are all safe. We have felt a lot of feelings, in some ways happiness.

"We have been in a storm during Christmas, so it has been a very special Christmas for us.

"Heavy rain, strong winds, high waves, but at the end we have managed to be here, so, we are very happy," the team member recalled.

More teams arrived in Nelson's Dockyard over the weekend and others are expected in the coming days as the curtains fall on the 2022 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge.

Opinion



Time to say your Pres.

By Tony Deyal

If anyone asks me about the difference between the United States of America (USA) and Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), while I can talk about US dollars being worth less than seven T&T in the bank but much more on the black market, or that while Trump is no longer President there, T&T is down to trump regardless of who is Prime Minister or President, I refer to what for me is the acid test.

According to Reader's Digest, "On August 11, 1984, President Ronald Reagan was conducting a sound check for a radio program. 'My fellow Americans,' he said, 'I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes.'

The joke was on him: The microphone was live and the entire world heard his words. Thus began National Presidential Joke Day in the U.S." I then add that what makes T&T different from the US is that in Trinidad every day is Presidential Joke Day.

There is a story about a man on a street corner in Moscow yelling, "The president is an idiot. The president is an idiot."

The police surrounded the man and handcuffed him. They told him, "It is illegal to insult President Putin." He replied, "You

don't understand. I mean the Ukrainian president, Zelensky. He is the one I was insulting."

The police captain shook his head and said, "You can't fool us. Everyone knows who the idiot is." Right now, the entire T&T population might feel they know who the idiot is but there are some who have heard the rumour that the present Prime Minister, who has publicly announced that one of his major female party members will become President, is planning to take over the post himself.

As one of my friends said, "Tony boy, this thing have we in limbo." My reply was, "Worse than that! The PM might want more ball-room." What makes it tougher is the rumour that the Leader of the Opposition has been asked to hand over her party to someone else and when the new leadership wins, they would make her President.

My friend's response was, "I'll drink to that." I replied, "And you will not be alone." He almost had the last word, "You see what I tell you! Every President in T&T is a VICE president!"

Then I added a quip from my favourite US comedian, Johnny Carson, "Democracy means that anyone can grow up to be president, and anyone who doesn't grow up can be vice president."

The fact is that there are already four Republics in the



Tony Deyal

Caribbean- Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and T&T. Guyana is the only one with an Executive President who is the political boss.

In the other countries the President carries out "ceremonial" duties and, as many of us felt was the case in Trinidad over the past few years, the dictates, demands and determinations of the Prime Minister who put that person in power.

This is why someone who wanted the post really badly called up the Prime Minister's Office in Whitehall, Trinidad, and told the receptionist, "I want to talk to the boss-man." The receptionist explained, "I can't just send you through like that. You have to explain to me why it is you want to speak to the Prime Minister." The man replied,

"I want to be the next President of Trinidad and Tobago. I believe I could do better than any woman and I have more strength to stand up for the people of the country and make the right decisions!"

The receptionist, who had already written the man off, asked him, "What are you? Some kind of idiot?" The man responded in alarm, "Why, is that a requirement for the post?"

Even though the President of T&T is not at the same level of the President of the US, there are similarities. For example, the party in power in Trinidad has already announced one of its political diehards as its candidate for the post and the Opposition has named its own candidate. In this case I

cont'd on pg 9

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share the view of the elegant and acerbic writer, Gore Vidal, "Any American (in this case Trini or Caribbean person) who is prepared to run for president should be automatically, by definition, be disqualified from ever doing so."

As I thought about the politics of the region, I remembered what initially got me into politics and how much it cost me. I had graduated with a first-class honours degree in Journalism and was working at the Office of the Prime Minister in Trinidad when I was selected, together with two other people from Finland and Tanzania, for a politics course in Germany.

One evening, my colleagues explained their roles in the politics of their countries and then asked me what I did in Trinidad. I made it clear to them that I was a journalist and had no interest at all in politics.

They both made the point that as a graduate I represented about .001 per cent of the population of my country and if someone like me was not involved in politics then I deserved whatever the politicians meted out to us.

When I returned home, I thought it out and realised that the party in power, like any other party anywhere in the region, was comparable to a Ti Marie or Shame Plant (Mimosa Pudica or "Touch-me-not")- the moment you touched it, the plant closed ranks.

This meant that to have any effect on change, I had to be inside the organisation. I joined the party and learnt, at an extremely high cost not just in money but in reputation and pride, the lesson of my life. Stay far from the politics and continue to be a journalist. Even if you can't save the country or the people, you can at least save yourself.

For me, though, that is still not enough. I believe that in a country like T&T that is deeply divided by race, or some of the others in the region by "tribes" or political support, what we need is a very clear commit-

ment by all parties to equal opportunity. People, regardless of race, must have a fair and equal opportunity for every job, not just by the governments but by all employers.

I was reading some comments by schoolkids about what they thought Presidents did. One said, "If I were President, I would spend the money that is spent of wars every 20 years and spend it on giving people work.

Let them build roads, bridges, building schools." Another said, "The presidentwork in the white house and he killed black people".

The one who knew who he was talking about was clear, "If it's Donald Trump, the president is mean." There is a view that by 2030 the eight independent Commonwealth Caribbean countries will become Republics and each will have a "President". What would be that person's role? As one American kid said, "I think he executes the laws."

**Tony Deyal was last seen quoting U.S. president, Ronald Reagan, "Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."*



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Letter to the Editor



Lovell: The whole truth and anything but the truth

By Traycee L.

One of the hallmarks of mature democracies is the ability of aspiring leaders to engage in open debates with opponents to defend their stance on various issues, especially those that affect the nation broadly. Indeed, in Antigua and Barbuda, citizens and residents have been calling for such a debate to take place for a few years now.

In the lead-up to the 2018 general elections, a youth forum organised at least one such event and the public received it with appreciation, hoping that it would have served as the template for further political debates in Antigua and Barbuda. Here we are, mere days before the 2023 polls, and the anticipated debate between the leaders of the main political parties will not take place. Why?

In a nutshell, Harold Lovell, leader of the United Progressive Party (UPP), has declined an invitation of Twin Island Media to participate in a political debate against Gaston Browne of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) and Joanne Massiah of the Democratic National Alliance (DNA). This is nothing less than a cop-out, possibly for fear of having to be fact checked and his usual unfounded rhetoric rebutted.

For context, it is important to note that Twin Island Media is the newest media entity in Antigua and Barbuda, created by eminently respected regionalist and journalist Julian Rogers. Along with Daren Matthew-Ward and Kieron Murdoch, Rogers saw the need for a new media entity that promotes fairness and non-political bias in reporting current affairs issues. It became necessary after Newsco Observer, another media entity in which Rogers was

integral to its genesis, was bastardised by present owners, UPP candidates Algernon “Serpent” Watts and Franz Defreitas, ably assisted by Dave Lester Payne and Dane Knight.

Observing from a distance, Rogers saw his dream of a reputable media house turning into a nightmare with the phantoms of the UPP roaming through its halls. Alas, Rogers saw Observer galloping to become the nineteenth candidate of the UPP, having been preceded by Progressive FM and ZDK. Thus, Twin Island Media was born to bring balance to the political tribalism that was brewing.

Why, then, did Lovell refuse to participate in a leadership debate being hosted by Twin Island Media? To be clear, thus far this media house has demonstrated its ability to be impartial, especially during the morning show with Matthew-Ward and Murdoch.

They have asked tough questions and have pressed their guests for answers. More importantly, they have been fair to their guests, protecting them from unfounded claims and accusations.

It is to their credit, as one of the primary responsibilities of any moderator is to protect his/her guests when unfairly attacked. Moreover, they have invited guests from all the major political parties and have treated them with dignity, even when some may think that some guests do not deserve to be treated well, given their history of past mistreatment of the said moderators.

So why did Lovell run for the hills when invited to openly debate Browne and Massiah? One must remember that Lovell has proclaimed on several occasions that he wished to debate Browne. Just name the day and time, he said.

However, when approached Lovell declined, seemingly on the basis that he must have a say in setting the rules of the said debate. I still find it curious that neither Browne nor Massiah made such a demand of the organisers. In fact, they both indicated that they were quite ready, willing, and able. Just organise and they will be there. However, Lovell took off for the hills with his heels in his hands, in a manner that would make Usain Bolt envious! Why?!

I suspect there are two reasons Lovell is mortally afraid of an open debate with Browne and Massiah. Firstly, Lovell is afraid of Massiah and her potential to draw attention to his duplicity. One must remember that when Lovell first became leader of the UPP he did so through means that drove away some of the faithful.

This included Bruce Goodwin, Anthony Stuart, Malaka Parker, and Gatesworth James. Moreover, he did so a second time when Richard Lewis challenged for leadership. Through a sham protest led by Leon “Chaku” Symister some members of the party claimed that they were not accepting Lovell’s resignation as leader.

Lovell in turn advanced the sham and said, “Well, if it is the will of the membership, I guess I have to stay on as leader.” This after he had publicly stated that he was stepping down. Duplicity at its finest! In the aftermath, Lovell then sidelined all those who supported Lewis in his bid to become leader.

Massiah is therefore well placed to show a particular pattern of both unsavoury and dishonest behaviour in Lovell. He is mortally afraid that this should become an issue so close to the general elections. Lickety-split, lickety-split! Run for the hills!

cont'd on pg 11

US Virgin Islands becomes 25th member country of CTO

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) has started the year by welcoming the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) as its 25th member country.

In a statement, the CTO said the USVI, one of the leading destinations in the Caribbean, joins at a time when the organisation seeks to refocus its mandate on shaping the Caribbean tourism sector of the future.

The relationship between the USVI and the

CTO is not a new one, and the organisation is confident that the renewed partnership will result in several positive outcomes for both parties, and the wider CTO membership.

In welcoming the new member, chairman of the CTO, Kenneth Bryan expressed his belief in the opportunity this relationship presents for regional tourism.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the United States

Virgin Islands and Commissioner Boschulte to the membership. Having one of the fastest-growing travel destinations in our fraternity further strengthens the organisation and enhances the spirit of collaboration and cohesion among our jurisdictions.

"The USVI has joined a community that is committed to working together to sustainably grow and develop Caribbean Tourism and we look forward to work-

ing with Commissioner Boschulte in this regard."

Commissioner Boschulte of the USVI, in expressing his thoughts on his destination's status as a CTO member said, "The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) is a key economic driver in the Caribbean's growth and sustainability, and we are honoured that the USVI is now a member. Sustainability is always top of mind for us as we look to maintain the tranquil and unspoiled landscapes of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John.

"Eco-friendly practices are vital for keeping our islands clean and pristine, and to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and ecosystems.

"We saw encouraging growth in tourism in the USVI in 2022. We look forward to working with the CTO in 2023 to create mechanisms to ensure that growth continues for both the USVI and our Caribbean neighbours."

The CTO member countries are representative of the diversity that exists in the Caribbean, which makes the region one of the most unique tourism destinations in the world. The organisation has adopted a mandate to support sustainable tourism and economic development among its members. (CMC)

cont'd from pg 10

The second reason Lovell refused to participate in a debate is that he knows that he would be called upon to explain how he intends to fund all the promises he has been making. An interesting factoid about this campaign season is that the UPP have promised to cut taxes, reduce customs duties, lower electricity costs, eliminate the Unincorporated Business Tax, raise wages and salaries of government workers, and pay severance to LIAT and Caribbean Airport Services workers.

While all of it sounds nice, a basic element of financial management is that you require money to fund the initiatives identified. At no time has Lovell indicated how he intends to raise the money. By eliminating certain taxes and reducing others, Lovell would reduce government revenue. This revenue must be recovered in order to fund the increase in government wages and salaries.

So how does Lovell plan to do it? There are two basic ways it can be done. The first way is to cut government expenditure through the severing of persons from the public service and other austerity measures. This has been a longstanding ambition of

the UPP in general and Lovell in particular. It was attempted some years ago through the voluntary separation package that saw an exodus of talent from government. There is a possibility that a similar and even harsher measure would see a return.

The next way in which it can be done is through increasing government revenue through the introduction of new taxes or from borrowing. It is therefore possible that the country could see a return of Personal Income Tax and a trip or two to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

With the prospect of having to face Browne and Massiah asking him to explain, Lovell began to sing like Jiminy Cricket of Disney Channel fame, "I'm no fool, no siree. I wanna live 'til ninety-three, so no debate for them and me 'cause I'm no fool!"

Contrary to Lovell's thought that he is no fool, it is the electorate that he is taking for fools by his refusal to debate. He somehow believes that by not participating in the debate he would not be forced to explain how he will fund his promises. The electorate is not fooled, Lovell.

Continue running for the hills, Harold Lovell, because that is where you will find yourself come 19th January 2023.

Bomb attack on Suriname courthouse fails

CMC - The Suriname government is holding an emergency meeting on Saturday with security officials after an attempt had been made Friday night to bomb the courthouse in the capital.

The authorities said persons threw explosives at the building and gunshots were also fired at the building.

They said the explosives did not explode and that two security guards who were in the courthouse when the attack took place at around 10.30 pm (local time) escaped unhurt.

The government has since announced that an emergency meeting with the security authorities will take place on Satur-



Unexploded grenade found at the courthouse building in Suriname (CMC Photo)

day morning, after which acting President Ronnie Brunswijk will hold a news conference to inform the population about the situation.

President Chandrikapersad Santokhi is due back home on Monday after travelling to India where he attended the India International Diaspora Conference.

CCTV footage shows two men on a motorcycle entering the courthouse area, and one of them got off and a bag containing the explosives was thrown onto the steps of the building.

The man then fired at the building with an automatic weapon, after which they rode away.

Photos that have since gone viral on social media show an RPG grenade to which a hand grenade

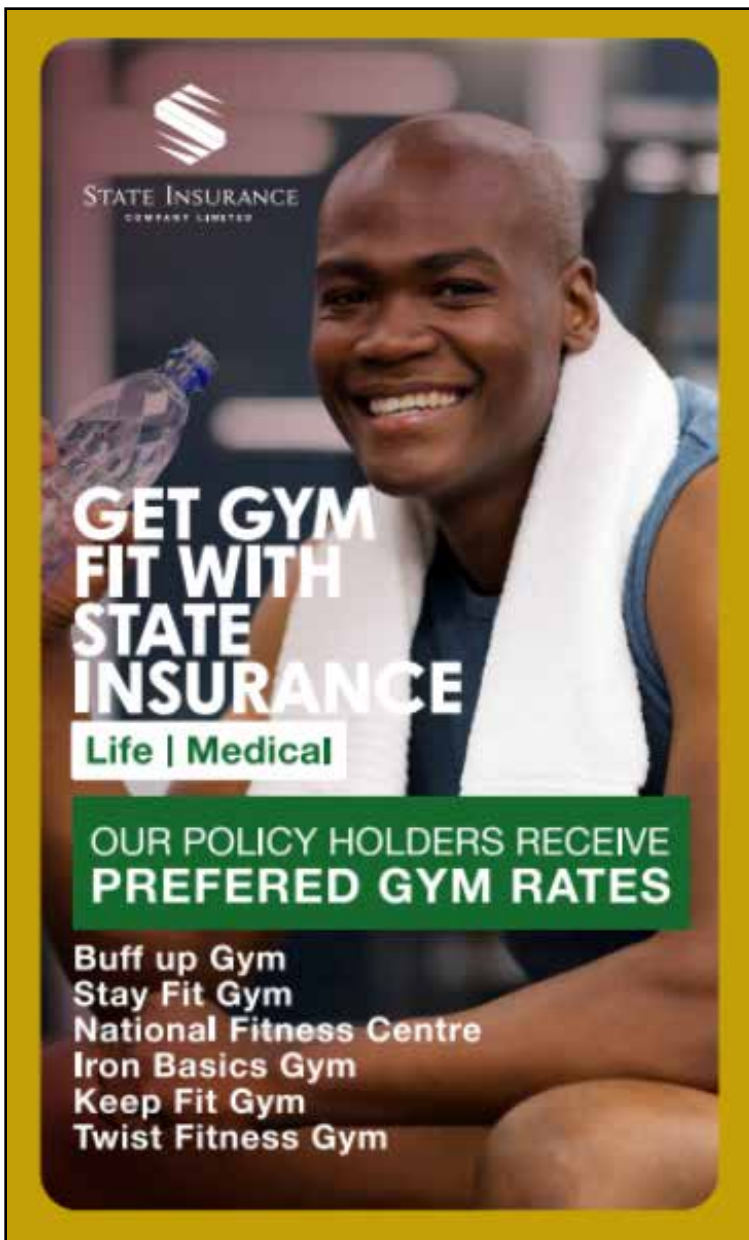
is attached with tape as a detonator.

Several bullet holes shattered windows of the building were also shown.

The authorities said several shell cases have been found at the crime scene and the bomb squad has been called in to remove the explosives.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack as the police and the Forensic Investigation Department as well as other security agencies continue their investigations.

It is not known whether the attack on the courthouse is linked to the appeal case that began last week against former president Desi Bouterse and four other ex-servicemen suspected of the murder of 15 political opponents of Bouterse in December 1982.



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Top Brazil court greenlights probe of Bolsonaro for riot

AP - A Brazilian Supreme Court justice on Friday authorised adding former President Jair Bolsonaro in its investigation into who incited the Jan. 8 riot in the nation's capital, as part of a broader crackdown to hold responsible parties to account.

According to the text of his ruling, Justice Alexandre de Moraes granted the request from the prosecutor-general's office, which cited a video that Bolsonaro posted on Facebook two days after the riot. The video claimed President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva wasn't voted into office, but rather was chosen by the Supreme Court and Brazil's electoral authority.

Prosecutors in the recently formed group to combat anti-democratic acts argued earlier Friday that although Bolsonaro posted the video after the riot, its content was sufficient to justify investigating his conduct beforehand. Bolsonaro deleted it the morning after he first posted it.

Legal analysts consulted by The Associated Press said investigating Bolsonaro was overdue and justified.

"Bolsonaro's positioning, in general, is being investigated as an incitement method. The fact that the video was published after the attacks doesn't mean he wasn't involved previously in inciting the acts," said Georges Abouboud, a constitutional law professor at Sao Paulo's Pontifical Catholic University.

Otherwise, Bolsonaro has refrained from commenting on the election since his Oct. 30 defeat. He repeatedly stoked doubt about the reliability of the electronic voting system in the run-up to the vote, filed a request afterward to annul millions of ballots cast using the machines and never conceded.



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro looks on after speaking from his official residence the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Nov. 1, 2022. His absence on Inauguration Day will mark a break with tradition and remains unclear who, instead of him, will hand over the presidential sash to Brazilian President-elect Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the presidential palace on Jan. 1, 2023. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres, File)

He has taken up residence in an Orlando suburb since leaving Brazil in late December and skipping the Jan. 1 swearing-in of his leftist successor, and some Democratic lawmakers have urged President Joe Biden to cancel his visa.

Following the justice's decision late Friday, Bolsonaro's lawyer Frederick Wassef said in a statement that the former president "vehemently repudiates the acts of vandalism and destruction" from Jan. 8, but blamed supposed "infiltrators" of the protest — something his far-right backers have also claimed.

The statement also said Bolsonaro "never had any relationship or participation with these spontaneous social movements."

Brazilian authorities are investigating who enabled Bolsonaro's radical supporters to storm the Supreme Court, Congress and presidential palace in an attempt to overturn results of the October election. Targets include those who summoned rioters to the

capital or paid to transport them, and local security personnel who may have stood aside to let the mayhem occur.

Much of the attention thus far has focused on Anderson Torres, Bolsonaro's former justice minister, who became the federal district's security chief on Jan. 2, and was in the U.S. on the day of the riot.

De Moraes has opened an investigation into Torres' actions, which he characterised as "neglect and collusion." In his decision, which was made public Friday, de Moraes said Torres fired subordinates and left the country before the riot, an indication that he was deliberately laying the groundwork for the unrest.

The court also issued an arrest warrant for the former security chief, who returned to Brazil early Saturday and was taken into custody, the Federal Police said in a statement. Torres has denied wrongdoing.

Justice Minister Flávio Dino pointed to a document that Brazilian federal police found upon searching Torres' home: a draft decree that would have seized control of Brazil's electoral authority and potentially overturned the election. The origin and authenticity of the unsigned document are unclear, and it remains unknown if Bolsonaro or his subordinates took any steps to implement the measure that would have been unconstitutional, according to analysts and the Brazilian academy of electoral and political law.

But the document "will figure in the police investigation, because it even more fully reveals the existence of a chain of people responsible for the criminal events," Dino said, adding that Torres will need to inform police who drafted it.

By failing to initiate a probe
cont'd on pg 14

Regional News



Guyana government concerned at spike in school fires

CMC - Guyana's Home Affairs Minister Robeson Benn said the spike in the number of fires at schools is concerning as he urged the population to be vigilant.

"Primarily, it requires the communities, the parents, each and every one and the media to put out the message to protect the nation's assets every time and particularly the future and education of children," Benn said as he and Education Minister Priya Manickchand Thursday night toured the burnt out remains of the Christ Church Secondary School in Georgetown, the latest school to be destroyed by fire.

Benn said while the police are working on information regarding the fire, he hinted that the blaze may have been deliberately set.

"It would appear passing strange and it would test probability that within two or three weeks, we can have a fire at the same



Christ Church Secondary School in Georgetown, the latest school to be destroyed by fire.

building at a prominent location in Georgetown where hundreds of children are working on their SBAs (School-Based Assessments) and other things," he said;

He urged everyone to stand in support of the education system and that the destruction of the Christ Church Secondary School was a "tremendous blow."

Benn said the spike in the number of fires at schools "has to tell us something" with the au-

thorities noting that a large section of the North Ruimveldt Multilateral School was destroyed in June, 2021, the St George's Secondary School was ravaged by a blaze in July, 2022, and arsonists destroyed the Mabaruma Secondary School in September 2021.

The education minister said two recent fires have caused the Ministry of Education to be "stretched for space" and that while she was not pointing to the cause of the latest fire,

Guyanese must be mindful about "wildcards making wild statements" because Guyanese of all persuasions and backgrounds are affected by fires at schools.

"When schools burn, children of all colour, of all religions, whose parents vote all over for everybody; male, female, everybody suffers and so we have to collectively take a stand in this country that we will not let careless speech, we will not let careless persons interfere with our children's future," she added.

Manickchand said the government is trying extremely hard to make Guyanese compete in the area of education. Meanwhile, the students of the Christ Church Secondary School are to be relocated on Monday, and the Ministry of Education said it is consulting the Barbados-based Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) regarding options for students whose records have been destroyed.

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against the document's author or report its existence, Torres at the very least could be charged with dereliction of duty, said Mario Sérgio Lima, a political analyst at Medley Advisors.

Torres said on Twitter that the document was probably found in a pile along with others intended for shredding, and that it was leaked out of context to feed false narratives aimed at discrediting him.

Dino told reporters Friday morn-

ing that no connection has yet been established between the capital riot and Bolsonaro.

The federal district's former governor and former military police chief are also targets of the Supreme Court investigation made public Friday. Both were removed from their positions after the riot.

Also on Friday night, the popular social media accounts of several prominent right-wing figures were suspended in Brazil in response to a

court order, which journalist Glenn Greenwald obtained and detailed on a live social media broadcast.

The order, also issued by Justice de Moraes, was directed at six social media platforms and established a two-hour deadline to block the accounts or face fines. The accounts belong to a digital influencer, a YouTuber recently elected federal lawmaker, a podcast host in the mould of Joe Rogan, and an evangelical pastor and senator-elect, among others.

68 dead, four missing after plane crashes in Nepal resort town

AP - A plane making a 27-minute flight to a Nepal tourist town crashed into a gorge Sunday while attempting to land at a newly opened airport, killing at least 68 of the 72 people aboard. At least one witness reported hearing cries for help from within the fiery wreck, the country's deadliest airplane accident in three decades.

Hours after dark, scores of onlookers crowded around the crash site near the airport in the resort town of Pokhara as rescue workers combed the wreckage on the edge of the cliff and in the ravine below. Officials suspended the search for the four missing people overnight and planned to resume looking Monday.

Local resident Bishnu Tiwari, who rushed to the crash site near the Seti River to help search for bodies, said the rescue efforts were hampered by thick smoke and a raging fire.

"The flames were so hot that we couldn't go near the wreckage. I heard a man crying for help, but because of the flames and smoke we couldn't help him," Tiwari said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the accident, Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority said.

A witness said he saw the aircraft spinning violently in the air after it began descending to land,



A woman cries as the body of a relative, victim of a plane crash, is brought to a hospital in Pokhara, Nepal, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023. A plane making a 27-minute flight to a Nepal tourist town crashed into a gorge Sunday while attempting to land at a newly opened airport, killing at least 68 of the 72 people aboard. At least one witness reported hearing cries for help from within the fiery wreck, the country's deadliest airplane accident in three decades. (AP Photo/Yunish Gurung)

watching from the terrace of his house. Finally, Gaurav Gurung said, the plane fell nose-first towards its left and crashed into the gorge.

The aviation authority said the aircraft last made contact with the airport from near Seti Gorge at 10:50 a.m. before crashing.

The twin-engine ATR 72 aircraft, operated by Nepal's Yeti Airlines, was flying from the capital, Kathmandu, to Pokhara, located 200 kilometres (125 miles) west. It was carrying 68 passengers including 15 foreign nationals, as well as four crew members, Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority said in a statement. The foreigners included five Indians, four

Russians, two South Koreans, and one each from Ireland, Australia, Argentina and France.

Images and videos shared on Twitter showed plumes of smoke billowing from the crash site, about 1.6 kilometres (nearly a mile) away from Pokhara International Airport. The aircraft's fuselage was split into multiple parts that were scattered down the gorge.

Firefighters carried bodies, some burned beyond recognition, to hospitals where grief-stricken relatives had assembled. At Kathmandu airport, family members appeared distraught as they were escorted in and at times ex-

changed heated words with officials as they waited for information.

Tek Bahadur K. C., a senior administrative officer in the Kaski district, said he expected rescue workers to find more bodies at the bottom of the gorge.

Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who rushed to Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu after the crash, set up a panel to investigate the accident.

"The incident was tragic. The full force of the Nepali army, police has been deployed for rescue," he said.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement

cont'd on pg 16

Netanyahu moving ahead on legal overhaul despite outcry

AP - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday his government plans to charge ahead with an overhaul of the country's judicial system, despite fierce criticism from top legal officials and protests against the changes that drew tens of thousands of people.

Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, has made the legal changes the centrepiece of his new government's agenda and the surging opposition to them is presenting an early challenge for the Israeli leader. Opponents say the changes could help Netanyahu evade conviction in his corruption trial, or make the court case disappear altogether.

cont'd on pg 17



Israeli demonstrators hold torches during a protest against the government's plans to overhaul the country's legal system, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023. Tens of thousands of Israelis have gathered in central Tel Aviv to protest plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government to overhaul the country's legal system and weaken the Supreme Court. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

cont'd from pg 15

that it's still trying to confirm the fate of two South Korean passengers and has sent staff to the scene. The Russian Ambassador to Nepal, Alexei Novikov, confirmed the death of four Russian citizens who were on board the plane.

Pokhara is the gateway to the Annapurna Circuit, a popular hiking trail in the Himalayas. The city's new international airport began operations only two weeks ago.

The type of plane involved, the ATR 72, has been used by airlines around the world for short regional flights. Introduced in the late 1980s by a French and Italian partnership, the aircraft model has been involved in several deadly accidents

over the years.

In Taiwan two earlier accidents involving ATR 72-500 and ATR 72-600 aircrafts happened just months apart.

In July 2014, a TransAsia ATR 72-500 flight crashed while trying to land on the scenic Penghu archipelago between Taiwan and China, killing 48 people on board. An ATR 72-600 operated by the same Taiwanese airline crashed shortly after takeoff in Taipei in February 2015 after one of its engines failed and the second was shut down, apparently by mistake.

The 2015 crash, captured in dramatic footage that showed the plane striking a taxi as it hurtled out of control, killed 43, and prompted authorities to

ground all Taiwanese-registered ATR 72s for some time. TransAsia ceased all flights in 2016 and later went out of business.

ATR identified the plane involved in Sunday's crash as an ATR 72-500 in a tweet. According to plane tracking data from flightradar24.com, the aircraft was 15 years old and "equipped with an old transponder with unreliable data."

It was previously flown by India's Kingfisher Airlines and Thailand's Nok Air before Yeti took it over in 2019, according to records on Airfleets.net.

Yeti Airlines has a fleet of six ATR72-500 planes, company spokesperson Sudarshan Bartaula said.

Nepal, home to eight of the world's 14 highest

mountains, including Mount Everest, has a history of air crashes. According to the Flight Safety Foundation's Aviation Safety database, there have been 42 fatal plane crashes in Nepal since 1946.

Sunday's crash is Nepal's deadliest since 1992, when all 167 people aboard a Pakistan International Airlines plane were killed when it ploughed into a hill as it tried to land in Kathmandu.

The European Union has banned airlines from Nepal from flying into the 27-nation bloc since 2013, citing weak safety standards. In 2017, the International Civil Aviation Organization cited improvements in Nepal's aviation sector, but the EU continues to demand administrative reforms.

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The overhaul would weaken the power of the Supreme Court, granting legislators the ability to pass laws the court has struck down with a simple majority, as well as give the government greater power over the appointment of judges and limit the independence of government legal advisers.

The proposed changes have sparked an outcry from the Supreme Court's top justice, who in rare criticism called the overhaul an "unbridled attack on the justice system." The country's attorney general has also spoken out against the plan, as have many of her predecessors, and tens of thousands protested the proposed changes in Tel Aviv on Saturday.

Despite the opposition, Netanyahu told a meeting of his Cabinet that voters cast their ballots in November elections in support of his campaign promise to overhaul the justice system.

"We will complete legislating the reforms in a way that will correct what needs correcting, will totally protect individual rights and will restore the public's faith in the justice system that so much requires this reform," Netanyahu said.

A poll released Sunday painted a more complex picture.

The survey found that 58% of Israelis believe the Supreme Court should have the power to overturn laws passed by parliament if they conflict with democratic

principles. The survey, conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute in October, just before the election, questioned 1,092 people and had a margin of error of 2.8%.

The poll was part of the nonpartisan institute's annual "Israeli Democracy Index." The same survey, however, found that public trust by Israeli Jews in the Supreme Court fell to 42% last year, down from a multiyear average of 59.5%. Trust in parliament was just 18.5%, it said. Levels of trust were slightly lower among the country's Arab minority.

There have been calls in the past to reform Israel's justice system, which was given greater clout in the 1990s and has been seen since by critics as being too interventionist in the process of lawmaking. But the sweeping changes sought by Netanyahu's justice minister have raised an alarm among opponents who see them as a death knell to Israel's system of checks and balances and in turn, its democratic fundamentals.

Netanyahu and his allies see the changes as a way to ease the process of governance and recalibrate what they say is an imbalance between the country's executive and judicial branches.

The proposed changes, tabled weeks after the government was sworn in, have exposed how deeply polarised Israeli society is, torn between preserving the country's liberal and dem-

ocratic ideals or shifting away from them. They have also shown how quickly the country's government, its most right-wing ever, is intent on advancing its policies, many of which have sparked criticism, including from unexpected quarters.

Netanyahu heads a government of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties who at times in the past have seen their agendas thwarted by Supreme Court decisions or unfavourable counsel by government legal advisers. That prompted them to make sure the legal changes were a top priority during negotiations to form the government. Netanyahu, eager to return to power under the shadow of his corruption trial, appeared to be generous to his partners in the talks.

Among those concessions was a promise to

make Avi Maoz, head of a small, radical, religious ultranationalist party who has repeatedly spouted anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, in charge of certain educational programs. The Cabinet approved the pledge Sunday, despite an outcry from mayors and Israeli parents when it was initially discussed.

Israel's President Isaac Herzog, who normally wields a largely symbolic role, has stepped in to bridge the divide over the judicial changes. In a statement, Herzog said he was working to avert "a historic constitutional crisis" in a series of meetings with political figures. Hundreds of people protested outside his residence in Jerusalem on Saturday.

Netanyahu has claimed the overhaul will be carried out cautiously and with parliamentary oversight.

Weekend Puzzle Solution

RATTLED

By Kenneth Holt



Congo's army says church bomb kills 10, extremists suspected

AP - A suspected extremist attack at a church in eastern Congo killed at least 10 people and wounded more than three dozen, according to the country's army.

A group linked to Islamic extremists was suspected of being responsible for a bomb that went off in the Pentecostal church in the North Kivu province town of Kasindi, military spokesperson Anthony Mwalushayi told The Associated Press by phone.

A Kenyan national found at the scene was detained, Mwalushayi said. Congo's government urged people to avoid crowds and be vigilant as it conducted an investigation, the minister of communication tweeted.

Videos and photos of the attack seen by the AP showed dead bodies lying on the ground outside the church, including what appeared to be a dead child. The injured were being carried out of the church surrounded by other people screaming.

Survivors and witnesses said the blast severed some people's limbs from their bodies.

Masika Makasi, 25, was sitting under a tent outside the church when she heard a noise that sounded like a tire going flat, she told the AP from her home in Kasindi. Her leg was in-



A suspected extremist attack at a church in eastern Congo killed at least 10 people and wounded more than three dozen, according to the country's army.

jured in the attack and her sister-in-law, who was several feet away, died instantly, Makasi said.

"I am traumatised from seeing people die around me," she said.

Violence has wracked eastern Congo for decades as more than 120 armed groups and self-defence militias fight for land and power. Nearly 6 million people are internally displaced, and hundreds of thousands are facing extreme food insecurity, according to the U.N.

Fighters with the Allied Democratic Forces, a rebel organisation which is believed to have links to the

Islamic State group have carried out several attacks in Kasindi, which is located on the border with Uganda.

Troops from Uganda's army have deployed to eastern Congo to try to stem the violence, but the attacks have increased and spread. ADF attacks since April have killed at least 370 civilians and involved the abduction of several hundred more, a report by the United Nations last month said.

The rebel group has extended its area of operations to Goma and into neighbouring Ituri province.

The complex militia problem in Congo has long

produced ethnically motivated attacks and fluid alliances between multiple militias with diverse interests, said Trupti Agrawal, senior East Africa analyst for the Economist Intelligence Unit, a research department of the Economist Group, a global media and information-services company.

"The church attack will work to further the narrative of (the) eastern (Congo) conflict taking a religious turn," Agrawal said. "It is likely to deepen anti-Islam sentiment in the Christian majority country, particularly in the eastern provinces where Islamist rebels are most active."

Kohli ton leads India to record ODI rout of Sri Lanka

AP - Virat Kohli scored his 46th ODI hundred to lead India past Sri Lanka and complete a 3-0 white-wash in the series on Sunday.

Kohli hit 166 not out off 110 balls, his second-highest ODI score, as India reached 390-5 in 50 overs. Shubman Gill also scored his second ODI hundred.

In reply, Sri Lanka was scuttled out for 73 runs in 22 overs.

The resultant 317-run margin of victory was the biggest ever recorded in ODIs.

India had made a solid start after opting to bat. Gill put on 95 runs with skipper Rohit Sharma (42) for the first wicket.

After Sharma departed in the 16th over, Gill and Kohli put on 131 runs for the second wicket.

Gill scored 116 off 97 balls, notching up his century off 89 balls, hitting 14 fours and two sixes.

The day belonged to Kohli though, who scored his second hundred of the series and third across his last four ODI innings.

Kohli got to 50 off 48 balls with his century partnership with Gill coming off only 90 balls.

Later, he reached his ton off 85 balls. It was his 21st ODI hundred on Indian soil, the most by any batsman as he overtook Sachin Ten-



India's Virat Kohli celebrates after scoring a century during the third one-day international cricket match between India and Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram, India, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023. (AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi)

dulkar's record of 20 centuries.

It was also Kohli's 10th ODI hundred against Sri Lanka, the most by any batsman against any team in this format.

Kohli stepped it up thereafter, scoring 50 off 21 balls, including six sixes. Overall, he hit 13 fours and eight sixes.

Kohli was named player of the match as well as player of the series.

"Ever since I came back from the long break, I have been feeling good. I don't have the desperation to get to a milestone.

"I am enjoying my bat-

ting and trying to help the team as much as possible. I want this (run of form) to continue," Kohli said, after the victory.

Shreyas Iyer scored 38 off 32 balls and added 108 off 71 balls with Kohli for the third wicket.

Compounding Sri Lanka's misery, two of its fielders were stretchered off after a collision at the deep midwicket boundary in the 43rd over.

Jeffrey Vandersay and Ashen Bandara both dived for the ball before colliding. They were both taken to a local hospital for scans.

Dunith Wellalage took

Vandersay's place as a concussion substitute while Bandara was replaced by Dhananjaya de Silva as a fielding substitute.

Sri Lankan batting folded meekly in reply to India's mammoth total as Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami bowled belligerent opening spells, sharing six wickets.

Siraj took 4-32 while Shami returned 2-20. The tourists reached just 39-5 after 10 overs with just two top-order batsman - Nuwanidu Fernando (19) and Dasun Shanaka (11) - reaching double figures in the one-sided encounter.

Sports News



James shines bright with 52 and 4 wickets; West Indies secure win

West Indies Rising Stars opened their ICC Women's U19 World Cup campaign with a seven-run win over Ireland Women's U19 at the North-West University Oval in Potchefstroom, South Africa on Sunday.

Zaida James had an outstanding match as she led the batting with 52 off 57 balls, which also included eight fours. This helped West Indies to reach 125-3 off their 20 overs. She returned with the ball to take 4-20 off her four overs which limited Ireland to 118-7 off their 20 overs.

James took command of the West Indies batting, striking her maiden T20 half-century and the first of the Rising Stars World Cup campaign. Together with fellow opener Shunelle Sawh, the

pair looked fearless against the Irish bowling attack. Thirteen runs came from the sixth over with James stroking two fours in the process. The pair posted 67 for the first wicket, when Sawh was the first to depart for 15.

James carried on and was joined by the in-form Naijanni Cumberbatch with the pair posting a further 39 runs together. James fell for an unbeaten 52 off 57 balls, which included eight boundaries. Rising Stars posted 125/3 from their 20 overs, Cumberbatch finished on 21 not out off 27 balls, while Jannillea Glasgow hit a brisk 13 not out off 10 balls.

When Ireland batted James struck four times with her left-arm off-spin, removing Irish captain Amy Hunter 21,

top-scorer Annabel Squires 42, Abbi Harrison 13 and Joanna Loughran 1.

Speaking after the end of play, James was thrilled with her match-winning heroics, which earned her the Player of the Match award. She told CWI Media: "It's certainly a great feeling to have an all-round performance like this and even better that we had a team victory. Our focus is one game at a time and to finish the group stage strong, then we will look at the remaining stages of the tournament."

The victory sees the West Indies move to the top of the table in Group C, with 2 points and a Net Run Rate of +0.350. They play Indonesia on Tuesday January 17 at North-West University.

cont'd on pg 21

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TUESDAYS

FIFA to investigate Argentina over World Cup final behaviour

AlJazeera - FIFA says it has opened disciplinary proceedings against Argentina for “offensive behaviour” during the team’s World Cup final triumph in Qatar last month.

Argentina beat 2018 winners France on penalties to lift the trophy for a third time.

Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez made a lewd gesture with his goalkeeper of the tournament trophy after the match, before being filmed in the dressing room mocking French star Kylian Mbappe.

Mbappe won the FIFA Golden Boot trophy after scoring the most goals in the tournament.

Football’s world governing body said Argentina had potentially breached rules regarding “offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play” and “misconduct of players and officials”.

FIFA is also investigating the Argentinian FA over breaching media and mar-



Argentina beat France on penalty kicks to lift the trophy for a third time [File: Showkat Shafi/Al Jazeera]

keting regulations.

Martinez has also come under criticism from pundits and social media for mocking Mbappe during Argentina’s victory parade in Buenos Aires – where he held a baby doll with the French player’s face plas-

tered on it.

The Croatian team is also being investigated for potential violations of “discrimination” and “order and security at matches” rules.

Players appeared to sing a song with fascist connotations following their third-

place playoff victory over Morocco.

Defender Dejan Lovren defended himself and his teammates, recently telling AFP news agency it was “a patriotic song which relates to my country, which means that I love my country”.

Meanwhile, FIFA said it had fined Mexico 100,000 Swiss francs (\$107,840) for chants by its supporters during the team’s game against Poland and Saudi Arabia during the group stages.

The team will also be forced to play one FIFA competition match behind closed doors.

cont’d from pg 20

sity Oval, Potchefstroom – 7:45am Eastern Caribbean/6:45am Jamaica.

GROUPS

Group A: Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, USA

Group B: England, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe

Group C: Indonesia, Ireland, New Zealand, West Indies

Group D: India, Scotland, South Africa,

UAE

WEST INDIES MATCH SCHEDULE

Sunday 15 January: vs Ireland at NW University, Potchefstroom – West Indies won by 7 runs

Tuesday 17 January: vs Indonesia at NW University, Potchefstroom – 7:45am Eastern Caribbean/6:45am Jamaica

Thursday 19 January: vs New Zealand, JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom – 7:45am Eastern Caribbean/6:45am Jamaica

Chelsea beats Crystal Palace 1-0 to ease pressure on Potter

AP - Chelsea eased the pressure on manager Graham Potter by securing just a second Premier League victory since October with a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge on Sunday.

Kai Havertz headed in the winning goal in the 64th minute in front of Chelsea's latest signing, Ukraine winger Mykhailo Mudryk, who was paraded on the field at halftime.

It was a poignant day in west London as Chelsea paid tribute to former striker Gianluca Vialli, who died this month at the age of 58, before the match with a host of the Italian's former teammates returning to pay their respects.

It contributed to a feeling of togetherness between players and supporters at Stamford Bridge as the team put a dreadful last seven days — which culminated in a red card for new signing Joao Felix in a defeat at Fulham on Thursday — behind them.

It was only a second win in the last 10 games in the league to take some of the heat off Potter, with 10th-place Chelsea moving level on points with Liverpool in ninth.

Palace had the first real chance of the game after 20 minutes, when Michael Olise allowed the ball to drop over his shoulder and



Chelsea's Kai Havertz heads the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Crystal Palace at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023. (AP Photo/David Cliff)

drilled an effort toward Kepa Arrizabalaga's top corner from 25 yards (metres).

The Chelsea goalkeeper did brilliantly to finger-tip behind at full stretch.

But it was the hosts who had the best chance of the first half in the 33rd minute when Havertz rose unmarked to meet Hakim Ziyech's whipped cross, with the forward only able to land his header onto the roof of the net.

Just before halftime, Conor Gallagher broke away down Palace's right and fired a low ball across goal that Lewis Hall was unable to convert with a

first-time effort at the back post. Ziyech then saw a fierce drive from the edge of the area tipped over by Vicente Guaita as Chelsea finished the half strongly.

The hosts' confidence grew in the second half and Havertz again went close when he latched onto Gallagher's through-ball down the left, but his low drive was saved.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was sent on by Potter on the hour having recovered from a back injury — the first of the manager's long list of absentees to make a return — and Chelsea soon had the lead.

Ziyech collected the

ball near the left touchline and, as his whipped cross evaded Palace's defence, there was Havertz climbing highest to plant his header past Guaita.

Havertz should have put the game beyond Palace when he darted behind the defence to meet Mason Mount's driven cross, but this time his direction was lacking as a wonderful chance to seal the win went begging.

And Chelsea was almost made to pay minutes later when Cheick Doucoure unleashed a fierce drive from 30 metres that required a fine stop from Arrizabalaga to preserve his team's lead.



Garden Stars kept their unbeaten run intact by recording their sixth win in seven matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division at the ABFA's Technical Centre on Thursday, 12th January, 2023. (File photo)

Leaders Garden Stars still unbeaten in first division league

Garden Stars kept their unbeaten run intact by recording their sixth win in seven matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division last Thursday.

Garden Stars prevailed 3-2 against John Hughes during a first division double-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre.

Wilden Cornwall scored the winner in the 72nd minute to secure the victory that ensured Garden Stars remain at the top of the standings by advancing to 19 points.

Allan Martin scored in the 2nd minute to put Garden Stars ahead. Troy Jules netted an equalizer for John Hughes in the 27th minute, but one minute later, Jared Williams scored to give Garden Stars a 2-1 halftime lead.

However, John Hughes equalized for the second time when Deno Bryan scored in the 53rd minute before Cornwall struck the winner for Garden Stars.

Green City ensured they remain second in the standings by pulling off a 3-0 win against Bolans at the Bolans playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Green City still managed to score three goals in the second half, although the team from Bendals was reduced to 10-men when they lost the services of Amali Colbourne, who was sent off by the referee in the 50th minute after he received a red card for committing serious foul play.

Sylvester Fenton then scored the first of two goals in the 57th minute to break the deadlock. Zaiem Scott scored in the 71st minute to give Green City a 2-0 lead and Fenton netted his second goal of the match in the 82nd minute to wrap-up his team's victory.

Their fifth win in seven matches lifted Green City to 15 points to remain in second place in the 12-team round robin competition.

Bendals hammered West Ham 3-0 at the Bendals playing field on Friday to advance to third place with 13 points from seven matches.

Goals by Alva Guishard in the 11th minute and Jabare Hanson in the 32nd minute gave Bendals a 2-0 halftime advantage. Anjis Anthony scored in the 74th minute to seal Bendals' fourth win

of the competition.

Cleon Adams scored a brace as Potters Tigers claimed their first win in the competition by recording a 4-1 victory over JSC Progressors at the St. Johnston's playing field on Thursday.

Adams had conversions in the 62nd and 73rd minutes to complete the scoring for Potters Tigers.

Kelvin Car had netted in the 16th minute and Javan Henry scored in the 33rd minute to give Potters Tigers a 2-0 halftime lead. The win lifted Potters Tigers out of the cellar position to five points from seven matches.

Potters Tigers are now second from bottom, with JSC Progressors now slipping into the cellar position with four points from seven matches.

Police and Fort Road played to a 1-1 draw in Thursday's other first division encounter at the ABFA's Technical Centre.

Kelly Reid scored on the stroke of halftime with a 45th minute strike to give Police a 1-0 lead at the interval. Alren Lewis scored Fort Road's equalizer with a 73rd minute conversion.

Sports News

Lack of trophy presentation takes lustre off PMS' knockout title winning display

It was a bitter-sweet moment for the Princess Margaret School (PMS) Under-20 Girls' Football Team who completed the double in the 2022/23 Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League by trouncing Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) 9-0 in the final to capture the knockout title at the King George V. Grounds on Thursday, 12th January.

National youth players K'niece Browne, Gabrielle De Suza and Irresia Allen scored all of the goals as the PMS girls enjoyed a goal-feast in the one-sided affair.

Browne netted five times, DeSuza recorded a hat-trick and Allen scored the other goal for the PMS girls.

However, to everyone's dismay, no official from the organisers the Ministry of Sports was on hand to make the trophy presentation at the end of the game.

Ironically, Karen "Dookie" Warner, the female coach of Ottos Comprehensive School, came with the trophy for the presentation, but had to leave while the knockout final was in progress.

Warner left the trophy with a young lady at the game, who delivered it to the PMS boys' team coach Rolston "Lexi" Phoenix, to present to the girls' knockout champions.



Coach Devikka Tittle (wearing long grey pants) and players of the Princess Margaret School's Under-20 Girls' team at the end of the Secondary Schools Girls' Knockout Final at the King George V. Grounds on Thursday, 12th January, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Principal of Princess Margaret School, Colin Greene, who rarely misses a game being played by any of the PMS teams, intervened and put a stop to Phoenix presenting the trophy to the girls' knockout champions.

Greene said he did so because he felt Princess Margaret School's girls' team, who had also played unbeaten and won every match to win the Under-20 Girls' Division League title in 2022, were being disrespected by the schools' football organisers in the Ministry of Sports.

Before the PMS contingent left the King George V. Ground, Warner had returned to the scene to make the presentation, but Greene maintained his stance, saying the trophy

presentation needs to be re-organised for another time.

"Our kids have had a really great season. This is one of the better female football teams ever assembled in the history of female football. I just think that they deserved better for the quality of football that they played and somehow or the other, the Ministry of Sports should have made a better arrangement to make a better presentation to them today," Greene stated.

"That is why we have taken a position that we are not going to be a part of no presentation today (last Thursday), they have to re-organise this presentation. I don't often do this, but this has to be better organised."

Senior national team defender Devikka Tittle, who is the coach of the PMS Under-20 girls' team, also expressed her disappointment with what transpired at the school girls' knockout final.

Tittle said the lack of an official from the Ministry of Sports to make the trophy presentation, had put a damper on the PMS team celebrating their win.

"I think it's a knock in the face for the young ladies, especially for a team that is undefeated. The young ladies come each game, play their heart, go out and play to the best of their ability," Tittle stated.

"Now to see that there was not even a single soul from the ministry to present the trophy, it really damp-

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Freetown beat Combined Schools to claim first win in ABCA's 10 Splash

Freetown beat Combined Schools by six wickets in the only match that was completed on a rain-affected day in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) 10-Splash Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 14th January.

Combined Schools were restricted to 68 for three after winning the toss and choosing to bat. Xaveek Toppin top scored with 27 off 24 balls, while opener Shamar Pereira and Captain George Elvin each contributed 16.

Freetown then achieved their first victory of the competition by scoring the required 69 runs for the loss of four wickets with four balls to spare.

Opener Jarel Phillip made 20 off 15 balls, Rolston "Triss" Phillip scored 16 off 12 balls and Kief Baltimore was not out on 10.

It was Freetown's first win in four matches in

Zone B, while Combined Schools remain without a win, losing all four encounters.

The other two Zone B matches were abandoned due to rain on Saturday.

Jennings Tigers were three for one in 1.1 overs when rain stopped and brought their match against Empire Nation to a premature end.

The other encounter between Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles and All Saints Pythons was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

On Friday in Zone A, Rising Sun Spartans beat Bolans Blasters by 97 runs. Rising Sun made 140 for one off 10 overs.

Owen Graham hammered 61 off 27 balls with five four and five sixes. Captain Kerry Mentore struck 57 off 29 balls with seven fours and three sixes.

Bolans Blasters were then restricted to 43 for



Combined School's Xaveek Toppin, right, accepts the Player of Match award from President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association Leon 'Kuma' Rodney at the end of his team's match against Freetown in the ABCA's 10 Splash Cricket Tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 14th January, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABCA)

three off 10 overs. Captain TaiemTonge was not out on 14.

PIC Liberta Black Hawks beat New Winthorpes Lions by 13 runs. Black Hawks scored 72 for three off their 10 overs. Amahl Nathaniel top scored with

31 off 26 balls with three sixes and Joshua Thomas made 14.

New Winthorpes Lions were then restricted to 59 for six off their 10 overs. Captain Nino Henry top scored with 17, Bartlette Henry struck 13 not out and Ishmael Peters contributed 11.

The ABCA 10 Splash will continue with another double-header at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium today.

CUB Bethesda Golden Eagles will take on Empire Nation at 2:30 pm and Jennings Tigers will tackle Combined Schools at 5:30 pm.

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ens the team. It doesn't feel like a win. We know it's a win, but we don't have the feeling of a win and I don't think it is right."

However, Coach Tittle commended her team for the commitment they showed and for playing undefeated for the entire season in winning both trophies available.

She also said the PMS girls will be continuing to work to strengthen weak

areas in preparation for the next schools' football season.

"The team has been working really hard. We have weak areas that we are working so we plan on coming back even harder the next time that schools' football resumes," Tittle said.

"In general, I think that it was a well done season for the girls and I applaud them for going through the season undefeated, knockout and regular season undefeated."

All Saints trounce Grenades to take sole leadership of premier division

All Saints United trounced Jennings Grenades 3-0 in a top of the table clash in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League last Saturday.

Following a goalless first half, All Saints United scored three goals in the second half to win the encounter, which was the first game of a triple-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters.

It was veteran striker Randolph "Etty" Burton, who broke the deadlock with a 49th minute conversion. Akani Thomas made it 2-0 with a 71st minute strike and forward Nazir Mc Burnett sealed All Saints United's win with a 76th minute conversion.

However, All Saints United finished the game with only ten men after losing the services of Kwazim Theodore in the dying moments of the game when he was given a red card after receiving his second caution in the 93rd (90+3) minute.

Both teams entered the match tied in joint first place with the same number of points, but the result allowed All Saints United to take sole leadership at the top of the premier division.

Their sixth win in seven matches has lifted All Saints United to 18 points, three more than Jennings Grenades from the same number of appearances.

Tryum hammered Cedar Grove Blue Jays 4-0 in Saturday's feature match of the premier league's triple header.

Chevel Cunningham scored in the 4th minute to give Tryum a 1-0 halftime lead. Two minutes after the interval, the



All Saints United trounced Jennings Grenades 3-0 in a top of the table clash in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division League at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Saturday, 14th January, 2023. (Photo courtesy All Saints United)

Blue Jays were reduced to 10 men after Ajauni Matthew was given a straight red card for violent conduct.

Shortly after, Hanel Burrell doubled Tryum's lead with a 49th minute conversion and Jahvin Sutherland added a third with a goal in the 75th minute.

Curlon Joseph then scored in the 83rd minute to wrap up Tryum's fourth victory in seven matches, taking them to 12 points in the standings.

Cedar Grove's fourth loss in six matches has left the Blue Jays languishing in the lower half of the table with just four points.

In another match, Parham led twice but were held to a 2-2 draw by the Liberta Black Hawks in the second game on Saturday.

Dondre Huston gave Parham an

early lead when he slotted home in the 6th minute. But Liberta drew level via a penalty kick, which was converted by Clarence March in the 17th minute as both teams ended the first half tied at 1-1.

However, Parham regained the lead just two minutes after the interval. Malcolm Stuart scored in the 47th minute to give Parham a 2-1 advantage.

But the Black Hawks equalized for the second time in the match when Malique Martin scored in the 74th minute to salvage a draw for the men from Liberta.

The premier league will continue with a double-header at the Technical Centre today..SAP will take on Willikies at 6 pm and Greenbay Hoppers will meet Ottos Rangers at 8 pm.