

MONDAY 23RD JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 15 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM BROWNE ISSUES STERN WARNING TO OBSTRUCTIONISTS

Story on Page 2



Body Found

Police are investigating the cause of death of a 48-year-old man who was discovered in his house located in Nut Grove yesterday. No foul play is suspected.

Local News

PM Browne to saboteurs: 'Heads will roll'

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is putting on notice those public sector workers who in the past have used their positions to sabotage the government's programme with the expectation that the government would have lost the 18th January general elections.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, PM Browne said it is not his style to threaten people's jobs, but it became apparent during the recent elections campaign that some workers were undermining the government's efforts from within.

"I don't threaten people's income or livelihood. However, I believe that my magnanimity was abused because we are aware that some individuals knew that they would not be fired or transferred. So when they felt that the United Progress-



ive Party was going to win the elections, they began to show their heads and started to stand in our way. Well, they have to understand that we are now a third term government; they can't do that and get away!" he declared.

According to the prime minister, while he is not threatening anybody's jobs, those saboteurs must now

be on their 'p's and q's' because if they don't perform, the government will not worry about political fallout.

"We have the strength of character that we can take on any public servant and to deal with them accordingly and fairly of course as we are not going to victimize anybody," he stated.

He added that if persons

are working in a sensitive area of government and seek to undermine the government's efforts, then the government will take swift, but firm action. "If you are going to stay in a particular position and sabotage us, then we will go after you and heads will roll because we will make sure that where there is cause and where there is deliberate action to undermine, that sufficient cause to remove, to dismiss or whatever," he emphasized.

PM Browne said his statement is "a little warning" to those who may be involved to cease their undermining immediately. He disclosed that the government 'took a lot' as it was aware that certain actions were being taken but that rather than create a political controversy, it decided on a 'wait and see' approach.

The advertisement features five models in formal wear. On the left, a woman in a blue and white patterned dress. Next to her, a man in a blue shirt and tie. In the center, a woman wearing a large black wide-brimmed hat and a black dress. To her right, a woman with a large afro hairstyle wearing a colorful patterned top. On the far right, a man in a blue suit and a woman in a white strapless dress with a large necklace. The text 'Guys and Dolls' is written in a large, elegant script, with 'Simply Classy' in a smaller font below it. At the bottom center, a white box contains the phone number '268-782-6020'.

PM Browne names new cabinet

On Friday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne unveiled his eight-member cabinet who were all sworn into office following Wednesday's nail-biting general election that resulted in his ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) being returned to office for a third consecutive term.

"I am not a fan of bringing individuals through the Senate to serve as ministers. I believe it is important to pay attention to the quality of the candidates who the people elect and who could also serve as ministers," Browne told reporters at the swearing-in ceremony.

The ABLP won the general election by a 9-8 margin, down from the comfortable 15-2 majority it had enjoyed in the last Parliament.

Apart from the main opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) winning six seats - five more than it previously had - independent Asot Michael and the Barbuda People's Movement's Trevor Walker also retained their seats.

Browne told reporters that the government ministers who lost their seats in the general election, their portfolios have been consolidated among the eight new cabinet members with veteran, Sir Robin Yearwood, agreeing to serve as a government backbencher.

He had held the posi-



tion of senior minister in the last administration.

"What we tried to do is to ensure that there were synergies within the respective consolidation that took place. For example, Housing and Works, the obvious synergy is there, even agriculture and trade.

"So I think we have achieved that and I am confident that even though the team is smaller that we will have a far more responsive team and the people of Antigua and Barbuda in essence will get more from less," he said.

Additionally, Prime Minister Browne said Sir Robin, who has served as a representative for St. Phillip's North since 1978, will be appointed deputy

speaker in keeping with the provisions of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution which states that an elected member of the Lower House must hold that position.

Browne said the government's agenda going forward will also be informed by the results of the general election, particularly in the area of the delivery of water.

The following is the list of the members of the Cabinet.

Gaston Browne - Prime Minister, Minister for Finance, Corporate Governance and Public Private Partnership.

Steadroy Benjamin - Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Pub-

lic Safety, Immigration and Labour.

Sir Molwyn Joseph - Minister of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment.

E. P. Chet Green - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs.

Charles Fernandez - Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investment.

Melford Nicholas - Minister for Information, Communication Technologies, Information (ICT), Utilities and Energy.

Maria Browne - Minister for Housing, Works, Land and Urban Renewal.

Daryll Matthew - Minister for Education, Creative Industries and Sport.

Local News



First meeting of new Cabinet set for Wednesday

The new Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Gaston Browne will convene its first meeting on Wednesday.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister Lionel 'Max' Hurst said the meeting will go about setting the government's agenda over the next year and those areas that will receive priority status for the re-elected government.

PM Browne has already indicated that newly appointed Minister of Works, Maria Browne, has stated that she wants to begin work immediately in fixing the roads in the communities.

Over the last several years, the government has been concentrating

on upgrading the major road network. With much work already done in this area, Minister Browne is of the view that fixing the community roads should now receive priority. This has been one of the issues raised by many during the recent elections campaign.

Hurst also identified the water situation as another area that will receive much attention. The government has two more reverse osmosis plants to install, but delays caused by the worldwide logistics challenges have led to the late arrival of these plants.

Another area where the government will focus much attention is the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, where the government recently signed an agreement valued at

\$216 million to expand the institute of higher learning. Major construction is expected to begin within a matter of months in the expansion that will forever transform the university as well as the surrounding area, thereby creating a university town.

The fourth area of focus for the new cabinet will be in the area of health. According to Hurst, the issue of noncommunicable diseases – such as diabetes and hypertension – has led to much of the nation's resources being spent on medication to control these diseases. He said prevention will be the focus for the new government.

Hurst added that the cabinet will continue its tradition of reporting to the nation following each meeting.

On the ground incident disrupts LIAT's schedule

Regional airline LIAT has advised its passengers of flight disruptions due to the withdrawal of an aircraft from service following an incident at one of its stations.

A statement from the Antigua headquartered carrier indicated that the incident involved the aircraft and "a piece of ground equipment".

While the extent of the damage to the aircraft is unknown, it was enough for LIAT officials, citing safety for its crew and passengers to remove it from operation, thereby reducing the small fleet from two to one aircraft.

As the aircraft undergoes evaluation in accor-



dance with LIAT's safety and maintenance standards, disruption to the flight schedule will occur.

"Between January 21 and 23, 2023, several flights

will be impacted or cancelled. Passengers affected by this disruption will be accommodated on alternate services or can rebook by contacting our Reservations

Call Centre," LIAT advised.

The airline said passengers should monitor their emails and the airline's social media platforms for updates.

Commonwealth observer mission pleased with elections, critical in other areas

While the nine-member Commonwealth observer mission echoed the sentiments of other groups concerning the peaceful nature of the 18th January elections, its preliminary report offered strong recommendations for improving the integrity of the electoral process in the country.

Headed by former president of Seychelles, Danny Faure, the Commonwealth mission noted while the voter turn out in last week's elections was the country's lowest in two decades, the will of the people was exercised in the democratic process.

"The people of this beautiful country reaffirmed their commitment to our shared values of democracy by exercising their right to vote, although the turnout was 67 per cent, the lowest in the last 20 years.

"We were pleased and encouraged by the calm and peaceful atmosphere in which polling took place. Eligible voters exercised their franchise. We believe that the results reflect the will of the people.

"We acknowledge the active participation of Antiguan and Barbudans, the police and security services. In contrast to the number of female candidates, of which there were only 10, we were



Former president of Seychelles, Danny Faure

particularly encouraged to see women and youth make up the overwhelming majority of the polling staff and party agents. Their professionalism, efficiency and dedication to follow due process and to work together in transparency is commendable; as was the long hours they spent away from work and family. Their dedication to democracy is admirable.

"We recognize the efforts of youth groups and civil society organisations in facilitating voter's education despite the short and constrained timeline, restricted access to information and resources. We also commend the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission's policies to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities and to priori-

tise seniors in the line-up," Faure's statement on Friday said.

He continued that there are several recommendations that his team were compelled to make following their observations.

"For democracy to thrive and be fully functional, there needs to be a clear separation of powers. With the evolution of democracy in Antigua and Barbuda, emphasis now needs to be put on good governance based on the framework of independence, transparency, oversight and accountability.

"There is a need to de-politicize the media landscape. It must be free, fair and inclusive. There is an urgent requirement to strengthen the regulatory framework. It is not proper

to give unrestricted access to the government, while limiting the access to other parties," Faure continued.

The need for the timely publication and updating of the voter's list, balancing the protection of voters' data with the right of the public and all parties to access and challenge the voter's list and efficiency of the tallying process by counting ballots at the polling stations were also highlighted.

The Commonwealth team also commented on some of the incidents which marred the 2023 election campaign.

"We were saddened by the vitriol, personal attacks, acts of arson and vandalism that took place pre-election. They should have no place in Antigua and Barbuda."

Faure went on, "The greatest test of leadership is now... all parties need to display magnanimity in victory and honour in defeat.

"We urge all leaders of political parties, civil society organisations, faith-based groups and the people of this beautiful country to join hands together in building bridges and creating the Antigua and Barbuda you want for the next generation.

"We call on the government to also implement our recommendations."

Local News



OECS Commission pleased with “peaceful conduct” of 2023 elections

In a message congratulating Prime Minister Gaston Browne on the victory of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party in last week's polls, the OECS has commended the country for its peaceful elections.

“The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission extends congratulations to Hon. Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) on their victory in the January 18, 2023 general election in Antigua and Barbuda,” the OECS statement said.



It continued, “The OECS Commission is pleased by the peaceful conduct of this closely contested election

and commends the people of Antigua and Barbuda for turning out to exercise their constitutional rights.

“The Commission looks forward to welcoming the newly elected Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and assures the government and people of its continued commitment and service to the promotion of the country's interests as a member of the OECS Economic Union regionally and internationally.

“In this regard, the Commission recommits to working closely with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in furtherance of the objectives of the country and of the organisation.”



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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Minister Bird-Browne recommits to championing the cause of women

As the lone female member of the House of Representatives and the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda, Maria Bird-Browne has pledged to continue standing in the gap on behalf of women in Antigua and Barbuda.

Of the two female candidates that contested last Wednesday's general elections on the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party ticket, MP Bird-Browne was the only one to retain her St. John's Rural East seat. In St. Mary's South, incumbent Samantha Marshall was unsuccessful in the race against Kelvin Simon of the main opposition United Progressive Party (UPP).

While expressing disappointment over losing her female colleague in parliament, Minister Maria Bird-Browne, whose previous portfolio now includes the Ministry of Works said she will continue defending the causes of



Maria Bird-Browne

women using her positions in government.

"[I am] a little bit disheartened that I have lost a colleague and friend in Samantha Marshall, but I will be sure to hold it down for the female representation. I think there is so much more that can be done in

terms of female representation and having more females at the table.

"I wish that at this election, more support was given to our female candidates across the board. That would have been something wonderful to see in our forward step to-

wards gender parity," she noted.

Commenting on her win at the polls, MP Bird-Browne said she was overjoyed and expressed appreciation to the team of men and women who worked at the constituency level to ensure she was re-elected.

"I have a wonderful team here in St. John's Rural East, a team that has supported me from day one and I am tremendously happy and grateful to the people of St. John's Rural East for affording me the opportunity again to represent them. I will do so with pride and honour," she affirmed.

Minister Maria Bird-Browne acknowledged that her win was not by the largest margin as was earlier predicted. She stated it is an indication that there is more work to be done and has committed to addressing the concerns being expressed by her constituents.



APUA **ELECTRICITY** MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Monday, 23rd January 2023	Tuesday, 24th January 2023	Wednesday, 25th January 2023	Thursday, 26th January 2023	Friday, 27th January 2023
Bolans Village 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Renfrew area 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Pares east of Welch's Supermarket 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Cedar Grove and northern section of Mount Pleasant 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Matthews near the car wash 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	Nut Grove and Gray Hill areas 8:30 AM - 11:45 AM	—	—	Section of Freemans Village south of the playing field 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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

Guest Opinion



Sir Clare suggests constitutional reform to limit cabinet and increase constituencies

By Sir Clare Roberts KC

The new Cabinet restores the checks and balance between executive and legislature, there being 8 elected members in Cabinet and 17 in the House of Rep. So, there is now a majority of non-Cabinet members in the House.

This article is a follow up on my observation of the position of the Cabinet and the House of Representative where for the first time in many governments, there are less elected members in the Cabinet than the 17 in the House. This may have been coincidental or a conscious effort on the part of the Prime Minister to improve our democracy. Be that as it may, I suggest that maintenance of the checks and balance between the executive and the legislative branches of government should not be left to the whim of the Prime Minister of the day.

The Problem

We have witnessed

where a measure is approved in a Cabinet consisting, say, of 13 elected members, then sent to the House of Representatives where the same 13 elected members change their executive hats to legislative hats. So, there is an absence of checks and balance as the Cabinet members elected the House will not criticise in the House what they have approved in the Cabinet. This is so even where a member or members may have opposed the measure in Cabinet as the principle of collective responsibility will kick in.

My suggested Reform

To solve the problem, I am suggesting constitutional reform to ensure that the Cabinet does not consist of a majority of elected Members of the House.

I suggest that the number of elected members of the House be increased from 17 to 21; and that Cabinet consist of no more than 10 elected members.

The expansion of the



Sir Clare Roberts KC

House should come as the Constituencies Boundaries Commission determines. However it seems to me that at this time one of the cardinal principles that should guide the Constituencies Boundaries Commission is being breached: that is that "all constituencies shall contain nearly equal numbers of inhabitants taking into account the need to

achieve voter's parity as appears to the Commission to be practicable" (The Constituencies Boundaries Commission Guidance Act, 2012) The anomaly of mini constituencies of St Philips North, St Phillip's South and St John's City East contrasted with the bloated St George's and St John's Rural West constituencies must be addressed early. I am sure that the Constituencies Boundaries Commission will find that splitting 4 of these bloated constituencies would be the smoothest way of arriving at 21 constituencies rather than 17.

Next, I will look at the position of opposition senators where there is no elected opposition.

Mon 23 Day		Mon 23 Night	
81°	Partly cloudy. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	74°	Partly cloudy skies. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.
Humidity 68%	UV Index 9 of 10	Humidity 75%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:40 am	Sunset 5:58 pm	Moonrise 8:21 am	Moonset 8:06 pm
		● Waxing Crescent	



JOIN OUR TEAM

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is seeking a highly motivated and experienced **Human Resources Manager** to join our team. The successful candidate will play a key role in developing and implementing HR strategies and programs that support the overall mission and objectives of the organization.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Identifying ABTA's immediate, mid-term and long-term staffing needs and guiding an organizational culture that aligns with the business and employer brands

2. Recruiting, selecting, and hiring talent

Completing cost effective recruitment and selection activities and ensuring compliance with applicable labour law in Antigua and Barbuda and across the overseas offices

3. Managing a comprehensive compensation program

Maintaining a cost-effective and competitive compensation and benefits program in alignment with the ABTA's Compensation Philosophy

4. Designing and executing employee engagement activities

Maximizing individual and collective employee performance by designing and implementing engagement plans and activities that recognize and reward performance, build talent, capacity performance... Designing and delivering or coordinating learning opportunities Working collaboratively within the Employee Engagement Advisory Committee

5. Counselling and coaching at all levels

Guiding and advising members of the leadership team and individual employees on relevant matters, maintaining appropriate levels of confidentiality. Employing progressive discipline

6. Performing relevant and related duties, as necessary, to maintain the smooth business operations of the ABTA

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Human Resource Management or related field and 2 years experience as a Human Resource Manager

- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management or Business Administration or related field and 4 years experience as a Human Resource Manager

- Sound communication skills

- Sound knowledge of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code

If you are a strategic thinker with a passion for HR and a desire to make a positive impact on our organization, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity. The ABTA is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from candidates from all backgrounds.

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and experience to HR@visitaandb.com by **Wednesday February 1 2023**.



JOIN OUR TEAM

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is seeking a highly motivated, highly qualified, and experienced **Chief Marketing Officer (Consultant)** - to join our team. The successful candidate will play a key role in the support and management of the Marketing Change process.

The position of Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) is a two (2) year consultancy reporting to the CEO. The successful applicant will be required to create a supportive environment and implement sound and reasoned systems that coordinate the strategic marketing plan. This is to be done simultaneously while promoting growth and exploiting new marketing opportunities for the destination.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Evaluating and strengthening, as necessary, the marketing service relationships (PR, Advertising, etc.) across the ABTA to maximize results with minimal waste (human, financial, etc.)

2. Guiding the Marketing Pillars Teams in a coordinated development and execution of the strategic marketing plan, e.g.

- a. prioritizing and scheduling high return activities across the Pillars
- b. translating KPIs to tangible actions
- c. evaluating ROI and other KPIs, Etc.

3. Collaborating with the HR Manager (HRM) to review the alignment of the matrix structure to the ABTA purpose by:

- a. Defining marketing service gaps
- b. Identifying growth areas of individual team members
- c. Delivering tailored hands-on learning opportunities, etc.
- d. Conducting objective assessment of team members to identify an empowered successor while boosting team morale and engagement, etc.
- e. Strengthening market research and analysis methods

Qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Business Management, Tourism, Marketing or related field and 5 years' experience in the capacity of Destination Marketing Management

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Tourism or Business Administration or related field and 8 years' experience as a Destination Marketing Manager

- Sound communication skills

- Strong organisation and planning skills

- Sound knowledge of Destination Marketing with experience in the digital arena

If you are a strategic, analytical thinker with a passion for Destination Marketing who is results oriented with a desire to make a positive impact on our organization, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity. The ABTA is committed to diversity and inclusion and encourages suitably qualified applications from candidates from all backgrounds.

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your qualifications and experience to HR@visitaandb.com by **Wednesday February 1st 2023**.

Opinion

Economic inequality at the root of protests: Police brutality not the answer

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

Many countries in South America are now in a state of troubling unease. Recent events in Peru have catapulted it to the forefront of security concerns in all its dimensions. But worry also exists about other countries which are tiptoeing through political minefields that could explode overnight.

Although the causes of these conditions of dysphoria are ascribed to hostilities between political parties in their constant battles to control power, the root of the problem lies in inequality, injustice and racial and ethnic discrimination.

The dispossessed, throughout Latin America, found a voice and a champion among left-leaning parties which demand change. The elite and the privileged, including the military, maintain their economic and social advantage through right wing

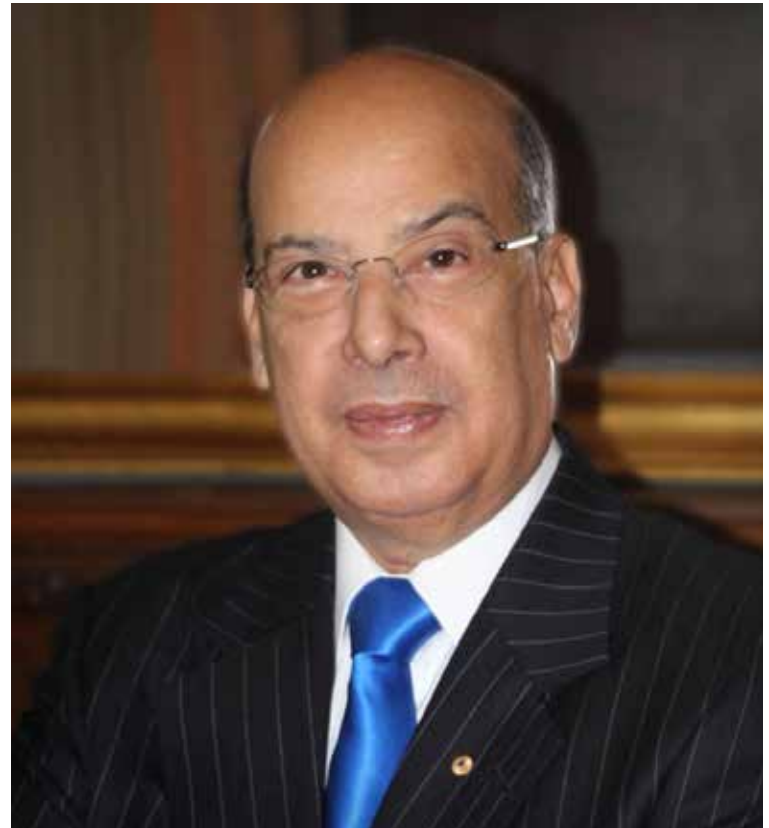
political parties and alliances with powerful multinational companies from North America and Western Europe. The two sides are persistently in conflict.

These conditions have been portrayed in the poetry of Pablo Neruda, the novels of Isabelle Allende, Gabriel García Márquez, and Mario Vargas Llosa among others; and in the painstaking research and raw descriptions in the works of Marie Arana and Eduardo Galeano.

In his seminal work, *Open Veins of Latin America*, in one sentence, Galeano poignantly describes the structural divide in many Latin American societies – “The system has multiplied hunger and fear; wealth has become more and more concentrated, poverty more and more widespread.

“That is recognized by the documents of specialized international organizations in whose aseptic vocabulary our oppressed territories are ‘countries in the process of development’ and the pitiless impoverishment of the working class is ‘regressive income distribution’.”

And, inasmuch as the judgement may seem harsh, there is a sobering truth in Marie Arana’s as-



Sir Ronald Sanders

sertion in, *Silver, Stone and Sword*, that “... extractive societies such as Latin America’s are built on social injustice. They are designed and maintained by a ruling class whose primary goal is to enrich themselves and perpetuate their power. They thrive when absolute privilege reigns over absolute poverty”.

None of this is to say that, over the years, progressive elements in Latin America have not succeeded in pushing for institutional change. They have been aided in the work of the United Nations Human

Rights bodies, and in the efforts of the Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights. Authoritative external organizations have been hugely instrumental in pushing governments to adopt international treaties on human rights and non-discrimination.

But adherence to treaties and laws is only as good as effective implementation of their values. In this connection, not all law enforcement agencies and governments have been as dutiful as they could have been. Thus, inequality has

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continued and the desire by the disadvantaged to overturn it has escalated.

The role of the military has also not been neutral or respectful of their constitutional requirement to be apolitical servants of the executive branch and subordinate to their civilian commander-in-chief, the President.

As social unrest escalated throughout Latin America in the decades between 1964 and 1985, military dictatorships took control in several countries including Brazil, (1964), Chile (1973), Uruguay (1973), and Argentina (1976).

It was the military that pressured Evo Morales in November 2019 to abandon his disputed Presidency in Bolivia. The same military acted heavy-handedly to subdue street protests over the controversial installation into the Presidency of the right-wing, opposition representative Jeanine Añez.

While in Argentina and Chile, the return to democratic regimes was “accompanied by transitional justice, a reckoning with the past and a recognition that the armed forces had strayed from their constitutional mission”, as one political commentator put it, the role of the military in Brazil and Peru remains questionable.

Brazil’s President Lula da Silva dismissed the country’s army chief, General Julio Cesar de Arru-

da, in the aftermath of the storming of several government buildings by the supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro on January 8. Lula said he suspected collusion by “people in the armed forces”.

In Peru, where elected President, Pedro Castillo, was ousted on December 8, after an ill-advised and clumsy attempt to suspend the Congress, which was seeking to impeach him, his vice-president, Dina Boluarte, was sworn in to replace him. He was carted off to prison at a police base that triggered protests in the rural areas and poorer neighbourhoods in the capital.

In response, police raided San Marcos University, detaining hundreds of protestors. This was part of a violent crackdown on the protestors which has left many dead or seriously injured. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Peru condemned the Peruvian administration over the violence used to curb the protests.

But the fundamental problems, driving the unrest remains ignored - a huge gap between rich and the poor, particularly the people in the South of the country who feel neglected by its institutions and, most of all, its hugely unpopular congress, which is largely viewed as a tool of the rich and powerful.

Hemispheric institutions, such as the Organi-

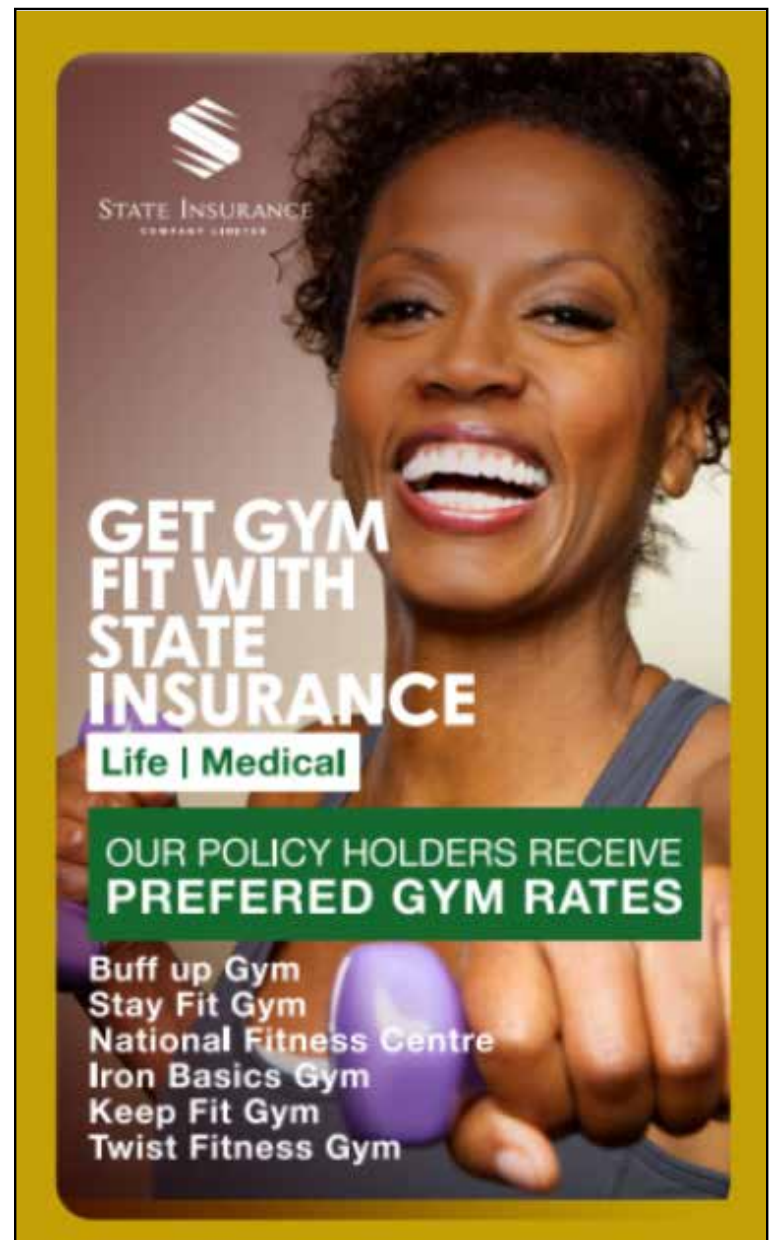
zation of American States (OAS), should seek a constructive role in Peru, and they must keep a watchful eye on the military and right-wing forces in Brazil which may yet turn on President Lula.

It is difficult to see what practical role the OAS can play in resolving the political issues in Peru, but, at the very least, the member states must let the Peruvian government know that further brutality against protestors will receive the strongest condemnation;

and, instead, they should seek meaningful dialogue to address the deep-rooted issues in the country.

In the meantime, Caribbean governments and political parties should ensure that, in their own countries, economic inequalities must be discouraged. Dissatisfaction is fuelling the fire of unrest in Peru and other Latin American countries; it must not spread to the Caribbean.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com



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Opinion



Cat O'mine tales

By Tony Deyal

Our school principal, a “Brother” of the Catholic “Presentation” Order gave more orders than he ever took, and in the way he behaved towards us, the word “pal” in his job had to be short for “impalpable” meaning “difficult to perceive or grasp by the mind.”

He called me “Tough Man” because I never cried when he hit me either with his thick leather belt or fist.

He had made me a school “prefect” and, as usual, my response was “Brother, I don’t want to be no old Ford car.

You have to give me something better. My father has a Hillman Hunter but I prefer to be a Vauxhall Victor because I like to win.”

It is not often he grinned but he did this time and said, “Not you at all.

As far as I am concerned you are a Hillman Imp and you better leave before I take back the badge I just gave you.”

He taught us Religious Knowledge every morning and Chemistry later in the day.

I had problems with that. As a science teacher he filled our heads with the “scientific method” or the process of observing, forming a hypothesis, experimenting and then analysing the results or what he called “test, observe and infer”.

However, every morn-

ing in his sessions with the Catholic boys he was a different person and when I asked him to explain this business about the Father, Son and Holy Ghost being one, or Mary having a baby without any intervening interjection, he first got angry and then told me and the other boys we had to “take an act of faith” on it.

In other words forget what he taught us and beat us for in Chemistry class. Whenever I protested, his response was always, “You have to look at the big picture!”

In those days one of the really big pictures was the religious masterpiece of the late fifties “The Ten Commandments”.

I wanted to tell Brother Jerome that I went to see the big picture and reached late so I only saw eight of the Commandments, but I had already got a cuff for being late, despite telling him the bus drivers were protesting with a “Go Slow”.

As he said, he no longer trusted my excuses as I had too many and far too quickly.

He thought I was like the boy whose father was so very upset by his son lying about everything that he decided to teach the boy a lesson.

He told him, “Let me see if you could tell a lie without thinking. I will give you a shilling if you could



Tony Deyal

do that!”

The boy replied right away, “A shilling daddy? But you just promise me a dollar!”

I had another one waiting for Brother Jerome but I stored it for this article. The original movie based on the 1926 Ernest Hemingway book, “The Sun Also Rises”, hit our cinema and my friend Ross gave me one of his free coupons. Ross had stolen an entire roll of yellow-coloured ones and whenever the Cinema manager switched to that colour, Ross was there with a cheaper price for entry.

He was my friend so I

got in free. Unfortunately, the tickets were only for the late night show so while I saw the “Rises” on and off the screen, I totally missed “The Sun Also”.

For all of us country boys, any picture, big or small, was an event, especially if one of the girls had got her mother’s (and father’s) permission to go with us.

Most of the time, the big picture took place on our way back home through the dark Savannah or playing field where the grass was green and plentiful and there were galvanize sheets

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left on the side of the fence next to the aptly named "Ministry of Works".

I was thinking of this in terms of a 1958 movie, "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof" starring Elizabeth Taylor and Paul Newman.

What had happened is that in the back of the house in which we now live, just next to a large concrete fence, is an old, green galvanized shed that remains locked.

While we don't have a clue about what is inside it, a female cat dug a hole in the grass and dirt under the shed and gave birth to some kittens.

While she was smart enough to avoid the hot tin roof, the poor creature, with no Paul Newman and only one Old man around (me), has to find food for herself and her babies.

What keeps her situation from being catastrophic and acts as timely catharsis is my wife Indranie, the animal magnet (who claims this as her reason for being with me).

In fact, without ever having known Brother Jerome, Indranie is now a confirmed and baptised Cat-holic.

The closest I've come to this particular fate (and not faith) is that I loved the catchy tunes that catapulted Cat Stevens (now known as Yusuf Islam) into stardom.

Like the Calypsonian, the Mighty Sparrow, I too "fraid pussy bite me" but with or without drinking

whisky, I will never declare war on the poor animal. In fact, I welcome each and all with, "What's New Pussy-cat?" and find out some amazing things.

There was the cat that swallowed a ball of wool and had mittens. Another drank five bowls of water and set a new lap record.

I still remember the story in Britain's "Daily Mail" newspaper: "KIDNAPPED: MP's wife found guilty of stealing her love-rival's cat..."

Then there was the time the head of Nike's Public Relations was speechless when asked to explain

his company's headline, "Tiger Woods Uses His Own Balls, Says Nike". The journalist asked him, "What's the matter, cat got your tongue?"

The cat story I still remember comes from Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. Johnny was interviewing the flamboyant actress, Zsa Zsa Gabor, whose fame "lay" (and I use that word with full awareness of its many meanings) in the number of marriages in which she was a protagonist and which exceeded the number of movies in which she featured.

She had brought on the

set a small feline mammal and petted it constantly during the interview.

She then, in seeming innocence, asked Carson archly, "Do you want to play with my pussy?" To which he replied, "You have to get that cat off your lap first."

**Tony Deyal was last seen listening to a dog boasting to a cat that humans loved dogs more than cats because they even named an important body part, the canine tooth, after them. The cat smiled and said, "You really not going to win this one you know."*



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Regional News



Prime Minister Andrew Holness pledges to uncover extent of fraud at investment firm

CMC — Prime Minister Andrew Holness, says no effort will be spared in uncovering the full extent of fraudulent activity at the investment firm, Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL) and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The Prime Minister gave this undertaking in a statement on Friday where he said he was “upset and disgusted” at the revelations.

Holness, who indicated that he was briefed on the matter, said he is concerned and sympathetic to the hard-working Jamaicans who are uncertain of the status of their funds invested with SSL.

He noted that while every investor’s distress must be equally acknowledged, “There is a dimension of a heightened public sense of betrayal, which I share, that a National Icon who has brought so much pride to all of us, is also a victim of the alleged fraud”.

The Prime Minister said that a thorough investigation is being undertaken to identify the perpetrators and colluders involved in the fraudulent activity, as well as to trace the stolen



Andrew Holness

funds and secure forfeiture of assets acquired with these.

“The Government will ensure that the laws and systems in place work for the benefit of the general public good, accountability for those responsible, and justice for those negatively affected,” he emphasized.

“The affected investors and the public can be assured that the investigative and prosecutorial agencies have the necessary competencies and

resources, and have already started to act decisively to gather information and evidence,” he added.

The Prime Minister said that while the matter has sparked immediate fear and general concern, there is no need for panic about the strength and soundness of the financial system.

He noted that, as a result of significant reforms implemented over the last two decades, Jamaica has a strong

cont'd on pg 15

SVG PM to bid for CELAC presidency



Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

LOOP — Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves will present a bid to become the next President pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Gonsalves and his delegation, which includes Foreign Minister Keisal Peters and SVG’s Ambassador to Venezuela Gath Bynoe,

will leave the country for Buenos Aires, Argentina today.

The current president of the 33-member CELAC delegation is Argentine President Alberto Fernández.

If elected, Gonsalves will be the second Caribbean leader after Cuba’s Raúl Castro to lead CELAC.

Former Senate president Christine Kangaloo elected as Trinidad and Tobago's new President

CMC — Attorney Christine Carla Kangaloo was elected President of Trinidad and Tobago on Friday, succeeding outgoing head of state, Paula Mae Weekes, and in the process becoming the second woman to be elected to the position.

Kangaloo, who was nominated by the ruling party easily defeated veteran Senior Counsel, Israel Khan, who had been nominated by the main opposition United National Congress (UNC).

The Electoral College, which is composed of all members of the House of Representatives and the Senate assembled together, took just over two and a half hours to vote in support of Kangaloo, by secret ballot.

The government has 38 votes in the College, while the opposition has 28. There are nine independent legislators. The Presiding officer also has a vote.

When the results were



Christine Kangaloo

announced, Kangaloo received 48 votes, Khan received 21 votes and there were three rejected ballots.

The Presiding Officer, Bridgid Annisette-George, who is also the Speaker of the Parliament, said under the Constitution, "the candidate who has obtained the greater number of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

"Accordingly I hereby declare that Christine Carla Kangaloo has obtained the greater number of votes cast and as such is elected as the

President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago," she said, adding that the necessary instruments would be sent to the President elect later."

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley in nominating Kangaloo, said that the former government minister, university lecturer, had during her tenure as President of the Senate, acted as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago no fewer than 33 occasions.

"It is with a sense of great pride that as Member of Par-

liament for Diego Martin West and along with all other members who signed or otherwise endorse her nomination that, as Prime Minister of this Republic that I present Ms Christine Carla Kangaloo as a most worthy candidate for the consideration of this esteemed Electoral College to be elected to the position of President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

Following her election, he said the "well written constitution of Trinidad and Tobago has functioned" properly, a reference no doubt to the claims made by the opposition during the run up to Friday's presidential election that Kangaloo was an active politician and should have stepped aside for another nominee.

Kangaloo is the only person to serve as both President and Vice President of the Senate. She becomes the seventh head of state and Commander in Chief.

cont'd from pg 14

and vibrant financial system in which the public can have confidence, adding that it is recognized as the leading financial market in the region.

"The public can rest assured that the Government will be proactive in ensuring that there is accountability and probity in the exercise of public functions, and that our policy and administrative response is effective in continually strengthening the finan-

cial sector and protecting the investing public," he said.

An investigation was launched after millions of dollars reportedly went missing from Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt's account at the investment firm.

According to reports, a former SSL employee has been involved in a massive fraud, including missing funds from Usain Bolt's accounts.

Another US\$4 million in stocks

and securities has reportedly gone missing at the beleaguered financial.

The police Fraud Squad and FID announced that questionable transactions were being made on some of the affected accounts for more than ten years.

The attorneys representing Bolt want SSL to return the track star's nearly J\$2 billion (US\$12 million) in investments, in record time, or face a huge lawsuit.

Justice Department found more classified items in Biden home search

Reuters — A new search of President Joe Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware on Friday by the U.S. Justice Department found six more items, including documents with classification markings, a lawyer for the president said in a statement Saturday night.

Some of the classified documents and "surrounding materials" dated from Biden's tenure in the U.S. Senate, where he represented Delaware from 1973 to 2009, according to his lawyer, Bob Bauer. Other documents were from his tenure as vice president in the Obama administration, from 2009 through 2017, Bauer said.

The Department of Justice, which conducted a search that lasted over 12 hours, also took some notes that Biden had personally handwritten as vice president, according to the lawyer.

The president offered access "to his home to allow DOJ to conduct a search of the entire premises for potential vice-presidential records and potential classified material," Bauer said.

Neither Biden nor his wife were present during the search, the attorney



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks as he hosts mayors from the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Winter Meeting and other officials in the East Room at the White House in Washington, U.S., January 20, 2023. REUTERS/Leah Millis/File Photo

said. Biden is in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for the weekend.

Justice Department investigators coordinated the search with Biden's lawyers ahead of time, Bauer said, and the president's personal and White House lawyers were present at the time.

Other classified government records were discovered this month at Biden's Wilmington residence, and in November at a private office he maintained at a Washington, D.C., think tank after ending his tenure as vice president in the Obama administration in 2017.

On Saturday, Bauer

did not make clear in his statement where in the Wilmington home the documents were found. The previous classified documents were found in the home's garage and in a nearby storage space.

The search shows federal investigators are swiftly moving forward with the probe into classified documents found in Biden's possession. This month, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland named a special counsel to probe the matter.

Special counsel Robert Hur, who was appointed during the process, is investigating how the president and his team handled

Obama-era classified documents that were recently found in Biden's private possession.

Biden's lawyers found all the documents discovered before Friday's search by the DOJ, according to the White House. The latest search was the first time federal law enforcement authorities have conducted a search for government documents at Biden's private addresses, according to information released publicly.

Republicans have compared the investigation to the ongoing probe into how former President Donald Trump handled classified documents after his presidency. The White House has noted that Biden's team has cooperated with authorities in their probe and had turned over those documents. Trump resisted doing so until an FBI search in August at his Florida resort.

The search escalates the legal and political stakes for the president, who has insisted that the previous discovery of classified material at his home and former office would eventually be deemed inconsequential.

Biden said on Thursday
cont'd on pg 17

Chris Hipkins confirmed as New Zealand leader, picks deputy

AP — Chris Hipkins was confirmed Sunday as New Zealand's next prime minister and he chose Carmel Sepuloni as his deputy, marking the first time a person with Pacific Island heritage has risen to that rank.

Hipkins got the unanimous support of lawmakers from his Labour Party after he was the only candidate to enter the contest to replace Jacinda Ardern, who shocked the nation Thursday when she announced she was resigning after more than five years as leader.

Hipkins will be officially sworn in to his new role on Wednesday. He will have less than nine months before contesting a tough general election, with opinion polls indicating his party is trailing its conservative opposition.

The lack of other candidates for leader indicated that party lawmakers had rallied behind Hipkins to avoid a drawn-out contest and any sign of disunity following Ardern's departure.

In setting out his priorities, Hipkins said he knew many families were struggling due to the "pandemic of inflation" and that the economy would be central to his government's thinking.

When asked if he would take on the same transformational approach to government that Ardern had promised after first winning the top job, Hipkins indicated he wanted to get back to basics.

"We will deliver a very solid government that is focused on the bread-and-butter issues that matter to New



Chris Hipkins, right, and Carmel Sepuloni arrive for a press conference at Parliament in Wellington, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023. Hipkins was confirmed Sunday as New Zealand's next prime minister and he chose Sepuloni as his deputy, marking the first time a person with Pacific Island heritage has risen to that rank. (AP Photo/Nick Perry)

Zealanders, and that are relevant to the times that we are in now," Hipkins said. "2017 was five-and-a-half years ago, and quite a lot has happened since then."

Like Hipkins, Sepuloni first became a lawmaker 15 years ago and has most recently taken on the social development and employment portfolios as one of the government's top ministers.

She said it was "very hard to fathom that a working-class girl" from a small New Zealand town could end up as deputy prime minister.

"I want to acknowledge the significance of this for our Pacific com-

munity," Sepuloni said. "I am proudly Samoan, Tongan, and New Zealand European, and represent generations of New Zealanders with mixed heritage."

Sepuloni said she'd already been receiving lots of humbling messages about another glass ceiling being smashed.

Opposition leader Christopher Luxon told reporters he'd congratulated Hipkins by text. But Luxon said Hipkins and Sepuloni had been part of a government that had "failed spectacularly" to get things done and that after the leadership change, it would be more of the same.

cont'd from pg 16

he has "no regrets" about not publicly disclosing before the midterm elections the discovery of classified documents at his former

office and he believed the matter will be resolved.

"There is no there, there," Biden told reporters during a trip to California on Thursday.

Since the discovery of Biden's documents, Trump has complained that Justice Department investigators were treating his successor differently.

"When is the F.B.I. going to raid the many homes of Joe Biden, perhaps even the White House?" Trump said in a social media post earlier this month.

Israel PM Netanyahu fires minister in compliance with Supreme Court order

Reuters — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed a senior cabinet member with a criminal record on Sunday, complying with a Supreme Court ruling even as he pursues contested judicial reforms that would curb its powers.

Pledging to find “every legal means” of keeping Aryeh Deri in public office in future, Netanyahu told him during a weekly cabinet session he was being removed from the interior and health ministries, according to an official transcript.

A Deri confidant, Barak Seri, told Army Radio earlier on Sunday that the portfolios would be kept by other members of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish party Shas as it remains in the coalition.

The Supreme Court last week ordered Netanyahu to dismiss Deri, citing his 2022 plea-bargain conviction for tax fraud.

That ruling stoked a stormy debate in Israel - accompanied by nationwide protests - over reform proposals that Netanyahu says will restore balance between the branches of government but that critics say will undermine judicial independence.

A poll in Israel Hayom newspaper found 35% support for Netanyahu's bid to shake up the system for bench appointments, with 45% of respondents



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chairs the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, January 22, 2023. Maya Alleruzzo/Pool via REUTERS

opposed. There was just 26% support for his government's bid to enable parliament, with a one-vote majority, to override some Supreme Court decisions.

In his cabinet statement, Netanyahu described the Deri ruling as “regrettable” and “indifferent to the public will”.

SETTLER OUTPOST

The less than month-old religious-nationalist coalition creaked elsewhere as a far-right partner boycotted the cabinet session in protest at the demolition on Friday of a small settler outpost that had been erected in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Galant, a member of Netanyahu's conservative Likud party, ordered the

outpost to be razed as it had no building permit - over the objections of the Religious Zionist party, which had sought to delay the decision.

The incident pitted Galant against Religious Zionism leader Bezael Smotrich, who wields some cabinet responsibilities for West Bank settlements under a coalition deal with Netanyahu.

A group of settlers tried on Sunday to rebuild the outpost but they were blocked by Israeli security forces. Seven people were detained, said a border police spokesman.

“This (settlements) is a capstone issue for our participation in the government,” National Missions

Minister Orit Strock of Religious Zionism told Israel's Kan radio. She declined to elaborate on what steps the party might take next.

In solidarity with Religious Zionism, fellow far-right coalition party Jewish Power said it would demand that Israel implement a long-delayed evacuation of Khan al-Ahmar, a Bedouin Palestinian encampment in a key West Bank area near Jerusalem.

World powers have urged Israel not to demolish Khan al-Ahmar, worrying about another potential blow to efforts to negotiate the creation of Palestinian state alongside Israel. Most countries deem Israel's West Bank settlements illegal.

Connell stars but South Africa take victory

CWI — South Africa Women took a 44-run victory over the West Indies Women to earn their first points of the Tri-Nations Women's T20 International Series at Buffalo Park in East London.

Shamilia Connell had a top all-round performance for the West Indies Women, finishing with bowling figures of 3-0-17-2 then contributed 15 from 11 with the bat.

Sune Luus (30) and Marizanne Kapp (52) posted a 32-run third wicket partnership, taking advantage in a lapse of intensity from the West Indies as South Africa posted 141/5 from their 20 overs. Laura Woolvardt added 25, as she shared in 31-run second wicket partnership with Kapp.

The West Indies bowlers, particularly the slower bowlers were unable to take advantage of a bowler's wicket on the Buffalo Park surface. Afy Fletcher went for 10 run in her first over, while Hayley Matthews went for 19 in her first two overs. But the seamers, Connell and Shakera Selman were able to slow the South African scoring.

Britney Cooper, returning to international cricket since September 2021, knocked three boundaries on her way to 15 off 14, while Captain Hayley Matthews top-scored for the innings with 23 off 35. But when both openers were dismissed after solid start of 32/0, the rest of the batting line-up crumbled, except for a 11-ball 15 runs from Connell at number seven.

The South African bowling were simply too consistent with line as length, as Masabata Klass finished with career-best figures of 4-0-21-4

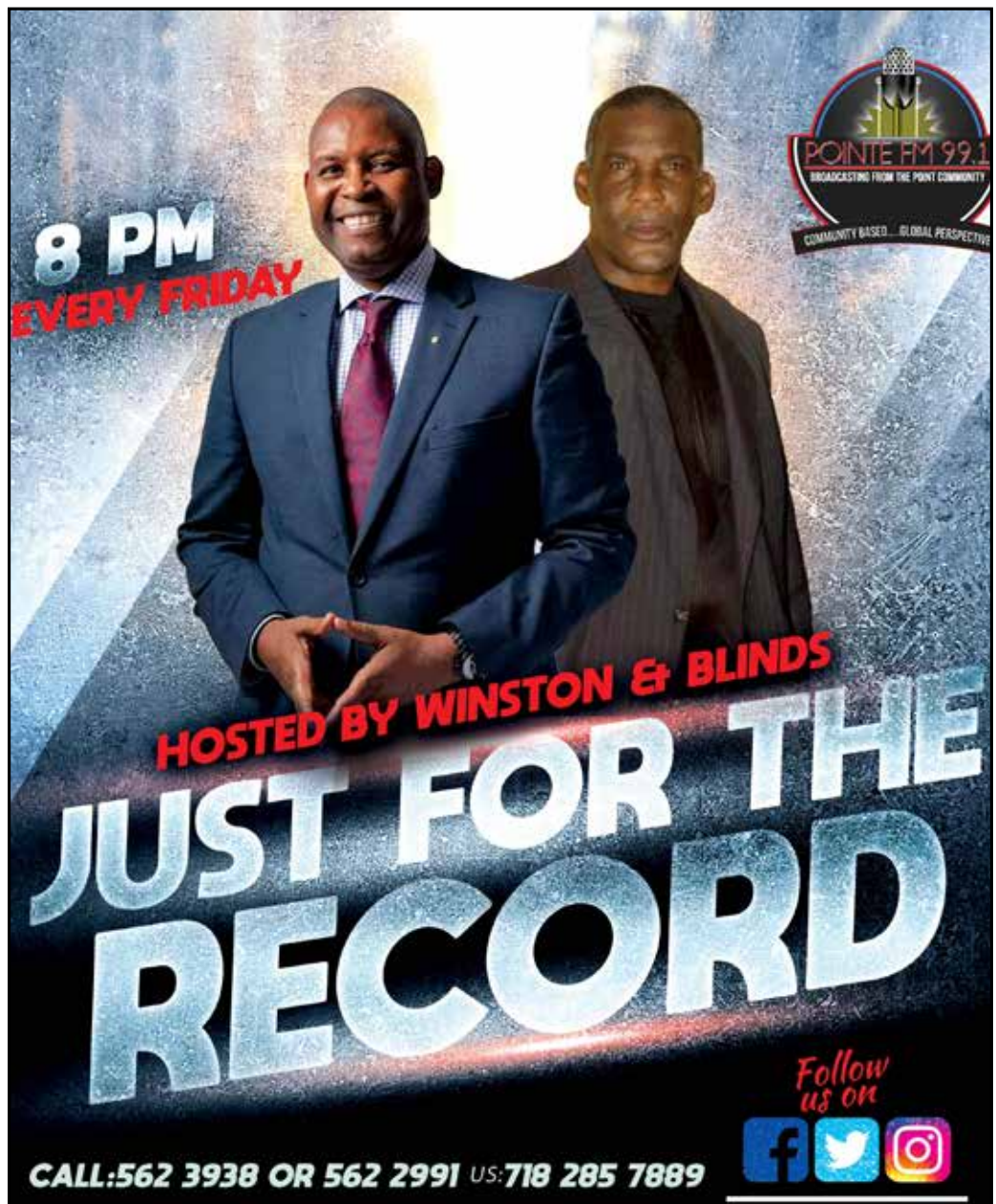
and the very economical Nonkululeko Mlaba 4-1-10-1 as South Africa restricted the West Indies to 97/8 in their 20 overs.

After the match, Connell told CWI Media,

"I've been working and preparing very hard over the last few months and it's very pleasing to be able to execute my all-round game for the team. I've been working on my death-bowling and today I was

able to answer the skipper's call. We were not consistent especially when we were batting, we're gonna have to regroup and come back with a more fortified plan for our match against India on Monday."

The West Indies Women will take on India Women at the same venue on Monday January 23. First ball is at 7:00pm local time (1:00pm Eastern Caribbean/12:00pm Jamaica time).



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Sports News



Perez hits shot of lifetime for Abu Dhabi win and third title

AP — The best shot of Victor Perez's life has set up likely the biggest year of the Frenchman's golfing career.

Perez span a bunker shot back into the hole for birdie at No. 17 and celebrated wildly on the way to shooting 6-under 66 for a one-stroke victory at the Abu Dhabi Championship on Sunday, earning him his third and easily biggest European tour title.

"It was probably the greatest shot I've ever hit," Perez said.

That wasn't the end of the drama in a crazy finish at Yas Island Links.

Two strokes clear when teeing off at the par-5 18th, Perez drove into a fairway bunker, hit his second shot nearly into the water and two-putted for a bogey.

Min Woo Lee, playing in the group behind, needed an eagle at the last to force a playoff and his third shot raced just past the hole then rolled slowly back down the hill to settle within a foot of the cup. Only then could Perez, watching the television in the scorer's hut, truly celebrate winning around \$1.5 million at one of the tour's top events.

It could be a life-changing victory for Perez, who climbed into second place in Europe's Ryder Cup qualification standings. A captain's pick for the contest with the United States outside Rome



Victor Perez of France tees off on the 11th hole during the final round of Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

looks likely at the very least.

Perez was almost brought to tears when he was asked about what this victory would do for his career.

"There's a lot of big things coming up, I've had a really good off-season, I've worked really hard ...," an emotional Perez said before stepping away and covering his face with his hands.

Perez finished on 18 under par for the tournament, with Sebastian Soderberg (67) and Lee (68) tied for second place. His previous wins on the tour came at the Dunhill Links Championship in 2019 and the Dutch Open in May last year.

Lee was in a share of the lead after the third round with major winners Shane Lowry and Francesco Molinari, but the latter two faded away in the back nine.

Lowry, in particular, struggled to a 76 after finishing bogey-bogey-triple bogey-bogey, and was in a tie for 28th. Molinari shot 71 and was tied fifth.

Perez birdied four of his first seven holes and twice held a two-shot lead early in the final round.

He did so again after playing the par-3 17th hole. Leading by one at that stage, Perez left his tee shot short and in a greenside bunker. His second shot went about

10 feet beyond the cup and span back into it, leading to Perez leaping out of the sand and chest-bumping his caddy.

"It came up maybe a little skinny, I'm not going to lie," he said, "and it span back and I had the fortune of the ball going in."

Perez spoke of more "fortune" down the 18th, when he fluffed his second shot and saw it roll down the hill and end up in thick rough near the water hazard.

"I would have had to drop in the rough, you're playing 4, you catch a flyer and now the whole thing is back on the table," he said.

cont'd on pg 21

Gauff in tears after failing to crack Ostapenko code

By Shrivathsa Sridhar

Reuters — A frustrated Coco Gauff broke down in tears after her 7-5 6-3 defeat by Jelena Ostapenko at the Australian Open on Sunday, with the 18-year-old American saying she just could not come up with the answers to the Latvian's game.

Gauff came into the tournament having enjoyed a superb 2022 where she reached the French Open final but it was former Roland Garros champion Ostapenko who dominated the contest to set up a quarter-final meeting with Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina.

"I think every loss is somewhat in my control because I do feel like I'm a good player, but today she just played better," Gauff, seeded seventh, told reporters.

"There were moments in the match where I was getting frustrated because I normally can problem solve but today I feel like I didn't have much answers to what she was doing.

"There were balls I was hitting deep and she was hitting them on the line and hitting them back deep, like, over and over again. It's just one of those days that just didn't go my way and went her way."

Gauff began to tear up when asked to explain her frustrations.

"I think it's because I worked re-



Coco Gauff of the U.S. during press conference after losing her fourth round match against Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko REUTERS/Loren Elliott

ally hard and I felt really good coming into the tournament and I still feel good," Gauff said. "I still feel like I've improved a lot.

"But when you play a player like her and she plays really well, it's like there's nothing you can do.

"So it's a little bit frustrating on that part."

Gauff is partnering fellow American Jessica Pegula in the women's doubles at Melbourne Park and she said playing in the format helps her get over the disappointment of defeat.

"I think doubles has taught me how to play after losing, how to play with frustration," Gauff added.

"So I feel like it'll help me in the future.

"Bouncing back from a loss is difficult in a Grand Slam but I'm looking forward to tomorrow. I hope I can help her and I hope that she continues well in the (singles) tournament now that I'm out.

"I hope she wins it. I knew we would probably face each other if we both kept winning. I'm rooting for her all the way."

cont'd from pg 20

That didn't happen, though. Perez chipped out from the rough and hit a 7-iron under pressure pin-high from 150 yards.

Perez missed out on getting in Europe's team for the

Ryder Cup in 2021 having also been in a good position early in qualification. He is hoping to make amends now he is top of the Race to Dubai standings and is about to rise into the top 60 in the world.

"It's a position that I know — I've been in, basically, these shoes 2 1/2 years ago for Whistling Straits," he said. "I'm delighted because it's something hopefully I know, I can draw a little bit of experience from

it and maybe use it going forward."

Padraig Harrington, the 51-year-old Irishman and three-time major winner, was alone in fourth place — two shots behind Perez — after a closing 67.

Sports News

Green move up to second place in First Division football league

Green City have jumped into second place and moved within a point of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division league leaders Garden Stars.

Green City notched up their sixth win in eight appearances by prevailing 2-1 against Fort Road at the Bendals playing field last Thursday, 19th January.

Ngozie Harvey gave Green City an early lead when he scored in the 2nd minute. But team-mate Chosniel Paul scored an own-goal in the 33rd minute to equalise for Fort Road as both teams ended the first half level at 1-1.

Fort Road's Javier Chastanet snatched victory for Green City when he scored the winner via an own-goal in the 50th minute.

Their sixth win in eight matches has propelled Green City into second place with 18 points, one point behind league leader Garden Stars who have played one less game.

The result left Fort Road fourth from bottom of the standings with seven points from seven encounters, including four losses.

Police and Potters Tigers fought to a 2-2 in another first division affair at the ABFA's Technical Center on Friday, 20th January.

The result lifted Police into sixth place with 11 points from eight outings,



Green City jumped into second place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division league. (Photo courtesy Green City FC)

while Potters Tigers remain second from bottom although advancing to six points from the same number of appearances.

There were also wins for Lion Hill, John Hughes and West Ham in their latest outings in the First Division.

Following a goalless first half, Lion Hill snatched a 2-1 victory against Bendals at the ABFA's Technical Center. Goals by Rasheed Lambert in the 52nd minute and Jamani Benjamin in the 68th minute gave Lion Hill a 2-0 advantage.

However, Alva Guishard reduced the deficit when he scored a late consolation goal for Bendals in the 88th minute.

Their third win in seven matches lifted Lion Hill to 10 points while their third loss

in eight encounters caused Bendals to slip into fourth place as they remained on 13 points.

Deno Bryan and Troy Jules each scored a brace as John Hughes advanced to third place by romping to a 5-1 victory over Young Lions of Old Road at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Bryan opened the scoring by converting the first of his two goals via a penalty kick in the 12th minute. But two minutes later, Young Lions drew level via a Philmore Hughes' 14th minute conversion.

Garcel Morrison restored John Hughes' lead by scoring in the 19th minute. Bryan netted his second goal in the 70th minute to make it 3-1.

Jules scored John Hughes' other two goals

when he found the back of the net in the 67th minute and converted a penalty in the 90th minute.

Their fourth win in eight matches lifted John Hughes to 14 points while Bendals remained on 13 points and slipped to fourth place with their third loss in eight appearances.

An Orel Edwards' 40th minute conversion was sufficient to give West Ham a 1-0 win over JSC Progressors at the St Johnston's Village playing field.

Their second win in eight encounters lifted West Ham to eight points while JSC Progressors remain rooted in the cellar position of the 12-team competition on four points after succumbing to their sixth loss in eight matches.

Parham get first win in Premier Division league

Parham claimed their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (BFA) Premier Division league on Saturday, 21st January.

A Kenja Benjamin's 44th minute strike gave Parham a 1-0 win against Pigotts Bullets in the feature game of a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Center.

The first win in eight matches lifted Parham to five points. However, Parham will remain in the lower half of the table while their fourth loss in seven appearances ensured Bullets remain on seven points.

But Saturday's other two premier league's matches ended in draws.

Four goals were scored in the last five minutes as Greenbay Hoppers and Old Road fought to a 2-2 draw in Saturday's opening encounter.

Karim Martin scored both goals for Hoppers, including a 93rd minute (90 + 3) conversion, to salvage the draw for Hoppers.

Three minutes earlier, Martin had scored this team's opening goal to reduce Hoppers' deficit to 2-1. Shakkimba Williams had given Old Road a 1-0 lead with a 39th minute conversion.

Forward Raheem Deterville then slotted home a penalty in the 87th minute to give Old Road a 2-0 advantage.

The result lifted Old Road to 15 points from eight matches, while Hop-



Parham celebrate after scoring their only goal in their Premier Division match against Pigotts Bullets at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday, 21st January, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

pers advanced to 10 points from seven outings.

Tryum's Chevel Cunningham scored an equaliser six minutes before the end of regulation to salvage a 1-1 draw with Swetes in Saturday's second encounter.

Cunningham's 84th minute strike came after Tiquan Issac had scored in the 18th minute to give Swetes a 1-0 lead. Swetes also ended the game with 10 men after Jomo Andrew was given a red card for violent conduct in the 68th minute.

The result lifted Swetes to 15 points from eight matches while Old

Road advanced to identical 15 points from the same number of encounters.

Villa Lions had joined leaders All Saints United on 18 points by cruising to a 3-0 win against Ottos Rangers in the opening game of the 8th week of matches at the same venue on Friday, 20th January.

All three goals were scored in the first half with striker Joshua Ferdinand converting the first one in the 19th minute.

Sean Tomlinson's brilliant strike from outside of the 18-yard box flew past the Rangers' custodian into the back of the net in the 23rd minute to make it 2-0.

Forward Joylan Sinclair wrapped up his team's scoring when he produced a smart finish from an acute angle just before the halftime interval.

It was Villa Lions' sixth win in eight matches, while a fourth loss in seven outings has left Ottos Rangers hovering around mid-table on nine points.

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All Saints Pythons were restricted to 68 for seven off their 10 overs.

However, of all the other batters, only Michael Marcellin, who made 12 off eight balls, managed to reach double figures in a disappointing batting display by the Pythons. Jared Jno Baptiste claimed two wickets for five

runs.

Liberta Black Hawks captured third place by default after their play-off against All Saints Pythons was abandoned. The match was abandoned after All Saints Pythons breached the competition rules by fielding only seven players, instead of 11 players, at the start of the match.

Empire Nation win ABCA's 10 Splash title

Empire Nation captured the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) 10 Splash title on Friday, 20th January.

Empire Nation secured the title by snatching a five-run victory over Pigotts Crushers in the final at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium. Set 72 to win, Pigotts Crushers were restricted to 66 for eight off their allotted 10 overs.

Middle-order batsman Jewel Andrew, who struck 30 off 16 balls with three sixes, was the only Pigotts Crushers player to reach double figures in what turned out to be a disappointing run chase. Off-spinner Justin Athanaze picked up two wickets for 11 runs.

Empire Nation had made 71 for five off their 10 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

Player of the match Juari Edwards top scored with 30 off 23 balls, including three fours and a six. Tariq Benjamin was not out on 22 off 18 balls and Athanaze chipped in with 11.

Empire Nation batsman Tyrone Williams Jr. was named the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament.



The Empire Nation pose with the championship trophy after capturing the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's 10 Splash title at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Friday, 20th January, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABCA)

Empire Nation and Pigotts Crushers booked their place into the final by recording wins in their respective semi-finals.

Empire Nation defeated the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks by 22 runs.

Batting first, Empire made 94 for four off their allotted overs. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr hammered 32 off 15 balls with three fours and two sixes.

Juari Edwards was not out on 18 off 15 balls, captain Kenrick Scott who opened the batting, contributed 17 off 10 balls with two

sixes and a four and Tariq Benjamin chipped in with 14 off 13 balls.

Liberta's captain and off-spinner Kadeem Phillip picked up two wickets for 12 runs.

Chasing 95 to win, Liberta Black Hawks were restricted to 72 for three. Phillip top scored with an unbeaten 32 off 25 balls, which included two fours and two sixes.

Opener Amahl Nathaniel scored a run-a-ball 13 and Malique Walsh was not out on 11 off 13 balls.

Pigotts Crushers pre-

vailed by 17 runs against All Saints Pythons. They made 85 for four off their allotted overs after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

Middle-order batsman Demari Benta top scored with an unbeaten 28 off 17 balls with five fours. Opener Kadeem Henry made 14 and Gershun Phillip was not out on 13. Conroy Semple captured two wickets for 13 runs.

In reply, despite captain and opener Michael Dover smashing 47 off 28 balls with eight fours and a six,

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