

TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# ABEC'S ELECTION PREPARATIONS IN HIGH GEAR

*Story on Page 2*



*In the last week of 2022, the Ministry of Education and Sports broke ground on Phase 1 of the Golden Grove School Expansion Project. The initial phase of the project will see the construction of a new classroom wing of the school, with a student capacity of 90 students. The ceremony was attended by Daryll Matthew, Minister of Education and Sports, and Steadroy Benjamin, Attorney General. Phase 2 will see the second floor of the building completed with an additional three classrooms while Phase 3 will see the renovation of the existing campus. Photo: Office of the Prime Minister/Takumi Media*

# Local News



## Election officers commence training this week

Approximately one thousand people who have applied for employment at the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) to man polling stations on election day will undergo four days of intense training this week. Assistant to the Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes, said the training

will cover all the areas polling clerks, who work alongside Returning Officers, will be required to be competent in.

"The training will cover the entire voting process to include how to issue the ballots, the need to carefully examine the Voter ID cards to ensure the person presenting him/herself for voting is the one listed in the Voters' Register, how to determine a spoilt ballot, among other critical issues," he reported.

Polling clerks will also be required to ensure that voters do not take cellular phones into the voting booths or wear party colours when presenting themselves to vote.

They will also seek to ensure that voters do not undermine the system by attempting to vote multiple times.

Clerks will therefore carefully examine voters' index fingers for signs that

they may have voted previously.

According to Hughes, ABEC takes the responsibility of training election workers seriously.

"We can't take any chances as elections are serious undertakings and at all times we must be in a position to say we trained that individual based on the high standard of work displayed," he stated.

Once the training session has been completed, the one thousand applicants will be whittled down to the top seven hundred who successfully complete the test administered at the end of the course.

The training exercises will be conducted in each constituency by the seventeen Returning Officers.

The Returning Officers who will oversee the elections in each constituency, completed their training in September last year.



**St. John's, January 1<sup>st</sup>...** The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has noted a so-called "New Year's Day Message" from Mr. Asot Michael, carried by the online publication, Antigua News Room, with which he has an intimate relationship.

Mr. Michael is notorious for many incidents of public misbehaviour. He is also well-known for his capacity to portray himself as a person with clean hands while spreading false statements about others – that is his trademark. He has also been the subject of police investigations overseas, including in the United Kingdom.

Due to all these activities, Mr. Michael was severed from the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) – an event that spoils his political ambitions. He has only been elected as the parliamentary representative for St. Peter, in the past, because he ran on an ABLP ticket.

It is known that, since his separation from the ABLP, Mr. Michael has turned to funding the UPP and has adopted their tactic of trying to smear the ABLP leader, Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

In his latest act of collaboration with the UPP, and in return for the promise of a big Ministerial position, Mr. Michael has become an attack dog for the UPP.

Therefore, he spewed a tirade of cheap insinuations, unfounded allegations and clear falsehoods against the ABLP leader.

The ABLP exposes Mr. Michael's rants as nothing more than sour grapes by a flawed personality who has sold his soul to the UPP and adopted their political playbook of attacking the Prime Minister.  
(ends)





## Gaston Browne: Nation's future bright, with sound leadership

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has called on citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda to make the right decision entering the New Year in charting the way forward for Antigua and Barbuda.

He said that the economy of Antigua and Barbuda, as projected by the United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has grown by a whopping 8.3 percent, surpassing almost all countries in the subregion.

This he said is due to sound government and creative policies implemented by his administration.

The country's leader pointed out that the nation is now at a pivotal moment as troubling global circumstances have not subsided.

He said to combat these challenges, the country requires tried, tested and successful leadership and government.

"We have before us a fork in the road, and a decision of which path to take. One path was risked before with disastrous consequences, including economic failure, represented by a 25 percent decline in the economy and high unemployment; bank failure which cost taxpayers over \$300 million to resolve; fiscal failure that included burdensome debt with over 50 percent in arrears; the imposition of personal income



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

tax; late payments of salaries & wages, and social security pensions; and expanded poverty," he pointed out.

He noted that all of this occurred under the UPP government with Harold Lovell as the Minister of Finance.

"The other path is the one that has always taken our nation to higher heights of employment, economic growth, and development; that has attracted investments; improved health services; expanded education facilities; increased home, car and business ownership; more than doubled water production; delivered high speed broadband facilities; created opportunities for all; and - most significantly - successfully lifted us up as a nation," stated Prime Minister Browne.

He remarked that it was the high performance Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party administration that has achieved growth and development for Antigua and Barbuda.

He also pointed out that in a matter of weeks, Anti-

guans and Barbudans will be called upon to make a choice between the established economic success of the ABLP administration and the proven financial failure of the UPP and Harold Lovell.

"The UPP choice is worse this time. Not one of the UPP aspirants to office

has any proven successful track record in government, in financial administration and in economic competence," he said.

Prime Minister Browne said that risking the UPP, is risking retrogression and the country's future, as well as, the future of the nation's children.

"For just as it took years to recover the country from the last UPP government, so it will take years to rebuild what we would lose," he pointed out, concluding that, "the prospects are real, and the future is bright if sound government and visionary leadership continue."

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

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

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

The Auction shall be held on site.

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

Dated this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer



# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda, People's Republic of China celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations

1st January, 2023, marked the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China (PRC).

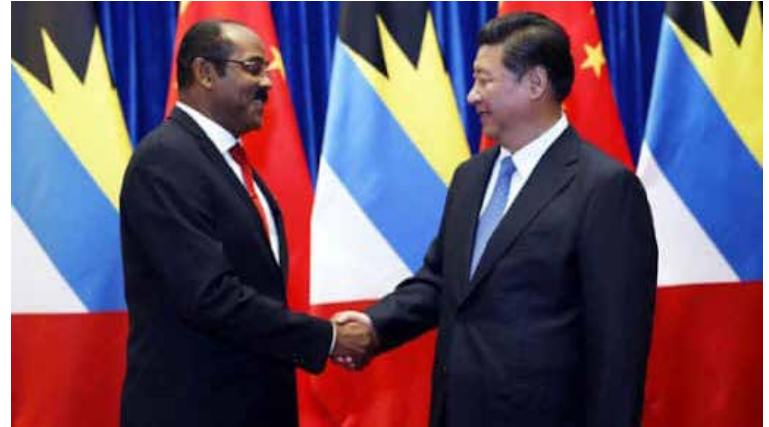
To mark the occasion, messages of congratulations were dispatched by both St. John's and Beijing expressing the desire for the continuation of amicable relations between the nations with a view to deepening and strengthening their ties.

"The establishment of

diplomatic relations between our two countries on January 1, 1983, was intended to mark a new beginning between the most populous state in the world, and the smallest sovereign state in existence then.

"Those relations have matured. Antigua and Barbuda has adhered strongly to a one-China policy.

"The four administrations have provided political and other support, flowing from Antigua and Barbuda to China in the several interna-



*Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, and President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping.*

tional fora where our countries jointly serve," Prime Minister Gaston Browne stated in a letter addressed to

His Excellency Premier Li Keqiang of the PRC.

PM Browne noted that

*cont'd on pg 5*

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## Antigua and Barbuda congratulates Republic of Cuba on 64th anniversary of the Revolution

On 1st January, 2023, the government and people of the Republic of Cuba marked the 64th anniversary of the Revolution that gave birth to their nation.

Antigua and Barbuda joined the Cuban people in the celebration of the observance of this historic event.

In a letter to President of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel, Prime Minister Gaston Browne noted that the Cuban Revolution became a unique and potent symbol of hope and liberation.

“President [Fidel] Castro’s revolutionary ideals had a significant and empowering psychological impact on oppressed peoples every-



where, including in the rest of the Caribbean, where people identified with the Cuban struggle for freedom.

“Passionate and heroic in his resolve to stand up for Cuban freedom and sovereignty, former President Fidel Castro faced the might of the United States, and defied all odds. His remarkable and revolutionary leadership altered the course of events, and will forever have an impact on world history,” the prime minister said.

Browne also expressed gratitude on behalf of the people of Antigua and Barbuda for Cuba’s continued willingness to share its achievements in healthcare, education, and culture over the years.

“Many nationals of Antigua and Barbuda have benefitted from the successes of the Cuban Revolution,” he noted.

Meanwhile, in correspondence to his counterpart in the Cuban government,

Foreign Minister E. P. Chet Greene took the position that the historical significance of the Cuban revolution lies in its poignant symbolism as a beacon of freedom from oppression and its traditions and lasting legacies.

According to Greene, despite the decades-long economic and financial embargo imposed against the Cuban people by the United States, Cuba has been able to record huge strides in education, medicine, sports and other areas of human development.

Greene underscored the work of the Cuban Medical Brigade which has made a lasting impact on Antigua and Barbuda’s health care system, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### *cont’d from pg 4*

Antigua and Barbuda has received significant cooperation through grants and soft loans from the People’s Republic of China in those years.

“A friendship bridge which connects the south of Antigua with the northern half during floods and downpours marked the start of our friendship. Most recently, a modern airport terminal, a rebuilt and enlarged cargo port, and a planned housing project continue to characterise the relations between our states,” Browne continued.

Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene said the 40th anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic ties provided an opportunity for reflection on the achievements of the past four decades.

“The People’s Republic of China has played a significant role in the promotion of our national development and has been a generous provider of technical support in











various fields, which has resulted in quantifiable benefits for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

“In 2017 when Hurricane Irma ravaged...Barbuda, the People’s Republic of China offered humanitarian aid to assist the residents in this dire time of need.

“Your steadfast commit-

ment to ensuring the safety of the people of Antigua and Barbuda has and will continue to be highly appreciated,” Greene said.

The 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties will be marked by an official flag-raising ceremony at the Office of the Prime Minister on a date to be announced.

Tue 03   Day		Tue 03   Night	
<b>80°</b>		<b>74°</b>	
23%	ENE 13 mph	23%	ENE 15 mph
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High around 80F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds. Low 74F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.	
 Humidity <b>75%</b>	 UV Index <b>8 of 10</b>	 Humidity <b>80%</b>	 UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
 Sunrise <b>6:37 am</b>	 Sunset <b>5:46 pm</b>	 Moonrise <b>3:08 pm</b>	 Moonset <b>3:45 am</b>
○ Waxing Gibbous			

# Local News

## ABLP's Jonas rejects UPP claim that firearm was brandished

The Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's incumbent candidate for St. George, Dean Jonas, has rejected allegations that he, or any of his supporters, used a firearm to intimidate his United Progressive Party opponent, Algernon Watts, or his supporters.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Jonas dismissed the allegation as false and said it was part of the UPP's strategy to manipulate electors ahead of this month's elections.

Jonas said his opponent had resorted to making the "untruthful and morally bankrupt claim" in a desperate attempt to salvage his efforts after being "unable to get any traction in their two-year campaign leading to the January 18, 2023, general election".



Dean Jonas

The ABLP candidate accused Watts and his supporters of trailing his entourage on 31st December, 2022 as they campaigned, creating a "nuisance" and coming close to "triggering a physical confrontation".

Rumours surfaced on Saturday night that a mem-

ber of Jonas' entourage brought the heckling to an abrupt end after a firearm was brandished.

"On Saturday evening, December 31, 2022, the UPP team alleges they were frightened-off when they were threatened by the display of a firearm. That claim

is wholly untrue.

"Minister Dean Jonas denies having or displaying a firearm and has watched as this hapless group of unworthy aspirants for public office sink into character assassination, obfuscation and unwholesome lies in an effort to persuade voters," the statement from Jonas' campaign said.

Jonas, meanwhile, commented, "I have the impression that the UPP team is growing more and more desperate as the smell of defeat becomes more discernible."

He further dismissed the allegation from the Watts camp as a desperate attempt by "the losing UPP and their operatives are seeking sympathy by concocting stories that are false, irresponsible, and lacking in substance".



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# Local News



## January poised to become “best month ever” for A&B’s cruise tourism industry

Four cruise ships are expected in the St. John’s Harbour today boosting industry officials’ prediction that January 2023 will become the country’s best month on record for cruise tourism.

The Antigua Cruise Ports (ACP) has reported that seventy-seven cruise ship calls are booked this month with fifteen calls scheduled this week alone.

According to ACP, this month is expected to surpass all previous records for cruise ship calls at the St. John’s Harbour and cruise tourist arrivals to the country.

Arriving today are the Seabourn Ovation, AIDA Perla, Marella Explorer



*Ships docked at the St. John's Harbour [File photo]*

and Viking Sea. Together, they will bring over 6,500 fun-seekers to the country.

January also marks another significant milestone for the country as it will become the homeport of the Carnival Arvia.

On 28th January, the Arvia, which has a normal operating capacity of 5,200 guests and 1,800 crew, will use the St. John’s Harbour as the origin of its cruises.

Homeporting will open

many economic benefits for the country as passengers arriving in Antigua and Barbuda will be required to conduct business with merchants, taxi operators, restaurants, and other establishments ahead of the departure of their cruises.

According to the General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Dona Regis-Prosper, Antiguan and Barbudan travellers booking cruises will now also

have the option of beginning their journey at home in St. John’s.

The Arvia will dock at the recently commissioned fifth berth at the St. John’s Harbour.

Regis-Prosper disclosed that the Carnival Arvia will homeport in Antigua and Barbuda until 2025.

At the end of this year’s winter tourist season, the arrangement will recommence in November 2023 and continue each year until the expiration of the agreement in 2025.

She added that Antigua Cruise Port will continue to oversee the continued expansion and growth of the country’s cruise tourism sector.

## Halo donates over \$76,000 to Street Pastors

The Halo Foundation has donated \$76,546.00 to Antigua Street Pastors.

The sum was raised at Halo’s Wings of Charity fundraiser which is held each June in London.

H.E. Lady Williams made the presentation to Barry Sebastian, the coordinator of the Street Pastors.

"We make it our priority to attempt to improve the conditions of the charities under our patronage", she said.

"The Street Pastors do their best to help the homeless and destitute on the streets of St. John's, but their resources are seriously constrained. We hope that this contribution can assist the organisation to make an even more meaningful impact."

Street Pastors was pioneered in London in 2003 by Antiguan and Barbudan national, Reverend Les Isaac, OBE. Its



*H.E. Lady Williams (left) makes the presentation to some of the members of Antigua Street Pastors: (L-R) Barry Sebastian, Coordinator; Patricia Burleigh, Camelda Michael and Tracy Samuel.*

purpose is to "provide a Christian presence on the streets in local communities in order to listen, care and help".

In addition to the United Kingdom, where there are over 9,000 trained vol-

unteers, international branches operate in Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, Nigeria, Ireland, Gibraltar, the Channel Islands and Australia.





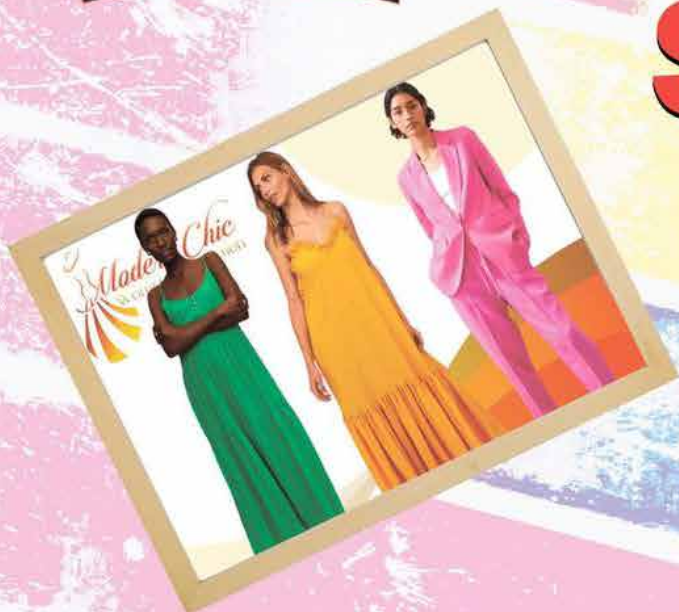
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# Opinion



# Come year quick

By **Tony Deyal**

(Dedicated to my great friend Kamal Abdool)

Nicolas Aujula, a London psychic, claims that in 2021 he had predicted COVID-19, Trump's election loss, and Meghan Markle's explosive Oprah interview. Now he has eight visions for 2023 including heartbreak for Madonna, King Charles will have health issues, and a British Cyclist will break a record, hopefully not one of Madonna's. American psychic, John Cohan, has predicted that Prince Harry's nude photos from his college days will be circulating everywhere so there is no need to wonder any more what Meghan sees in him. An Irish psychic, Maeve McTaggard, is seeing conflict, explosions in London, warships, bombs dropping, and people in Britain and Ireland building bomb shelters. She is convinced there will be "mass warfare" in 2023.

Unfortunately, that is not all we can expect this coming year. Rose Smith, who runs the largest psychic network in our hemisphere, predicts the death of Vladimir Putin, maybe from the window of a high building, and Donald Trump, most likely in the "Lago" part of his Palm Beach resort. Rose by any name is top of the heap. She accurately predicted in 2020 that Trump would have got the CORO-

NA Virus, and Joe Biden would become President. She also predicted in 2018 that Prince Harry and Meghan Markle would quickly have two children with the possibility of a third. Ms. Smith also predicts that King Charles would become very unwell, Prince Williams will replace him as King, and an easier one that all of us already see coming, billionaire Elon Musk will be in more trouble than he is already experiencing.

I have to hurry now because I just saw what Nostradamus predicted for 2023 and I don't think we have much time left. First of all, he predicts boiling oceans and a lot of dead fish. Then, more bad luck for King Charles. Nostradamus sees "Celestial fire on the royal edifice" and that has nothing to do with the "bombshell" of Harry and Megan on Netflix. As if that is not bad enough, Nostradamus warns about "Seven months great war, people dead through evil". As the Post says, "In terms of the 'evil' Nostradamus blames, hate-mongering, death-dealing, Libra Vladimir Putin comes pretty close to personifying it." In fact, even the daily killings in Trinidad and Jamaica are not in that league and, from what Nostradamus predicts, it's only just big-gun.

I had identified some minor requests for the Almighty to help me out with in the New Year. When I was growing up, I used to sing,



*Tony Deyal*

"All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth" and my father always laughed and teased me, "But you missing five!" In thinking about it now, I should have realised that I was an early dropout.

First of all, with all the daily "Home Invasions", I would like to get a break from crime and not a break-in.

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, declared a State of Emergency in Jamaica not only because of the murders but also the "Violent crimes such as home invasions, armed robberies, sexual assaults and homicides..." Between January 1 and November 23rd this year, there were 1,360 murders in Jamaica. I looked up "Home Invasions Trinidad 2022" and got 1,990 results in .52 seconds. I used to belt out "Take Me Home, Precious Lord" when Elvis Presley sang it,

and joined Jim Reeves with "Take My Hand, Precious Lord". Now it seems there is a new one that scares the hell out of me, "Take My Home And Oh My God, Let Them Leave My Wife and Life Alone."

I once believed that all I needed to do was pray for "Peace on Earth Goodwill to Men." Goodwill is easy. It is an Insurance Company in Trinidad and a Mission store in Jamaica and elsewhere. But Peace? In much of the Caribbean, peace depends on what you're begging for and whether you can spell properly. You can still be appeased or, like what I heard one of my friends tell a young lady, "Girl all I want in life is peace and quiet. You give me peace and I will keep quiet." She gave him piece- of her mind that is – and he left, but not in peace or quiet. If he was in my Elementary School,

*cont'd on pg 11*



# Opinion

*cont'd from pg 10*

the teacher would have scoured his mouth out so thoroughly with soap and a scrubbing brush, he would have believed he was losing his Lifebuoy.

So what do I really want for the New Year 2023? What about making a serious commitment that I would keep for the entire 365 days? Unfortunately, I have to decline. One of my heroes, Oscar Wilde, put an end to that with, "Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account." I don't drink much again except for the occasional half-glass of wine but, had I been back to my old haunts and friends, I might have taken novelist and essayist F. Scott Fitzgerald seriously, "First you take a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes you.". Been there and done that. One thing I learnt as an English student and teacher was the difference between "I gave up drinking for the New Year!" and "I gave up. Drinking for the New Year!" One I am sure about is what I call a new Trinidad, and perhaps Caribbean, truism, "On average we live pretty well. Worse than 2021 but certainly better than 2023."

One thing about the transition between the Old and New Year is that there is a lot of cricket playing. The West Indies men and women just lost (to use a Trump word) "bigly". I used to bat for them, especially in my days as Corporate Secretary, but not me again unless Dave Cameron comes

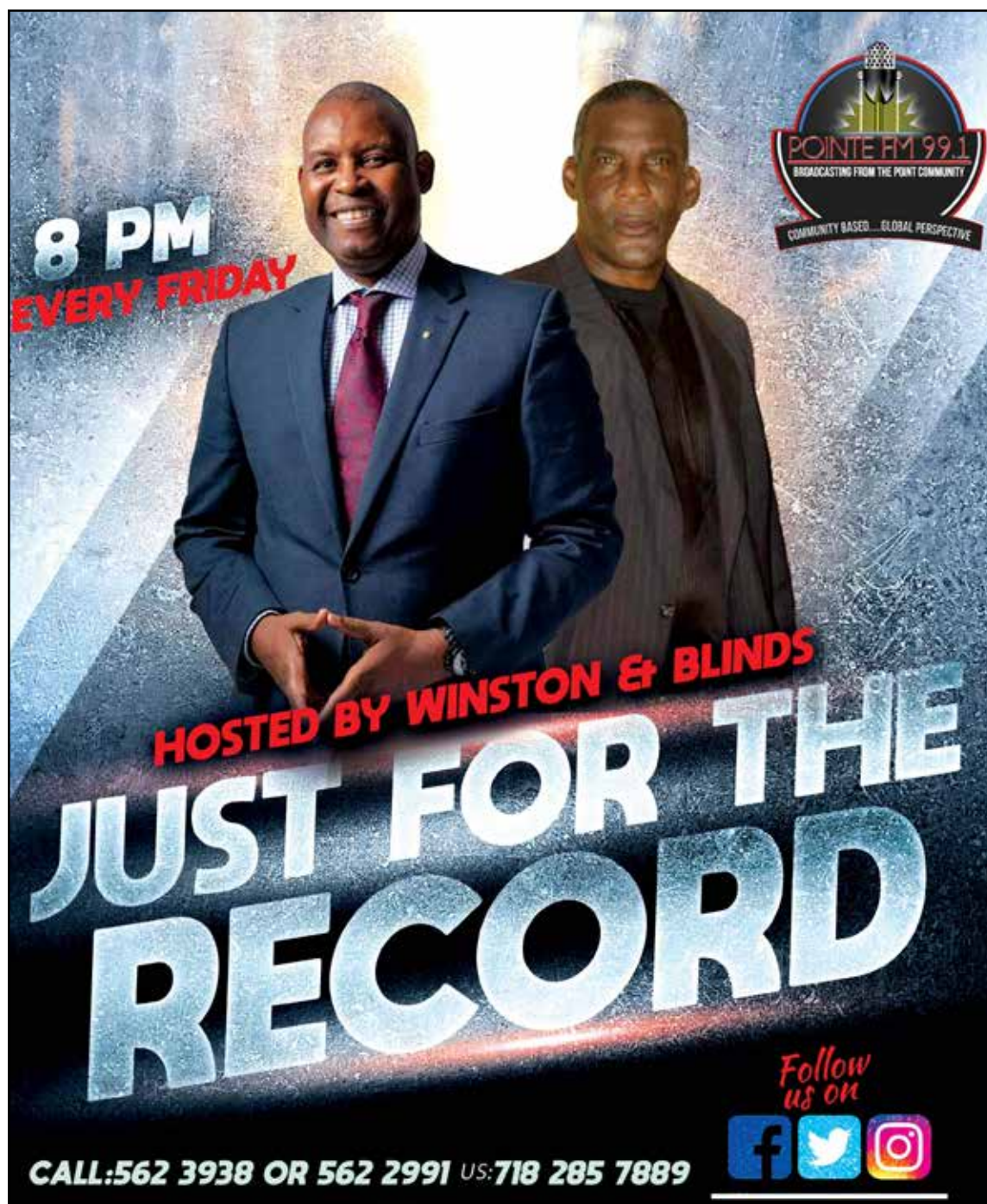
back. Even though he has a degree in Hotel Management, I would not mind if he accompanies the teams as Chief Cook but definitely not even the bottlewasher. I remember being in St Kitts and meeting the Coach and members of the team outside the Hotel in which we all stayed. The Coach asked me, "Tony. What you doing here?" I replied, "Well you heard that I have a broken finger, but I knew for sure

that if I was ever to make the West Indies Team, this is the best time."

We can talk travel but I am a "nowherian" or, as Tobagonians understand it, "a person with no fixed place of abode." I keep hunting down books I would like to read and get them free from sundry illegal sources. My friend Omar brought me a nice variety of my favourite drink, coffee, but I have to drink them locked away in

a house, worried about who will break through the glass windows or use a battering ram on the doors. So what I want for the New Year? A place to rest my weary bones without fears and scares. A place to call home.

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen saying that he doesn't like to brag, especially to people who will go back and tell his wife, but he already has a date for New Year' Eve. December 31st.*



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# Tens of thousands view Benedict XVI's body at Vatican

By Giada Zampano and Frances D'Emilio

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's body, his head resting on a pair of crimson pillows, lay in state in St. Peter's Basilica on Monday as tens of thousands queued to pay tribute to the pontiff who shocked the world by retiring a decade ago.

On the eve of the first of three days of viewing, Italian security officials had said at least 25,000-30,000 people would come on Monday.

But by mid-afternoon, around six hours after the basilica's doors opened to the public, Vatican police estimated that about 40,000 had filed by the body, the Holy See said.

As daylight broke, 10 white-gloved Papal Gentlemen — lay assistants to pontiffs and papal households — carried the body on a cloth-covered wooden stretcher after its arrival at the basilica to its resting place in front of the main altar under Bernini's towering bronze canopy.

A Swiss Guard saluted as Benedict's body was



*In this image released on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, by the Vatican Media news service, Bishop George Gaenswein, center, and close entourage pray in front of the body of late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI lying out in state in the chapel of the monastery 'Mater Ecclesiae' where he mostly lived after retiring on Feb. 28, 2013. Pope Benedict, the German theologian who will be remembered as the first pope in 600 years to resign, has died, the Vatican announced Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022. He was 95. (Vatican Media via AP)*

brought in through a side door after it was transferred in a van from the chapel of the monastery grounds where the increasingly frail, 95-year-old former pontiff died on Saturday morning.

His longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, and a handful of consecrated laywomen who served in Benedict's household, followed the

van by foot for a few hundred yards in a silent procession toward the basilica.

Some of the women stretched out a hand to touch the body with respect.

Before the rank-and-file faithful were allowed into the basilica, prayers were recited and the basilica's archpriest, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, sprin-

kled holy water over the body, and a small cloud of incense was released near the bier.

Benedict's hands were clasped, a rosary around his fingers.

Just after 9 a.m. (0800 GMT), the doors of the basilica were swung open so the public, some of whom had waited for hours in the pre-dawn damp, could

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

pay their respects to the late pontiff, who retired from the papacy in 2013 — the first pope to do so in 600 years.

Faithful and curious, the public strode briskly up the center aisle to pass by the bier with its cloth draping after waiting in a line that by midmorning snaked around St. Peter's Square.

Benedict's body was dressed with a miter, the peaked headgear of a bishop, and a red cloak.

Filippo Tuccio, 35, said he came from Venice on an overnight train to view Benedict's body.

"I wanted to pay homage to Benedict because he had a key role in my life and my education," Tuccio said.

"When I was young I participated in World Youth Days," he said, referring to the jamborees of young faithful held periodically and attended by pontiffs.

"Tuccio added that he had studied theology, and "his pontificate accompanied me during my university years."

"He was very important for me: for what I am, my way of thinking, my values," Tuccio continued.

Among those coming to the basilica viewing was Cardinal Walter Kasper, like Benedict, a German theologian. Kasper served as head of the Vatican's Christian unity office during Benedict's papacy.

Benedict left an "important mark" on theology and spirituality, but also on the history of the papacy with his courage to step aside.

"This resignation wasn't a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength, a greatness because he saw that he was no longer up to the challenges of being pope," Kasper said.

Kasper, who was among the cardinals who elected Benedict to the papacy in 2005, added that the res-

ignation gave "a more human vision to the papacy: that the pope is a man and is dependent on his physical and mental strengths."

Public viewing was set for 10 hours on Monday, and 12 hours each on Tuesday and Wednesday before Thursday morning's funeral, which will be led by Pope Francis, at St. Peter's Square.

As Benedict desired, the funeral will marked by simplicity, the Vatican said when announcing the death on Saturday.

Workers on Monday were setting up an altar in the square for the funeral Mass.

Also being arranged were rows of chairs for the faithful who want to attend the funeral. Authorities said they expected about 60,000 to come for the Mass.

On Monday, the Vatican confirmed widely reported burial plans. In keeping with his wishes, Benedict's tomb will be in the crypt of the grotto under the basilica that was last used by St. John Paul II, before the saint's body was moved upstairs into the main basilica ahead of his 2011 beatification, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said.

At two sides of the piazza's colonnade, viewers went through the usual security measures required for tourists entering the basilica — passing through metal detectors and screening bags through an X-ray machine.

Marina Ferrante, 62, was among them.

"I think his main legacy was teaching us how to be free," she said.

"He had a special intelligence in saying what was essential in his faith and that was contagious" for other faithful.

"The thing I thought when he died was that I would like to be as free as he was."

While venturing that the shy, bookworm German churchman and theologian and the current Argentine-born pontiff had different temperaments, Ferrante said: "I believe there's a continuity between him and Pope Francis and whoever understands the real relationship between them and Christ can see that."

An American man who lives in Rome called the opportunity to view the body "an amazing experience." Mountain Butorac, 47, who is originally from Atlanta, said he arrived 90 minutes before dawn.

"I loved Benedict, I loved him as a cardinal (Joseph Ratzinger), when he was elected pope and also after he retired," Butorac said. "I think he was a sort of people's grandfather living in the Vatican."

With an organ and choir's soft rendition of "Kyrie Eleison" ("Lord, have mercy" in ancient Greek) in the background, ushers moved well-wishers along at a steady clip down the basilica's center aisle.. Someone left a red rose.

A few VIPs had a moment before the general public to pay their respects, including Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, the far-right leader who in the past has professed admiration for the conservative leanings of Benedict.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella also came to view the body.

The Vatican has said only two nations' official delegations — from Italy and from Benedict's native Germany — were invited formally to the funeral, since the pope emeritus was no longer head of state.

Sister Regina Brand was among the mourners who came to the square before dawn.

"He's a German pope and I am from Germany," she said. "And I am here to express my gratitude and love, and I want to pray for him and to see him."

# After year of 'unprecedented crises', what next for Haiti?

From gangs to fuel shortages to a cholera outbreak, Haiti is grappling with ongoing setbacks as new year begins.

For Haiti, 2022 began much like the previous year ended – in the grips of widespread violence and political instability.

And over the past 12 months, the situation has largely failed to improve: Haitians have faced a surge in gang attacks and kidnappings, fuel and electricity shortages, a

deepening political deadlock and a deadly outbreak of cholera.

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People displaced by gang violence in the Port-au-Prince neighbourhood of Cite Soleil take refuge at the Hugo Chavez Square in the Haitian capital, on October 16, 2022 [File: Ricardo Arduengo/Reuters]



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## Brazil's Lula sworn in, vows accountability and rebuilding

AP - Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was sworn in as president on Sunday, and in his first address expressed optimism about plans to rebuild while pledging that members of outgoing Jair Bolsonaro's administration will be held to account.

Lula is assuming office for the third time after thwarting far-right incumbent Bolsonaro's reelection bid. His return to power marks the culmination of a political comeback that is thrilling supporters and enraging opponents in a fiercely polarized nation.

"Our message to Brazil is one of hope and reconstruction," Lula said in a speech in Congress' Lower House after signing the document that formally instates him as president. "The great edifice of rights, sovereignty and development that this nation built has been systematically demolished in recent years. To re-erect this edifice, we are going to direct all our efforts."

Sunday afternoon in Brasilia's main esplanade, the party was on. Tens of thousands of supporters decked out in the red of Lula's Workers' Party cheered after his swearing in.

They celebrated when the president said he would send a report about the prior administration to all lawmakers and judicial authorities, revoke Bolsona-



*Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva arrives to the Planalto Palace with a group representing diverse segments of society after he was sworn in as new president in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)*

ro's "criminal decrees" that loosened gun control, and hold the prior administration responsible for its denialism in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We do not carry any spirit of revenge against those who sought to subjugate the nation to their personal and ideological designs, but we are going to ensure the rule of law," Lula said, without mentioning Bolsonaro by name. "Those who erred will answer for their errors, with broad rights to their defense within the due legal process."

Lula's presidency is unlikely to be like his previous two mandates, coming after the tightest presidential race

in more than three decades in Brazil and resistance to his taking office by some of his opponents, political analysts say.

The leftist defeated Bolsonaro in the Oct. 30 vote by less than 2 percentage points. For months, Bolsonaro had sown doubts about the reliability of Brazil's electronic vote and his loyal supporters were loath to accept the loss.

Many have gathered outside military barracks since, questioning results and pleading with the armed forces to prevent Lula from taking office.

His most die-hard backers resorted to what some authorities and incoming

members of Lula's administration labeled acts of "terrorism" – which had prompted security concerns about inauguration day events.

Lula will have to navigate more challenging economic conditions than he enjoyed in his first two terms, when the global commodities boom proved a windfall for Brazil.

At the time, his administration's flagship welfare program helped lift tens of millions of impoverished people into the middle class. He left office with a personal approval rating of 83%.

In the intervening years, Brazil's economy plunged

*cont'd on pg 16*

# Regional News



## Trinidadian special reserve police officer charged for robbing gas station in Grenada

CMC - The Grenada police have charged a Trinidadian police officer in connection with a robbery carried out at a gas station just over a week ago.

According to police reports, Christon Balboza, 27, is a special reserve police officer from the twin-island republic.

A special reserve police is one who may be called out for service in cases of external aggression or in-

ternal disturbance.

The Royal Grenada Police Force says Balboza, was arrested and charged along with Stephen Francis, 28, a local fisherman for the offence of robbery with violence in connection with the December 22nd robbery at Grand Mal Gas Station.

The police say Francis was also charged with the offence of assault with a dangerous instrument.

Both men were remanded to His Majesty's Prisons and are scheduled to return to court on January 10.

The police report that on the evening of December 22, they received a complaint of a robbery at a business establishment.

Officers responded and preliminary enquiries revealed that masked individuals entered the business place demanding money from a member of

staff.

The robbers fled with an undisclosed sum of money but were later held by the police.

According to Grenada's criminal code which was amended in 2012 – whoever commits robbery by being armed with any offensive instrument or having made any preparation for using force or causing harm will be liable to imprisonment for 30 years.

### *cont'd from pg 15*

into two deep recessions — first, during the tenure of his handpicked successor, and then during the pandemic — and ordinary Brazilians suffered greatly.

Lula has said his priorities are fighting poverty, and investing in education and health. He has also said he will bring illegal deforestation of the Amazon to a halt. He sought support from political moderates to form a broad front and defeat Bolsonaro, then tapped some of them to serve in his Cabinet.

In his first act as president Sunday, Lula signed a decree to tighten gun control and set a 30-day deadline for the comptroller-general's office to evaluate various Bolsonaro decrees that placed official information under seal for 100 years. He also signed a decree that guaranteed a monthly stipend for poor families, and reestablished the mostly Norway-financed Amazon fund for sustainable development in the rainforest.

Claúdio Arantes, a 68-year-old pensioner, carried an old Lula campaign flag on his way to the esplanade. The lifelong Lula supporter attended his 2003 inauguration, and agreed that

this time feels different.

“Back then, he could talk about Brazil being united. Now it is divided and won't heal soon,” Arantes said. “I trust his intelligence to make this national unity administration work so we never have a Bolsonaro again.”

Given the nation's political fault lines, it is highly unlikely Lula ever reattains the popularity he once enjoyed, or even sees his approval rating rise above 50%, said Maurício Santoro, a political science professor at Rio de Janeiro's State University.

Furthermore, Santoro said, the credibility of Lula and his Workers' Party were assailed by a sprawling corruption investigation. Party officials were jailed, including Lula — whose convictions were later annulled on procedural grounds.

The Supreme Court then ruled that the judge presiding over the case had colluded with prosecutors to secure a conviction.

Lula and his supporters have maintained he was railroaded. Others were willing to look past possible malfeasance as a means to unseat Bolsonaro and bring the nation back together.

“I always wanted to go the inauguration, I didn't think I would have a

chance to see Lula there after he was jailed,” said Tamires Valente, 43, a marketing professional from Brasilia. “I am very emotional, Lula deserves this.”

But Bolsonaro's backers refuse to accept someone they view as a criminal returning to the highest office. And with tensions running hot, a series of events has prompted fear that violence could erupt on inauguration day.

On Dec. 12, dozens of people tried to invade a federal police building in Brasilia, and burned cars and buses in other areas of the city.

Then on Christmas Eve, police arrested a 54-year-old man who admitted to making a bomb that was found on a fuel truck headed to Brasilia's airport.

He had been camped outside Brasilia's army headquarters with hundreds of other Bolsonaro supporters since Nov. 12. He told police he was ready for war against communism, and planned the attack with people he had met at the protests, according to excerpts of his deposition released by local media.

Bolsonaro finally condemned the bomb plot in a Dec. 30 farewell address on social media, hours before

*cont'd on pg 17*



## Sweden sends donations to Cuba to counter economic blockade

CMC - The Sweden-Cuban Solidarity Association says the organization will be shipping two containers with donations collected in Sweden and Denmark, to the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island as part of actions to counter the economic blockade imposed by the United States.

According to the association's president, Zoltan Tiroler, the shipment includes 18 tons of items



for the Cuban sectors of healthcare, education, agriculture, construction, and electronics.

The aid, which is expected to arrive in Cuba in January, is to be funneled to schools in eastern San-

tiago de Cuba, Holguin and western Pinar del Rio provinces, as well as to hospitals in eastern Las Tunas.

Tiroler disclosed that the Swedish organization donated 55 thousand euros in 2022 to help Cuba face the US blockade, but due to the blockade, the money transfer could not be carried out, therefore another method was used to offer help to Cubans.

## Dominica Police investigate murder of medical practitioner



Dr. Velma Valmond

CMC - Police in Dominica are investigating the death of a medical practitioner whose body was found in a pool of blood at her home in Goodwill, on the outskirts of the capital Roseau, on Friday.

Police believe the death of Dr. Velma Valmond, the island's 17th murder this year, is as a result of domestic violence.

Police Inspector, Fixton Henderson, told reporters that law enforcement officials had responded "to a report of domestic violence between a woman and her boyfriend" and on arrival at the residence found the body of the 35-year-old woman "in a pool of blood with a severe laceration across her neck".

Henderson said the victim was examined and pronounced dead by a medical doctor and her body was transported to a funeral home where it is awaiting an autopsy.

"Velma's boyfriend, 32 year old boyfriend, Alexander, was also found on the floor ....and in a state of distress," Henderson said, adding "he was transported to the Accident and Emergency Department of the Dominica China Friendship Hospital and is in a stable condition."

The police said Dr. Valmond's 18-year-old daughter is also nursing injuries that were apparently sustained during the incident and is also in stable condition at the hospital.

*cont'd from pg 16*

flying to the U.S.. His absence on inauguration day marks a break with tradition.

Instead of Bolsonaro, a group representing diverse segments of society performed the role of presenting Lula with the presidential sash to Lula atop the ramp of the presidential palace. Across the sea of people standing be-

fore the palace, supporters stretched a massive Brazilian flag over their heads.

Speaking to the crowd, Lula listed shortfalls in government funds that will affect the Brazilian people.

He said that, according to the transition team's report on Bolsonaro's government, textbooks haven't been printed for public schools, there

are insufficient free medications and COVID-19 vaccines, the threat looms of federal universities shutting down, and civil defense authorities cannot work to prevent disasters.

"Who pays the price for this blackout is, once again, the Brazilian people," he said, and was promptly met by a chant from the crowd: "No amnesty! No amnesty! No amnesty!"

# Floods in Philippines leave 51 dead, over a dozen missing

AP - Thousands of people in the Philippines remained in emergency shelters in the wake of devastating Christmas flooding, as the death toll climbed to 51 with 19 missing, authorities said Monday.

Images showed residents in southern Misamis Occidental province sweeping away thick mud from the floors of their homes.

In the seaside village of Cabol-anonan, coconut trees were uprooted and huts made of light material were nearly flattened.

The Northern Mindanao region bore the brunt of the disaster, reporting 25 deaths, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Council.

Most of the deaths were from drowning and landslides, and among the missing were fishermen whose boats capsized.

Floods have subsided in most parts, but more than 8,600 people were still in shelters.

Over 4,500 houses were damaged by the floods, along with roads and bridges, and some areas still struggle with disrupted power and water supply, the disaster management agency said.

Ivy Amor Amparo, a hospital worker from Ginoog city in Misamis Oriental province, said that the seaside home of her parents and siblings was damaged



*In this image provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, an elderly woman sits on a chair while being carried by coast guard personnel wading through floodwaters in Plaridel, Misamis Occidental province in the southern Philippines, Monday, Dec. 26, 2022. Heavy rains and floods devastated parts of the Philippines over the Christmas weekend. (Philippine Coast Guard via AP)*

by big waves and uprooted trees. Rescuers ferried the mother of two and her relatives in a truck to a nearby shelter, where they spent the Christmas weekend.

# Botswana issues arrest warrant for ex-President Ian Khama

AP - An arrest warrant has been issued in Botswana for former President Ian Khama on a charge of illegal possession of firearms.

Khama, currently residing in neighboring South Africa, denies the charge, his lawyer said.

The former president was formally charged in April last year but has not yet appeared in court. A Botswana court issued the warrant for Khama's arrest on Dec. 29.

Khama has been in South Africa for about a year, after falling out with his hand-picked successor, President Mokgweetsi Masisi.

Khama, 69, president of Botswana



*President Ian Khama attends a swearing-in ceremony for a second and final term as Botswana president at the National Assembly buildings in Gaborone, Botswana, on Oct. 28 2014. (AP Photo, File)*

“There’s been no crime. I have

done nothing wrong,” Khama told South Africa’s state broadcaster SABC.

He said the warrant is part of Masisi’s campaign to persecute him as Botswana approaches general elections in 2024.

“I have been and I will continue being more and more targeted in this manner because I remain the most constant voice condemning and exposing Masisi for the incompetent failure that he is,” Khama told the Voice of America.

Botswana has not yet asked South Africa to extradite Khama.

*cont’d on pg 19*



## ABCUA names umpires for ABCA 10 Splash contest

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Umpires Association (ABCUA) has released the names of the people who will officiate the first competition to be staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) in the 2023 domestic season.

The ABCA's 2023 domestic season commences this weekend with a 10-Splash competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and concludes on the 21st January.

The umpires selected for the preliminary matches that will be played from 5th to 17th January are Anderson Andrew, Felix Auguiste, Julian Roberts, Calvin Thomas, Donald Sheckle, Melissa Lawrie, Michael Lawrie, Keller Joseph, Fitzroy Langley, James Trotman, Candace Butler, Bernard Joseph and Bertel Baltimore.

The ABCUA umpires will oversee the preliminary stage of the 10-overs-a-side contest which will prepare the teams for the ABCA's other three more popular and challenging domestic competitions.

According to the ABCUA, the umpire grading



*Keller Joseph is one of 13 umpires selected by the ABCUA to officiate in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's 10-Splash competition which is slated to start this week at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. (File photo)*

system will be used to determine the eight umpires who will move on to officiate the knockout phase of the competition from the 19th to 21st January.

Twelve teams, divided into two zones, will compete in the ABCA's 10 Splash contest.

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, New Winthorpes Lions, Pigotts Crushers, Bolans Blasters, Police and Rising Sun Spartans will contest Zone

A while Empire Nation, Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda, Combined Schools, All Saints Pythons, Freetown and Jennings Tigers will battle for supremacy in Zone B.

The 10 Splash bowls off with a Zone A double header at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Thursday, 5th January. Liberta Black Hawks will take on Bolans Blasters at 4pm while Pigotts Crushers will face Rising Sun Spartans at 6pm.

All Saints Pythons will meet Combined Schools at 4pm while Jennings Tigers will clash with Freetown at 6pm in a Zone B double header on Friday, 6th January.

The top two teams in each zone at the end of the preliminary phase will meet in a playoff that will determine the champion.

At the conclusion of the 10 Splash, the ABCA will stage its Two-Day competition which begins on 28th January and concludes on 15th April.

The Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion is scheduled to be played from 11th April to 6th May.

The last competition of the season, the ABCA Super-40 limited overs contest, bowls off on 13th May.

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will attempt to defend their titles in each of the three major ABCA domestic competitions.

The Liberta Black Hawks were unbeaten during the 2022 domestic season, capturing the ABCA Super-40 crown, the Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion title and the ABCA Two-Day Championship.

### cont'd from pg 18

Khama, the son of Botswana's first President Seretse Khama, was the fourth president of the southern African country.

After serving as commander of the

Botswana Defence Force, Khama was vice president from 1998 to 2008 and then became president when Festus Mogae retired.

Khama was reelected in the 2009 elections and won reelection again in

2014, leaving office after completing two five-year terms.

Khama quit the ruling Botswana Democratic Party in 2019 and is now patron of the splinter Botswana Patriotic Front.

# Sports News



## West Indies Women name 16-member squad for Tri-Series against South Africa and India

The Cricket West Indies Selection Panel today named the 16-member West Indies Women's squad to play in a T20 International (T20I) Tri-Series against South Africa and India in East London from 19 to 30 January 2023 as part of their final preparations for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in February.

The West Indies Women will play at least four matches, playing two matches each against hosts South Africa and India. The two leading teams will then play each other in the Tri-Series Final at Buffalo Park on 2 February. West Indies will also play a warm-up match against South Africa ahead of the Tri-Series at Beacon Bay on 16 January.

Lead Selector Ann Browne-John said, "The selection panel has named a squad that we believe has the talent and experience to compete against India and South Africa. The squad sees the return of Stafanie Taylor who missed the recent series against England due to injury and Britney Cooper, the middle order batter who last played against South Africa Women in September 2021.

Browne-John added, "Our batting in the most recent series was less than par against a very good England bowling attack. We believe that with the return of some experienced batters, they will be able to support captain Hayley Matthews at the top of the order. Shamilia Connell and Shakera Selman also return after injury and will fortify the pace attack with Chinelle Henry, Cherry Ann Fraser and Aaliyah Alleyne. The team had commendable performances in South Africa in early 2022 and we know that the entire team will be drawing on that experience as they take on the home team and India in this Tri-Series and then potentially again at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup also in South Africa."

All matches in the Tri-Series will be played at the Buffalo Park in East Lon-



don.

Final squads for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa must be submitted by 2 February. The eighth edition of the marquee ICC Women's Event will begin on 10 February with hosts South Africa taking on Sri Lanka. West Indies have been drawn in Group 2 alongside England, India, Pakistan and Ireland.

Newlands, Cape Town, Boland Park, Paarl and St. George's Park, Gqeberha are the host venues for the tournament with both Semi-Finals and Final being played in Cape Town. The Final at Newlands will be held on 26 February.

### FULL SQUAD

Hayley Matthews (Captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shemaine Campbelle, Shamilia Connell, Britney Cooper, Chedean Nation, Cherry Ann Fraser, Afy Fletcher, Shabika Gajrabi, Sheneta Grimmond, Chinelle Henry, Karishma Ramharack, Kaysia Schultz, Shakera Selman, Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams

### Match Schedule

16 January: Warm up Match vs South Africa, Beacon Bay  
T20I Tri-Series West Indies Match

Schedule – all matches to be played at Buffalo Park, East London

21 January: vs South Africa, 3pm local time (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)

23 January: vs India, 7pm local time (1pm Eastern Caribbean/12noon Jamaica)

25 January: vs South Africa, 3pm local time (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)

30 January: vs India, 3pm local time (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)

2 February: Tri-Series Final, 3pm local time (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)

ICC Women's T20 World Cup Group 2 West Indies Match schedule

13 February: vs England, Boland Park, Paarl, 3pm (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)

15 February: vs India, Newlands, Cape Town, 3pm (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)

17 February: vs Ireland, Newlands, Cape Town, 7pm (1pm Eastern Caribbean/12noon Jamaica)

19 February: vs Pakistan, Boland Park, Paarl, 3pm (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica)



## Martina Navratilova: Tennis legend diagnosed with throat and breast cancer

BBC - Martina Navratilova has been diagnosed with both throat and breast cancer.

The 18-time Grand Slam singles champion, who previously had breast cancer in 2010, will start treatment in New York later this month.

Navratilova, 66, said both cancers had been caught at an early stage.

"The double whammy is serious, but fixable, and I'm hoping for a favourable outcome," she said. "It's going to stink for a while, but I'll fight with all



*Martina Navratilova previously had breast cancer in 2010*

I have got."

Navratilova noticed an enlarged lymph node in her neck during November's WTA Finals in Fort

Worth, Texas.

A subsequent biopsy revealed stage one throat cancer.

During the tests, a

lump was also discovered in her breast, which was later diagnosed as an unrelated cancer.

Navratilova was due to cover this month's Australian Open from the Tennis Channel studio, but will instead make some occasional remote appearances.

The nine-time Wimbledon singles champion said she felt "helpless" after she was diagnosed with cancer in 2010, but decided to go public with the news to help other women suffering similar health problems.

## Wadadli Elites1 continue impressive display on the basketball court

Wadadli Elites1 continued their impressive scoring form which has allowed them to score at least 100 points in each of their games in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division.

Wadadli Elites1 romped to another emphatic 101-47 victory over Jan Serve Fearless Crew2 in the latest round of matches at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tequan Brodie shot a game high 32 points, produced seven assists and grabbed six rebounds to lead the Wadadli Elites1 to their fourth win in as many games.

Dominick Anthony contributed 26 points and snatched 10 rebounds, while Te-Ran Zachariah chipped in

with 14 points, six steals and six rebounds.

Tejorn Gage scored 12 points and pulled down 11 rebounds while Delroy Foster also converted 12 points for Fearless Crew2.

There were wins as well for Otto Coolers, Flyers2 and Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Supplies Fearless Crew1.

Ottos Coolers trounced Raeburn Generators United 86-52. Lincoln Weekes scored 30 points. Ismael Palemo sank 18 points and grabbed 17 rebounds. Javon Simon converted 17 points and snapped up 14 rebounds while Vladimir Castro produced 13 points and snatched 10 rebounds for Ottos Coolers.

Jesus Lopez had 27 points and

claimed 11 rebounds while Brauiol Estada scored 10 points for Raeburn Generators United.

Flyers2 prevailed 63 - 56 against Cutie's Ovals Young Guns. T-Shawn Lewis produced 21 points, grabbed 9 rebounds and had 7 steals while Adrian Carnegie chipped in with 14 points, 7 steals, 6 assists and 6 rebounds for Flyers2.

Amare Browne scored 21 points, De-Longe Jules converted 13 points and Victor Horseford contributed 11 points for Cuties Ovals Young Guns.

Rafiki Harris scored 14 points to lead Fearless Crew1 to a 59 - 43 victory against Gaston Browne's Pointville Ballers.

Michael Ainsworth also netted 14 points for Pointville Ballers.

# Sports News



## West Ham end Garden Stars' winning streak in First Division

Stefan Whyte scored a hattrick to help West Ham end Garden Stars' winning streak in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division.

After winning their first four matches, Garden Stars had to come from behind, scoring four goals in the second half, to salvage a 4-4 draw with West Ham at the ABFA Technical Center on 30th December.

Whyte scored in the first minute and 36th minute while Orel Edwards netted in the 12th minute to give West Ham a 3-0 halftime lead.

Sadique Adams scored for Garden Stars in the 54th minute to reduce the deficit before Whyte completed his hattrick with a 67th minute conversion to give West Ham a 4-1 lead.

However, Garden Stars scored three times before the game ended to secure a share of the points.

Allan Martin scored in the 75th minute, Karique Knight netted in the 82nd minute and Wilden Cornwall Jr. had an 86th minute conversion.

Despite the result, Garden Stars still remain at the top of the First Division standings with 13 points.

West Ham, on the other hand, are still rooted



*Garden Stars still lead the ABFA First Division despite dropping their first points of the competition during a draw with West Ham at the Technical Center on Friday, 30th December.*

second from bottom with two points as a result of their second draw in five outings.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Police, Green City and Bendals all recorded wins in their First Division encounters.

Chad Vidal scored twice with conversions in the 14th and 78th minutes to give Police a 2-0 win over Bolans at the Bolans playing field.

Amali Colbourne scored a brace as Green City Hammered JSC Progressors 4-0 at the Johnson's playing field.

Colbourne netted in the 33rd and 40th minutes while the other Green City goals were scored by Audwin Joseph in the 71st minute and Carllon Warner in the second minute of added on time (90+2

minutes).

Bendals, meanwhile, prevailed 4-2 against Fort Road at Bendals.

Jahbendigo Jacobs put Bendals ahead by scoring in the 7th minute, but Fort Road equalised on the stroke of halftime via a penalty which was scored by Ezekiel Thomas in the 45th minute.

Goals by Mitcheo Edwards in the 48th minute and Alva Guishard in the 64th minute gave Bendals a 3-1 lead.

Junito Jeffrey pulled a goal back when he scored Fort Road's second penalty of the match in the 77th minute, but Jabare Hanson sealed Bendals' victory with a 78th minute conversion.

Lion Hill and John Hughes could only battle to a 1-1 draw in their

First Division encounter at Golden Grove.

Following a goalless first half, Deno Bryan scored in the 51st minute to put John Hughes ahead, but Jamesi Oreste netted in the 76th minute to equalise for Lion Hill.

Matches in the ABFA Second Division will resume today.

TAMO FC will clash with English Harbour at the Golden Grove playing field at 5pm.

Attacking Saints and Young Warriors will meet at the Mock Pond playing field in All Saints at 4:30pm.

Sea View Farm will take on Real Blizzard at the ABFA Technical Center at 5pm while Bethesda will entertain Jennings United at the Bethesda playing field at 4:30pm.



## Old Road beat Willikies in last Premier League game of 2022

Old Road ended 2022 on a high as they coasted to a 4-1 victory over Willikies in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division final game, ending the fifth week of matches Saturday, 31st December.

Forward Raheem Deterville scored a brace as Old Road defeated Willikies in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters to secure their third win in five matches.

Deterville scored his first goal of the match in the 12th minute to put his team ahead.

Stefan Smith had a 40th minute conversion to give Old Road a 2-0 halftime lead.

Almost immediately after the interval, however, Willikies reduced the deficit, thanks to a conversion by Nadre Thomas in the 46th minute.

Any hope of a Willikies comeback was quelled by Deterville's second goal when he restored Old Road's two-goal advantage with a shot that connected with the net in the 72nd minute.

Maliko Anthony then sealed Old Road's victory by scoring his team's fourth and final goal in the second minute of added on time (90+2 minutes).

It was the second loss



*Old Road's forward Raheem Deterville, second right, is congratulated by teammates after scoring the opening goal against Willikies in the ABFA Premier Division match at the Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, 31st December, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABFA)*

in five matches for Willikies who remain hovering mid-table of the 16-team competition on seven points, three adrift of Old Road.

Greenbay Hoppers also ended the year on a positive note as they secured their second win in five appearances. Hoppers snatched a 1-0 victory over Cedar Grove Blue Jays in Saturday's second encounter.

Following a goalless first half, Javorn Stevens broke the deadlock by scoring what turned out to be the winner in the 73rd minute to secure the three

available points for Hoppers.

Tiquan Isaac scored three minutes from full time to snatch a 2-1 victory for Swetes against Pigotts Bullets in the opening game on Saturday.

Isaac scored the winner in the 87th minute to give Swetes their second win in five outings.

Azinho Solomon netted in the 40th minute to give Swetes a 1-0 halftime advantage.

Forward Akeem Isaac scored a penalty in the 50th minute to equalise for Pigotts Bullets before Tiquan

Isaac's late goal snatched victory for Swetes.

It was the second successive loss in four games for Pigotts Bullets who won their first two matches.

There were wins as well for SAP, Jennings Grenades, Ottos Rangers and All Saints United in the other games that were played during the fifth week of the Premier League.

SAP defeated Tryum 3-0, Jennings Grenades hammered Parham 3-0, Ottos Rangers Rangers prevailed 3-1 against Five Islands and All Saints United hammered Villa Lions 4-1.

## Fans mourn Pelé at public viewing in Brazil stadium



The coffin with the remains of Brazilian soccer great Pelé lies on display on the pitch of the Vila Belmiro stadium in Santos, Brazil, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

AP - Mourners began paying their respects to Pelé in a solemn procession past his coffin at the Vila Belmiro Stadium in his hometown of Santos on Monday.

The Brazilian soccer great died Thursday after a battle with cancer. He was 82.

Pelé's coffin was placed on the field where he scored some of the best goals of his career. Mourners walked past his casket in the 16,000-seat stadium outside Sao Paulo. His burial will take place in a cemetery

only 600 meters away on Tuesday.

Fans arrived at the stadium in the early hours of Monday to honor Edson Arantes do Nascimento, globally known as Pelé.

One of them was Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Gilmar Mendes.

"It is a very sad moment, but we are now seeing the real meaning of this legendary player to our country," Mendes told journalists. "My office has shirts signed by Pelé, a picture of him as a goalkeeper, also signed by him. DVDs, photos, a big collection of

him."

Mendes also said Pelé was a humble man despite his global fame, and that he deserves every tribute.

Pelé's casket will be ushered through the streets of Santos before his burial. Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and other dignitaries are expected to attend.

Pelé had undergone treatment for colon cancer since 2021. The medical center where he had been hospitalized said he died of multiple organ failure as a result of the cancer.