

ABLP CHALLENGES KELVIN SIMON'S NOMINATION IN COURT

Story on Page 2



*Their Excellencies the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Sandra Williams with the winners of the 7 - 9 age category of the Halo Christmas Card Competition: (L-R): Isabella Wiik, St. Nicholas Primary (3rd prize); Savannah Holborough, St. Nicholas Primary (1st prize), and Kelsey Cochrane, Pigotts Primary (2nd prize). **Story on page 7.***

ABLP challenges Kelvin Simon's nomination, election in court

A petition has been filed in the High Court challenging the legality of the nomination and election of the United Progressive Party's St. Mary's South candidate, Kelvin "Shugy" Simon in the 18th January elections.

Attorney Hugh Marshall Jr. filed the petition on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and its St. Mary's South candidate, Samantha Marshall.

"Our petition is asking the court to make a declaration that Simon's nomination contravened both the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda and the Civil Service Act.



Kelvin Simon

"Section 39 1 (g) of the Constitution clearly spells out that anyone who is a member of the public service at the time of his nomination is ineligible to be a member of the House of Representatives," Marshall explained.

Attorney Marshall contends that at the time of his nomination, Simon was not



Samantha Marshall

qualified to participate in the elections as he had not tendered his resignation with the Public Service Commission (PSC) nor had sufficient time been given to the PSC to consider such a resignation ahead of the general elections.

A letter, purportedly signed by Simon and dat-

ed early January 2022, was in circulation ahead of the election. The clear suggestion was that Simon had resigned as a public officer well ahead of 18th January, 2023.

The date of the letter, however, poses an issue as Simon remained employed and paid by the government until the end of 2022.

Marshall's petition on behalf of the ABLP therefore is asking the court to rule on whether Simon's nomination and election contravened both the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda and the Civil Service Act and its regulations.

A&B's homeporting operations receive high praise

The arrival on Saturday of the largest cruise ship to visit Antigua - P&O Cruises Arvia and the homeporting operations that accompanies it - were the subject of praise for the country over the weekend.

The vessel docked at 6:00am at St. John's Harbour amidst strong winds of 28 knots which normally would have made docking difficult, however, according to Captain Paul Brown, the Arvia entered the harbour and docked without a hitch.

The Arvia arrived with over 4,000 passengers and a crew of approximately 1,700 persons.

Its arrival was the successful culmination of a massive operation involving Antigua Cruise Port, the Antigua Port Authority, the Immigration and Customs departments, the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority and the Arvia's local agent, Delisle, Walwyn and Francis.



Ribbon cutting to welcome the Arvia and homeporting to Antigua and Barbuda

Captain Paul Brown explained that three charter flights arrived in Antigua and Barbuda with more than 700 passengers from the United Kingdom who were set to join the cruise in St. John's

From here, they would go on to enjoy either 7 or 14-day cruises that will end in Antigua and Barbuda from where they will return to the UK on departing

cont'd on pg 3

Elderly tourist's death under investigation

Police are looking into the circumstances surrounding the death of an elderly American tourist on Sunday.

The tourist, said to be 89 years old, collapsed whilst enjoying the morning at Jolly Beach.

It is believed he may have suffered a medical crisis which resulted in his death.

After his distress became evident, other people enjoying the beach rushed to help.

Medical help was sought after he developed the issue, however it was too late as he had passed away.

The yet unidentified man was formally pronounced dead on Sunday at 12:39pm.



The man and his wife arrived in Antigua and Barbuda at Heritage Quay on Sunday morning aboard Royal Caribbean's Anthem of the Seas.

They were both due to depart the country to continue their holiday on Sunday evening.

Last Monday, Canadian national Ian Wilford died after encountering difficulties in the waters off Ffryes Beach.

During a diving expedition in which he was joined by his wife Julie and a small group, Wilford complained that he was suffering from an earache.

The group continued diving, however, when they returned to the surface, Wilford was missing.

They launched a search to locate him, but their efforts were unsuccessful.

The Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard were called in to join the search, along with two French helicopters.

Their efforts were also fruitless.

In the end, it was an Urlings diver, Shane Tonge, who came to assist in the search for Wilford who discovered his body, fifty-five feet beneath the surface of the water.

cont'd from pg 2
charter flights.

Captain Brown, who has been transporting tourists to Antigua and Barbuda for thirty-two years, said he was "very pleased" with the government's investment in developing the facilities at St. John's Harbour.

These include the fifth pier which was designed to accommodate the world's largest cruise ships.

"I appreciate the developments including Heritage Quay, the Nevis Street Pier and now this new facility. It's a huge investment, but one that will pay dividends in the end," he said.

Tourism Minister Charles "Max" Fernandez said he was pleased with the Arvia's smooth arrival as a great deal of planning was undertaken.

"We have officials from P&O Cruise Line here observing what has been happening as this is the first sea-

son with four scheduled calls.

"Next season, we are hoping to see an increase and we also know that Royal Caribbean will also be keeping an eye on what has been happening here as they too are looking at possible homeporting, but also to bring their bigger ships which [are] wider and a little longer than the Arvia," he said.

Fernandez noted that Royal Caribbean had also been monitoring the Arvia's arrival and ability to dock, especially in the face of windy conditions.

General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, Dona Regis-Prosper, said homeporting operations is important, as it will help to develop the skills set of cruise and tourism industry workers.

"Apart from the impact on revenue and the economy, it's very important that we develop our human capital so there are significant skills that



Capt. Paul Brown and Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez exchange pleasantries with the Arvia in the background.

are being developed here in Antigua today," she stated,

Spokesman for Delisle, Walwyn, Francis, Clayton Perkins, explained that the arrival of the Arvia signalled the culmination of six months of planning.

He also noted that the company employed an additional ninety people to ensure the operation was adequately manned.

The services of thirteen large capacity buses were

also engaged to ensure that arriving passengers were smoothly transported from the V. C. Bird International Airport to St. John's Harbour.

The next departures under the new homeporting arrangement will take place on 11th and 25th February and 11th March.

Once the winter tourist season ends, new cruise departures will resume in November and continue in each cruise season until 2025.

Met Office issues High Surf Advisory

The Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services has issued a High Surf Advisory which will remain in effect for Antigua and Barbuda until Tuesday.

Also affected by the advisory are Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands.

According to the Met Office, here in Antigua and Barbuda, reefs and exposed northern and eastern coastlines with relatively shallow, gently to moderately sloping, near shore areas will be impacted most.

During this time, moderate long-period swells are expected to reach the area and affect mainly the northern and eastern coastlines.

The threat level to the life, livelihood, property and infrastructure of those us-



ing the affected coastlines is moderate to high with the potential for significant impacts.

These swells could cause life-threatening surfs and rip currents on affected coastlines.

Rip currents are powerful channels of water flowing quickly away from shore, which occur most often at low spots or breaks in the sandbar and near structures such as groins, jetties and piers.

If caught in a rip current,

relax and float, do not swim against the current. If you are able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If escape is not possible, face the shore and call or wave for help.

Small craft and sea bathers are discouraged from venturing into the water during this dangerous period.

The Met Office has indicated that beach closures, localised disruptions to marine recreation and business-

es, damage to coral reefs and disruptions to potable water from desalination are all possible outcomes of the high surf conditions.

A high surf advisory means that dangerous surfs of 2 to 3 metres or 6 to 10 feet will affect some coastlines in the advisory area, producing hazardous conditions.

During the period of the advisory, significant sea swells of 1.5 to 2.4 metres (5 to 8 feet), occasionally or locally reaching near 3.0 metres (10 feet) are expected.

Surfs, or breaking swells, of over 2 metres, or 6 feet are likely.

High tides combined with onshore wind and swell actions could also result in localised coastal flooding and beach erosion in at risk areas.

Armstrong re-arrested in Jamaica

Director of Public Prosecutions, Anthony Armstrong, and the woman with whom he is co-accused of committing three counts of fraud, Shelly-Ann Peart Campbell, were taken back into custody by Jamaican police last week after their bail was revoked and their case transferred to the Home Circuit Court.

On Thursday, prosecutors entered a motion in the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court seeking to discontinue the fraud-related charges and have the matter commenced in the high court on a voluntary bill of indictment.

A displeased Hugh Wildman, Armstrong's attorney, has accused Jamaica's DPP of undermining the Committal Proceedings Act and of perpetuating abuse of the process against his client.

Wildman has accused the Jamaican DPP of being "discourteous, oppres-

sive, and arbitrary" and says the move to re-arrest Armstrong was designed to embarrass his client.

Armstrong was charged with conspiracy and fraudulent conversion last November when he was arrested at the Norman Manley International Airport over the alleged sale eighteen years ago of three properties that belonged to a former client of his.

The former owner of the three properties alleges that Armstrong and Peart Campbell sold them without his consent and kept the proceeds of the sales for themselves.

A complaint was made by the former client to Jamaica's General Legal Council which found Armstrong guilty of professional misconduct for witnessing a legal document for someone who was not present.

It was also revealed that Armstrong began making payments to his former client, supposedly to reimburse him for the properties that were sold, but Armstrong stopped making those payments, on the advice of his lawyer, after he accused his former client of blackmailing him.

Armstrong has maintained his innocence throughout on the basis that proceeds of the sales of the disputed properties were paid to the complainant's father, who was authorised to act as his son's agent because the complainant was at the time incarcerated in the United States.

The embattled Antigua and Barbuda DPP also contends that one of the properties that was sold was owned by the complainant and his cousin, Peart Campbell.



NEWS RELEASE

Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited Completes the Integration of former Scotiabank Accounts onto Its Platform

ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA – January 26, 2023 - The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Limited (ECAB) is pleased to announce that it has completed the integration of former Scotiabank accounts onto its banking platform.

The full integration gives all ECAB's customers (legacy ECAB and former Scotiabank customers) full access to its six (6) branches and network of ATMs across the island. The integration also means that former Scotiabank customers can now fully enjoy all of ECAB's products, services, rates and benefits.

ECAB acquired Scotiabank's Antigua operations in September 2021. "Since the acquisition, the management and employees of ECAB have been working tirelessly towards this milestone of full integration", said ECAB's General Manager, Michael Spencer. Mr. Spencer further noted that he is very proud of his management team and employees for their efforts throughout the process. "I am fortunate to have a very capable and knowledgeable management team and employees, all of whom continue to be committed to ECAB's success as one of the leading banks both in Antigua and the region. I take this opportunity to publicly thank each of them for their continued support", said Mr. Spencer.

In keeping with ECAB's commitment to its employees, Mr. Spencer also noted that in addition to expanding ECAB's market reach, the acquisition has afforded many of ECAB's employees the opportunity for career advancement at various levels of the Bank's structure. Mr. Spencer added, "I am happy to see so many of our employees taking advantage of the opportunities for advancement as a result of the acquisition". ECAB will continue to create and encourage an environment for growth and development of our human capital.

The General Manager further noted that with the acquisition complete, the board, management and employees look forward to embarking on innovative ways to provide continued value creation for all of ECAB's stakeholders. "It was necessary for us to accomplish the integration within a certain time. However, now that we have done so and being fully aware of the challenges experienced by certain customers, our focus will be on resolving and improving those areas in order to fulfil our promise of value creation for all our stakeholders. So, we will not stop here; the work continues."

ECAB wishes to express its gratitude to all customers for their continued support, understanding and patience. Mr. Spencer added, "Our customers and all other stakeholders can expect more for 2023 and beyond".

-END-



Team Antigua Island Girls complete 18-hour row on four-year anniversary

Team Antigua Island Girls spent the eve of their four-year anniversary on Saturday in an 18-hour around the island row, in preparation for this summer's Pacific Challenge.

Having conquered the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge (TWAC) in 2018-19, becoming the first black team to row any ocean, the quartet is taking on the Pacific, in the inaugural competition organized by Atlantic Campaigns.

Double world record holder Mark Slats, who owns the single and doubles record for rowing the Atlantic, is nearing the end of a one-week, comprehensive training regimen with the team.

"It went really good. We were hoping for 20 hours—I said 24 hours—but we did it in 18. What I saw made me happy," Slats said post row on Friday morning.

"We see some things we need to work on, like



Elvira Bell-Bailey, Kevinia Francis, Christal Clashing and Samara Emmanuel

we've seen when they get tired, but I think it went really good," he added.

Slats has trained the team in conditions similar to those they will encounter, especially at the start of the race, with the winds on the beam of the boat.

The Pacific Challenge takes teams 2800 nautical miles from Monterey, California to Kauai, Hawaii. It begins on June 12, 2023.

The anniversary of their

historic Atlantic feat found the team going through their physical and mental paces, and fundraising.

TAIG still have a considerable way to go to raise the XCD \$405K needed to put the country back on the rowing map. Sponsors to date are the Ministry of Tourism, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Budget Marine, and Jumby Bay Fund.

The team also ex-

pressed gratitude for the generous and ongoing support of ADOMS, Amen and Amen, Antigua Slipway, Dr. Olsheath Bowen, Dr. Nicholas Fuller, GProductions, Kennedy's Club Ltd, Ondeck Maritime Training, Shell Beach Marina, Takumi Media, Yuri Christian, Courtney Boyd, and Michaelus Tracey.

Meanwhile, the team is at the tail end of a boat-naming contest for the vessel that will be their home come June.

There were 64 submissions from 51 participants. TAIG will narrow down the list they describe as fantastic and thoughtful to the top contenders and revert to the public for further input on their way to choosing a name for the RX45.

Mon 30 Day 80° ☀️ 21% NE 14 mph Sunshine and clouds mixed. High around 80F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.		Mon 30 Night 73° ☁️ 24% NNE 11 mph Partly cloudy skies. Low 73F. Winds NNE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 72%	UV Index 9 of 10	Humidity 78%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:39 am	Sunset 6:01 pm	Moonrise 1:06 pm	Moonset 1:41 am ☾ Waxing Gibbous

Halo Foundation announces School Art Competition winners

Twelve students were awarded for their creativity last Friday at Government House by Their Excellencies Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams in the eighth annual Halo Christmas Art Competition.

In brief remarks to the students and parents, the governor general indicated that although the number of participating schools slightly declined from 22 schools in 2021 to 19 schools in 2022, the number of art entries had increased.

“As I have always stressed, we recognise the importance of culture and the arts, even while we appreciate the significance of science and technology”, said Sir Rodney.

“We are therefore committed to lending our sup-



Meeghan Smith, the overall winner of the Halo Christmas Art Competition, collected the plaque and trophy on behalf of the Antigua Girls' High School.

port to encourage improvement in the areas of music, art and culture wherever possible.”

The Halo Christmas Card Competition, an annual feature on the Halo

Foundation's calendar of activities, highlights the artistic abilities of the nation's youth.

President and Founder of the Halo Foundation, H.E. Lady Sandra Williams

remarked, “Although the number of entries is more or less consistent on a yearly basis, the quality of art still requires some improvement.

“We are currently working on a project intended to further assist the improvement of art in our schools, the details of which will be announced later.”

The overall winner for the second successive year was Meeghan Smith of Antigua Girls' High School.

Awardees were presented with cheques and first place entrants also received art supplies.

The overall winner and school received trophies.

This year marked the first in which entries were submitted by disabled students through CHATS Antigua.

Guys and Dolls
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

Little Explorers receive donation from SkyTiger

Last week, SkyTiger, through its philanthropic arm SkyTigerCares, made a \$2000.00 donation to the Little Explorers Daycare and Preschool.

SkyTiger is a customer care service based in Antigua and Barbuda that provides support to companies around the world.

In a media statement on Wednesday, SkyTiger said the "...contribution will help the school with its Valentine's activities".

"It was just awesome being around the little ones," said Joyce Gilead-Andrew, Human Resource Business Partner for SkyTiger. "We hope this donation will go a long way in assisting the institution."

The Little Explorers Daycare and Preschool have been moulding the minds of children since 2016. Located



on the Old Parham Road, the school is respected for its contribution to the community and is recognised for its excellence in childcare and early childhood education.

"We are thankful for this big contribution from SkyTiger," said Anna-Rose Mack, principal of the school. "This will help to offset the cost of our Valentine Extravaganza."

BREATHTAKING VIEWS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Adventure on a guided aerial tour or charter to your next destination in style. Proudly operating the state-of-the-art Airbus EC130, CalvinAir's flights combine safety, comfort and the highest calibre of service. So soar around Montserrat's volcano, have lunch in St. Barths, or a picnic in Barbuda. The sky is no longer the limit.

For tours or charters call 268.789.HELIX or visit calvinair.com.

CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS



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



Cassava Alley and Peyton Place

By Tony Deyal

(To my friends of Cassava Alley, Trinidad, and all the other Alleys in the Caribbean. You asked for it!)

Nineteen and having got my first salary, I was under the streetlamp just up the road from my house, gambling away my money, when I heard shouts, "Police! Police!"

My family had been forced to move from the sugar cane belt of Central Trinidad to Grell Steet in the oil-field town of Siparia in the south. There, apart from playing cricket or football in the evenings, I had nothing to do but hang out or "lime" under the streetlamp where we gambled, told dirty jokes and picked the team for the next match. We constantly teased the girls passing by with endearments like, "Darling, of all my sugars you are my granulated!" or threatened their boy-friends if they were not from our neighbourhood. Because we were on the outer boundary of an area named "Cassava Alley" which had no streets, no lights and harboured fugitives from the law, we always had a lot to talk about, and even more to hide from the police.

Normally, the police avoided the "Alley" because they were not sure what they would meet there. In this case, however, they were armed with "bullpistles" (a.k.a whips made from dried bull penises). Speed was of the essence and I

headed into my Chanel No. 5- Cassava Ali. I was running as if the Dogs of Hell were behind me (and maybe they were). I was sweating, blowing and about to collapse when I ran up the steps of a house and begged for help. "Hide me, Police!" I stuttered. The owner of the house made me sit on a chair next to her two grandchildren, put a cup of coffee and a plate in front of me and advised, "If the police ask you anything, tell them you teaching the children English."

Nolan (a.k.a. Tunos):

One Carnival Monday as we were about to set off for the "best band" contest, we realised that there were no wheels on Nolan's bass. Nolan, in the midst of a good cussing for his carelessness, said, "Wait, ah coming back jest now." He left walking but returned on a bicycle from which he calmly stripped off the tires and put the wheels on his "pan-mobile".

Whatever other forms of petty larceny he dabbled in, Nolan's first love was stealing cattle. He would subsist for a while on marking cards, stealing fruits, gambling, taking candy from babies and sundry other peccadillos but then he would head straight for the nearest cowshed. He was a barn rustler. There was never a cow that he did not want to steal. He would walk into your pasture and take your cow and when the police caught



Tony Deyal

him one night stealing one that was tethered in the Siparia savannah and asked, "Where you going with that cow?" Nolan looked back and around and asked, "What cow dat? Me eh see no cow." Another time the police saw Nolan with a rope in his hand attached to which was a cow. His explanation was, "Officer, I was standing up here good, good and this cow was passing and the rope catch up on mih foot and just as I was unwrapping it from mih foot all-you come and find me." It didn't work. Nolan went off to his home away from home, the Royal Jail, cowed but not daunted.

Feco and the others:

One of my best friends and "liming partners" Franklin (a.k.a. Feco), was as lethal a pelter with the cricket ball as with a stone

or stick "licking down" mangoes from the tallest trees. He was so deadly that not even the leathery skin of an iguana could stop a piece of molten lead propelled from Feco's slingshot.

Around this time, we changed the name of Cassava Alley to "Peyton Place" because of the 1956 book by Grace Metalious which became a movie and America's first "Prime Time" tv-show. It continued for years to shock Americans (and titillate Trinidadians) with its tales of secrets, sex, and hypocrisy in a small New Hampshire town. Interestingly, nobody complained, especially the police, who felt it was the right name for our community. Our position was that there was another "Cassava Alley" in the town of La Brea where, "All they

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

have there is pitch. We have bacchanal like bush.”

Apart from Feco, we had Jimmy who, while running from the police, knocked down a latrine in which Nolan and his father were fighting for the right to hide. There was Mud, a young lady who was arrested for loudly changing a key word in the Calypso, “Archie Buck Them Up”, to one that the police considered totally inappropriate.

There was “Ambition” who earned the nickname because he never went anywhere without a tie. Most of all there was Ross, the first person I met who had no fear and absolutely no conscience. Once, when three men were hassling my girlfriend and I was going after them, Ross threw me down with, “You have exam to write” and left all three on the ground. There was also Bread Boy who got his nickname because his father owned a bakery. He

threw a beer-bottle with deadly accuracy so we called him “Bren Gun.” One night, in a fight in a club, one of the “bad-johns” was hiding behind an upturned table, popping up occasionally and throwing his bottle with relatively good aim but not hitting anyone. Bren Gun waited for him and the next time the man’s head popped up, Bren got him with a bottle straight to the forehead.

Ivan Marchand (a.k.a. Rabbi):

Rabby was our leader. He took a wild bunch of ex-convicts, would-be bandits, petty thieves, unemployed young men, gamblers, drinkers, womanisers, no hopers and sometimes dopers, and the supposedly innocent like me and welded us into a cricket and football team that won all the competitions we entered.

Rabby was only interested in winning. What he had, more than everyone I’ve ever worked for, or with, including Prime Ministers, was

leadership. Rabby was the best natural leader I ever met. Even though he boasted that “all his convictions were for wounding”, he did not need to resort to physical dominance – he was in charge and everyone knew it and respected him. What I have learnt since is that every country has its Rabbi, but there was only one Ivan Marchand.

I also learnt that I was not the only player in the games of Cassava Alley or other “Alleys” in the Caribbean. In my many years around the region, I have met many better and faster runners, more stories to tell, more leaders to fear or admire, more Rosses, Bread Boys and Nolans, and everywhere I went I found overwhelming proof that we have more in common than we have differences. In every “Alley” there are always characters very much like the ones I have written about.

**Tony Deyal was last seen saying if you like cricket, football, reading and jokes, you’re right up his alley.*



STUDENT SAFETY POLICY

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com
info@sicantigua.com
1 (268) 481-7800/04

Australia Day focuses on Black recognition in constitution

By Rod McGuirk

Australians marked the 235th anniversary of British colonisation last Thursday with a public holiday that evokes anger at Indigenous injustice, focusing national attention on a new government push to acknowledge Australia's first inhabitants in the constitution.

The government joined several large corporations in allowing staff the choice of taking the holiday off or working Thursday and taking another day off instead, in recognition of growing public unease at celebrating the 1788 hoisting of the Union Jack at Sydney Cove.

There are growing public calls to change the date of Australia Day, which is known to many Indigenous people as Invasion Day and Survival Day, because of the disastrous impacts on First Nations people of British colonists taking their land without a treaty.

The focus on Australia's chequered European history ignited debate Thursday about a referendum due late this year that would create an Indigenous body known as the Voice to address Parliament on Indigenous issues.

The referendum, expected to be held between August and November, would enshrine the Voice in the constitution.

Prime Minister Anthony



Pleasure craft and a tall ship sail on Sydney Harbour during Australia Day celebration in Sydney, Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023. Australia marks the anniversary of British colonists settling modern day Sydney in 1788 while Indigenous protesters deride Australia Day as Invasion Day. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)

Albanese committed to the referendum on the day his centre-left Labor Party government was elected in May last year.

Albanese said he wanted Indigenous people recognized as Australia's original inhabitants in the constitution, which has existed since 1901, before next year's Australia Day.

"If not now, when will this change occur? And if not the people of Australia this year, who will make this change which will improve our country, improve our national unity?" Albanese told reporters Thursday.

"It is a great country. Australia will be even better
cont'd on pg 13

Weekend Puzzle Solution

HURRY!

By Kenneth Holt

1	U	2	T	3	I	4	C	5	A	6	W	7	A	8	S	9	O	10	B	11	E	12	A	13	H	
14	S	A	R	A	N	15	A	N	A	16	R	A	D	I	O											
17	A	R	I	N	G	18	S	O	D	19	G	L	I	D	E											
20	F	A	S	T	E	21	R	A	N	D	F	A	S	T	E	22	F	A	S	T	E	R				
					23	S	L	O	B		24	U	L	N	A											
25	R	E	M			26				27					28	D	I	S	C	O			30	E	M	U
33	A	P	A	R	T	34				35					36	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L			
39	B	E	D	A	N	D	40	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T										
42	B	E	A	N	T	R	E	E							43	A	F	T	E	R						
44	I	S	M							45	A	D	E	P	T					48	E	R	A			
										49	S	A	C	S		51	R	A	S	P						
54	F	A	S	T	F	O	O	D	O	57	O	U	T	L	E	T	S									
61	A	L	O	O	F					62	R	A	T			63	R	A	M	I	E					
64	C	A	P	R	I					65	E	N	E			66	A	C	U	T	E					
67	E	S	S	E	X					68	S	A	M			69	P	E	S	O	S					

cont'd from pg 12

when we recognize our First Nations people in our constitution," he added.

Noel Pearson, an Indigenous leader and longtime advocate of constitutional change, said the Voice would be a move toward a "settlement between the natives and those who took over the continent and established modern Australia."

"This year is the most important year in the relationship between the natives of Australia and its so-called settlers in the 235 years since the landing of the First Fleet," Pearson wrote Thursday in The Sydney Morning Herald, referring to the 11 British ships carrying convicts that established Sydney as a penal colony.

But reactions to the Voice are mixed, including among Indigenous leaders.

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, an Indigenous senator for the conservative Nationals party, opposes the Voice.

Her party supports her view that the Voice would divide Australia along racial lines.

Lidia Thorpe, an Indigenous senator for the progressive Greens party, on Wednesday threatened to oppose the Voice unless the referendum question includes acknowledgement that traditional owners never gave up their land.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton said his conservative Liberal Party needed more detail about what the

Voice would entail before they could decide whether to support constitutional change.

"As you move around the community, it's quite obvious that people don't understand what it is that the prime minister's talking about," Dutton told reporters.

"They understand that changing the constitution is a big deal and, instinctively like me and like millions of Australians, we want better outcomes for Indigenous

Australians," he added.

Indigenous Australians account for 3.2% of the population and are the nation's most disadvantaged ethnic group.

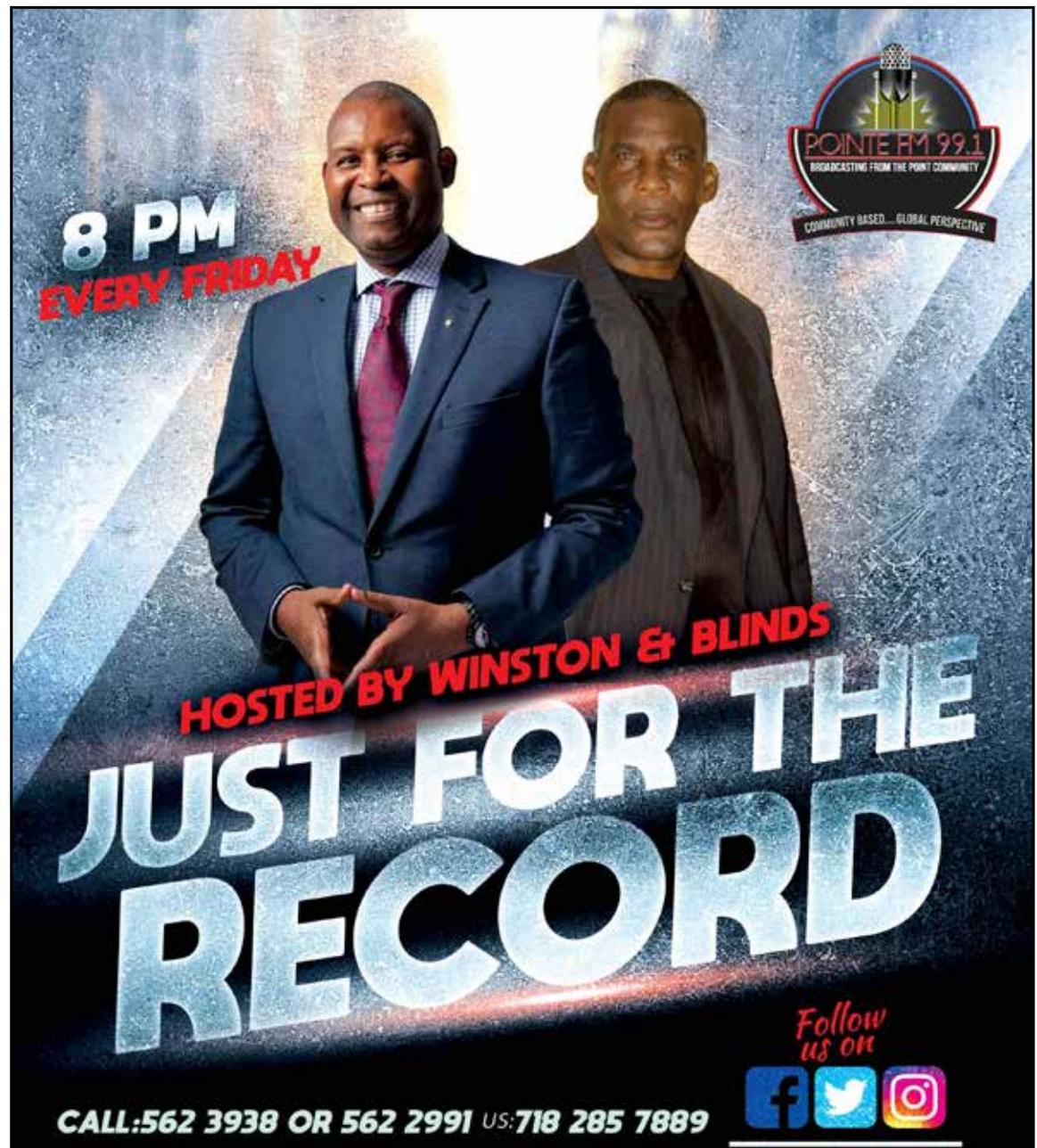
They die younger than other Australians, achieve lower education levels, are less likely to be employed and are overrepresented in prison populations.

They were not allowed to vote at federal elections until 1962, and Australian courts did not acknowledge until 1992 that their ances-

tors had legally owned the land when the British arrived.

Australia Day celebrations Thursday centred on Sydney Harbor, where attractions included an annual race of historic sailing ships.

Separately, thousands gathered in downtown Sydney to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the original Mourning Day protest in 1938 when demonstrators made demands, including citizen rights, for Indigenous Australians.



8 PM EVERY FRIDAY

HOSTED BY WINSTON & BLINDS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

CALL: 562 3938 OR 562 2991 US: 718 285 7889

Follow us on

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Knowing when to quit is an important part of being a good leader

By Tafi Mhaka

On January 19, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that she would not seek re-election and would resign by no later than February 7.

Ardern admitted that she "no longer had enough in the tank" to do justice to "the most privileged job anyone could ever have".

To this end, she listed her achievements and promised to "try and find ways to keep working for New Zealand".

While some argued she resigned only because she knew she would not be able to win another election, many applauded her for recognising her limits and described her ability to put the interests of her country above her own as inspiring.

As I watched Ardern's resignation speech on TV, I too was inspired by the magnanimous leadership and selflessness on display.

Unfortunately, Ardern is an anomaly – leaders hardly ever resign from office voluntarily, let alone admit they may no longer have "enough in the tank" to do justice to their undoubtedly demanding jobs.

Even the most hopelessly incompetent and politically spent among them rarely accept the time has come for them to call it quits. They cling to power even after it becomes obvious that they have nothing left to offer to the people and that they cannot win another free and fair election.

Such lack of self-awareness, often fuelled by selfishness, illusions of grandeur and an insatiable thirst for power, is firmly embedded in the fabric of politics, everywhere.

Indeed, politicians who try to cling to power at any cost are not the products of specific geography. Just remember



Paul Biya, the 89-year-old president of Cameroon, has been in power since 1982 [File: Charles Platiau/Reuters]

how Britain's Boris Johnson refused to leave office in the face of countless humiliating scandals and plunging public trust, or how Donald Trump desperately tried to hold on to power after losing the White House to Joe Biden.

However, watching Ardern elegantly and honourably take a bow from politics made me think primarily of Africa – my home continent which produced some of the world's most, for lack of a better word, "clingy" leaders in the modern era.

Take Yoweri Museveni, the 78-year-old president of Uganda.

After six presidential terms, or 37 years in power, he remains indifferent to suggestions that he may be better off passing the job on to someone more capable.

Under Museveni's watch, more than half of Uganda's 45 million people were plunged into poverty. Today, some 60 percent of Ugandans earn only 200,000 Ugandan shillings (\$54,74) a month, and 42.1 percent experience multidimensional poverty.

In December 2022, Museveni tried to defend his long tenure as president in an interview with Al Jazeera, claiming he is "in a government supported by the people every five years".

Of course, Uganda has not held a peaceful and credible election for more

than two decades, so his professed democratic mandate is pretty questionable. Ugandan presidential elections held in 2001, 2006, 2012, 2016 and 2021 were all blemished by government-orchestrated repression and violence, as well as severe electoral irregularities.

Museveni is continuing to "lead" Uganda not because he is the best man for the job or because he still has something to offer to the nation. He is still occupying the presidency because he is incapable of acknowledging his limitations.

And he is sadly not alone among his African peers in clinging to power at a heavy cost to his people.

Take Paul Biya, the 89-year-old president of Cameroon, who has been in power since 1982.

On January 20, a video of the elderly leader looking extremely disorientated moments before he was set to make a speech at the United States–Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC went viral on social media.

In the video, clearly struggling to remember why he is on the stage, Biya remarks, "Wow. So I have become a celebrity", and asks, "Who are all these people present?" When an aide tells him people are waiting for him to give a speech, he responds, "Are there important personalities amongst them?" He takes quite a while to gather his wits as the audience waits in stunned silence.

This shocking and embarrassing incident confirmed once again that Biya, who has been Cameroon's president for 41 years, is no longer fit for office.

For seven presidential terms, Biya ruled Cameroon with an iron fist and essentially criminalised any opposition to his rule. Today, he is clearly not in a state to rule anything, but is still refusing to leave office. His country is

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

crippled with extreme poverty, widespread corruption and violent conflicts, yet he appears to have no intention to admit he no longer has “enough left in the tank” to fulfil his most basic responsibilities as president.

As he prepares to celebrate his 90th birthday in February, it is only fair to ask: what more can Biya do for his country?

The same can be asked of Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema, the Republic of the Congo's Denis Sassou, or Eritrea's Isaias Afwerki: what do they have left in the tank?

Thankfully, Africa has also seen leaders who knew

perfectly well when to call it quits.

Take Ketumile Masire, Botswana's second president.

Like Biya and Museveni, Masire came to power in the 1980s, when much of Africa was ruled by so-called “strong men” who viewed themselves as above electoral politics. Unlike many of his peers, however, during his 18 years in power, Masire proved himself to be a massively effective leader. Under his stewardship, Botswana established one of the world's most stable democracies and best-performing economies.

Despite his many successes, however, Masire

never attempted to indefinitely hold on to power. In 1988, at the end of his third full term as president, he retired from politics and handed the country's reins over to Festus Mogae.

Today, Botswana is still considered a beacon of economic and democratic development, thanks largely to Masire's outstanding leadership at a crucial time in the country's history.

Botswana, of course, is not the only African country that benefited from leaders who knew when to retire. Ghana, Mauritius, Cape Verde and Namibia, among others, have also experienced regular and seamless leadership changes that have

helped to secure stable democracies.

None of these examples, however, seems to have registered with Africa's remaining strongmen who, even at the twilight of their lives, show no inclination to voluntarily give up on power.

As the international community celebrates the many achievements of Ardern and congratulates her for knowing her limits, Biya, Moseveni, and others like them should pay attention.

Knowing when to call it a day is an important part of being a good leader. Ardern clearly and admirably knows this. It is high time some of her African counterparts learned it too.



PLATINUM Fm
 We Entertain You **97.9**

STEELPAN MELEE

WITH **KHAN KC CORDICE**
5PM-6PM
TUESDAYS

WV

LIVE

Caribbean Community condemns the killing of police officers in Haiti

LOOP - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) says it is deeply concerned that the contrasting incidents involving the Haitian national Police indicate the severity of the challenges that the police face as well as a further breakdown in security in Haiti.

In a statement, the 15-member regional body said that it strongly condemns the killing of police officers and expressed condolences to the families of the officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

“The anger and dismay of the police at the gruesome killings of their colleagues, 78 killed since July 2021 and 14 to date this January, are shared by all.

“However, abandoning the role of the security forces to protect every citizen and maintain public order further destabilise the country. The protest actions by members of the police service against the Prime Minister cannot be condoned.”

“CARICOM urges the members of the Haitian National Police to safe-



A street vendor walks past a burning barricade that was set up by members of the police as they protest bad police governance, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, January 26, 2023. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

guard peace and order and refrain from actions which could only serve to foster even greater damage to the country and its people.”

Last week, police officers protested in Port-au-Prince against the kill-

ing of more than a dozen colleagues.

According to the National Union of Haitian Police Officers, 14 men have been killed since the start of the year in various gang attacks on police stations.

St. Vincent Nurse appears in court in multi-million dollar cocaine trial

CMC - A St. Vincent nurse is facing two charges related to cocaine with a street value of EC\$1.8 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents).

Magistrate Rechanne Browne Friday adjourned the case until Monday next week.

Lucresha Nanton, 35, pleaded guilty at the Serious Offences Court to the possession charge.



However, she pleaded not guilty to possession of the drug for the purpose of drug trafficking.

It is reported that on January 22, 2022, she had

in her possession 59,939 grams of cocaine with intent to supply.

The prosecutor told the Magistrate’s Court that it needed some time to de-

cide how to proceed as regards to the not guilty plea.

The state also disclosed that it had received a document from the defence counsel Ronald “Ronnie” Marks and had not been able to properly examine the document.

Chief Magistrate Browne adjourned the matter to Monday and allowed the nurse to remain on bail.

Dozens of Yanomami children hospitalised in northern Brazil amid health crisis

Reuters - Dozens of indigenous children suffering from malnutrition and acute diseases have been hospitalised in northern Brazil, with relatives in hammocks holding their emaciated frames in scenes that underscore the gravity of a public health crisis.

The health secretary of Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima state, said on Friday that 59 indigenous children were currently at the only paediatric hospital in the state, 45 of them from the Yanomami people. Eight were under intensive care.

That compares to a total of 703 hospitalisations in all of last year, the secretary said, noting that most children have been taken to hospital for acute diarrhoea, gastroenterocolitis, malnutrition, pneumonia and malaria.

Brazil's government last week declared a medical emergency in the Yanomami territory, the country's largest indigenous reservation, after reports of children dying of malnutrition and other diseases caused by illegal gold mining.

"Malnutrition is the biggest problem right now," Boa Vista Health Secretary Regiane Matos told Reuters in an interview. "These people were forgotten in their communities. In recent years it has only gotten worse, and what we want now are solutions".

She said illegal mining in the region "aggravated" the crisis, severely polluting the territory's crucial waterways, where Yanomamis get their water and food.

Officials have called the crisis a "genocide," blaming the administration of former President Jair Bolson-



A Yanomami indigenous child, 4, who is treated for malnutrition, lies in a hammock at the special yard for indigenous people of the Santo Antonio Children's Hospital, in Boa Vista, Roraima state, Brazil, January 27, 2023. REUTERS/Amanda Perobelli

aro for the neglect, with some saying the territory now looks like a "concentration camp".

The reservation has been invaded by illegal miners for decades, but incursions multiplied after Bolsonaro won office in 2018 promising to allow mining on previously protected lands.

"The invaders contaminated and destroyed the rivers, and people have been drinking dirty water," said the head of the local Yanomami health council, Junior Hekurari Yanomami, adding that malaria cases have also spiked in recent years.

The Yanomami calls for the government to combat the disease were not responded to, he said, accusing the Bolsonaro administration of "negligence".

On Thursday, Brazil's Supreme

Court said in a statement it had noticed signs that the Bolsonaro government had failed to comply with court decisions aimed at protecting the Yanomamis.

At the Boa Vista paediatric hospital, Reuters witnessed several indigenous children so thin their ribs were visible.

Their parents called out for help.

"Many are sick, there is no food!" said Marcelo Yanomami, the father of one hospitalised child. "Many of our relatives have died. Many Yanomami have died."

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited the region last week. Brazil's Air Force on Friday opened a field hospital in Boa Vista to provide care for some 700 Yanomami people, in addition to flights delivering food in the region.

Peru's protest 'deactivators' run toward tear gas to stop it

AP - When police fire tear gas at protesters demanding the resignation of Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, most run away.

A few, though, run toward the gas canisters as quickly as possible - to neutralise them.

These are the "deactivators." Donning gas masks, safety goggles and thick gloves, these volunteers grab the hot canisters and toss them inside large plastic bottles filled with a mixture of water, baking soda and vinegar.

The deactivators made their debut in Peru street protests in 2020, inspired by protesters in Hong Kong who in 2019 unveiled new strategies to counteract the eye-stinging, breath-stealing effects of tear gas. With protesters in Lima facing a nearly daily fusillade of tear gas, more people have joined the ranks of deactivators trying to shield them and keep the demonstrations going.

Peruvians have been protesting since early December, when former President Pedro Castillo was impeached after a failed attempt to dissolve Congress. His vice president, Boluarte, immediately took over - and has faced strong opposition ever since.

Fifty-eight people have died in connection with the unrest, including one police officer. Forty-six of the deaths occurred during direct clashes between protesters and police.

The protests have exposed deep divisions in the country between the urban elites and the rural poor. Demonstrations were first largely concentrated in the south, a long-neglected region of Peru that felt a particular kinship to Castillo's humble background as a rural teacher from the Andean highlands. But earlier this month, thousands descended on Peru's capital, and police



Anti-government protesters take refuge behind a shield during clashes with police, in Lima, Peru, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023. Protesters are seeking immediate elections, Boluarte's resignation, the release of ousted President Pedro Castillo and justice for protesters killed in clashes with police. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

met them with tear gas. Lots and lots of tear gas.

On Thursday, as protesters gathered in downtown Lima, Alexander Gutiérrez Padilla, 45, was giving a brief course to anyone who would listen around Plaza San Martín about how to mix vinegar and baking soda into the water and how to grab the tear gas canisters most efficiently.

"If we don't deactivate, people disperse and the protest breaks," Gutiérrez said. "That's why we're pillars of this demonstration."

Next to him was Wilfredo Huertas Vidal, 25, who has taken it upon himself to collect donations to buy gloves and other protective equipment and hand them out to those who want to help.

"Who wants gloves? Who wants gloves?" he yelled as he stood next to several large bottles of water, gas masks and eye goggles.

When protesters descended on

Lima earlier this month, old networks were reactivated. A tactic first seen in Peru in late 2020 during protests against then-President Manuel Merino resurfaced.

Vladimir Molina, 34, who participated in the 2020 protests, now runs what he calls a "brigade." It consists of around 60 people, including paramedics, deactivators and "front-line" activists who stand in the middle of protesters and police with shields, in an effort to block any pellets or tear gas police may fire into the crowd.

"Every day more and more people are joining," Molina said. Interest in his group is so great that he's made it a requirement for anyone who wants to join to have their own equipment.

By tossing the hot tear gas cartridges into the water solution, "what they do is extinguish the pyrotechnical charge so the tear gas cannot come out anymore," said Sven Eric Jordt, a professor of anesthesiology at Duke

cont'd on pg 19

UK leader fires party chairman over tax bill allegations

AP - British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak fired the chairman of the governing Conservative Party on Sunday for a "serious breach" of ethics rules in failing to come clean about a tax dispute.

Sunak had faced days of pressure to sack Nadhim Zahawi amid allegations he settled a multimillion-dollar unpaid tax bill while he was in charge of the country's Treasury.

The prime minister acted after a standards probe found Zahawi had breached the ministerial code of conduct. It said he had failed to disclose details of his dispute with tax authorities and



Conservative Party chairman Nadhim Zahawi leaves the Conservative Party head office in Westminster, central London, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant, File)

the fact that he had paid a penalty.

In a letter to Zahawi, Sunak said he had been forced to act to keep his promise that his government "would have integrity, profession-

alism and accountability at every level."

Zahawi had acknowledged the tax dispute but argued his error was "careless and not deliberate."

In his response to Sunak,

Zahawi pledged to support the prime minister as a backbench lawmaker and made no reference to the ethics inquiry. He attacked the media - which first revealed his whopping tax bill, reported at almost 5 million pounds (\$6.2 million) - and claimed some reporting did not reflect "legitimate scrutiny of public officials."

Zahawi headed the U.K. Treasury from July to September 2022 in the final months of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's tenure, and was appointed Conservative Party chairman when Sunak took office in October.

Sunak has vowed to *cont'd on pg 20*

cont'd from pg 18

University.

Water alone should achieve what the protesters want, although the carbon dioxide created by mixing vinegar and baking soda could "form a foam bath that suffocates the charge" further, Jordt speculated.

It may be only a matter of time before authorities deploy methods to blunt the deactivators' effectiveness. Manufacturers are now developing tear gas with plastic cartridges that stick to the road so it "can't be lifted up anymore," Jordt said.

Fearful of being targeted by police and prosecutors, many of the deactivators prefer to remain anonymous, keeping their faces covered even when there's no tear gas around.

Boluarte has given strong backing to law enforcement, and the government recently announced a bonus for police officers. Boluarte has character-

ised the work of police controlling the Lima protests as "immaculate," despite their often indiscriminate firing of tear gas and pellets. In contrast, she says the demonstrations are violent and financed by drug-trafficking rings and illegal miners.

Andrea Fernández, 22, is new to deactivating tear gas.

"The truth is I love the adrenaline," Fernández said shortly after grabbing a pair of gloves from Huertas and listening to the instructions closely.

She said she hadn't been really interested in the country's political crisis at first. Then the deaths started piling up.

"There are a lot of farmers who've come from lots of parts of Peru and they come here to march, face-to-face, but don't have the necessary protection," Fernández said.

Felix Davillo, 37, also says the casualties pushed him to become a deac-

tivator.

"I made this decision for all the death that is going on in Puno right now," Davillo said, referring to a region in Peru that has experienced some of the deadliest protests.

A general lack of protective equipment has also meant protesters have been injured by the widespread use of less lethal weapons.

From January 19 to 24, Doctors Without Borders treated 73 patients at the Lima protests suffering from exposure to tear gas, pellet wounds, contusions or psychological distress, the non-profit organisation said.

The deactivators' increased chance of injury doesn't scare Julio Incarocas Belize, who grabbed one of the big water bottles in the plaza for his first day trying to diffuse tear gas.

"I served in the military and I've never been afraid," Incarocas, 28, said. "I'm fighting for my homeland."

Tyre Nichols: Police unit is disbanded after death

BBC - The Memphis Police Department has disbanded the so-called Scorpion special unit, whose officers are accused of murdering Tyre Nichols.

Scorpion stands for "Street Crimes Operation to Restore Peace in Our Neighbourhoods".

The unit is a 50-person team tasked with bringing down crime levels in particular areas.

But now it is being abolished after its officers were

seen beating Mr Nichols, 29, in the videos from 7 January.

In a statement, the department said "it is in the best interest of all to permanently deactivate" the unit.

"While the heinous actions of a few cast a cloud of dishonour on the title Scorpion, it is imperative that we, the Memphis Police Department, take proactive steps in the healing process for all impacted," it added.

Mr Nichols' family

welcomed the decision in a statement from their lawyers, calling it "both appropriate and proportional to the tragic death of Tyre Nichols, and also a decent and just decision for all citizens of Memphis".

The unit was launched in October 2021 with a focus on high-impact crimes, such as car thefts and gang-related offences.

The five officers - Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Desmond Mills Jr, Emmitt

Martin III and Justin Smith - were fired last week.

They were taken into custody on Thursday and each faces charges of second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct and official oppression.

Four of the five posted bail and were released from custody by Friday morning, according to jail records.

Lawyers for Mr Martin and Mr Mills have said their

cont'd on pg 21

cont'd from pg 19

restore order and integrity to government after three years of turmoil under predecessors Johnson - brought down by ethics scandals - and Liz Truss, who quit within weeks after her policies rocked the U.K. economy.

Last week he asked the government's standards adviser, Laurie Magnus, to investigate Zahawi's tax affairs and said he would wait for the results before acting.

In a report released Sunday, Magnus found Zahawi had shown "insufficient regard" for the requirement "to be honest, open and an exemplary leader through his own behaviour" in public life.

The investigation into Zahawi by HMRC, the U.K's tax office, centred around the sale of some 27 million pounds (\$33.4 million) in shares in YouGov, an opinion polling firm he co-founded. The probe began in April 2021, but Zahawi did not declare it when he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer more than a year later.

The Magnus report found there

should have been an understanding from the outset that the matter was serious. It said this was not reflected in public statements given by Zahawi, until he confirmed on Jan. 21 that a settlement had been reached.

Zahawi said Sunday it had been "the privilege of my life" to serve in government. The 55-year-old, who came to Britain as a child refugee from Iraq, was vaccines minister in the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, and later served a nine-month stint as education minister.

The Zahawi episode was a test of the authority of Sunak, who is grappling with a staggering economy and a deeply divided Conservative Party. Standards inquiries are also underway into Johnson - over claims he secured a loan with the help of a Conservative donor who was later appointed chairman of the BBC - and Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, who faces allegations he bullied staff.

The stories are fuel for opponents who accuse Sunak - a former investment banker who is married to the

daughter of an Indian billionaire - of leading a government of the wealthy that is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people.

Last year, it was revealed that his wife Akshata Murthy didn't pay U.K. tax on her overseas income, including 11.5 million pounds a year in dividends from Infosys, the Indian IT company founded by her father. The practice was legal, but it looked insensitive at best at a time when Sunak - who was then the U.K. Treasury chief - was raising taxes for millions of Britons.

Housing Secretary Michael Gove said Sunak had shown integrity in waiting for the facts before firing Zahawi.

"The electorate will have a chance to pass judgement," he told Times Radio.

"I hope and believe that by the time of the next general election, people will have seen that Rishi Sunak is someone who is deeply moral, deeply public spirited, and committed, above all, to public service."

cont'd from pg 20

clients will plead not guilty.

Shelby County Sheriff Floyd Bonner Jr said two deputy sheriffs who "appeared on the scene following" the confrontation have also been suspended pending an internal investigation.

"The unit that murdered Tyre has been permanently disbanded," a protester shouted into a megaphone in Memphis and the crowd erupted into cheers.

Despite the rain, the group of fewer than 100 protesters had gathered in the square in front of the Memphis Police headquarters to demand change to a system of policing that they said makes a habit of brutalising black people in Memphis and across the country.

"Memphis is taking a stand," said Casio Montez, one of the protest organisers. "This means we're doing something right."

Mr Montez vowed that he and other community organisers would continue to pressure Memphis Police Chief CJ Davis and city officials until "the community's demands are met", including reforming the department's organised crime unit.

In an interview with BBC News on Friday, Chief Davis said the Scorpion unit was created to be "more responsive" and "more proactive" to gun violence in the city. But she acknowledged that the officers who brutally beat Tyre Nichols "decided to go off the rails".

"We are doing an in-



Mr Nichols died three days after an encounter with police at a traffic stop

dividual evaluation of all units," she said. "This is a necessary step. We want to be fully transparent to the community."

But for some, the problem of police violence is more deeply rooted than any reform can address.

At the rally Saturday, Memphis native Allie Watkins held a sign that proclaimed, "All cops uphold white supremacy."

The sign is historically accurate, she said, because the history of policing in America began with slave patrols.

"This is not an issue of corruption in the United States, this is an issue of the fact that the system has been built against black bodies," she said. If the system is broken, she added, the only way to fix it is to start again.

"We need to have national criminal justice reform", Gloria Browne-Marshall, a professor of constitutional

law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, told the BBC. She said units like the Scorpion unit exist "across the country" so piecemeal reform was not going to be a solution.

Police initially said Mr Nichols had been stopped on suspicion of reckless driving, which has not been substantiated. He died in hospital three days later, on 10 January.

Mr Nichols was black, as are all five officers charged in the case.

Memphis Police Department released four graphic videos of the traffic stop and its violent aftermath on Friday, totalling more than an hour of footage.

Peaceful protests took place in Memphis on Friday night after the video was released, with some demonstrators blocking a major highway in the city, while small-scale demonstrations were held elsewhere in the

country.

Many protesters held banners demanding justice for Mr Nichols and an end to "police terror".

Lawyers for Mr Nichols' family likened the assault to the 1991 police beating of Los Angeles motorist Rodney King.

The Scorpion programme was touted by Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland in a speech a year ago. He said the city used crime data "to determine where the unit will conduct its enforcement activities within the city".

From October 2021 until January 2022, the unit made 566 arrests, he said. They also seized more than \$100,000 in cash, 270 vehicles and 253 weapons.

In the wake of Mr Nichols' death, one local man, Cornell McKinney, told a Memphis-area TV network that he had a tense encounter with the unit on 3 January, just days before the incident involving Mr Nichols.

Mr McKinney alleges that the officers - who were travelling in unmarked vehicles - threatened to "blow his head off", pointed a weapon at his head and accused him of carrying drugs.

He complained to the Memphis Police Department after the incident, but says he has not heard anything back.

One of the officers that arrested Mr Nichols had previously been sued by a man who accused him of beating him when he was a prisoner eight years ago.

Usain Bolt says his love for Jamaica will never change

CMC - Retired Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt says he still loves Jamaica and Jamaicans and that will never change.

Bolt declared that despite recent happenings, Jamaica remains his home and that he will continue to support the country.

The Olympian was speaking at a sponsor's luncheon for the 2023 Gibson Relays at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston.

There remains shock and outrage in Jamaica and elsewhere that Bolt was among investors affected by a massive fraud at investment firm Stocks and Securities Limited (SSL)

Bolt has indicated through his lawyer that he had a balance of US\$12.7 million at SSL as at October 31, 2022, but that figure declined to US\$12,000 on January 11.

The attorneys representing Bolt gave SSL ten days to return the track



Usain Bolt (file photo)

star's investments "or face a huge lawsuit".

A multi-agency probe is being conducted.

The Jamaican government Monday announced that the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will assist local authorities in the investigation.

"No stone will be left unturned," Finance Minister Dr. Nigel Clarke told a news conference as he delivered a special policy address on regulation of the financial sector in response to

the scandal that has rocked the nation.

"The investigative authorities have full operational independence and will pursue the facts wherever they may lead. They will unearth exactly how funds were allegedly stolen, who benefited from such theft and who organised and collaborated in this."

Clarke said the probe will also seek to identify whether assets have been acquired locally or overseas with the proceeds of the alleged fraud and if and when such assets are identified, "all legal steps will be taken to restrain these assets with the intention of full forfeiture".

Speaking today, Bolt emphasised that his love for his homeland will never change despite current events.

"I will always love my country and do everything in my power to uplift this country no matter what's going on."

Newcastle signs Anthony Gordon from Everton for \$49.5M

AP - Newcastle signed Anthony Gordon from Everton reportedly for an initial 40 million pounds (\$49.5 million) on Sunday after the 21-year-old winger submitted a formal transfer request.

Newcastle said Gordon has signed a long-term deal as the team bolsters its squad for its tilt at qualifying for the Champions League. It is currently in third place in the Premier League.

"I think the fan base and the city really suits me as a person, the way the team are playing under the (manager Eddie Howe) at the minute

really suits me, and the club just look like they're heading in the right direction," Gordon said.

"I feel like it's a really big step. People haven't seen what I'm capable of yet."

Gordon joined Everton's academy at the age of 11 and made his senior debut as a 16-year-old in a Europa League match in December 2017.

Everton announced the departure of Gordon in a brief statement.

Howe described Gordon as a "top, top talent."



Everton's Anthony Gordon runs during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Southampton at Goodison Park in Liverpool, England, Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023. (AP Photo/Jon Super)

"I'm really excited to work with him, to develop him, and I'm looking forward to seeing what he can do in a Newcastle shirt," Howe added.

West Indies Academy players secure selection in West Indies Championship squads

Five members of the West Indies Academy have earned places in franchise teams for the first and second rounds of the upcoming West Indies Championship four-day first-class tournament, starting on 31 January.

The West Indies Academy players that have been selected are Kirk McKenzie, left-handed batter for Jamaica Scorpions; Kevin Wickham, right-handed batter for Barbados Pride; Ashmead Nedd, left-arm spinner for Guyana Harpy Eagles; and Teddy Bishop, right-handed batter for Windward Islands Volcanoes. Kelvin Pitman the right-arm fast bowler has been listed in the 13-member provisional squad named by the Leeward Islands Hurricanes.

Graeme West, CWI's High-Performance Manager who has overseen the West Indies Academy programme since its inception in 2022, anticipates good performances from the players when the tournament bowls off next week in Grenada and Antigua.

West said, "It is really good to see players being selected to participate in the West Indies Championship. It shows the investment made by CWI in the development of these young players is bearing fruit. The West Indies Academy played in the CG United Super50 last November, some players



also got picked in the CPL earlier in the year, and this was great exposure in the white ball formats. Now, with the first two rounds of the West Indies Championship in front of us, we have players being selected for the red ball format and we hope to see more graduates later in the tournament as well."

West added, "In addition to playing in the four-day tournament, we also have the chance to play in the Headley Weekes Tri-Series in April and May, another major investment in player development by CWI. This is an amazing opportunity for these young players to match skills against some of the region's best and we view this as the right kind of platform at this stage in their development. They equipped themselves very well in the 50-over format last year in the CG United

Super50 Cup and we anticipate more growth and eye-catching performances when they match up in the red ball format as well."

The tournament will open with the Windward Islands Volcanoes hosting the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force at the Grenada National Stadium (GNS). This match will start on 31 January and will continue on 1 to 3 February.

In Antigua, defending champions Barbados Pride will start their bid for a hat-trick of titles when they face Guyana Harpy Eagles in the feature match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) on 1 to 4 February. The third contest will see Leeward Islands Hurricanes hosting Jamaica Scorpions at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) from 1 to 4 February.

The second round will be played from 8 to 11 Feb-

ruary when Barbados Pride will meet the Jamaica Scorpions at CCG; Trinidad & Tobago Red Force travel to face Leeward Islands Red Force at SVRS, and Guyana take on Windward Islands Volcanoes at GNS.

Following the West Indies Championship, the new Headley Weekes Series will follow the West Indies Championship and will feature three matches and three teams.

Team Headley and Team Weekes will select from the best performers in the 2023 West Indies Championship and players outside the starting West Indies Test XI. The new West Indies Academy will provide the third team in the new Series.

Team Headley and Team Weekes are named in honour of West Indies pioneers and legendary batting greats George Headley and Sir Everton Weekes, whose names are also honoured on the Trophy for the winners of the West Indies Championship. All three matches will be played from 18 April to 6 May at CCG in Antigua.

Every West Indies Championship match will be streamed live on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel. Fans can follow each and every game from their mobile devices, computers or connected TVs, including access to live ball-by-ball scoring on the windiescricket.com live match centre.

Sports News



Novak Djokovic claims 10th Australian Open title, 22nd Slam

AP - Novak Djokovic climbed into the Rod Laver Arena stands to celebrate his 10th Australian Open championship and record-tying 22nd Grand Slam title Sunday and, after jumping and pumping his fists with his team, he collapsed onto his back, crying.

When he returned to the playing surface, Djokovic sat on his sideline bench, buried his face in a white towel and sobbed some more.

This trip to Australia was far more successful than that of a year ago - when he was deported because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19 - although difficult in its own ways: a bad hamstring; some off-court tumult involving his father. Yet Djokovic accomplished all he could have possibly wanted in his return: He resumed his winning ways at Melbourne Park and made it back to the top of tennis, declaring: "This probably is the, I would say, biggest victory of my life."

Only briefly challenged in the final, Djokovic was simply better at the most crucial moments and beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5). As a bonus, Djokovic will vault from No. 5 to No. 1 in the ATP rankings, a spot he already has held for more weeks than any other man.

"This has been one of the most challenging tour-



Novak Djokovic of Serbia kisses the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

naments I've ever played in my life, considering the circumstances. Not playing last year; coming back this year," Djokovic said, wearing a zip-up white jacket with a "22" on his chest. "And I want to thank all the people that made me feel welcome, made me feel comfortable, to be in Melbourne, to be in Australia."

The 35-year-old from Serbia stretched his unbeaten streak in Melbourne to 28 matches, the longest run there in the Open era, which dates to 1968. He adds trophy No. 10 to the seven from Wimbledon, three from the U.S. Open - where he also was absent last year because of no coronavirus shots - and two from the French Open, to match rival Rafael Nadal for the most by a man.

Only two women - Margaret Court, with 24, and

Serena Williams, with 23 - are ahead of him.

This was also the 93rd ATP tour-level title for Djokovic, breaking a tie with Nadal for the fourth-most.

"I would like to thank you for pushing our sport so far," Tsitsipas told Djokovic.

"He is the greatest," Tsitsipas said, "that has ever held a tennis racket."

Djokovic was participating in his 33rd major final, Tsitsipas in his second - and the 24-year-old from Greece also lost the other, at the 2021 French Open, to Djokovic.

On a cool evening under a cloud-filled sky, and with a soundtrack of chants from supporters of both men prompting repeated pleas for quiet from the chair umpire, Djokovic was superior throughout, especially so in

the two tiebreakers.

He took a 4-1 lead in the first, then reeled off the last three points. He led 5-0 in the closing tiebreaker and, when it finished, he pointed to his temple before screaming, a prelude to all of the tears.

"Very emotional for us. Very emotional for him," said Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic. "It's a great achievement. It was a really tough three weeks for him. He managed to overcome everything."

Djokovic acknowledged all of the issues created strain for him.

"It took an enormous amount of mental and emotional energy," Djokovic said, "to really keep it tight, keep my focus."

Keep in mind: It's not as though Tsitsipas played all that poorly, other than a rash of early miscues that seemed to be more a product of tension than anything. It's that Djokovic was too unyielding. Too accurate with his strokes, making merely 22 unforced errors, 20 fewer than his foe. Too speedy and flexible on the run (other than when, moving to his left, Djokovic took a tumble).

"I did everything possible," said Tsitsipas, who also would have moved to No. 1 with a victory, replacing Carlos Alcaraz, who sat out the Australian Open with a leg injury.

Gardens Stars extend unbeaten run to remain First Division leaders

Garden Stars extended their unbeaten run to eight matches to remain leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division League on Thursday, 26th January.

Jahred Williams scored a penalty one minute before the end of regulation to allow Garden Stars to snatch a 2 - 1 victory against JSC Progressors in the first game of a double header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Andre Mark snatched a late equaliser for JSC Progressors by converting a penalty in the 86th minute before Williams also scored Garden Stars' winner from the penalty spot in the 89th minute.

Following a goalless first half, Wilden Cornwall Jr. gave Garden Stars a 1 - 0 lead with a 64th minute conversion.

Their seventh win in eight outings lifted Garden Stars to 22 points at the top of the First Division.

It was the seventh loss in nine matches for JSC Progressors, who remained in the cellar position with 4 points.

Green City came from behind to claim a 2 - 1 win against Lion Hill at the Bendals playing field to advance into second place and move within a point of Garden Stars.

Renford Harris scored in the 25th minute to give Lion Hill a 1 - 0 halftime



Garden Stars extended their unbeaten run to eight matches to remain leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division on Thursday, 26th January. (File photo)

lead.

Shaquan Simmons scored the equaliser in the 52nd minute and teammate Carlton Warner converted Green City's winner with a 73rd minute conversion.

The win lifted Green City to 21 points from nine matches while their fourth loss in eight matches ensured that Lion Hill remained on 10 points.

John Hughes advanced to third place by pulling off a 3 - 1 win against Police in the second game of the double header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Police took a 1-0 lead when Daniel Bryan scored in the 34th minute.

Troy Jules converted the first of two goals in the match with a 44th minute strike to draw John Hughes level as both teams finished the first half deadlocked 1 - 1.

John Hughes went on to

win the encounter, however, after scoring two more goals in the second half.

A Deno Bryan 58th minute conversion gave them a 2 - 1 lead and Jules scored his second goal of the match in the 73rd minute to wrap up John Hughes' victory.

Their fifth win in nine matches lifted John Hughes to 17 points while their opponents remained on 10 points after losing for the fourth time in eight appearances.

Bendals stayed in fourth place by beating hosts Young Lions 3 - 0 at the Old Road playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Okeski Ledeatte scored in the 50th minute, Alvah Guishard had a 52nd minute conversion and Ken Murray netted in the 81st minute for Bendals in the second half.

Their fifth win in nine outings lifted Bendals to 16

points, while Young Lions remained in fifth place with 12 points after succumbing to their fourth loss in eight encounters.

Bolans recorded a 2 - 1 win over Potters Tigers at the Bolans playing field. Orlando Peters scored the winner for Bolans in the 58th minute after Brian Davis had scored an equaliser for Potters Tigers in the 53rd minute.

Taiem Tonge had given Bolans a 1-0 halftime lead with a 44th minute conversion.

Their second win in six outings lifted Bolans to 6 points, the same as Potters Tigers, who have played eight matches.

The result means that Potters Tigers Will stay third from bottom of the standings on goal difference ahead of Bolans, who remain second from bottom.

Cornwall hits century in Leeward Islands intra-squad practice game

Rahkeem “Jimbo” Cornwall, struck a century during a Leeward Islands intra-squad three-day game at Ball Beef, Liberta Village over the weekend.

Cornwall captained Team B in the drawn affair against Team A which was skippered by wicketkeeper/batsman Jahmar Hamilton.

The allrounder slammed an unbeaten 107 in his side’s first innings for a total of 225 all out in 78.1 overs.

The burly right-hander batted for 193 minutes, faced 141 balls and smashed away 5 sixes and 11 fours.

Cornwall shared a 60 run sixth wicket partnership with Nino Henry, who made just eight runs.

Opener Montcin Hodge (32) was just one of four Leeward Islands Team B



Allrounder, Rahkeem “Jimbo” Cornwall, struck a century during a Leeward Islands intra-squad three-day game at Ball Beef, Liberta Village over the weekend. (File Photo)

batsmen to reach double figures.

Kian Pemberton picked up three wickets for 29 runs in 12 overs while leg spinner, Hayden Walsh Jr., captured 3 for 33 in 13 overs.

Cornwall’s team still conceded a 121-run first innings deficit to Leeward Islands Team A, however, after they won the toss and opted to take first strike at the crease.

Left-handed opener, Kieran Powell, missed out on a century by one run as the Leeward Islands Team A posted an impressive 346 for 7, declared, in 106 overs.

Kieran Powell tallied 99 in 313 minutes of batting during which he faced 189 balls, and struck 13 fours and a six.

He shared an 82 run third wicket partnership with Terrance Ward who made 33, and was involved in a 65 run opening stand with Mikyle Louis, who scored 32.

Karima Gore struck 54 off 82 balls with 6 fours and a six, and shared a sixth wicket partnership with Jeremiah Louis, who also cracked 54 not out off 83 balls with 6 fours and a six.

Off spinner, Kofi James, claimed 2 for 19 and Corn-

cont’d on pg 27

cont’d from pg 28

7 points while Willikies remained on 13 points from eight appearances.

Akeem Isaac scored twice to lead Pigotts Bullets to a 4 - 2 victory over SAP in Saturday’s feature match.

Tyrique Thwaites opened the scoring with a 28th minute conversion.

Three minutes later, Akeem Isaac netted his first to double the lead and Isaac Hughes scored on the stroke of halftime with a 45th minute conversion to give Pigotts Bullets a 3 - 0 advantage at the interval.

Kevon Samuel pulled a goal back for SAP with a goal in the 76th minute before Akeem Isaac netted his second in the 81st minute to complete the scoring for Pigotts Bullets.

Shaquan Telemaque scored a late sec-

ond goal for SAP in added time (90+4 minutes).

Their third win in eight matches lifted Pigotts to 13 points while SAP’s third defeat in eight outings ensured they remained on 13 points, but ahead of Bullets on goal difference.

Empire and Old Road fought to a 2 - 2 draw in the opening fixture of the ninth week of Premier League matches on Friday.

Rakeem Joseph put Empire ahead with a goal in the 7th minute, but Raheem Derville scored two goals in the 27th and 31st minutes to give Old Road a 2 - 1 half-time lead. Shemar Scott scored Empire’s equaliser with a 65th minute conversion.

The result lifted Old Road to 18 points from nine matches while Empire advanced to 7 points from eight appearances.

Young Guns, Fearless Crew1 record wins in ABBA Second Division

Cutie's Ovals Young Guns and Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Fearless Crew1 recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday, 28th January.

Baldwin Anthony shot a game high 33 points and 18 rebounds to lead Cutie's Ovals Young Guns to a 68 - 44 victory against Wadadli Elites2 in the first game of a Zone 2 double header.

Jayleyle Joseph sank 10 points and eight rebounds while De-Lomge Jules chipped in with 10 points for the winners.

Joshua Archibald converted 14 points and Devante Carter scored 13 points, with 7 steals, 6 rebounds and 6 assists for Wadadli Elites2.

Fearless Crew1 snatched a 68 - 63

victory against Flyers2 in the second game of the double header. R

afiki Harris scored 17 points, Mahki Carbon converted 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds while Alex Williams sank 10 points with 7 rebounds for Fearless Crew1.

Javonte Daley scored 19 points and pulled down 7 rebounds, Adrian Carnegie had 15 points and six steals and Jaheem James sank 11 points for Flyers2.

Meanwhile, Old Road Daggers overcame Wadadli Elites1 by 9 points on Thursday, 26th January.

Ariel Quallis produced an impressive all-round performance to lead Old Road Daggers to a 97 - 86 victory in the Zone 1 affair.

Quallis shot a game high of 52 points, 19 rebounds, 7 steals and 7 blocked shots.

He was well supported by Ezekiel Francis, who scored 29 points with 23 rebounds and 7 blocked shots.

Teammate Victor Osbourne chipped in with 14 points for the winners.

Wadadli Elites1 were led by point guard Tequan Brodie with 24 points.

Shaheim O'marde scored 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, Jamie Robinson sank 13 points and Orion Seraphine chipped in with 10 points for Wadadli Elites1.

The ABBA Second Division continues with a Zone 2 double header at the JSC Sports Complex today.

Daryll Matthew's Ottos Clippers will meet the Gaston Browne's Pointville Ballers at 6:45pm while Wadadli Elites2 will take on Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Fearless Crew1 at 8:30pm.

cont'd from pg 26

wall, bowling his right-arm off spin, also picked up 2 wickets for 32 runs in 13 overs.

The Leewards Islands Team A then made 96 for 7, declared, in 30 overs with Kofi James snapping up 4 for 18 and pacer Nino Henry taking 2 wickets for 7 runs.

Set 218 for victory, Leewards Islands Team B were struggling on 50 for 4 at the end of the match.

The tall, teenage off spinner, Onaje Amory, captured 2 wickets for 20 runs.

The match formed part

of the Leeward's preparations ahead of this week's start of the West Indies Championship, the region's first class four-day red ball tournament in which the first two rounds of matches will be played in Antigua and Grenada.

The tournament will open with the Windward Islands Volcanoes hosting Trinidad & Tobago Red Force at the Grenada National Stadium (GNS). This match will start this Tuesday and will continue from 1st to 3rd February.

In Antigua, defending champions, Barbados Pride,

will start their bid for a third straight title when they face Guyana Harpy Eagles in the feature match at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium (SVRCS) from 1st to 4th February.

The third contest will see the Leeward Islands Hurricanes hosting the Jamaica Scorpions at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) from 1st to 4th February.

The second round will be played from 8th to 11th February when Barbados Pride meets Jamaica Scorpions at CCG.

Trinidad & Tobago Red

Force will then travel to face the Leeward Islands Hurricanes at the SVRCS, and the Guyana Harpy Eagles will take on Windward Islands Volcanoes at GNS.

The third round of the West Indies Championship resumes on 15th March with the final round concluding on 1st April when the 2023 champions will be crowned and presented with the Headley Weekes Trophy.

The final three rounds will all be played in Trinidad and Tobago at venues which will be announced later.

Grenades, Blue Jays, Bullets secure Premier League wins



Pigotts Bullets' Tyrique Thwaites, #14, runs with the ball ahead of a chasing SAP player during a Premier Division encounter at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday, 28th January, 2023. (Photo: ABFA)

Jennings Grenades, Cedar Grove Blue Jays and Pigotts Bullets all celebrated wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday, 28th January.

Grenades came from behind to beat PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks 4 - 1 in the second game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Jennings Grenades scored all their goals in the second half after Clarence Marsh's 12th minute conversion gave Liberta Black Hawks a 1 - 0 half time lead.

Rakeem Henry scored Grenades' equaliser with a strike in the 54th minute. One minute later, Carl Osbourne scored to give Jennings a 2 - 1 lead.

Goals by Ridel Stanislas in the 66th minute and Keanu Barrett in the 86th minute wrapped up Jennings Grenades' victory.

Their seventh win in nine outings lifted Jennings Grenades to join league leaders, All Saints United, on 21 points.

Grenades, however, remain second in the standings on goal difference behind All Saints United who will have a chance to move clear of Jennings when they face Five Islands in the final game of the ninth week of matches at 7 pm today.

A sixth loss in as many encounters ensured that Liberta Black Hawks remained winless and at the bottom of the 16-team Premier Division.

Keon Greene scored two late goals as Cedar Grove Blue Jays overcame a 1 - 0 halftime deficit to salvage a 2 - 1 victory over Willikies in the opening game of Saturday's triple header.

Greene scored Cedar Grove's equaliser by slotting home a penalty in the 79th minute and then scored the Blue Jays' winner in the 87th minute to snatch his team's second win in eight league matches.

Sheyen Hastings scored in the second minute of the match to give Willikies a 1 - 0 lead which they managed to hold until late in the encounter. Eventually, however, this was relinquished to Greene's heroic two goal blitz.

The result lifted Cedar Grove to

cont'd on pg 26