

MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

NO MORE WORK PERMITS FOR CARICOM, DR NATIONALS!

Story on Page 2



The Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's candidate for St. John's Rural East, Maria Browne, hosted a workshop over the weekend which aimed to equip young people with critical skills and information that will prepare them for adulthood and its challenges. *Story on page 8.*



ABLP gov't eliminates work permits for CARICOM, Dominican Republic nationals

The news that the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) has abandoned the requirement for work permits for CARICOM and Dominican Republic nationals has been welcomed by thousands from the region who have made Antigua and Barbuda their home.

The decision was announced in a statement by the government last Fri-

day.

"The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, consistent with its obligations under Articles 45 and 46, clauses 2 (iii) and 3 of the CARICOM Treaty, has decided to eliminate the requirement for work permits for nationals of CARICOM Community countries who are gainfully employed in Antigua and Barbuda, effective January

1st, 2023," the statement indicated.

It continued, "The Government has also decided that, in keeping with Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to the economic integration of the Caribbean region, the elimination of work permits for persons who are gainfully employed, will be extended to people from the Dominican Republic.

"In combination with an earlier Government decision to waive all unpaid work permit fees, which were due up to 31st December 2022, this means that all nationals of CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic who are now in Antigua and Barbuda and are gainfully employed will not be required to pay for a work permit."

The government said its decisions are an acknowledgement of the role that Caribbean nationals have played, alongside native Antiguan and Barbudans, in the development of our country and the need for a larger labour force as the country's economy expands.

Nationals of OECS countries living in Antigua and Barbuda already benefit from a similar arrangement under which no work permit is required to obtain employment in the country.

In addition to the Dominican Republic, nationals of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti and Suriname will no longer require a work permit to be legally employed in the country.



Harold Lovell declines to debate Prime Minister Gaston Browne

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) has revealed that the leader of the United Progressive Party, Harold Lovell, has declined an invitation to publicly debate Prime Minister Gaston Browne on all matters of public interest.

In a statement, issued on Saturday, the ABLP explained that, "A public debate was organised by the new online radio station, Twin Islands Media (TIM), represented by Julian Rogers and Kieron Murdoch



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, and UPP leader, Harold Lovell.

who also invited Joanne ocratic National [Alliance] Massiah, leader of the Dem- to participate.

"Prime Minister Browne readily accepted the invitation to publicly debate Mr. Lovell, saying that he would be happy to expose all of the deceitful statements and empty promises that Mr. Lovell has been making.

"Yesterday, the Prime Minister was informed that Mr., Lovell declined to participate in the debate."

In response, Prime Minister Browne said, "I am very disappointed that, Mr. Lovell has slinked away from a public debate where he cannot simply make untruthful and dishonest statements. He should have been man enough to stand up and face the truth."

The ABLP statement continued, "Mr. Lovell has shown clearly that he is no leader.

"He cannot debate the facts with Gaston Browne. Instead, he prefers to continue his monologue of lies in the hope that mud, thrown often enough, will stick."



POINTE ON DE STREETZ
WITH VERNON A. SPRINGER

MONDAY 9TH - 13TH JANUARY 2023 | 8:00 AM

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ELECTION DAY

THIS IS ANOTHER ABLP YOUNG PEOPLE PRODUCTION

Local News

Observer groups to scrutinise election day activities in Antigua and Barbuda

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) has confirmed that three overseas organisations will send observer teams to Antigua and Barbuda to scrutinise the 18th January general elections.

Assistant to the Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes, identified the groups as the Commonwealth Secretariat, the CARICOM Secretariat and the Organisation of American States (OAS).

"These are the main organisations that have been observing elections in this region for the past sever-

al decades and they will be here to perform similar tasks for our elections," Hughes stated.

While here, the teams will meet individually with stakeholders including political parties, independent candidates, and civil society groups.

As part of their work, they will also meet with the media.

"They will want to know how the media is assisting the smaller parties and the independent candidates to get their messages to the electorate," he explained.

Following the general elections, the observer groups will issue written reports on their observations leading up to the elections and on election day. Their reports will highlight the strengths and weaknesses in the electoral process with the aim of improving the way the electoral process works in the future.

The media will again play a vital role as, in past general elections, observer groups have met with the media houses to give a preliminary report of their findings before departing from the country.

Meanwhile, Hughes reported on Friday that preparations for the elections are well in hand, and in some instances, ahead of schedule.

"We will complete the printing of the ballot papers on Friday (January 6) which means that in this regard we are ahead of our own schedule," he reported.

He added that ABEC will "not leave any stone unturned" regarding its preparations for the elections.

"We will certainly do what has to be done ahead of time to eliminate the need for finger-pointing at the end," Hughes said.

He also credited the government for its readiness







to assist the commission with the resources needed to prepare for the elections.

"We said we wanted a printer; we got it. We said we needed to acquire the papers for the ballot papers early, and we received the funds to do so. Everything that we wanted on a list that was submitted to the government we have since received," he confirmed.

Hughes also disclosed to Pointe Xpress that a meeting was held last Thursday with law enforcement to discuss the vandalism of political paraphernalia. While ABEC's regulations do not address this issue, it is being dealt with by the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

The police issued a statement last week discouraging the criminal vandalism of political paraphernalia and stated that those responsible for the offence, when discovered, will be charged with the destruction of property, and face the penalties prescribed by the law.

00012 FORM No.5 FORM OF BALLOT PAPER REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, CAP. 379 ELECTION RULES RULE 22 FORM OF FRONT OF BALLOT PAPER			
1	DAVID (William David, of English Harbor, Unemployed)		X
2	EDWARDS (John Edwards, 52 West Street, Merchant)		
3	LEWIS (Thomas Lewis, of Sidney Hill, Parham, Salesman)		
4	SMITH (Mary Smith, of 72 High Street, All Saints, Homemaker)		

Campaign crooks: Police issue strong warning to vandals

The High Command of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is warning vandals from destroying the election paraphernalia mounted across the country by political parties and independent candidates.

On Thursday afternoon, the Police Administration said it was aware that people have been damaging or defacing the election billboards, and other paraphernalia, of the candidates in the upcoming general elections.



Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney








The police have made it clear that it is an offence, according to Section 33 of Chapter 405 of the Small Charges Act of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, for any person to commit damage unlawfully and maliciously to private property. Anyone found in contravention of the Act shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500.00, or to imprisonment for

a term not exceeding six months.

The Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, is appealing to those involved in the unlawful practice to desist and “respect the rights and privileges of everyone in our democratic society”.

Commissioner Rodney also encouraged the candidates in the 18th January elections, and their supporters, “to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner throughout the remainder of their campaign”.

OFFICIAL SYMBOLS OF PARTIES: KNOW YOUR SYMBOLS GENERAL ELECTIONS 2023

	Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party - ABLP		United Progressive Party - UPP
	Barbuda People's Movement - BPM		Democratic National Alliance
	IND-Anderson E. Carty		IND- Asot A. Michael
	IND- Gail Pero Georges		

- Antigua & Barbuda Electoral Commission



Local News



Election Watch: Protecting workers' right to vote

The Labour Department is reminding employers and their staff of their rights when it comes to exercising the constitutional right to vote on election day.

In a recently issued statement, the Labour Department said that all employees are entitled, by law, to up to four consecutive hours away from work in order to cast their ballot on 18th January, 2023.

This provision is made under Section 34 of the Representation of the



People (Amendment) Act 2001.

The statement made

it clear that this period of absence from work is to be granted without penalty to

employees, their salaries, wages or other remuneration that is due to them.

Employers are being reminded that it is an offence punishable by a fine of up to \$3,000, or imprisonment of up to twelve months, if they refuse to allow staff who are entitled to vote to do so, or otherwise act in a manner which is intimidating, exerts undue influence on an employee to abstain from voting, influences them not to vote or interferes with their ability to vote.



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Public schools across the nation will be closed on election day

In a communique issued by the Ministry of Education on Thursday, it was noted that most public school campuses will be used as polling stations during the election.

Several educators are also performing civic duty as polling officers on the day of the election.

The elections fall on a Wednesday this year. It is therefore likely that children will not return to school until Friday, as normally, once a winner has been declared following an election, that day is pronounced a public holiday by the victorious party to allow its supporters to celebrate.



40 Years and counting: PRC, Antigua and Barbuda confirm friendship

There was a strong pledge to further strengthen the already excellent relations between the People's Republic of China and Antigua and Barbuda when both countries held a flag-raising ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Beijing and St. John's.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said Antigua and Barbuda strongly supports the "One-China" policy and recognises China's territorial integrity.

Browne continued that Antigua and Barbuda will continue to stand with China as a friend in the international community and will support its efforts to counter climate change and other global issues of concern to both countries.

"We continue to wish the people of China continued success, recognizing that their success is our suc-



PM Gaston Browne greets Chinese ambassador, Zhang Yanling

cess. China has been easily one of the most benevolent nations to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda," PM Browne stated.

Chinese ambassador, Zhang Yanling noted that over the past forty years, the amicable relationship

between both nations has spanned generations.

"We see a future of flourishing bilateral relations. The beginning of a new year also marks a new stage of our relations. Amid an evolving international environment, global volatility and multiple chal-

lenges, China will continue to stand in solidarity and work closely with Antigua and Barbuda.

"We believe that equality and friendship will always be the main theme of China-Antigua and Barbuda relations and win-win cooperation will always be the common goal of both sides," Ambassador Zhang stated.

The flag-raising ceremony was held on the grounds of the Office of the Prime Minister and attended by Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, members of the diplomatic corps, Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador to China, Brian Stuart-Young, Commissioner of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Atlee Rodney and Chief of Defense Staff of the Antigua Barbuda Defence Force, Colonel Telbert Benjamin.

Local News

Maria Browne presents St. John's Rural East Youth Empowerment Forum

Young adults between the ages of 16 and 35 are providing positive feedback to the first Youth Empowerment Forum hosted on 7th January 2023, by the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's representative for St. John's Rural East (SJRE), Maria Browne.

The objective of the all-day forum was to encourage the participants to take control of their own lives and create positive changes in their communities while developing the skills necessary to make the transition from adolescence into adulthood. They were also exposed to several topics covering



AUCTION NOTICE

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

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

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

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

The Auction shall be held on site.

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

Dated this the 19th day of December 2022

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

the processes and requirements for purchasing land in Antigua and Barbuda, Educational Opportunities, wealth management, the concept of an Antiguan and Barbudan entrepreneur, career preparation tips, the importance of mental and physical wellness, and many more essential life topics.

The speakers included Tracy Withy Browne from Goal Getters, Maurice Merchant from the Prime Ministers Scholarship Committee, Troy Allen from LEEP Programme, Abby Haynes from the Central Housing and Planning Authority, Nikido Joseph from Ledger

Solutions and Carl Christopher, Marlene James and Chevonie Francis from The Harrison Center (ABICE).



One participant, Maleynny Dessi, described the forum on Saturday as being "very informative and empowering" as she acquired invaluable and life changing information.

President of the SJRE Youth Group and one of the organisers of the forum, Imani Sinclair, said this forum is the first of many which will be staged under MP Browne's leadership.

Sinclair also thanked her team for ensuring that the forum was a success.

Sinclair also presented MP Browne with an award to thank her for her outstanding and dedicated service to the youths of St John's Rural East.

Over 65 young people participated in the forum that was held at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Center.

Mon 09 Day		Mon 09 Night	
81°		74°	
22%	E 14 mph	24%	ESE 11 mph
A few clouds from time to time. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 74F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 71%	UV Index 8 of 10	Humidity 76%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:39 am	Sunset 5:49 pm	Moonrise 8:13 pm	Moonset 8:41 am
		○ Waning Gibbous	

One Nation Concert

The One Nation free concert, and its all-star cast of entertainers, truly did unite the country as thousands of people descended upon the Antigua Recreation Grounds, undeterred by the occasional showers of blessing.



Local News

A&B doctor to further education in Azerbaijan

Dr. Abosede Winter has been chosen as this year's Azerbaijan Scholarship Programme recipient.

She is an Antiguan and Barbuda medical doctor who is employed at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Dr. Winter attended the J. T. Ambrose Primary school from which she graduated as the top student before moving on to the All Saints Secondary School where she graduated as valedictorian and student of the year.

She then attended the Antigua State College A' Levels department and was granted a scholarship to study medicine in Cuba where she obtained her medical degree.

Winter then returned home and completed her medical internship at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where she has remained employed as a resident physician.

Dr. Winter, who intends to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, will pursue a five-year residency programme at the Azerbaijan Medical University.

"I am really grateful for the opportunity to study in this side of the world. I am looking forward to learning their way of medicine in terms of the advanced aspects," she said upon learning of her acceptance.

She also explained her decision to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

"Women are always

giving birth. Women always have issues that need resolving. Women are the backbone of society; we bring life into the world, so I look forward to contributing to Antigua and Barbuda in that way."

Among those to congratulate Dr. Winter was Prime Minister Gaston Browne expressed his best wishes for her continued academic success. He indicated that the country will benefit from her skills and encouraged her to make use of the opportunity to see another part of the world and experience a different culture.

Winter, who travelled to Azerbaijan in December, is one of three Antiguan and Barbudan students now pursuing higher education as a result of this scholarship.

Dr. Drickisha Aska, who is also enrolled in the Azerbaijan Medical University, is pursuing a residency in Anaesthesiology/Critical Care Medicine.

Grantley Edwards is in his second year at the Azerbaijan State University of Economics studying business administration.

One scholarship is available each year for an Antiguan and Barbudan student to study in Azerbaijan under the Non-Aligned Movement.

The scholarship provides an opportunity for selected candidates to study in the leading universities of Azerbaijan at the preparatory courses, undergraduate,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne congratulates Dr. Abosede Winter on her acceptance the Azerbaijan Scholarship Programme

graduate, doctoral, general medicine/residency programmes. Each scholarship covers the tuition fee, the international flight, a monthly stipend for meals, accommodation and utilities cost, medical insurance, visa, and registration costs.

The next round of applications will begin early this year and information can be obtained by visiting the website of the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London, www.antigua-barbuda.com.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and

Trade, E. P. Chet Greene, and High Commissioner to the UK, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, both reiterated the government of Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to providing scholarship opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan students as a central pillar of its diplomacy with friendly states.

The Azerbaijan scholarship was secured through diplomatic engagement by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in the UK and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

First major drug bust this year at DWH



The Police and Customs Department seized 52 pounds of Cannabis at a major port of entry on Friday.

In a joint drug operation at the Deep Water Harbour, the controlled

substance was found concealed in cargo in 52 vacuum-sealed packages.

This year's first major drug bust has been valued at EC \$312,000.

Last year, more than \$3 million in

drugs were seized between the V. C. Bird International Airport, Deep Water Harbour, the St. John's General Post Office and washed ashore the Barbuda coastline.

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- Ability to maintain sharp attention to detail throughout all project phases
- Ability to maintain a customer-focused, service-oriented mindset
- Ability to multitask and work on multiple projects simultaneously

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Suitable candidates should submit their resume along with a cover letter to hr@savinc.net no later than January 13th, 2023.



Opinion

This time tomorrow

By Tony Deyal

I start work on my newspaper columns early in the week, thinking about and finalising what I would write about, and then every Wednesday morning sitting down in my study and putting the pieces together to ensure I have a hard core of truth in the midst of humour and novelty.

So, when my wife Indranie saw Monday and Tuesday passing and no attempt by me to write anything, or share my ideas with her, and then finally this morning seeing me make my cup of coffee and take up my computer, she asked, “You doing your column now?” Focused on my ideas, I answered abruptly, “Yes. Yes.”

She looked at me and said, “Well, it’s about time!” And again I replied, “Yes, yes, it’s true. That is what I am writing about this week! Time.” She had the last words, “You wasted enough this week, so you better stop talking and start!”

At 77, heading this year into 78, one thing I know is that every old sew and sew like me is a time machine with a twist. We learnt that “time and tide wait for no man” but then we’re told, “No man is an island.” In that case, what should we do? Hang down our heads like Tom Dooley and wonder, “This time tomorrow, / Reckon where I’ll be?, / Down in some lonesome valley, / Hanging from a

wide oak tree?” Or should I focus only on my future, knowing that time is a great teacher, but unfortunately, it kills all its pupils? Robert Frost, the American poet, who wrote about the road not taken, put it in perspective, “Time and tide wait for no man, but time stands still for a woman of 30.” Some of us will stand still regardless of her, or our, age.

Then, when I take a shave in the mirror, I learn another truth, “Time is a great healer, but a poor beautician.” We all know that time is money, especially when you talk to a lawyer or a doctor, and no man goes before his time unless the boss leaves early, so every day I tell myself that I’m going to stop putting things off, starting tomorrow.

I did that once. I tried a now and never like what happened to one of my friends who was responsible for the television news throughout the Monday and Tuesday of Trinidad’s national carnival. A young lady he was “chatting up” with intent, saw him in the TV station on the Carnival Monday, hard at work writing the news report, and suggested she would be willing to go to the beach with him on the next day.

“Everybody will be in town for the Carnival,” she told him, “so we could go and have a good time by the sea.” He knew what he would be missing but had



Tony Deyal

to tell her the truth, “Girl, I would really like to go and spend some time with you on the beach. However, I have to write the news for tomorrow.” She was extremely upset and demanded an explanation, “So why you can’t write it tonight?”

My episode concerns my friend the great Calypsonian, Black Stalin (Leroy Calliste) who died last week and to whom this article is dedicated. I had graduated in Canada in 1974 and managed a nightly Government television programme. At Carnival time, I spent every night in the Calypso tents, ensuring that I invited several of the performers to do a session with me on either the Monday to Friday fifteen-minute show right after the TV news (Face of the Nation), or a 30-minute,

Wednesday-night discussion programme, “Issues and Ideas”. I got a chance to meet and know most of the Calypsonians, but I got along best with Stalin and his two close friends, the Calypsonian, Valentino, and musician Roy Cape, got along really well.

Then, in 1997, Stalin came out with a double-whammy (“Caribbean Man” and “Play One”), that I was sure would make him Calypso Monarch. He not only got time on my show, but his tent was my nightly hangout. I was almost as elated as he was when Stalin was selected for the finals of the National Calypso competition. The problem was that after many days of Carnival, my first show would be on the Wednesday night.

cont’d on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

I had other things to do that night, as did most Trinians who had spent many sleepless nights in the steelband yards, calypso tents and "fêtes".

What Stalin and I did was something we both never forgot. I had left Trinidad and was working for PAHO in Barbados. I had to fly to Trinidad and as I entered the plane heard this loud call, "Tony! Tony! Come!" It was Stalin, and he said, "Sit down, sit down. I have a new calypso for you to hear. Tell me what you think." It was about one of his close friends from boyhood, the "Chutney" singer, Sundar Popo, who had promised to write a song for him and never delivered. After Stalin sang the first verse and chorus, "Sundar way de song/ Sundar way the song/ Sundar way de song you promise me so long..." we started talking about the past and our "Carnival Wednesday Night" or "Ash Wednesday" con.

Then, when I returned to Trinidad and went with poet and writer, Dawad Philip, to see him, Stalin was unable to speak, so I sang a few of his songs, including Sundar, and then mentioned our con. We both remembered and laughed.

As I do now, remembering the event. It was clear to almost everyone in Trinidad and beyond that Stalin would win the 1997 Calypso Monarch Crown. My Wednesday-night programme "Issues and Ideas"

which my daughter, Marsha, called "Excuse Of Ideas" was live, so I had no choice but to come up with an idea which I shared with Stalin. He, even more mischievous than the rest of us, went for it big time. This was the first and only time our show was taped. There we were, almost two weeks before the Calypso monarch competition, doing a "live" interview with Stalin. I had the moderator, as well as the girls and boys present, shooting questions at Stalin like how he felt about winning the crown and the stories behind the two calypsoes that won him the prize.

Surprisingly, we had a large audience that Ash Wednesday night when the show was run, and I caught my ash explaining to my boss why the show was taped and why I pulled a con that brought the Office of the Prime Minister into disrepute.

There was a lot more, but it was like water off a duck's back, and I didn't give a quack. I called Stalin and started with my customary, "Hey Leroy! Your Mama's calling you boy..." He was elated about the many people calling him and how well the show went. Now, almost forty-six years af-

ter, today, Wednesday, January 4, 2023, is the public viewing and tomorrow is Stalin's funeral. All I can say, here and now, is, "No longer seek we his merits to disclose/ Or draw his frailties from their dread abode/ (There they alike in trembling hopes repose)/ The bosom of his father and his God."

**Tony Deyal, while lamenting the deaths of several of his friends and not spending enough time with them, learnt a lesson for whatever time he has left, "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."*



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Letter to the Editor



Clear and present danger

By Tracee L.

Time has a way of escorting unwanted memories deep into the recesses of our minds as the present ushers change and hope for a brighter future and opportunities to redefine our destiny.

Time has also caused some of us to forget that it was just over eight years ago that this country was relieved of its pain and suffering under the tight grip of socioeconomic stagnation of the United Progressive Party (UPP). So here we go again, on the cusp of yet another general election, and the UPP has managed to convince a sufficient number of persons that the sixteen candidates that they have put forward should not only be nominated but also be considered to form a government.

I will admit that I am not one who is willing to support the notion that everyone deserves a chance. This is because the proposition is fraught with danger as too often those who are most willing, but least able, find their way into the vanguard of otherwise important and revolutionary movements. Unfortunately, for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, the UPP has an overabundance of willingness, more than it does ability. It appears as if sometimes we forget that we are actively writing the script of our own history, a history that we may not have the luxury of recovering from if its authors do not decide wisely.

We are faced with making very serious choices at this juncture and setting the platform for development for future generations.

Let us be honest, you may not be a fan of Gaston Browne and his team, but you will certainly not be able to question his intellect and understanding of the issues and challenges we face as a nation and ability to confront them head-on. In fact, his resolve and

courage are unmatched in the region, let alone here at home. Even if we are able to set the comparisons of the respective party leaders aside for now, what becomes patently clear is the fact that the UPP provides very little hope with the slate of candidates that it has offered this nation.

There is nothing wrong with a profession like selling ice-cream; it is honest and dignifying work, but becoming a legislator requires sound knowledge, good language skills, actual training and preparation for government.

The UPP candidate for St. John's Rural South literally scares me, not simply because of her recent melt-downs, but her demonstrated unmitigated oblivion and intellectual destitution with basic yet elementary jargon in government.

She does not even understand what is meant by foreign direct investment (FDI), evidenced by when a caller on a radio show directed a question to her and she had to depend on radio colleagues to aid her by giving her a pageant-like response that would have earned her last place in the Miss Petite competition. She would be a complete imposter and disaster only to be rivalled by the current leader of the opposition or another unaccomplished UPP candidate if elected.

I would not dare to suggest the candidates are incompetent as that is a matter of whether persons are functional in an area of endeavour based on skills, knowledge, and abilities. I will say this, though, the slate is replete with inexperienced, untrained, and misinformed individuals who lack the capacity to run a country.

Most persons can learn on the job, but running a country is just not one of those jobs that I am prepared to take that risk on. I know the leader of the UPP and I know how aroused he gets

by well trained and experienced young people. He seeks them out and offers them an opportunity to grow. However, this is not the same thing here, the slate reeks of desperation. Deep down inside he is agonising and praying at the same time. Agonising that better quality candidates have not offered themselves or found him attractive enough as a leader with which they can serve this country. He is praying that the people of this country will be blind and forgetful enough of his poor performance when he was in government and reelect him.

The risk of electing such a team of uninspiring and ill-prepared individuals is a clear and present danger. The UPP has been making so many reckless promises that cannot be funded by the Treasury or any other source that they can identify.

Financial management does not work like that. They have not been able to cost or identify how some of these promises will be funded and for those of us who understand we know what danger lurks when we spend what we do not earn.

Possibly, the most significant danger is that most of these candidates would not even be named to a Cabinet; it will likely be the chairman of the party and other senior officials that will take up ministerial positions, simply because not even the leader is confident in their abilities.

He just needs pieces on the board, but they will not be in the game at the end of the day. Alas, the young inexperienced candidates are mere pawns in the leader's lust for power, and power at any cost.

Had they not shown incompetence with a superior team, maybe I would have had less to worry about.

Antigua and Barbuda please beware!

Prince Harry's new memoir draws anger and protests in Afghanistan

Protesters in southern Afghanistan on Sunday gathered following Prince Harry's claim in his new memoir that he killed 25 people he described as Taliban fighters while posted with British forces in the country.

Around 20 faculty and students demonstrated at a local university in Helmand, the province where British forces were largely concentrated during the NATO and U.S.-led coalition operations in Afghanistan.

"We condemn his (Prince Harry's) action which is against all norms of humanity," one demonstrator said. Others carried posters showing Harry's portrait with a red 'x' across it.

Sayed Ahmad Sayed, a teacher at the university, condemned Harry for his role in UK military operations in Afghanistan.

"The cruelties which have been committed by Prince Harry, his friends or by anyone else in Helmand or anywhere in Afghanistan is unacceptable, cruel. These acts will be remembered by history," Sayed said at the protest.

NATO and U.S. troops withdrew in August, 2021 from the country after 20 years of warfare there and running air operations in support of the Western-backed Afghan government's fight against a



In this Nov. 3, 2012 file photo, Britain's Prince Harry, right, or just plain Captain Wales as he is known in the British Army, races out from the VHR (very high readiness) tent to scramble his Apache with fellow pilots, during his 12-hour shift at the British-controlled flight-line in Camp Bastion southern Afghanistan. (AP Photo/ John Stillwell, Pool, File)

Taliban insurgency. Their withdrawal set the stage for the Taliban's rapid return to power that month.

In his memoir, "Spare," Harry says he killed more than two dozen Taliban militants while serving as an Apache helicopter copilot gunner in Afghanistan in 2012-2013.

He writes that he feels neither satisfaction nor shame about his actions, and in the heat of battle regarded enemy combatants as pieces being removed from a chessboard, "Baddies eliminated before they

could kill Goodies," the prince writes.

Harry's decision to put a number on those he killed, and the book's comparison of those to chess pieces, drew outrage from Taliban officials, and concern from British veterans.

"We ask the international community to put this person (Prince Harry) on trial, and we should get compensation for our losses," said Mullah Abdullah, who lost four family members in what he described as a U.K. airstrike in 2011 that hit his family home in the

Nahr-e-Saraj area of Helmand.

"We lost our house, life, and family members. We lost our livelihood and also our loved ones," said Abdullah, while visiting the graves of the family members he lost in the strike.

The media director for the Taliban governor of Helmand, Mawlawi Mohammad Qasim, said Harry's claims in his memoirs "exposed the real face of the Western world."

"It is a clear indication of their cruel and horrific actions," he said.

Jair Bolsonaro supporters storm Brazilian government buildings

AlJazeera - Supporters of Brazilian far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro who refuse to accept his electoral defeat have stormed the Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace in the capital, Brasilia.

Videos on social media showed Bolsonaro supporters smashing windows and furniture of the National Congress and Supreme Court buildings and climbing on the roofs on Sunday. The Congress building is where Brazil's Senate and Chamber of Deputies conduct their legislative business.

Images on TV channel Globo News also showed protesters roaming the presidential palace, many of them wearing green and yellow – the colours of the Brazilian flag, which have also come to symbolise the Bolsonaro government.

Security forces used tear gas in an effort to repel the demonstrators. Local media estimated about 3,000 people were involved in the incident.

The incident comes just a week after the inauguration of Bolsonaro's leftist rival, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Bolsonaro supporters have been protesting against Lula's election win



Supporters of Brazilian former President Jair Bolsonaro hold a demonstration at the Esplanada dos Ministérios in Brasília on January 8, 2023 [Evaristo Sa/AFP]

since October 30, blocking roads, setting vehicles on fire and gathering outside military buildings, asking armed forces to intervene. Many believed election results were fraudulent or unreliable.

Reporting from Rio de Janeiro, Al Jazeera's Monica Yanakiew said that some Bolsonaro supporters have been camped out in Brasília since the election.

"People from this camp and from other parts marched toward the square in Brasília, called the Three Powers square, because in this same square you have Congress, the presidential

palace, and the Supreme Court and they've entered the three buildings," she said.

"They went inside the Supreme Court, which they consider to be their main enemy, because they say that the Supreme Court is biased, and recognised an election that they say is stolen," Yanakiew said, noting that the incident occurred after Lula's January 1 inauguration, when authorities were less likely to expect such a siege.

She added the incident took place on a Sunday, when legislators, justices and other officials were not on the premises.

T&T nominates President of the Senate for head of state position

CMC - Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley Friday named the President of the Senate, Christine Kangaloo as the government's nominee to replace Paula Mae Weekes as the seventh head of state of Trinidad and Tobago.

The announcement followed a meeting between

Prime Minister Rowley and Opposition Leader, Kamla Persad Bissessar, who later told reporters that she shared her concerns regarding "an active politician holding the post" and that she "strongly objects" to the nomination.

Persad Bissessar, 70, who since 1995, has been the member of parliament

for Siparia, serving as attorney general, minister of legal affairs and minister of education between 1995 and 2001, was a member of the Basdeo Panday government when the late A.N.R. Robinson, an active politician, was elected as the third president of Trinidad and Tobago, serving from

March 19, 1997, to March 17, 2003.

Prime Minister Rowley, speaking at a news conference, told reporters that the meeting between the government and opposition delegations "was very cordial" and "we both agreed among ourselves that it would be best if we are able to have

cont'd on pg 17

Barbados police seek help in leaked report involving former deputy speaker Neil Rowe

CMC - Barbados Police Commissioner, Richard Boyce, has confirmed that lawmen are seeking assistance from their counterparts overseas in determining who leaked a confidential internal police report in a case involving the former deputy speaker of Parliament, Neil Rowe.

Rowe, 43 has been charged with having sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent or was reckless as to whether she consented on September 18 last year.

He was not required to plead to the indictable charge when he appeared before Magistrate Deidre McKenna on October 24.

The accused was granted BDS\$10,000 (One BDS\$=US\$0.50 cents) bail and will reappear in court January 30.

In his Christmas message, the Police Commissioner said the apparent breach of confidentiality that originated from within the constabulary does not accurately represent the force.

“During the year, there was an

apparent breach of confidentiality relating to a report that was made to us for investigation. We condemn such behaviour in the strongest terms. This does not accurately represent who we are,” he said.

Rowe’s attorney, King Counsel, Roger Forde, had during his client’s first court appearance last year, called for whoever is responsible for leaking the police report purportedly given by his client’s accuser to be held accountable.

The court also urged the police commissioner to deal with the matter.

Boyce told the online publication Barbados TODAY, that the key to a possible breakthrough in the investigations may depend on the technology.

“That investigation is continuing. We have reached a stage where we are engaging our partners overseas because it is heavily based on the technological aspect of it. So, we are waiting on that information to come to us.



Neil Rowe

“We are hoping that we would get results in the near future, but we are progressing, looking at all angles. All avenues that are out there we are following them and hoping that we will get it over as soon as possible,” he added.

cont’d from pg 16

consensus, but we are not unmindful of the fact that it is possible we may not have consensus.

“But the meeting went very well. The Opposition was asked whether they had a nominee that they would like to put forward for consideration by our team, name, or names...the Opposition team indicated to us they met and looked over the situation and there is not a name they would want to advance.”

Rowley said the government indicated it was still prepared to have a joint nominee and was allocating five of the 12 spots for parliamentarians to support the nomination of a new president until the deadline on Monday.



Christine Kangaloo

“If we can go to the Parliament with some semblance or element of consensus, if on the other hand that is not to be had, then the government will have no choice but to fill out all

12 slots,” Rowley said, adding “but we would really be happy and I think the country would be better off if a qualified person as Senator Christine Kangaloo is our nominee going forward and we as parliamentarians can agree ...that being a member of parliament does not disqualify you or anybody from holding the office”.

The election for a new president is scheduled to be held January 20.

Kangaloo, an attorney, is the only person to serve as both president and vice president of the Senate of Trinidad and Tobago, the first woman to serve as Senate vice president and third woman to serve as acting president of Trinidad and Tobago and Senate president.

Thousands of Israelis protest against Netanyahu's new government

AlJazeera - Thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets to protest plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government that they say threaten democracy and freedoms.

The protesters gathered in the city of Tel Aviv on Saturday, days after the most right-wing and religiously conservative government in the country's 74-year history was sworn in. It plans sweeping reforms, from expanding illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank to weakening the power of the judiciary.

Protesters brandished signs with slogans including "Democracy in danger" and "Together against fascism and apartheid".

Another banner read, "Housing, Livelihood, Hope." Some protesters carried rainbow flags.

The protest was led by left-wing and Palestinian members of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset.

They slammed Justice Minister Yariv Levin, who on Wednesday unveiled the government's long-promised overhaul of the judicial system that aims to weaken the country's Supreme Court.

Critics accused the government of declaring war on the legal system, saying the plan will upend Israel's system of checks and balances and undermine its democratic institutions by giving absolute power to the new governing coalition.

"We are really afraid that our country is going to lose the democracy and we are going to a dictatorship just for reasons of one person which wants to get rid of his law trial," said Danny Simon, 77, a protester from Yavne, south of Tel Aviv.

He was referring to Netanyahu who was indicted on corruption charges in 2021, allegations the prime minister



People demonstrate against the right-wing government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in Habima Square in Tel Aviv, Israel, January 7, 2023 [Amir Cohen/Reuters]

has denied.

Netanyahu, 73, has already served as prime minister longer than anyone in Israeli history, leading the country from 1996 to 1999 and from 2009 to 2021. His new government includes a politician who late last year admitted to tax evasion as well as several far-right personalities, such as one who once kept a portrait in his home of a man who massacred dozens of Palestinian worshippers.

Protesters on Saturday also called for peace and coexistence between Jews and Palestinian residents of the country.

"We can see right now many laws being advocated for against LGBTQ, against Palestinians, against larger minorities in Israel," said Rula Daood of Standing Together, a grassroots movement of Palestinians and Jews.

"We are here to say loud and clear that all of us, Arabs and Jews and different various communities inside of Israel, demand peace, equality and justice."

Israeli political analyst Akiva Eldar told Al Jazeera from Tel Aviv that the

Israeli government's plan is "clerical, racist" and "of the radical right".

"As the former president of the supreme court, Aharon Barak said yesterday in a very rare interview, this is a very shallow, or formal democracy; this is a kind of Hungarian or Polish democracy that is now challenged in the European court in the EU.

"I know that teachers and professors are considering a full strike [to protest]... this is something that unites the 1948 Palestinians and Israeli Jews; we have something in common now, you could see that in yesterday's demonstration," Eldar said.

"I think that the government went a little too far. We will probably hear from the international community after what they did on Friday, punishing Palestinians by collective punishment... because – they used what this government is calling, this sounds ridiculous – they call it diplomatic terror.

"Taking Israel to the UN to the Security Council is considered something that requires collective punishment. I think they are rocking the boat a little too much."

Mexican capo's arrest a gesture to US, not signal of change

AP - Mexico's capture of a son of former Sinaloa cartel boss Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán this week was an isolated nod to a drug war strategy that Mexico's current administration has abandoned rather than a sign that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's thinking has changed, experts say.

Ovidio Guzmán's arrest in the Sinaloa cartel stronghold of Culiacan on Thursday came at the cost of at least 30 lives — 11 from the military and law enforcement and 19 suspected cartel gunmen. But analysts predict it won't have any impact on the flow of drugs to the United States.

It was a display of muscle — helicopter gunships, hundreds of troops and armoured vehicles — at the initiation of a possible extradition process rather than a significant step in a home-grown Mexican effort to dismantle one of the country's most powerful criminal organisations. Perhaps coincidentally, it came just days before U.S. President Joe Biden makes the first visit by a U.S. leader in almost a decade.

López Obrador has made clear throughout the first four years of his six-year term that pursuing drug capos is not his priority. When military forces cornered the younger Guzmán



Army soldiers drive past a destroyed vehicle on the streets of Jesus Maria, Mexico, on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, the small town where Ovidio Guzman was detained earlier in the week. Thursday's government operation to detain Ovidio, the son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, unleashed firefights that killed 10 military personnel and 19 suspected members of the Sinaloa drug cartel, according to authorities. (AP Photo/Martin Urista)

in Culiacan in 2019, the president ordered him freed to avoid loss of life after gunmen started shooting up the city.

The only other big capture under his administration was the grabbing of a geriatric Rafael Caro Quintero last July — just days after López Obrador met with Biden in the White House. At that point, Caro Quintero carried more symbolic significance for ordering a DEA agent's murder decades ago than real weight in today's drug world.

"Mexico wants to do at least the bare minimum in terms of counter-drug efforts," said Mike Vigil, the DEA's former chief of international operations who spent 13 years of his career in Mexico. "I don't think that this is a sign that there's going to be closer coopera-

tion, bilateral collaboration, if you will, between the United States and Mexico."

While capturing a criminal is a win for justice and rule of law, Vigil said, the impact on what he sees as a "permanent campaign against drugs" is nil. "Really what we need to do here in the United States is we need to do a better job in terms of reducing demand."

That was a key talking point when the U.S. and Mexican governments announced late in 2021 a new Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health and Safe Communities, replacing the outdated Merida Initiative.

The pact was supposed to take a more holistic approach to the scourge of drugs and the deaths they cause on both sides of the border. But underlining the

frequent disconnect between diplomatic speech and reality, just two months later the U.S. government announced a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of any of four of El Chapo's sons, including Ovidio, signalling the U.S. kingpin strategy was alive and well.

"The Bicentennial understanding was a change on paper with respect to attacking drug trafficking and violence with a more important focus on what were supposedly public health programs — (but) without any budget," said Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, an associate professor at George Mason University. In reality, "Mexico is bending to the United States' interests."

For decades, the U.S. has nabbed drug kingpins from Mexico, Colombia and points between, but drugs are as available and more deadly in the United States as ever, she said. "The kingpin strategy is a failed strategy."

The U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment on Ovidio Guzmán's arrest.

López Obrador took office in December 2018 after campaigning with a motto of "hugs, not bullets." He shifted resources to social programs to address what he sees as violence's root causes, a medium- to long-term

cont'd on pg 20

40 people killed, dozens injured in bus crash in Senegal

AP - At least 40 people were killed and dozens injured in a bus crash in central Senegal, the country's president said Sunday.

President Macky Sall tweeted that the collision happened in Gnivy village, in the Kaffrine region, at about 3:30 a.m.

"I am deeply saddened by the tragic road accident today in Gniby causing 40 deaths and many serious injuries. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the injured," said Sall.

He declared three days of mourning starting Monday and said he will hold an inter-ministerial council to discuss road safety measures.

Public prosecutor Cheikh Dieng said the crash happened on National Road No. 1 when a public bus punctured a tire and veered across the road, colliding with another bus coming from the



Two damaged buses are pictured after they collided on a road in Gniby, Senegal, Sunday Jan. 8, 2023. At least 40 people were killed and dozens injured in this bus crash in central Senegal, the country's president Macky Sall said Sunday. (Elimane Fall via AP)

opposite direction. At least 78 people are injured, some of them seriously, he said.

Images of the crash on social media show the damaged buses rammed into each other and a trail of de-

bris along the road.

Traffic crashes happen regularly in the West African nation because of poor roads, bad cars and drivers not adhering to the rules, locals say.

In 2017, at least 25 people were killed when two buses also crashed. Many of those people were heading toward the central town of Touba for the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

cont'd from pg 19

approach that did little for a country suffering more than 35,000 homicides per year.

"Something that has characterised, in my opinion, Mexico's security policy in recent years is that it isn't very clear. It has been a bit contradictory," said Ágelica Durán-Martínez, associate professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. That ambiguity makes it difficult to determine if there has really been a change, she said.

López Obrador's government ben-

efits from the detention of Guzmán in several ways. The arrest eases the armed forces' humiliation after being forced by cartel gunmen to release him in 2019. It may sooth ill-feelings after his administration strictly limited U.S. anti-drug cooperation two years ago. And it may help diminish perceptions that López Obrador -- who has frequently visited Sinaloa and praised its people -- has gone easier on the Sinaloa cartel than on other gangs.

For four years López Obrador has continued to shred his predecessors'

prosecution of the drug war at every opportunity. Experts say the respite allowed the cartels to get stronger, both in terms of organisation and armament.

Guzmán during that time took a growing role after his father was sentenced to life in prison in the U.S. The younger Guzmán was indicted in Washington on drug trafficking charges along with another brother in 2018. He allegedly controlled a number of methamphetamine labs and was involved as the Sinaloa cartel expanded strongly into fentanyl production.

Djokovic shrugs off injury scare, wins Adelaide title

AP - Novak Djokovic showed no signs of an injury that might derail his Australian Open campaign when he beat unseeded American Sebastian Korda 6-7 (8), 7-6 (3), 6-4 Sunday to win the Adelaide International.

Djokovic worried Open organisers when he said after his semifinal in Adelaide against Daniil Medvedev that he had been troubled by a tight hamstring. He said the injury eased as the match progressed.

If there had been any lingering issue, it likely would have been exposed in Sunday's marathon final that stretched over more than three hours and finished with Djokovic claiming his 92nd career singles title.

He also took his second Adelaide title 16 years after his first; he won the tournament in 2007, aged 19.

Djokovic had to save a match and championship point at 5-6 in the second set Sunday and was fully stretched by the 22-year-old Korda, son of 1998 Australian Open champion Petr Korda.

The match turned on a handful of points. Djokovic held serve to love in his first four service games of the final set and then held serve after being taken to deuce by Korda in his fifth service game.

Djokovic then rallied from 15-40 down at 5-4 in Korda's next service game to win four-straight points and take the set in 51 min-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a forehand return to USA's Sebastian Korda during the final of the Adelaide International tennis tournament in Adelaide, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Kelly Barnes)

utes — and the match in 3 hours, 9 minutes.

"I hope everyone enjoyed the show tonight, it's been an amazing week," Djokovic said. "Seb's had an amazing tournament and put in an amazing effort today."

"I think he was closer to victory at times today than I was. It was only a couple of shots, a couple of points."

Djokovic at times showed irritation with this coach Goran Ivanisevic who supported him from a courtside box or remonstrated with himself after a wasted point.

"I'd like to thank my team for handling me, tolerating me in the good and bad times today. I'm sure they didn't have such a blast with me going back and forth with them but I appreciate them being here."

His serve was reliable at the start of the first set and he didn't concede a point on first serve until Korda broke him to lead 5-4. Djokovic immediately broke back and

took the set to a tiebreaker.

Korda had an early lead and five set points but Djokovic saved them all and levelled the tiebreaker at 6-6.

Djokovic framed a forehand that sailed into the crowd and gave Korda another advantage, allowing the American to take the tiebreaker 10-8.

Djokovic saved a match point at 5-6 on serve in the second set, then forced the set into another tiebreaker that he took comfortably.

Korda produced some outstanding service games and troubled Djokovic at times with the kick of his serve. But he was broken for only the second time in the match in the 10th game of the deciding set, with only a couple of points making the difference.

Earlier, second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka claimed her 11th WTA Tour singles title but her first in almost two years when she overcame qualifier Linda Noskova 6-2 7-6 (4) in the

women's final.

In doing so she ended an extraordinary run by the 18-year-old Noskova who beat third-seeded Daria Kasatkina and former Australian Open champion Viktoria Asarenka in the main draw on the way to her first final.

Sabalenka didn't drop a set all week and seemed set for another comfortable win when she took the first set on Sunday.

But Noskova was much more competitive in the second, holding serve and putting pressure on Sabalenka's serve, especially with her powerful backhand returns.

"I think I'm a different player right now," Sabalenka said. "Maybe a little bit smarter, a little bit calmer on court. Just a little bit of everything changed."

"I want to congratulate (Noskova) on an amazing week. I think you're going to have a great future and 100 percent appear in many more finals."

Sabalenka's last single title came in Madrid in May 2021 but she went without a title in 2022 despite reaching three finals.

She ended the year ranked fifth after qualifying for the season-ending WTA Finals in Fort Worth where she lost in the final to Caroline Garcia.

Sabalenka now has won three tournaments in the first week of a season after Shenzhen in 2019 and Abu Dhabi in 2021.

Sports News



Man City thrash Chelsea to cruise through in FA Cup

BBC - Manchester City cruised into the FA Cup fourth round with a routine victory over a desperately poor Chelsea at Etihad Stadium.

This was a far cry from what has traditionally been a hugely competitive meeting between two Premier League giants as City wrapped up a tie with either Oxford United or Arsenal in the next round by the interval.

City's win over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Thursday was hard-fought but this was a stroll, Riyad Mahrez setting them on their way with a brilliant 23rd-minute free-kick before World Cup winner Julian Alvarez scored a second from the spot seven minutes later following Kai Havertz's handball.

Phil Foden scored City's third after 38 minutes, turning in Kyle Walker's cross after he had been played in by Thursday's match-winner Mahrez, who got his second from the spot late on after Kalidou Koulibaly clumsily bundled Foden to the floor.

It was a chastening day for Chelsea, boss Graham Potter and their travelling support, who chanted the name of Thomas Tuchel, the Champions League-winning manager sacked by new owner Todd Boehly in September.

Chelsea's supporters gave their team a sympathetic reception at the end



Graham Potter's Chelsea side did not register a single shot in the first half of their FA Cup defeat at Manchester City

of Thursday's narrow Premier League defeat by City at Stamford Bridge but this was not the case here.

Potter's team were roundly booed at half-time and again by those who stayed until the end, with the manager hearing the uncomfortable sound of his own fans singing the name of his popular predecessor Tuchel.

Chelsea's lack of threat was also reflected in ironic shouts of "shoot" every time they got near goal and chants of "we've had a shot" on the rare occasions they did.

This may be a club in transition once again but this display was abject under any circumstances.

Manager Potter is wrestling with an injury crisis but there was no excuse for this dreadful performance. Chelsea's side contained plenty of experience with players such as Mateo Ko-

vacic, Koulibaly, Havertz, Mason Mount, Jorginho, Hakim Ziyech and keeper Kepa.

Chelsea lacked fight, quality and belief, an alarming sight for a manager so early in his reign and given the spending lavished on this season, admittedly in a somewhat scattergun fashion, by owner Boehly since his arrival.

They have now been knocked out of both domestic cups by City and stand 10 points off the Champions League places in the Premier League. Chelsea face Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League last-16 and if they perform like this they will also be knocked out there.

Troubled times for Chelsea and manager Potter.

Manchester City strolled through the second half barely breaking sweat after smoothly putting Chelsea away in the first 45 minutes,

underlining the gulf in class between the teams.

Pep Guardiola was able to rest goal machine Erling Haaland but replaced him with Argentina World Cup hero Alvarez, while Foden got his chance to remind everyone once again what a huge part he will play in Manchester City's future.

City's third goal was passing and movement perfection, Foden rounding off the link between Mahrez and Walker, the fist pumps and smile of delight from Guardiola confirming this is exactly how he likes to see his side playing.

This has been a satisfying few days for Manchester City as they closed the gap on leaders Arsenal in the league to five points - and they may face the Gunners again in the FA Cup fourth round unless League One Oxford United can spring a surprise at the Kassam Stadium today.

Damar Hamlin: Buffalo Bills make stirring pre-match display in support of safety

BBC - The Buffalo Bills made an emotional show of support for Damar Hamlin in their first NFL game since the safety suffered a cardiac arrest on the field.

After a stirring build-up to Sunday's game against the New England Patriots, Bills running back Nyheim Hines returned the opening kick-off for a touchdown to spark wild celebrations.

Watching from his hospital bed, Hamlin, 24, tweeted: "Free Hines."

The Bills are wearing patches of Hamlin's number three on their jerseys.

Their players also arrived wearing T-shirts and caps bearing his picture, name and number, while fans held up banners with messages of support.

Big screens at the Bills' Highmark Stadium displayed the message 'Love for Damar 3'.

Hamlin collapsed during Monday's game against the Cincinnati Bengals, with the Bills saying on Saturday that he is making "continued progress" yet is still in a "critical condition".

"Game day - nothing I want more than to be running out that tunnel with my brothers," Hamlin tweeted prior to kick-off.

"God using me in different way today. Tell someone you love them today!"

The Bills' medical staff who helped resuscitate Hamlin on the field were thanked and cheered.

There was a rapturous round of applause for Hamlin prior to the US national anthem being sung, with many Bills players and coach Sean McDermott visibly moved.

McDermott was in tears after Hines returned the ball 96 yards for a stunning opening touchdown, while star quarterback Josh Allen put his



Buffalo Bills players are wearing a patch of Damar Hamlin's number three on the front of their jerseys

hands on his helmet in disbelief.

Prior to leading his team onto the field, Allen tapped the number three patch on his jersey and told his teammates: "They always say don't play for the name on the back, you play for the name on the front.

"It's pretty special that we play for that number on our front too."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell attended the game wearing a blue cap with the number three on it.

The '3' on the 30-yard mark has been given a painted blue outline, as it is one of the Bills' team colours.

There were similar displays of support throughout all of Sunday's final regular season games, with the number three painted on the field and NFL players wearing 'Love for Damar 3' T-shirts during their warm-ups.

Hamlin has had his breathing tube removed, and in a tweet the Bills quoted his doctors by saying his neurologic function remains intact and that he has been able to talk to his family and care team.

The NFL cancelled the Bills' game against the Bengals in the wake of the incident.

NFL owners subsequently approved changes to the AFC play-off structure, given that the outcome of the game would have affected play-off seedings, with both sides already having secured postseason spots.

The Bills and Bengals will have their postseason positions determined by their winning percentage over their completed 16 games - instead of the full 17 - after the final round of games take place this weekend.

The AFC Championship game could be played at a neutral venue if the home team ordinarily would have been settled by the result of the cancelled game between the Bengals and Bills.

After the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Las Vegas Raiders on Saturday, if the Bills beat the Patriots and end up facing the Chiefs in the AFC title game, then it will be played at a neutral venue.

The Patriots will guarantee a play-off spot if they beat the Bills, but a defeat would potentially open the door for either the Miami Dolphins or the Pittsburgh Steelers to claim the seventh seed.



Fort Road claimed their second win in five matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's First Division League at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday, 6th January. (File photo)

Fort Road record second win in First Division League

Fort Road claimed their second win in five matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association First Division League on Friday.

Fort Road prevailed 2-1 against JSC Progressors in their First Division affair at the ABFA Technical Center.

Joumol Semper's 8th minute conversion gave Fort Road a 1-0 halftime lead and Alren Williams netted in the 46th minute to make it 2-0.

Andre Williams pulled a goal back for JSC Progressors with a 77th minute conversion, but his team was unable to breach the Fort Road defence again in the match.

The win lifted Fort Road to six points while a fourth loss in six outings ensured JSC Progressors remained second from bottom of the 12-team competition on four points.

Twenty-four hours earlier, unbeat-

en leaders, Garden Stars, returned to their winning form in the First Division League.

After salvaging a 4-4 draw with West Ham in their previous outing, Garden Stars hammered Lion Hill 4-0 at the Golden Grove playing field on Thursday, 5th January, to record their fifth win in six matches.

Following a goalless first half, Garden Stars scored four goals in the second period to secure their victory. Jared Williams opened the scoring with a 68th minute conversion.

Allan Martin doubled Garden Stars' lead by scoring in the 71st minute. Karique Knight extended the lead with a goal in the 84th minute and Zedon Carr completed the rout with an 86th minute conversion.

The result carries Garden Stars to 16 points at the top of the standings,

while it was the second loss in five matches for Lion Hill who remain on seven points.

West Ham, Green City and Bendals also recorded wins in the First Division last Thursday evening.

Jahmarley Barzey scored a hat-trick to lead West Ham to a 3-2 victory against Young Lions of Old Road in the second game of a first division double header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Barzey gave West Ham a 1-0 lead by scoring his first goal in the 11th minute, but Tavin Crump scored an equaliser for Young Lions in the 14th minute.

A Jolan Willock 32nd minute conversion gave Young Lions a 2-1 half-time lead, but Barzey then scored twice in three minutes to secure West Ham's first victory in six matches.

cont'd on pg 25

WADA forum in Jamaica to advance plans for anti-doping programs in the region

CMC - Ministers of Sports from 19 Caribbean countries are scheduled to attend a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) forum in Jamaica this month.

Minister of Sports Olivia Grange said the January 26 and 27 event which will also be attended by WADA president Witold Bańka will help to “advance the development of a plan of action for anti-doping programmes across the Caribbean, with the aim of keeping sports clean”.

She said it will be the second forum specifically for

sports ministers in the Caribbean and is a follow-up to an online forum held in October.

“At that online forum, Jamaica – because of our leadership position in anti-doping in the region – offered technical guidance to other countries and WADA also agreed to support capacity building and cooperation among nations,” Minister Grange noted.

She said this forum will build on the discussions in October and will also see some delegates touring Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission facilities as part of a study tour.



Olivia Grange

cont'd from pg 24

Barzey netted his second goal in the 59th minute to equalise for West Ham. Barzey then completed his hatrick when he scored West Ham's winner from a

freekick in the 61st minute.

It was the second loss in five matches for Young Lions who remain on nine points, four ahead of West Ham.

Green City advanced to

second place in the standings on 10 points by beating Police 2-0 in the first game of the double header at the ABFA Technical Center.

After a goalless first half, Green City scored twice in the second half to claim victory.

Carllon Warner broke the deadlock with a 66th minute conversion and Robert Abraham scored in the 89th minute to seal Green City's latest win.

It was the third loss in six matches for Police who remained on nine points.

Jahbendigo Jacobs scored a brace as Bendals jumped into fourth place by romping to a 5-2 victory over Potters Tigers at the Bendals playing field.

Bendals took an early lead when Jacobs scored his first goal in the 2nd minute. Kelvin Carr levelled the score, however, when he

converted the first goal for Potters Tigers in the 10th minute.

Goals by Ken Murray in the 35th minute and Alva Guishard, who scored in the 42nd minute, gave Bendals a 3-1 halftime lead.

Jacobs scored his second goal of the match with a 50th minute conversion to extend his team's advantage and Darren Stevens gave Bendals a 5-1 lead by scoring their final goal in the 74th minute.

Joshua Daniels scored a late second goal for Potters Tigers with a conversion in the 88th minute.

Bendals advanced to 10 points with their third win in six outings, while Potters Tigers remained winless and firmly rooted at the bottom of the First Division on just two points after suffering their fourth loss in six appearances.

Weekend Puzzle Solution

ON WHOSE WORD?

By Timothy E. Parker



Sports News



AGS captures Under-16 Boys' Division League title

The Antigua Grammar School is the new champion of the Under-16 Boys' Division of the 2022 Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

The Antigua Grammar School secured the title by romping to an emphatic 4-0 victory over defending back-to-back champions, All Saints Secondary, in the final match of the competition at the Ottos playing field on Friday, 6th January.

Striker, Javere Joseph, scored a hattrick to lead Antigua Grammar School to victory.

Joseph scored twice while Arturo Pantoja netted once in the first half to propel Antigua Grammar to a 3-0 halftime lead.

Joseph scored the only goal in the second half to complete his hattrick and sealed his team's victory.

Captain, Jordan Francis, had high praise for his team on their outstanding performance against the dethroned champions on Friday.

"Today, I think we played absolutely wonderful.

"We all played as a team and our goal today was to make sure that we secure the Under-16 championship and it's exactly what we did," Francis said.

"I also think we all played great throughout the entire competition, although we had a few poor games.



Striker Javere Joseph holds the trophy after the Antigua Grammar School captured the Under-16 Boys' Division title in the Ministry of Sports' 2022 Secondary Schools' Football League at the Ottos playing field on Friday, 6th January. (Photo: Jordan Francis)

But we stuck together and we still managed to pull through and won the title."

In addition to coach Chesney Browne, other members of the Antigua Grammar School's faculty were often in attendance at the team's matches.

Francis said the presence of their teachers instilled confidence in the players who were thankful for the support.

"I think having the teachers at our games gave us an extra boost of confidence to show our talent and to encourage us to win our games," Francis said.

"So, we all want to express a hearty thank you to our coach and all the other teachers who gave us the confidence and the extra

support that we needed."

The final division of the 2022 Secondary Schools Football League will be decided later this week.

The matches this week will determine the winners of the Under-20 Boys' Division which is divided into West and East zones.

Those games will involve the four teams which have advanced to the semi-final stage of the Under-20 Boys' Division and will be played at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Center tomorrow.

West Zone winners and defending champions, Ottos Comprehensive School, will face the East Zone second place finishers, the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of

Continuing Education (AB-ICE), in the first semi-final at 2pm.

Winners of the East Zone, All Saints Secondary, and runners-up the West Zone, Antigua State College, will clash in the second semi-final at 4pm.

The winners of each semi-final encounter will advance to the final which will be played this Friday.

Princess Margaret School has already captured the other two divisions in the Ministry of Sports' Secondary Schools' Football League.

Princess Margaret played unbeaten to capture the Female Under-20 Girls' title and also claimed the crown in the Under-14 Boys' Division.

Villa Lions return to winning form in Premier Division

Villa Lions returned to winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday, 7th January.

Villa Lions made a successful start to their campaign by winning their first three matches, but suffered defeats to top teams, Jennings Grenades and All Saints United, in their next two outings.

Villa Lions rebounded, however, when they snatched a 2-1 victory against Liberta Black Hawks in the second match of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center over the weekend.

Tyrik Hughes scored with an 8th minute strike and Jaheim Ferron had a 13th minute conversion to give Villa Lions a 2-0 halftime lead.

Lennox "Fox" Julian pulled a goal back for Liberta with a 69th minute conversion, but Villa Lions missed a chance to further press home their advantage when defender Jordan Francis missed a penalty, which was awarded after Villa Lions forward Joshua Ferdinand was fouled by a Liberta defender, in the latter stages of the match.

The result lifted Villa Lions into third place in the



Villa Lions returned to winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division league by beating Liberta at the ABFA's Technical Center on Saturday, 7th January. (File photo)

standings with 12 points, while the Black Hawks, who were playing their first game of the season after defaulting their previous two matches, remained in the cellar position without a point.

Willikies and Swetes each recorded their third win in six matches in the other two matches on Saturday.

D'Jarie Sheppard's 25th minute conversion was sufficient to give Willikies a 1-0 against Tryum in Saturday's opening encounter to advance to 10 points.

Shalon Knight scored a brace as Swetes overcame Ottos Rangers 3-1 in Saturday's feature match. Knight scored his first goal of the match in the 40th minute to

give Swetes a 1-0 halftime lead.

Lloyd Jeremy scored in the 73rd minute to equalise for Ottos Rangers who then conceded two late goals to slump to their third loss in six outings.

Knight converted his second goal with a 79th minute strike to give Swetes a 2-1 lead and Tiquan Isaac sealed his team's victory by scoring in the 84th minute. The result lifted Swetes to 11 points, while it left Ottos Rangers on 9 points.

Forward, Nazir McBurnette, scored a brace as leaders All Saints United surged to their fifth win in six matches by romping to a 4-0 victory over Parham in the lone

Premier League affair on 6th January.

McBurnette netted his first goal of the match in the 13th minute to give All Saints United a 1-0 halftime lead and he got his second in the 47th minute to make it 2-0.

Goals by Shafeeq Joseph in the 52nd minute and Randolph "Etty" Burton in the 80th minute completed All Saints United's victory, helping the team to advance to 15 points and remain at the top of the standings.

The Premier League will continue with the last game of the sixth week of matches at the Technical Center at Paynters today. Old Road will take on Cedar Grove Blue Jays at 7 pm.

cont'd from pg 28

ed to a nine-wicket win against Massy United Combined Schools. After restricting Combined Schools to 60 for 5, All Saints achieved victory by scoring 62 for 1 with 4 balls to spare.

Captain and opener, Michael Dover, struck an unbeaten 26 off 28 balls and Demetri Lucas cracked 25 not out off 21 balls to lead All Saints to victory.

Xaveek Toppin made 21 and Shamar Pereira scored 13 in the Combined

Schools innings. The competition will continue with a Zone A double header at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium today. New Winthorpes Lions will face Pig-ott's Crushers at 2:30 pm and Rising Sun Spartans will tackle Police at 5:30 pm.

Liberta Black Hawks make impressive start in ABCA 10 Splash

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks made an impressive start to the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) 10 Splash tournament, which is powered by Dream 11 of India, at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, 7th January.

Liberta Black Hawks crushed Bolans Blasters by 67 runs in the second game of a rain-affected Zone A triple header.

Wicketkeeper/batsman, Joshua Thomas, smashed an unbeaten 46 off 14 balls with 4 sixes and 3 fours to propel Liberta Black Hawks to 152 for 3 off their allotted 10 overs.

Opener, Avier Christian, struck 34 off 22 balls, including 2 sixes and 2 fours while Amahl Nathaniel slammed 24 off 13 balls and opener Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall hammered 22 off six balls.

Ephraim Pollard snatched 2 wickets for 5 runs and Javier Spencer picked up 2 for 26 to limit Bolans Blasters to 85 for 7. Opener Tajeja Tonge hit a top score of 42 off 24 balls, smashing 3 fours and 3 sixes.

The other two matches were forced to be abandoned with no result due to rain.

Saturday's opening match between Rising Sun

Spartans and New Winthropes Lions was the first to be abandoned.

Chasing a victory target of 53, Richie Thomas grabbed 2 wickets for 6 runs to leave New Winthropes Lions struggling on 10 for 3 off 2 overs when rain intervened and forced the abandonment of the encounter.

Captain Nino Henry snapped up 2 wickets for 3 runs in the Rising Sun Spartans' innings of 52 for 7 off their 10 overs.

Saturday's final match between Pigotts Crushers and Police was the second casualty of the rainy weather.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Pigotts Crushers were 16 for 1 in 2.3 overs when rain brought a premature end to the encounter.

Meanwhile, Jennings Tigers and All Saints Pythons won their opening encounters in the 10 Splash on Friday, 6th January.

Jennings Tigers snatched a 23-run victory against Freetown in the opening match of a Zone B double header.

Captain and opener, D'hari Francis, struck the first half century of the competition to propel Jennings Tigers to 106 for 2 off their allotted overs after winning the toss



Liberta Black Hawks captain, Kadeem Phillip (right) shakes hands with the Bolans Blasters captain, Taiem Tonge, after the toss during their match in the ABCA's 10 Splash tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on 7th January. (Photo: ABCA)

and opting to bat.

Francis cracked an unbeaten 65 off 27 balls with 5 fours and 5 sixes while fellow opener Elijah Peters chipped in with 28 off 25 balls during a first-wicket opening partnership of 78 runs.

Paul Miller then snapped up 3 wickets for 18 runs while

Omarie Joseph picked up 2 for 16 to restrict Freetown to 80 for 7.

Captain Austin Richards Jr. top scored with 18, Jarel Phillip contributed 17 and Rolston "Triss" Phillip pitched in 16.

All Saints Pythons coast-

cont'd on pg 27