

THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 23 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

COURT HEARS SIMON NOMINATION CHALLENGE NEXT THURSDAY

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The arrival of P&O Cruises Arvia last weekend saw a major spike in activity at the V. C. Bird International Airport as more than 700 passengers arrived from the UK on three chartered flights to board their cruise at the St. John's Harbour. This created a significant spike in economic activity and financial benefits for taxi drivers, vendors and others involved directly and indirectly in the local hospitality industry. Once their 7 or 14-day cruises are completed, the tourists will return to the Arvia's homeport in St. John's from where they will begin their journey back home. (Photo: Office of the Prime Minister)

Local News



Court to hear Kelvin Simon case next week

The High Court will convene on 9th February to hear preliminary arguments in the case that will determine the validity of Kelvin Simon's nomination to be a member of the House of Representatives.

Three motions were filed in the High Court by attorney Hugh Marshall Jr. on behalf of the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party and their candidate in the just concluded elections, Samantha Marshall.

One seeks an injunction which will prevent Simon from taking his oaths as a member of the Parliament; the second motion seeks leave to subpoena a member of the Public Service Commission to give evidence concerning the sta-



Kelvin Simon

tus of Simon's employment with the government and the third asks the court to rule that his nomination last December contravened the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda making it invalid.

The ABLP contends

that at the time of his nomination on 28th December, 2022, Simon was still a member of the Civil Service.

Both the Civil Service Act and "Section 39 1 (g) of the constitution clearly

spell out that anyone who is a member of the public service at the time of his or her nomination is ineligible to be a member of the House of Representatives," Hugh Marshall explained.

On this basis, Marshall contends that at the time of his nomination, Simon was not qualified to contest the elections in January as he had not tendered his resignation with the Public Service Commission, nor had sufficient time been given to the body to consider the resignation ahead of the general elections.

The attorneys on both sides have this Friday and next Monday to make their submissions to the court ahead of the hearing next Thursday.

Guys and Dolls
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

School closure for CHSS students

With approval from the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries announced that Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS) students will be dismissed from school for the rest of this week in light of the incident on Tuesday at the school.

Students will remain home today and on Friday to “give staff time to discuss among themselves, engage parents and develop strategies and structures to create a safer school environment”, a statement on the matter disclosed.

Teachers will be re-

quired to report for duty.

“On Tuesday 31st January 2023, two armed assailants breached security at the Clare Hall Secondary School and subsequently traumatized students, teachers and ancillary staff with a machete and a golf club.











“While the Ministry of

Education is relieved that there were no physical injuries, we are outraged at this reprehensible invasion on the school,” Director of Education, Clare Browne wrote.

A team from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, led by Minister Daryll Mat-

thew and Director Clare Browne, visited CHSS yesterday morning to lend support to the school’s faculty and students.

Psychosocial support is also being provided to those who need it by counsellors within the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries.

Thu 02 Day		Thu 02 Night	
80°		73°	
11% E 12 mph		23% E 11 mph	
Mostly sunny skies. High around 80F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		Mainly clear early, then a few clouds later on. Low 73F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
 Humidity 69%	 UV Index 9 of 10	 Humidity 76%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 6:38 am	 Sunset 6:03 pm	 Moonrise 3:32 pm	 Moonset 4:21 am
		○ Waxing Gibbous	



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Local News



Sir Molwyn welcomes new PAHO director

Brazilian, Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, was sworn in on Tuesday as the new Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

He has pledged to work in partnership with member states to end the pandemic and ensure that the region's health systems recover stronger than before.

In his capacity as First Vice President of PAHO, Antigua and Barbuda's Sir Molwyn Joseph, presided over the ceremony.

In his remarks, Sir Molwyn said, "Today, Dr. Jarbas, you commence the task of continuing the good work of the long line of leaders who have assisted the countries of the Americas over the last 120 years. You now have the opportunity to carve your own path and destiny as you steer us in a post pandemic era with its many ongoing challenges. I have no doubt that your experience, technical knowledge and passion for what public health can offer will allow you to attain your goal to build a better, more equitable world with universal health."

After serving two five year terms, Dominican, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, outgoing Director of PAHO said, "As I hand over this office and hand the steering wheel over to my esteemed friend



First Vice President of PAHO, Sir Molwyn Joseph

and colleague, Jarbas, I am confident that the future of the organization will be in good hands as you will bring to your new role exceptional technical expertise, astute policy making skills, together with pragmatism and wisdom from your many years of experience gained in your home country of Brazil as well as internationally."

In his first remarks as the new director of PAHO, Dr. Barbosa said, "Countries in the Americas face a complex epidemiological landscape, with the stubborn persistence of communicable diseases, the risk of outbreaks and epidemics, the rise of non-communicable diseases, the damage caused by traffic accidents and violence, and the impacts of climate change," Dr. Barbosa said. "We need strong, resilient health systems that can perform all the Essential Public Health

Functions adequately."

In the ceremony held at the Organization of American States (OAS), Dr. Barbosa, the former Assistant Director of PAHO, pledged to address the "significant inequalities between and within countries" and to ensure post-pandemic recovery and preparedness.

Dr. Barbosa's tenure will focus on five strategic pillars:

End the pandemic with the tools countries have at hand, including surveillance and vaccines

Apply the lessons learned from the pandemic to prepare for future health emergencies

Guarantee rapid and equitable access to health innovations for all countries in the region

Build resilient national health systems based on Primary Health Care

Strengthen PAHO's capacity to help member

states.

"I will work tirelessly," Barbosa said, "to ensure that PAHO maintains all of its many achievements to date, renewing itself every step of the way, always building networks and working as a bridge for understanding, solidarity and innovation."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of universal health to both the public and heads of state like never before," Barbosa said.

"It is urgent that we make use of this attention to strengthen health systems, address persistent issues and shortcomings, and ensure the right to health of all peoples in our Region," he added.

"One hundred and twenty years ago, our countries proposed an alliance to improve the health of our peoples and face outbreaks and epidemics together," Dr. Barbosa said.

"The dream of pan-Americanism. The dream that solidarity among the countries of the Americas is a powerful force that can improve the lives of our peoples.

"We stand here today, 120 years later, encouraged by these very dreams, which remain very much alive and continue to inspire us."

Cabinet to fulfil work permit waiver promise; mulls over stranded Africans

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party government is moving swiftly to fulfil its election campaign promise to waive work permit fees for nationals of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic.

On Wednesday, the cabinet invited Chief Immigration Officer, Katrina Yearwood, and three senior immigration officials to meet with them to discuss the matter.

A source close to the cabinet said the discussion centred on how the plan to remove the requirement for work permits for nationals of CARICOM and the Dominican Republic will be accomplished.

After a thorough examination of the issue, the cabinet agreed that the CARICOM Treaty requirements will continue, including the six-month entry provision for visitors from the CARICOM states.

Those who wish to change their status after six months from visitor to worker will, if successful, be required to pay a nominal sum for an Employment Registration Certificate.

Experts in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Immigration Department and Ministry of Labour will col-

laborate to ensure that the process is planned and implemented seamlessly.

Meanwhile, the cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda discussed the course of action to be taken regarding the more than 600 Africans who arrived on chartered flights from West Africa and have become stranded in Antigua and Barbuda.

Many of the Africans are from Cameroon which is now embroiled in conflict.

The cabinet examined the circumstances under which the Antigua Airways flights were conceived and originated.

Prior to their arrival in the country, it was believed that the arriving passengers would have been financially secure citizens of Nigeria and neighbouring countries who wished to travel to the Caribbean as tourists.

Their inability to travel onward or return home has brought this into question, however, as according to the Cabinet Notes issued on Wednesday, the Cameroonians remaining in Antigua can be located in several small hotels across the island.

“An offer to return them to their country is to be made, though many are likely to choose to stay. Some

arrangement may likely be made to ensure that their status is legal.”

Those people who remain in the country were to have continue their travels on a chartered flight out of Antigua and Barbuda, however, this did not come to pass.

“A well-established carrier known as Air Peace had made a request to commence a regular service between Nigeria and Antigua; the carrier chose to fly to Jamaica instead, since the ECCAA licence was taking a long time,” the Cabinet Notes explained.



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Samoa outlines vision as new AOSIS chair

At a special Plenary meeting on Monday 30th January, 2023 featuring the official handover ceremony, the reigns of leadership of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) were handed over by the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda, to the Pacific Island nation of Samoa.

This culminates four years of AOSIS Chairmanship within the Caribbean region, with Belize serving prior to Antigua and Barbuda. The regional rotation of Chairmanship ensures fully inclusive representation among all Caribbean, Pacific, African, Indian Ocean and South China Seas members.

AOSIS plays an integral role in international climate and sustainable development negotiations and has been central to the advancement of Small Island Developing States' priorities. Significantly, AOSIS has been a key figure in the milestone achievement of a loss and damage fund establishment at the recent COP27 in November, 2022.

As new chair, Samoa Prime Minister Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa vowed to continue the excellent work of the previous chairs, particularly by amplifying marginalised voices and advocating for the Alliance's interests on the global stage and to secure global commitments and agreement. She outlined the chair's new vision, which will focus on Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and the Ocean, including issues such as food security, energy, ocean's health, and more ambition on finance to support the achievement of agreed targets under the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway.

"For 2023, we will continue the work to advance our collective interests in climate change especially



New AOSIS Chair, Prime Minister of Samoa, Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa

with respect to climate financing and the achievement of the 50/50 split between mitigation and adaptation," Prime Minister Fiamē said. "We will continue to keep the Loss and Damage flame burning and inject urgency into our efforts aimed at concluding BBNJ negotiations.

"Sustainable development is a key strategic priority. Economic recovery is an enormous challenge and responsibility. To this end, the importance and effective implementation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) cannot be over-emphasised. The MVI is a tool to assist SIDS in addressing the economic recovery challenge, especially in relation to access to concessional financing, debt regime sustainability and ODA eligibility and effectiveness. AOSIS has been at the forefront of this strategic process, and we must now over the coming 12 months complete what remains to be done.

"Ocean is the lifeblood for most of our countries. But whilst its sus-

tainable use provides a core pathway towards our future development and livelihoods, like the climate emergency, we must also urgently address the associated risks."

Prime Minister Mata'afa highlighted the ocean-climate nexus, plastic pollution negotiations, the Blue Economy, and the Global Biodiversity Framework as key issues.

In his congratulatory address, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda noted he was placing the Chairmanship in most capable hands, and that his country looked forward to working with the new AOSIS Chair in preparation for the 4th UN International Conference for SIDS in 2024.

Representing the Prime Minister, Ambassador Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru emphasised that the AOSIS Chair would accelerate advocacy for concrete outcomes to ensure not just the survival, but the prosperity of small island developing States.



Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon



Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes

Dame Lorna Simon announces her retirement

Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon, has announced that she will be leaving the post shortly.

During a press conference on Tuesday, Dame Lorna said 18th January marked her last general election.

Following Barbuda Council elections this March, she will vacate the position.

“I was happy to lend my knowledge, my expertise to the country by serving in this post since 2004, my first general election.

“It has been rewarding and a privilege to serve with the staff at ABEC, they had my back and I had theirs. They are a group of people with whom I would work again if I had the opportunity,” she said.

Dame Lorna said she is happy to “give up the reins” as the time has come for her to take her leave gracefully.

Over her long career, she said she was most proud of initiating Antigua and Barbuda’s move to identify

the gender of voters. She was inspired to do so when she witnessed the system at work in Papua New Guinea where she performed duties as an election observer.

Under her watch, ABEC implemented this initiative in 2018 and introduced a

system that would allow the organisation to track participation in elections in Antigua and Barbuda based on age.

Dame Lorna admitted, however, that the 2009 general election was one of the most challenging, as many

issues, including the breakdown of one of ABEC’s printers caused several polling stations to open late.

Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon, has recommended that her deputy, Ian Hughes, succeed her when she retires.

BARBUDA EXPRESS
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

SUNDAY

AB 12:00 PM
BA 3:45 PM

MONDAY

AB 6:00 AM
BA 8:00 AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

AB 7:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

SATURDAY

AB 8:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

TYPHOON EXPRESS

MONDAY
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

AB 3:45 PM
(OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA)

TUESDAY

BA 6:00 AM TO ST. JOHN'S

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

AB 10:00AM
BA 3:00PM

UPDATED SCHEDULE



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‘Hands off Africa!’:

Pope blasts foreign plundering of Congo

By Nicole Winfield, Jean-Yves Kamale and Christina Malkia

AP - Pope Francis demanded Tuesday that foreign powers stop plundering Africa’s natural resources for the “poison of their own greed” as he arrived in Congo to a raucous welcome by Congolese grateful he was focusing the world’s attention on their forgotten plight.

Tens of thousands of people lined the main road into the capital, Kinshasa, to welcome Francis after he landed at the airport, some standing three or four deep, with children in school uniforms taking the front row.

“The pope is 86 years old but he came anyway. It is a sacrifice and the Congolese people will not forget it,” said Sultan Ntambwe, a bank agent in his 30s, as he waited for Francis’ arrival in a scene reminiscent of some of Francis’ earlier trips to similarly heavily Catholic countries.

Francis plunged head-first into his agenda upon arrival, denouncing the centuries-long exploitation of



Pope Francis, left, sits with President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo during a welcome ceremony at the “Palais de la Nation” in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. Pope Francis starts his six-day pastoral visit to Congo and South Sudan where he’ll bring a message of peace to countries riven by poverty and conflict. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

Africa by colonial powers, today’s multinational extraction industries and the neighbouring countries interfering in Congo’s affairs that has led to a surge in fighting in the east.

“Hands off the Democratic Republic of the Congo! Hands off Africa!” Francis said to applause in his open-

ing speech to Congolese government authorities and the diplomatic corps in the garden of Kinshasa’s national palace.

Calling Congo’s vast mineral and natural wealth a “diamond of creation,” Francis demanded that foreign interests stop carving up the country for their own inter-

ests and acknowledge their role in the economic “enslavement” of the Congolese people.

“Stop choking Africa: It is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered,” said history’s first Latin American pope, who has long railed at how wealthy countries have

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exploited the resources of poorer ones for their own profit.

The six-day trip, which also includes a stop in South Sudan, was originally scheduled for July, but was postponed because of Francis' knee problems, which were still so serious on Tuesday that he couldn't stand to greet journalists in the plane heading to Kinshasa and forced him to use a wheelchair on the ground.

It was also supposed to have included a stop in Goma, in eastern Congo, but the surrounding North Kivu region has been plagued by intense fighting between government troops and the M23 rebel group, as well as attacks by militants linked to the Islamic State group.

The fighting has displaced some 5.7 million people, a fifth of them last year alone, according to the World Food Program.

Instead of travelling there, Francis will meet with a delegation of people from the east who will travel to Kinshasa for a private encounter at the Vatican embassy on Wednesday. The plan calls for them to participate in a ceremony jointly committing to forgive their assailants.

Sylvie Mvita, a student in economics in Kinshasa, said the pope's arrival would focus the world's attention and television cameras on Congo and the fighting in the east to show how its suffering has been forgotten by the rest of the world.

"This will allow the world to discover the atrocities of which our brothers in the east of the country are victims. And maybe for once, the little humanity that remains in some people will cause an awakening and the international community will not only be interested in what is happening in Ukraine but also in what is happening in this country," she said.

President Felix Tshisekedi voiced a similar line in his speech to the pope, accusing the international community of

forgetting about Congo and of its complicit "inaction and silence" about the atrocities occurring in the east.

"In addition to armed groups, foreign powers eager for the minerals in our subsoil commit cruel atrocities with the direct and cowardly support of our neighbour Rwanda, making security the first and greatest challenge for the government," he said.

Rwanda has been accused of -- and has repeatedly denied -- backing the M23 rebels operating in Congo.

Francis' tough words at the start set the tone for the trip, in which the pontiff is aiming to bring a message of peace, a warning to the international community to not look the other way and a recognition that Africa is the future of the Catholic Church.

The continent is one of the only places on Earth where the Catholic flock is growing, both in terms of practising faithful and fresh vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

And Congo stands out as the African country with most Catholics hands down: Half of its 105 million people are Catholic, the country counts more than 6,000 priests, 10,000 nuns and more than 4,000 seminarians - 3.6% of the global total of young men studying for the priesthood.

That makes Francis' trip, his fifth to the African continent in his 10-year pontificate, all the more important as the Jesuit pope seeks to reshape the church as a "field hospital for wounded souls," where all are welcome, poor people have a special pride of place and rivals are urged to make peace.

Aid groups had hoped Francis' six-day visit would shine a spotlight on the forgotten conflicts of Congo and South Sudan and their soaring humanitarian costs, and rekindle international attention amid donor fatigue that has set in due to new aid priorities in Ukraine.

Francis answered their call, pointing the finger at the role colonial powers such as Belgium played in the exploita-

tion of Congo until the country, which is 80 times the size of Belgium, gained its independence in 1960, and neighbouring countries are playing today.

Francis didn't identify Belgium or any neighboring country by name, but he spared no word of condemnation, quoting Tshisekedi as saying there was a "forgotten genocide" under way.

"The poison of greed has smeared its diamonds with blood," Francis said. "May the world acknowledge the catastrophic things that were done over the centuries to the detriment of the local peoples, and not forget this country and this continent."

"We cannot grow accustomed to the bloodshed that has marked this country for decades, causing millions of deaths that remain mostly unknown elsewhere," he said.

At the same time, he urged Congolese authorities to work for the common good and not tribal, ethnic or personal interests; and put an end to child labour and invest in education so that "the most precious diamonds" of Congo can shine brightly.

Congolese faithful were flocking to Kinshasa for Francis' main event, a Mass on Wednesday at Ndolo airport that is expected to draw as many as 2 million people in one of the biggest gatherings of its kind in Congo and one of Francis' biggest Masses ever.

Banners emblazoned with the pope's image carried messages including "Pope Francis, the city of Kinshasa welcomes you with joy."

Some women wore colourful dresses and skirts made of pagne, a wax print fabric featuring images of Francis, the Virgin Mary or the Vatican keys, in a celebratory sign of welcome.

Jean-Louis Mopina, 47, said he walked about 45 minutes to Kinshasa's airport before the pope's arrival on Tuesday.

"He has come like a pilgrim sent by God," Mopina said. "His blessing will give us peace in our hearts."

University of Guyana to confer honorary doctorate on Black Panther star Letitia Wright

The University of Guyana will honour the talents and achievements of international actress Letitia Wright who famously plays the role of SHURI in the Marvel blockbuster “The Black Panther and Wakanda Forever” with an Honorary Doctorate in Arts and Letters on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, in a simple but solemn ceremony at the University’s main campus in Turkeyen.

Wright, 29, left Guyana for the United Kingdom at the age of eight. She began her career with appearances on *Top Boy*, *Coming Up*, *Chasing Shadows*, *Humans*, *Doctor Who*, and *Black Mirror*. She was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for the latter. Her breakthrough came with her role in the 2015 film *Urban Hymn*, for which the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) named Wright one of the 2015 BAFTA Breakthrough Brits.

In 2018, she attained global recognition for her portrayal of Shuri in the Marvel Cinematic Universe film *Black Panther*, for which she won an NAACP Image Award and a SAG Award. She reprised the role in *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018), *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* (2022).



This image released by Disney -Marvel Studios shows Letitia Wright in a scene from “Black Panther.” (Matt Kennedy/Disney/Marvel Studios via AP)

In 2019, she received the BAFTA Rising Star Award. She also appeared in the 2020 anthology series *Small Axe*, which earned her a Satellite Award nomination.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin, met with Ms Wright and her management team late Monday night to offer the University’s highest honorary award to the star, who was delighted to accept. Ms Wright said: “I accept! An honorary doctorate from my own country! Wow! I am so honoured by this.”

Chancellor of the University Professor Edward Greene has said that “this is a phenomenal development

– for a phenomenal Guyanese woman.”

The Vice-Chancellor of the University has expressed gratitude to the Ministers of Tourism, Culture and Education for providing access and supporting requests for the actress’s brief visit to the University to accept the University’s award.

Professor Mohamed has noted that the simple brief solemn event will carry all of the trappings of a solemn University ceremony. In respect of the University’s Artist in Residence and Cultural and Arts programmes, the University will also note Chadwick Boseman, Wright’s close friend “the Black Panther,” who passed recently as well as Shaunette

Renée Wilson, Guyanese Linden born, New York-based Shaunette Renée Wilson who plays a member of Dora Milaje, a Wakanda’s elite Special Forces Unit.

This year, the University of Guyana proudly enters the year of its 60th Anniversary. Its role and place as a major development partner and its achievements are recognised and honoured. The institution has graduated upwards of 50,000 graduates in its 60-year existence - many of whom have gone on to serve at the highest levels nationally and internationally.

The University will stream the event via Facebook at @uniofguyana from 9 am to 9:45 am.

We are “greening” ourselves to extinction

By Vijay Kolinjivadi

Apocalypse investors are pushing fake climate solutions on us that are making climate change worse.

More than a decade ago, investment experts James Altucher and Douglas Sease wrote a book for the Wall Street Journal called Investing in the Apocalypse. They argued that the end of the world is a profitable opportunity for those who know how to “fade the fear”, as everyone else panics. They maintained that when disaster strikes, investors should approach it with the rationale that “no matter how bad things seem, they really aren’t that bad”.

Well before the COVID-19 pandemic, they advised investing in big pharmaceutical companies as a strategy to reap dividends from global pandemics. They also encouraged putting money into renewable energy systems while ramping up oil production.

Today, it seems many have followed Althucher and Sease’s advice. Under the guise of taking action on the pandemic, billions of dollars have been poured into big pharma, instead of public health and policies aimed at preventing another global outbreak. The sup-



Partially burned and standing trees called snags loom over a site where researchers from the John T Harrington Forestry Research Center are conducting reforestation experiments at Deer Lake Mesa in Cimarron, New Mexico on August 17, 2021 [File: Reuters/Adria Malcolm]

posed energy transition that has been undertaken has seen renewable energy production expanded, but there has been no indication that oil and gas are being substituted and ultimately phased out.

What is worse, governments and corporations have teamed up to turn the apocalypse into a money-making opportunity. They have rushed to put forward false solutions to the climate crisis: from the push to replace fuel-engine vehicles with electric ones, to so-called climate-smart agriculture,

to protected areas for nature conservation and massive tree planting projects for carbon offsets.

All this trickery is called “greening” and it is designed to profit off of climate fears, not stop climate change. While guaranteeing high returns, this deception is tantamount to the genocide of the hundreds of millions of people who will perish from the effects of climate change within the next century because things are that bad.

‘Firefighters with flamethrowers’

That is how climate writer Keton Joshi describes the world’s biggest polluters proposing climate solutions. Indeed, what governments and corporations have pushed for in terms of climate action in the past few years are policies that only make the situation worse.

Take carbon offsets – the epitome of “greening”. Acting as real-life “Pass GO and Collect \$200” tickets, they allow some of the biggest climate criminals to go on polluting by engaging in a charade of tree-plant-

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Opinion

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ing schemes. The logic behind them is that we cannot stop our greenhouse gas emissions immediately because that would “hurt the economy”, so we can instead plant trees that will absorb them and grow the economy through carbon markets – a supposed win-win situation.

But this fallacy has been repeatedly exposed. For one, the organisations that are supposed to certify that indeed enough tree-planting has taken place do not have the tools to verify that the declared emissions will definitely be absorbed. Another problem is that many offsetting activities do not actually offset anything.

A recent investigation into the world’s largest carbon standard found that 94 percent of its rainforest offset credits did not actually contribute to carbon reduction.

Worse still, it exaggerated the threat to forests included in its projects, while its conservation activities – which yielded some of these credits – involved serious human rights violations, including forced evictions and home demolitions of local people.

Even if some of these carbon offset schemes do make a difference in the short term through forest conservation or reforestation, given our current climate reality characterised by ever-worsening forest fires, they can easily just burn to dust and contribute to the greenhouse gas problem.

One recent study, for example, found that since 2015, close to 7 million tonnes of carbon was released from wildfires in six forest projects that are part of California’s carbon trading system.

Then there is the fatal confusion between efficiency and ecology. We are being duped to believe that buying more “energy efficient” or “green” products can save the planet.

Whether it is a new electric car, an “eco-friendly” condo, a paper

straw instead of a plastic straw, or a solar-powered turtle-shaped mega yacht – all are branded as ecological solutions because they are supposedly more energy or materially efficient than the standard alternative.

What often hides behind these “green” labels is the large carbon footprint their production generates. Furthermore, “greened” technological solutions often just shift the environmental damage they do to another sector or a distant location.

For example, the growing electric vehicle industry may help reduce carbon emissions but it will also cause a massive jump in the demand for lithium and other minerals. Scientists are already warning about the grave environmental impact the rush for mining lithium may have, including water pollution and loss, toxic waste spills, biodiversity loss and soil contamination.

Apart from making climate change worse, these “solutions” also disproportionately harm marginalised groups and Indigenous peoples, as UN special rapporteur Tendayi Achiume has recently warned.

Not only are the impacts of ecological collapse felt more severely by those who encounter racism on a daily basis, but the extraction of minerals needed for “smart” technologies and renewable energy exposes these same people to pollution, violence and displacement.

The argument that “green” solutions provide jobs also rests on weak foundations, especially if the quality of work is considered.

As the ILO has pointed out, a large share of employment for the so-called “nature-based solutions” is informal, low-wage, temporary, and exposed to risks, such as unsafe working conditions, child labour and lack of social security.

‘The biggest land grab in history’
Nature conservation has also fall-

en prey to the “greening” deception. For years now, large conservation organisations and their corporate sponsors have been pushing the idea that large swaths of land and forests need to be fenced off so we can protect biodiversity and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Like the carbon offset schemes, this policy is just another way to enable big polluters to continue to pollute by saying: “We are doing something for the planet.” It also enables some – particularly in the tourism and construction sectors – to benefit from the so-called “nature” tourism in which the wealthy pay big money to access fenced-off parks and “experience” pristine nature while staying at luxury real estate projects.

And just like other “greening” strategies, this type of nature conservation results in major human injustices. Indigenous peoples from around the world have suffered evictions, dispossession and even killings as they have been forced from their lands to make way for nature conservation projects.

In the Republic of the Congo, the Indigenous Baka people have been brutally oppressed by the guards of a conservation project supported by the UNDP, WWF, the EU, the US and logging and palm oil companies. A UNDP investigation found that members of the community were routinely beaten, some imprisoned, tortured or raped.

In the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, the guards of a national park funded by the US and German governments have also engaged in violent attacks on the Indigenous Batwa people living in its territory.

A 2022 report by Minority Rights has produced evidence that at least 20 members of the community have been killed and at least 15 women raped during forced eviction campaigns.

There are countless horror stories
cont'd on pg 13

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ries like these ones; according to estimates, some 14 million people have been evicted in this manner in Africa alone.

That is why the news that a new conservation scheme was approved at the UN conference on biodiversity (COP15) held in Montreal in December was met with much dismay by Indigenous people across the world.

The new Global Biodiversity Framework – also called the 30×30 target – aims to turn 30 percent of the planet into protected areas by 2030. In a letter to COP15 participants, Indigenous peoples stated that the policy “may be the biggest land grab in history and further threaten the physical and cultural survival of Indigenous people worldwide”.

Given that Indigenous peoples reside on territories that hold 80 percent of the world’s biodiversity, it is certain that Indigenous-held land will fall within the 30×30 plan. Evicting them from land they have lived in since time immemorial is hardly an ecological solution.

A much better solution would be addressing the biggest cause of biodiversity loss: industrial-scale farming. It destroys the soil, increases desertification, releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases and is linked to deforestation.

30×30 would not curb the damage industrial-scale farming does. If the economic model that enables it does not change, it may even worsen its impact.

Restricting land use may raise food prices, artificially inflate the value of land, and encourage further overuse of chemicals and harmful crop and livestock breeding practices to increase production.

This would have devastating consequences for smallholder farmers who produce more than 30 percent of the world’s food and tend to use more

sustainable practices than industrial farms.

Reparative justice, not ‘greening’

Perhaps the biggest problem with apocalypse investing and its “greening” deception is that they dominate the global conversation on climate change and biodiversity at official forums (such as COP15) and are presented to the public as “making progress” on environmental issues.

We also have people like billionaire Bill Gates who say they are “very optimistic” about the future. Of course, they are! Since 2020, the top 1 percent has collected nearly two-thirds of all new wealth, as the world has faced a deadly pandemic and massive climate-change-related disasters.

The optimism of the wealthy and the fake climate solutions pushed on us are quite effective in convincing people that climate change will be tackled. That is because they provide reassurance that we will not have to give up the comforts we enjoy and because they also give us, the consumers, “a choice” – to go “green” or not. Indeed, we can now choose between a renewable or an oil-powered turbine-shaped mega yacht.

Making the “green” choice then leaves us satisfied that we are “doing something” about climate change. But driving an electric car, putting your organic produce in a tote bag and turning down your heating or air-conditioner by one degree is not going to save the planet. Let’s have the courage to face this fact.

What would make a difference is developing mass transport and substantially reducing car ownership; closing coal mines and ending oil and gas exploration; promoting decentralised and community-managed renewable energy systems; doing away with industrial-scale monoculture farming; and supporting smallholder and Indigenous-led agroecological systems that have been shown to enhance nutrition,

biodiversity and quality of life.

Of course, the system we have in place now favours apocalypse investors, who would do everything in their power to resist real climate action. That is why, as Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, has eloquently pointed out, “we can’t save the world by playing by the rules because the rules have to be changed”.

We need to confront the manipulation of false solutions, discredit them, and move on to changing rules premised on profiting from apocalypse.

Reparative justice is one approach to changing the current system. Embracing reparative justice means giving power back to the people to invest in the needs of their communities by supporting autonomous organisation and mutual aid efforts for affordable housing, food production, energy, and transport systems.

Reparative justice for reducing carbon emissions means demanding that those companies and governments historically responsible for climate change pay for the damage they have caused. Present and future victims of climate change should get to collectively decide how these reparations are to be spent.

Reparative justice also means supporting agroecological practice and restoring diverse food-growing cultures that have been erased or lost due to industrial monoculture farming.

Reparative justice also means that biodiversity loss would be tackled by guaranteeing the status of Indigenous people as stewards of their land and empowering them to protect it based on their knowledge, spiritual wisdom and traditions.

Achieving all this will not be easy and we will have to face the power of governments and corporations – the apocalypse investors. But through human solidarity and collective action, we can fight back and invest in our survival.

Regional News



Jamaica ready to send soldiers, police to quell Haiti chaos

AP - Jamaica's prime minister said his government is willing to send soldiers and police officers to Haiti as part of a proposed multinational security assistance deployment.

The announcement comes a week after U.N. special envoy for Haiti Helen La Lime said she hoped that the U.N. Security Council would deal "positively" with the pending request from Haiti's government for international armed forces despite the U.S. and Canada showing no interest.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness told the island's House of Representatives on Tuesday that he wants to help Haiti and "support a return to a reasonable level of stability and peace, which would be necessary for any inclusive, democratic process to take root."

Haiti's prime minister and other top officials had requested the immediate deployment of foreign troops in early October amid a crippling fuel siege blamed on the country's most powerful gang.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres and La Lime have backed the plea to no avail.

The U.N. Security Council has mulled the request but taken no action, opting instead to issue sanctions on people including



Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Sept. 22, 2022. Holness said on Jan. 31, 2023 that his government is willing to send soldiers and police officers to Haiti as part of a proposed multinational security assistance deployment. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow, File)

Jimmy Chérizier, a dominant gang leader and former police officer blamed for masterminding multiple massacres.

Meanwhile, Holness said Jamaica is ready to offer bilateral support if needed.

"It is our real hope that Haiti will soon overcome her challenges and embark on a path toward restoration of stability, long-lasting peace and sustainable development for her land and people with the full backing of the international community," he said.

A U.N. spokesman did not immediately return a message for comment.

Jamaica is a member of a regional trade bloc known as Caricom, which last week

issued a statement urging "all stakeholders to come together in their search for a consensus agreement" to resolve what it called a protracted political stalemate in Haiti, adding that it was prepared to hold a meeting in the Caribbean to talk about the issue.

Haiti was stripped of all democratically elected institutions when the terms of the remaining 10 senators expired in early January. Prime Minister Ariel Henry has promised to hold general elections for more than a year, but a provisional electoral council has yet to be chosen, which some critics say has led to a de-facto dictatorship.

Haiti also has been struggling with levels of vi-

olence not seen in decades ever since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse at his private home, with gangs now believed to control 60% of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

The number of reported kidnappings soared to 1,359 last year, double compared with the previous year, and reported killings have spike by a third to 2,183, according to the U.N.

Gangs also were blamed for killing at least 10 police officers in late January.

Haiti's National Police has fewer than 9,000 active police officers for a country of more than 11 million people who not only face a spike in violence but also deepening poverty and a deadly cholera outbreak.

Magnitude 5.0 quake rattles Dominican Republic

AP - A 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck south of the Dominican Republic early Wednesday morning, jolting people from their beds.

The quake occurred in

waters southwest of the capital of Santo Domingo at a depth of 28 miles (45 kilometres), according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

No immediate damage

was reported.

Dominican geologist Osiris de León said the fault that triggered Wednesday's quake is the same one that unleashed Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake and a

subsequent 2021 quake, as well as the 6.4 magnitude quake that hit Puerto Rico in 2020 that damaged dozens of homes and schools and killed one person in the island's southern region.

Suriname Prosecution calls for Bouterse to be arrested and jailed

CMC - Suriname's Public Prosecution Service (OM) Tuesday demanded that former president and military strongman, Desi Bouterse, be jailed for 20 years for complicity in the murder of 15 men on December 8, 1982.

Acting Attorney General, Carmen Rasam, said Bouterse must be held responsible for the murders, noting that enough evidence had been provided during the trial.

Bouterse had been sentenced to 20 years in jail for his involvement in the December 1982 murders of 15 political opponents by his then military government.

In August 2021, the Court Martial of Suriname upheld the 2019 military court ruling of a 20-year-jail term on Bouterse following a trial that had been going on for several years.

In 2017, Bouterse along with 23 co-defendants had appeared in the Military Court after the Court of Justice had earlier rejected a motion to stop the trial. The former military officers and civilians had been charged with the December 8, 1982 murders of the 15 men that included journalists, military officers, union leaders, lawyers, businessmen and university lecturers.

The prosecution had alleged that



Former president Desi Bouterse.

the men were arrested on the nights of December 7 and 8 and transferred to Fort Zeelandia, the then headquarters of the Surinamese National Army. They said the men were tortured and summarily executed.

Earlier this month, attorney Irvin Kanhai, who is also representing Iwan Dijksteel, Stephanus Dendoe, Benny Brondenstein and Ernst Geffery challenged the objectivity of the military judge, Colonel Dennis Kamperveen, claiming that one of the victims, André Kamperveen, and the judge, have a common grandfather. The men are challenging their ten-year jail term.

But the Public Prosecution Ser-

vice argued that it had no need to hear witnesses during the appeal process, reiterating its call for Bouterse, 77, who led Suriname during the 1980s as head of a military government and de facto leader, to be arrested and given his unconditional prison sentence..

Desi Bouterse took office as president in 2010, following a democratic election.

During the trial by the court martial, the military judge said Bouterse had acted and was elected for another term in 2015. But Bouterse had argued during the trial that he was not present at the fort when the men were shot.

FBI search President Biden's Delaware home over classified documents

BBC — The FBI is searching President Joe Biden's home in Rehoboth, Delaware as part of an investigation into classified documents, his lawyer says.

In a statement, Mr Biden's attorney said the search was "planned" with the president's "full support".

CBS has reported that the investigation relates to a wider probe into the handling of classified documents.

The FBI has not commented on the search. As it was consensual, no search warrant was sought.

Mr Biden's lawyer, Bob Bauer, said the search was carried out "without advance public notice" in the interests of "operational security and integrity".

The search is the latest in a series carried out at various locations, after classified documents were found at the Penn Biden Center - an office space - in Washington DC in November. This was not made public at the time.

More documents were discovered at another of Mr Biden's homes in Wilmington, Delaware, in searches conducted in December and January.

The precise number of classified records recovered remains unclear - although at least a dozen were found during the January searches alone.

Mr Biden has said his team did "what they should have done" by alerting officials immediately, and that they are "co-operating fully and completely" with the investigation.

After the first of January's searches, Mr Biden told reporters the files were in a locked garage.

"It's not like they are sitting in the street," he said.

The latest search comes a day after special counsel Robert Hur officially began his duties overseeing the probe into the documents.



Joe Biden at his home in Delaware on 8 July, 2022.

President Donald Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence have also been embroiled in controversy over the handling of classified documents.

In Mr Pence's case, a "small number of documents bearing classified markings" were found at his home in Carmel, Indiana, according to a letter sent to the National Archives by his lawyer. The documents were recovered by the FBI from a safe at the property on 19 January, with two boxes more delivered to the Archives on 23 January.

An August 2022 search of Mr Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida uncovered dozens of boxes and about 11,000 documents, including about 100 with classified markings.

The search warrant came after attorneys representing Mr Trump had said all government records were returned. Mr Trump has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and claimed that he had declassified the documents tak-

en with him.

The justice department search of Joe Biden's holiday home adds one more twist to a classified documents saga that has stretched on for nearly a month now and includes a special counsel overseeing the inquiry.

The FBI move could reveal how forthcoming and thorough the Biden team has been in reviewing the documents stored on his personal property. For the most part, the Biden lawyers have been conducting their own review of the president's personal residences without government investigators looking over their shoulders. While they found classified material at the president's Wilmington home, they have said that there were no such documents found at the president's beach house.

If the FBI finds such material, it will add fuel to the assertions by Mr Biden's critics that there is more to this story than the president's team is letting on.

At the very least, the search will help quell some of the concerns expressed by Republicans that the government is holding Mr Biden to a lower level of scrutiny and suspicion than Donald Trump, who had his Mar-a-Lago estate searched by the FBI last August. When Mr Biden's lawyers first revealed they had found classified material at his home and personal office, the former president, Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy and other conservatives openly wondered why the current president wasn't targeted by government investigators as well.

Now, however, Mr Biden's defenders are pointing out that multiple Biden properties have been searched, but there is no indication that the FBI has investigated Mr Trump's New Jersey and New York homes.

Myanmar extends state of emergency, delaying expected polls

AP - Myanmar's military government announced Wednesday that is extending a state of emergency it imposed when it seized power two years ago, a move that appears to set back its plans for an election that had been expected in August.

The announcement on state-run MRTV television said the National Defense and Security Council, which met Tuesday, extended the state of emergency for another six months because the country remains in an abnormal situation and time is needed to prepare for a peaceful and stable election. The NDSC is nominally a constitutional administrative government body, but in practice is controlled by the military.

No exact date has been announced for the polls, though the head of the ruling military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, has suggested they could be held in August. Wednesday's report said the election will be held after accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency.

The state of emergency allows the military to assume all government functions, giving Min Aung Hlaing legislative, judicial



In this photo released from the The Military True News Information Team, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing talks during the National Defense and Security Council meeting Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Myanmar's military government announced Wednesday that is extending a state of emergency originally imposed when it seized power two years ago, a move that appears to set back its plans for an election that had been expected in August. (The Military True News Information Team via AP)

and executive powers.

The announcement, on the anniversary of the army's seizure of power in 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, will be seen as an admission that the army has failed to quell widespread opposition to military rule, which includes increasingly challenging armed resistance as well as nonviolent protests and civil disobedience. State media said

Tuesday's NDSC meeting discussed how opposition groups are seeking to take power through "wrongful forcible means" including assassinations, bombings and destruction of state property.

The constitution stipulates that to hold an election, the military has to transfer government functions to the president, who heads the NDSC, six months before the polls, which in the cur-

rent case would mean Acting President Myint Swe, an army ally.

The military said its 2021 takeover was prompted by massive voting fraud in a November 2020 general election, though independent election observers did not find any major irregularities. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory for a second term in

cont'd on pg 18

Missing radioactive capsule found in Western Australia

Reuters - Australian authorities on Wednesday found a radioactive capsule that was lost in the vast Outback after nearly a week-long search along a 1,400 km (870-mile) stretch of highway, an emergency services official said.

The military was verifying the capsule and it would be taken to a secure facility in the city of Perth on Thursday, Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson said in a news conference.

“When you consider the scope of the research area, locating this object was a monumental challenge, the search groups have quite literally found the needle in the haystack,” Dawson said.

The radioactive capsule was part of a gauge used to measure the density of iron ore feed from Rio Tinto’s (RIO.AX) Gudai-Darri mine in the state’s remote Kimberley region. The ore was being taken to a facility in the suburbs of Perth - a distance longer than the length of Great Britain.

Officials from Western Australia’s emergency response department, defence authorities, radiation special-



Members of the Incident Management Team coordinate the search for a radioactive capsule that was lost in transit by a contractor hired by Rio Tinto, at the Emergency Services Complex in Cockburn, Australia, in this undated handout photo. Department of Fire and Emergency Services/Handout via REUTERS

ists and others have been combing a stretch of highway for the tiny capsule that was lost in transit more than two weeks ago.

Officials said the capsule apparently fell off a truck and landed on the side of the road, adding that it was

unlikely there will be contamination in the area.

The silver capsule, 6 mm in diam-

eter and 8 mm long, contains Caesium-137 which emits radiation equal to 10 X-rays per hour.

People had been told to stay at least five metres (16.5 feet) away from the capsule if they spotted it as exposure could cause radiation burns or radiation sickness, though driving past it is believed to be relatively low risk, akin to taking an X-ray.

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the election, humiliating the military-backed opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Critics say the military-planned election will be neither free nor fair because there is no free media and most of the leaders of Suu Kyi’s party have been arrested or gone into hiding or exile. Suu Kyi, 77, is serving prison sentences totaling 33 years after being

convicted in a series of politically tainted prosecutions brought by the military.

Last week, the military government enacted a new law on registration of political parties that makes it difficult for opposition groups to mount a serious challenge to army-backed candidates in a general election.

The National League for Democracy declared last November that it will not accept or recognize

the military-planned election, which it described as “fake.” It said the polls are an attempt by the military to gain political legitimacy and international recognition.

Opposition militants have been attempting to disrupt preparations for the election by attacking personnel of the military government who are conducting a population survey that could be used to assemble

voter rolls.

“Upon accomplishing the provisions of the state of emergency, free and fair elections will be held in line with the 2008 constitution, and further work will be undertaken to hand over state duties to the winning party in accordance with the democratic standards,” Min Aung Hlaing declared at a Jan. 4 celebration of Myanmar’s independence day in the capital, Naypyitaw.

Saudi soccer influence grows by winning seat on FIFA Council

By Graham Dunbar

AP - Saudi Arabia added to its influence in world soccer on Wednesday, winning a seat on the FIFA Council and then being confirmed as host of the 2027 Asian Cup.

The election win at the Asian Football Confederation's annual meeting followed Cristiano Ronaldo arrival last month to play in the Saudi league and longstanding speculation about a likely bid to host the World Cup in 2030 or 2034.

Saudi soccer federation president Yasser Almishehal was among six Asian soccer officials elected by AFC members to represent them on FIFA's decision-making committee through 2027. Saudi Arabia was the only candidate to host the Asian championship.

Qatari soccer federation president Sheikh Hamad Al Thani, whose country hosts the next Asian Cup in January 2024, also was elected to the FIFA Council. Sheikh Hamad earned 40 votes from the 45 federations, while Almishehal got 35.

The 37-member FIFA Council is chaired by Gianni Infantino, the governing body's president who attended the election meeting in Bahrain.

The election results confirmed Saudi Arabia and Qatar at the heart of Asian soccer politics with the AFC presidency scheduled to be vacant in 2027.

AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain was reelected by acclamation Wednesday to a final four-year term in a job he has held since 2013. He is also formally No. 2 to Infantino as the most senior of FIFA's eight vice presidents.

FIFA Council positions - which pay a \$250,000 salary in Zurich -



Cristiano Ronaldo speaks during a press conference for his official unveiling as a new member of Al Nassr soccer club in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Ronaldo, who has won five Ballon d'Ors awards for the best soccer player in the world and five Champions League titles, will play outside of Europe for the first time in his storied career. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

were also won by Kohzo Tashima of Japan and Mariano Araneta of the Philippines, who retained their seats, and newcomer Hamidin Bin Mohd Amin, the Malaysian soccer federation leader.

Losing candidates were Du Zhacai of China and Chung Mong-Gyu of South Korea, a scion of the family that owns Hyundai and who lost his seat in 2019.

The election for a FIFA Council seat protected for a woman was won by Kanya Keomany of Laos.

Later in the meeting, the Saudi bid to host the 2027 Asian Cup was confirmed unopposed. India withdrew its bid in December.

Presenting the bid on stage, Saudi sports minister Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal called the 2027 tournament "a transformational moment in our collective football story."

Saudi Arabia is a three-time champion of the Asian Cup, in 1984,

1988 and 1996, but has never hosted the tournament.

The kingdom raised its soccer profile when Ronaldo signed a 2 1/2-year deal with Al Nassr, and has been speculatively linked with a three-continent co-hosting bid to host the 2030 World Cup with Egypt from Africa and Greece from Europe.

That would require sending the tournament back to Asia and the Arabian Gulf only eight years after Qatar hosted the 2022 edition. A 2034 bid could be more realistic.

FIFA is expected to let more than 200 member federations choose the 2030 host next year.

Spain and Portugal, currently with Ukraine also, are planning a European bid for the 2030 World Cup, while a four-nation South American bid that brings together Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, the inaugural host 100 years earlier in 1930, is also expected.

Sports News



Tom Brady retires at 45, insisting this time it's 'for good'

AP - Tom Brady, who won a record seven Super Bowls for New England and Tampa, has announced his retirement.

Brady - the most successful quarterback in NFL history, and one of the greatest athletes in team sports - posted the announcement on social media Wednesday morning, a brief video lasting just under one minute.

"Good morning guys. I'll get to the point right away," Brady says as the message begins. "I'm retiring. For good."

He briefly retired after the 2021 season but wound up coming back for one more year with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He retires at age 45, the owner of numerous passing records in an unprecedented 23-year career.

A year ago when he retired, it was in the form of a long Instagram post. But about six weeks later, he decided to come back for one more run. The Buccaneers - with whom he won a Super Bowl two seasons ago - made the playoffs again this season, losing in their playoff opener. And at the time, it begged the question about whether Brady would play again.

Only a couple of weeks later, he gave the answer.

"I know the process was a pretty big deal last time, so when I woke up this morning, I figured I'd just press record and let you guys know first," Brady says in the video. "I won't be long-winded. You only get one super emotional retirement essay and I used mine up last year.

"I really thank you guys so much, to every single one of you for supporting me. My family, my friends, teammates, my competitors. I could go on forever. There's too many. Thank you guys for allowing me to live my abso-



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) smiles during warmups before an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Atlanta. Brady, who won a record seven Super Bowls for New England and Tampa, has announced his retirement, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023. (AP Photo/Hakim Wright Sr., File)

lute dream. I wouldn't change a thing. Love you all."

Brady is the NFL's career leader in yards passing (89,214) and touchdowns (649). He is the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and has been MVP of the game five times.

Brady announced his retirement one day after attending the premiere of "80 for Brady" - which comes out Friday - in Los Angeles. The movie tells the story of four lifelong friends, played by Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field, who went to a Super Bowl to see Brady play.

He was asked Tuesday night whether he felt a connection working with women - the four stars range in age from 76 to 91 - who don't want to retire.

"They're working hard and they love it. So good for them," Brady told The Associated Press. "You know, it's

just that's what life is about. You got to, you know, wake up every day with a purpose. And when you find something you love to do, you know, it's hard to stop. You really enjoy it. And there's a lot of aspects that you do enjoy. So they still bring it at this age. It's really unbelievable to watch them on set and how much energy they have. And I certainly was inspired by them and learned a lot of lessons from this whole experience."

Famously underrated coming into the NFL - he was picked 199th in the 2000 draft by the Patriots, behind six other quarterbacks, three kickers and a punter - Brady certainly wasn't expected to become synonymous with greatness. He played in one game as a rookie, completing one of three passes for six yards. The next year, it all changed.

Brady took over as the Patriots' *cont'd on pg 21*

James has triple-double, leads Lakers past Knicks in OT

By Brian Mahoney

AP - LeBron James will soon be the NBA's top scorer, though that was never his focus.

He's also one of the game's leading passers, and combining the two - possibly better than anyone ever - is what really makes him proud.

"I didn't get to this point in my career by thinking about records or how many points I have, whatever the case might be," James said. "I just play the game the right way. I approach the game every night only trying to be a triple threat by scoring, rebounding, assisting, defending, and may the chips fall where they may."

James moved within 89 points of breaking the career scoring record and climbed into fourth place on the assists list, finishing with his first triple-double of the season in his return to Mad-



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (6) reacts to a call during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

ison Square Garden as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the New York Knicks 129-123 in overtime Tuesday night.

James had 28 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, with the points giving him 38,299 for his career. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the leader with 38,387.

But James' game has always been about more than scoring, as he proved again

Tuesday. He fed Dennis Schroder for a 3-pointer that snapped a 118-all tie with 3:13 remaining, grabbed his 10th rebound later in the extra period and then powered to the basket for a 127-121 lead with 19 seconds to go.

"He's just doing it all," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "That's what great players do. That's what all-time greats do, and he's

right up there at the top of the list with all of them."

James had earlier moved ahead of Mark Jackson and then Steve Nash into fourth place on the assists list during his first game at Madison Square Garden in three years.

Anthony Davis added 27 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who had dropped two straight to open their trip. Both James and Davis had sat out their loss Monday in Brooklyn.

Jalen Brunson scored 37 points and Julius Randle had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who were 7 for 34 from 3-point range and dropped their second straight.

"We're scoring plenty, that's not our issue," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "So we've got to shore up our defence."

James was fuming fol-

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starter, the team beat the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl that capped the 2001 season and he and New England coach Bill Belichick were well on their way to becoming the most successful coach-QB duo in football history.

More Super Bowl wins came after the 2003 and 2004 seasons. The Patriots returned to football's mountaintop for a fourth time in Brady's era a decade later to cap the 2014 season, the start of three more titles in a span of five years.

In 2020, he joined the Buccaneers and won his seventh Super Bowl. He spent his last three years with Tampa Bay, getting them to the playoffs in each of those seasons.

"I think I've been on the record dozens of times saying there's no quarterback I'd rather have than Tom Brady, and I still feel that way," Belichick said in 2021 - shortly before Tampa Bay, with Brady, came to New England and beat the Patriots in a game dubbed "The Return." "I was very lucky to have Tom as the quarterback, to coach him, and he was as

good as any coach could ever ask for."

Brady has won three NFL MVP awards, has been a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times.

Brady and model Gisele Bündchen finalised their divorce this past fall, during the Bucs' season. It ended a 13-year marriage between two superstars who respectively reached the pinnacles of football and fashion.

It was announced last year that when Brady retires from playing, he would join Fox Sports as a television analyst in a 10-year, \$375 million deal.

Sports News



Slam and Rebels get contrasting wins in Division II basketball

New Generation Slam and Rebels recorded contrasting wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Tuesday night, 31st January.

New Generation Slam snatched a narrow three-point win against Wadadli Elites1 while Rebels cruised to a 23-point victory over Cuties Ovals Superiors in a Zone 1 double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

John Rolland Jr shot a team-high 25points and snapped up 19 rebounds to lead New Generation Slam to their 71-68 victory over Wadadli Elites1.

Team-mate Anjis Anthony gave good support by scoring 16 points and snatching 11 rebounds, while Keaddy Martin chipped in with 15 points for Slam.

Point Guard Tequan Brodie shot a game high 32

points with seven rebounds and seven steals and Rhonde Davis contributed 11 points for Wadadli Elites1.

Point guard Zuri Nesbitt produced 17 points with seven assists, seven rebounds and six steals to lead Rebels to their 82-59 victory over Cuties Ovals Superiors.

Buell Henry had 17 points with six rebounds, Tyndale Telemaque sank 12 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Bruce Whyte

chipped in with 10 points for Rebels.

Shamori Bass scored a game high 20 points, Dorian James snapped up 10 rebounds and sank nine points and Shane Rivera grabbed 17 rebounds and converted six points for Cuties Ovals Superiors.

Twenty-four hours earlier, Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Fearless Crew1 secured a 77-55 victory against Wadadli Elites2 in a Zone 2 encounter.

Rafiki Harris produced 16 points with nine rebounds and Ricky Willock also had 16 points with eight rebounds for Fearless Crew1. Team-mate Mahki Carbon grabbed 16 rebounds and sank 12 points and Jemanda Richards snapped up 12 rebounds and converted 10 points for the winners.

Kevin Pimentel shot a game high 18 points and Orion Seraphine converted 12 points and snatched nine rebounds for Wadadli Elites2.

The second division basketball league will continue with another double header at the JSC Sports Complex tomorrow, Thursday, 2nd February.

Wadadli Elites2 will face the Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers in a Zone 2 affair at 6:45 pm while Jan Serv Fearless Crew2 will meet Ottos Coolers in a Zone 1 affair at 8:30 pm.

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lowing his last game, the' Lakers loss in overtime in Boston on Saturday, after which referees said they missed a foul on his drive to the basket to end regulation.

He then sat out Monday with what Ham said was left foot soreness, though the Lakers had listed the injury as an ankle. They listed him as questionable to play in the morning, then upgraded James to available after he moved well during a pregame workout.

He certainly didn't want to miss this one after being hurt two years ago and suspended last season for striking Detroit's Isaiah Stewart in the face. His last game here was Jan. 22, 2000, when he was days away from passing Kobe Bryant into third place on the career scoring list.

Now the only one left to catch is Abdul-Jabbar, which could happen in the next 10 days. James said getting closer doesn't make it feel any heavier.

"I'm not going anywhere, I'm going to be in this league for at least a few more years," he said. "So I'm going to do it, so it's not heavy at all."

The game was tied at 90 before James fed Troy Brown Jr. for a 3-pointer with his eighth assist, then set up Thomas Bryant for a dunk that moved him ahead of Jack-

son and then Nash into fourth place for assists. He has 10,338 assists.

James has always called MSG one of his favourite places to play and this visit drew a sellout crowd that included celebrities such as Michael J. Fox, Michael B. Jordan, Emma Stone and Chris Rock. Fans filled seats in the lower sections of the arena just to watch James warm up, but he struggled to give them one of his vintage performances once the game began.

He threw up an airball in the second quarter as part of his 2-for-8 start, but made his final two shots of the half, then threw a pass that Schroder heaved in from halfcourt to beat the buzzer and cut it to 53-52 at halftime.

Recently acquired Rui Hachimura had 19 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, while Russell Westbrook added 17 points and eight assists, with three of them in OT.

Lakers: Patrick Beverley was out with left knee soreness. Ham said the guard has had some tough defensive matchups lately and they were just being careful in giving him a rest.

Knicks: Second-year G Quentin Grimes was chosen Tuesday to take part in the Rising Stars at All-Star weekend. ... The Knicks missed 13 of their first 15 shots as the Lakers took a 15-5 lead.

Dominatrixx make winning start to national domino league

Dominatrixx, one of the strongest clubs in team dominoes, made a winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League.

Dominatrixx were among the winners of six Team Three-Hand matches during the opening round of the league competition at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos on Thursday, 26th January.

Dominatrixx chalked up 74 points to beat Legacy with 71 points and Bolans Revellers C Team with 66 points in the opening encounter.

Ramplers and Unstoppables both recorded 76 points to prevail over the Bravo B Team, who scored 75 points, in the second match on opening night.

Parham Strikers kicked off their campaign by securing 78 points to beat the Willikies Superstars A Team with 72 points and the Double Six B Team with 66 points in the third match.

Moise Eagles won the fourth match by scoring 79 points to finish ahead of Future with 75 points and the Bolans Revellers B Team with 73 points.

The Bolans Revellers A Team took match number five with a winning score of 82 points to overcome Triple Dynamite with 68 points and Rising Stars with 60 points.



Team Dominatrixx made a winning start to their campaign in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's League at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos last weekend. (File photo)

The final match on the opening night was won by the Willikies Superstars B Team with a total of 79 points. They prevailed against the Bravo A Team with 64 points and the Double Six A Team with 59 points.

Dominatrixx also won the first of three Team Four-Hand matches on the second night of the domino league competition.

Dominatrixx trounced Unstoppables 71-18 in the one-sided affair.

There were wins as well for Double Six and Ramplers in the other two Team Four-Hand matches.

Double Six prevailed 43-35 against Bolans Revellers while Ramplers were 41-31 winners against Willikies Superstars.

The national domino association league competition will continue with the second week of team three-hand and four-hand matches at its headquarters in Ottos this weekend.

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who remain on 10 points.

Golden Grove continued their resurgence by hammering TAMO FC 9-0 in their encounter at the Golden Grove playing field.

Akeem Francis scored a hat-trick, converting goals in the 1st, 21st and 42nd minute.

Curt Francis and Terrence Spencer each scored a

brace. Francis scored in the 31st and 34th minute while Spencer had conversions in the 80th and 89th minute.

The other goals were scored by Daryl Samuel in the 57th minute and Germaine Severino in the 78th minute.

The third win in six matches has lifted Golden Grove to mid-table with 10 points, while TAMO FC

remain winless without a point in the cellar position after suffering their seventh loss in the same number of outings.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's domestic programme will continue with four matches in the First Division tomorrow, Thursday, 2nd February.

Three of those matches

will kick-off at 4:20 pm. Bolans will host Fort Road at the Bolans playing field, Police will entertain West Ham at the Police Recreation Grounds and John Hughes will take on Bendals at the John Hughes playing field.

Lion Hill will clash with JSC Progressors at the Golden Grove playing field at 5 pm in today's other encounter.

Sea View Farm return to winning form in Second Division football

Sea View Farm returned to winning ways in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Tuesday, 31st January.

A Sea View Farm, who had won their first five matches, but dropped points in their previous two encounters, returned to the winners' circle by pulling off a 2-0 win against English Harbour at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters.

An own-goal by Jahwan Harvey in the 27th minute had given Sea View Farm a 1-0 lead and Chevon Moore sealed his team's victory with a 36th minute conversion.

Their sixth win in eight matches lifted Sea View Farm to 19 points, but they will remain in third place on goal difference ahead of Freemans Village.

Their fourth loss in 10 matches ensured English Harbour remain on 12 points.

Makai Lewis scored on either side of half time as Freemans Village pulled off



Sea View Farm returned to winning ways in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Second Division League by beating English Harbour at the ABFA's Technical Center on Tuesday, 31st January. (File photo)

a 2-0 win over Young Warriors at the Freemans Village playing field

Lewis scored in the 44th and 74th minute as Freemans Village notched up their sixth win in eight matches to advance to 19 points and remain in fourth place in the 15-team competition.

It was the sixth loss in eight matches for Young Warriors who remain on six points and 11th in the stand-

ings.

Attacking Saints also returned to winning ways and back to the top of the second division on Tuesday.

Attacking Saints rebounded from their first loss, which they suffered against Freemans Village the previous week, to secure a 3-0 win against Bethesda at the Bethesda playing field.

Kerron McKenzie scored twice, converting in the 13th and 79th minute,

while the other goal for Attacking Saints was scored by Joshua Samuel in the 32nd minute.

Their seventh win in nine matches lifted Attacking Saints to the top of the second division with 22 points, one ahead of nearest rivals, unbeaten Jennings United, who have two games in hand.

It was the fourth loss in eight matches for Bethesda,

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