

CIU REJECTS FALSE CLAIMS

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Fifteen (15) art teachers from across the nation have completed a six-week training course from The Royal Drawing School (United Kingdom). Participants at the art course are seen here with Royal Drawing School Instructors and Dina de Brozzi of the Workshop Studio Art Gallery. *Story on page 6.*

CIU rejects false claims by local news portal

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) is pushing back against an article published by the online portal – Real News Antigua – which claimed that the Unit has been instructed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne to ‘proceed with haste, regardless of the state of the due diligence process,’ to approve Russian applications for citizenship.

In a media release issued Friday night, the CIU said it rejects completely the ‘untruthful report’ in the online portal.

“Real News Antigua attributes this malicious story to sources “in Washington” and “in the diaspora.” No name or agency is identified or quoted by Real News Antigua because, in reality, they do not exist. The story is evidently contrived by Real News Antigua for unscrupulous purposes,” the media release noted.

Additionally, the CIU dismisses the fanciful allegation that it has been



Chief Executive Officer of the CIU, Charmaine Donovan

instructed by the prime minister or any other policy official to discard due diligence processes, which it staunchly applies to all applicants.

“The CIU maintains strict and unwavering procedures by its in-house team of compliance specialists, in conjunction with international due diligence providers, and global law enforcement agencies. These procedures are mandatory, and no exceptions are

made,” the release continued.

The Citizenship by Investment Unit is unwavering in its protection of the jurisdictional reputation of Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the integrity of the nation’s passport. In this connection, we deplore this deliberate attempt by Real News Antigua to sully the good name of the CIU and its staff.

Chief Executive Officer of the CIU, Charmaine Donovan explained that under the recent agreement signed between the U.S and the Eastern Caribbean CIP states, Antigua and Barbuda and the others have agreed not to accept any applications from Russians after March 31, 2023.

“This is the context for which this fabricated news story is making the rounds. However, our department continues to do its normal due diligence as it has with all applications. We conduct these inquiries without pressure from anyone,” she declared.



Guys and Dolls
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Education Minister concerned over shortage of men accessing higher education

Education Minister Daryll Matthew is voicing concern over the ‘small number of men and boys’ capitalizing on the access to higher education offered by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC).

Matthew made the point in an address during last week’s meeting of the UWI FIC’s Council, to review the activities of the academic year 2021-22. He said the university and the society must find creative ways to attract boys and men to matriculate for higher learning.

“We need to find strategies to attract our young men, not only through the traditional route to matriculate into the university, but in other ways as well. How do we attract more men into our Life-long Learning Unit? How do we attract young professionals to understand that they can upscale themselves even further? How do we get our young men to embrace education in all its facts? These are the challenges that I put to the university,” he stated.

Matthew said the ministry of education is committed to working with the university to address these challenges. He quoted from Principal, Dr Densil Williams, who spoke of a rise in the level of confidence of

people who are educated at university levels.

“As a population, we can only benefit from the renewed and reinvigorated sense of confidence from our people. We have always been a strong and confident people and with a university present and the sort of education, knowledge, skill and training we will collectively receive as a society, by

simply having more persons higher educated, we will collectively rise; as the sea rises the ships rise as well,” he stated emphatically.

Figures show that in the Eastern Caribbean only two out of every ten persons advance to tertiary level education. But the figures also show that women are graduating at a higher rate across the sub-region than men.



Education Minister Daryll Matthew

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Work to repair bridge at Cades Bay starts this week

Teams from the Ministry of Works will be concentrating their efforts on carry-

ing out much needed repair work on the bridge at Cades Bay, that has been damaged

‘for some time.’

Director of Public Works, Alden Crump, said his teams

have already completed a temporary by-pass road in the area, that will facilitate the flow of traffic, while the repairs are being done. The by-pass was completed last Friday and Saturday.

During this week, other teams will converge on the area to begin the actual repairs to the bridge. “We have completed the surveying of the area, the designs have been completed and the signs have been placed in the area to divert the traffic to the by-pass as well as appeal for the cooperation of the motoring public, as we carry out the repairs,” he stated.

According to the Director, the support base for the bridge was compromised by rains sometime in the past, that led to the eventual collapse of the structure. Recognising the importance of the repairs to the structure, the ministry of works is prioritizing the bridge for the benefit of road-users.

Crump said the ministry has been ‘doing as much as it can’ with the resource challenges that it faces. However, despite these challenges, the ministry is committed to providing the nation with an adequate road network to serve the growing needs of an expanding economy.

The ministry said in a statement, that the safety of motorists is paramount, and the ministry apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

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Cruise figures for the summer months look promising

The cruise tourism sector in Antigua and Barbuda continues to show signs of expansion and growth.

After recording a robust winter tourist season, where the number of calls and the number of visitors aboard the cruise vessels have increased significantly, the country now sits poised to experience a better summer cruise season than it has had since 2019.

The bookings for the next five months will see a total of forty two calls. More than half of these calls are slated for April, the closing month of the winter cruise season.

The Antigua Cruise Port Ltd. has released the bookings of calls for April, May, June, July, and August. For April there will be twenty-three cruise ship calls, for May nine, June has three, July four and August has



three calls listed.

General Manager of ACP Dona Regis-Prosper noted that the numbers this year are already better than they were for last year. She said her team will be putting in more effort to build the summer season, as a way of extending the season, noting that many

people including the taxi operators and vendors, rely on the presence of cruise ships in the harbour, to ply their trade.

“The cruise sector is very important for the entire country, but for the taxis and the vendors, it is a significant portion of their annual income,” she noted.

NOTICE

TO: HER WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate's Court
Grays Farm
St. John's
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS FEW ARE CHOSEN VARIETY STORE

I, Kenneth Roland Francis, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 6th day of April, 2023 next ensuing for a Bottle license in respect of premises known as "Few are Chosen Variety Store" situated Cooks Hill, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 23rd day of March, 2023

Kenneth Roland Francis
268-770-4778

To: Her Worship
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate's Court
Grays Farm
St. Johns, Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St Johns, Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENSE BUSINESS REGISTERED AS LA SANTA BAR

I, Felix Alberto Valdez Vargas, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate Court, Grays Farm, St. Johns, Antigua on 6th April 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern License in respect of premise known as LA SANTA BAR located on Rowan Henry street in the Parish of St. Johns, Antigua pursuant to Section 11(5) of The Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 10th day of March 2023.

Felix A. Valdez Varga

Royal Drawing School course successful

Fifteen (15) art teachers from across the nation have completed a six-week training course from The Royal Drawing School (United Kingdom). The project was initiated and managed by the Halo Foundation, in partnership with the Jumby Bay Fund, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, and the Workshop Studio Art Gallery in English Harbour.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams told the closing exercise, “This is the second Royal Drawing School course that has been conducted in Antigua and Barbuda.

Last year, the training centered on the exchange of techniques, and the honing of skills for the art teachers. This year, the emphasis was placed upon the methodolo-



Director of Education Clare Browne, H.E. Sir Rodney Williams, H.E. Lady Williams, Royal Drawing School (RDS) Instructor Cherry Pickles and RDS Trainer Alexander Page.

gy of imparting expertise to the students within a classroom setting.”

Royal Drawing School facilitators, Cherry Pickles and Alexander Page, praised the level of competence of the art teachers who participated, and referenced their “dedication, talent and enthusiasm.”

Director of Education, Clare Browne told the graduating class: “If the single most important element impacting the learning of students in the classroom is the teacher, then we must do all that we can to strengthen teacher quality, and as a consequence, enhance the quality of education offered.

Continuous professional development helps teachers improve their understanding of how to deliver effective education and ensures they can adapt to the changing needs of the students.”

President of the Halo Foundation, Lady Sandra Williams remarked: “100% of the participants indicated that their repertoire had been expanded, with 34% hailing the training course as “exceptional,” and 66% indicating that it was a “good experience.” Lady Williams affirmed that “the Halo Foundation will continue its work in all areas of nation building and youth development, including its support and strengthening of culture and the arts.”

The closing ceremony was held at Government House.

Screening of potential Carnival Queen Contestants completed

The screening of the young ladies who will participate in the 2023 Queen of Carnival Show has been completed.

However, the public will have to wait a little longer to know the identities of the seven young women who have passed the screening process in preparation for the competition.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Creative Industries said the contestants will have a formal announcement of their names at the official launch of carnival, slated for April 15 at the Rising Sun Grounds.

The activities surrounding the launch will include a street jam starting at 2:00 pm, to be followed by the launch starting at 6:00 pm.



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Sandals, JCY host seminar for youth

60 students from across Antigua, participated in a professional career development seminar at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa under the theme “Let’s Not Stop Here.

The one-day interactive session was the brainchild of the Junior Chamber Youth (JCY) based at the Antigua State College and was fully supported and sponsored by Sandals, as part of their push for tourism in schools across the region.

Sessions throughout the day ranged from- building your student portfolio for the competitive job market, career selection and exploration in the digital age, cover letter and resume writing, dressing for success, interviewing skills, and HR recruitment best practices, among others.

Training and Development Manager at Sandals Grande Antigua, Carlene Spencer, who facilitated the first session, “College to Career: Mapping a Path to Success” said, “Our

young students are very impressionable and open to learning about how they can better prepare themselves for careers, or even university after leaving school, and as industry professionals, it is our job to impart the knowledge and share key information with them so they can better present themselves and have a competitive edge in an ever-changing job world.”

Joining Spencer on the facilitator line-up were Sandals Assistant Learning and Development Manager Thalia Thomas, and Public Relations Manager Leon Norville, who presented on Career Exploration: Mastering the Human Resource and Recruitment Process, and Career Advancement: Building a Successful Career Path, respectively.

Participating secondary schools at the one-day event included Princess Margaret, Clare Hall, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Ottos Comprehensive, All Saints Secondary, and Antigua State College.



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Special Feature



The politics of lies, disinformation, hogwash and the dumbing down of our nation

By Gaston A. Browne
Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda

“There seems to be developing in our politics, a culture of deception,” said Prime Minister Browne when asked to comment on recent developments during the lead up to the January elections and during the recent Budget debates in the House of Representatives.

Prime Minister Browne, who took time out to pen the first in a series of articles on the issue of the deliberate bending of the culture of politics in Antigua and Barbuda with lies and disinformation, pointed out that those in the opposition who peddle blatant lies, whether they are incapable of any higher intellectual standard or due to the fact that they have adopted lies as a technique for national disruption, run the risk of seriously undermining democracy and the rule of law in Antigua and Barbuda. This he said is a slippery slope to anarchy that would irreparably harm the nation and its people.

We are pleased to present the first in a series of articles on the issue tagged: The politics of lies, disinformation, hogwash, and the dumbing down of our nation.

The poor quality of the interventions by opposition members, during the recent

debates in the House of Representatives, is cause for grave concern.

Our system is based on representative democracy, by which the majority of the electorate in constituencies, elect persons to both represent their concerns and to advance the interests of the nation. Essential to the success of representative democracy, is constructive contributions to the important matters that the nation’s parliament must consider.

Neither the National Assembly, nor the Senate, are political hustings where regrettably politicians indulge in smear campaigns, pedaling misleading information, and downright lies. Parliament is the forum for responsible and productive contributions to the nation’s affairs.

The reckless statements, which pass for political conduct, on the hustings should end when representatives enter the chambers of Parliament.

However, it was evident from the statements and behaviour of some of the opposition representatives, that they have failed to make the transition from political hustings to parliamentary responsibility. Yet, this transition is necessary if they wish to be seen as capable of being part of a government in the future, and if they are to engage meaningfully and construc-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

tively in the nation’s affairs.

Meaningful and constructive engagement does not mean an absence of criticism or disagreement; but it does require thoughtful ideas that are clearly presented and supported by facts and sustainable argument.

That is not the parliamentary diet that the nation was fed by the majority of members of the opposition during the recent debates. Instead, the presentations lacked intellectual rigor, were pedestrian and replete with lies, misinformation and hogwash.

As if they had not transitioned from the deplorable deceptions of their political meetings to the venerable halls of parliament, they unpacked the same lamentable litany of vitriolic, personal attacks and deliberate

falsehoods that embodied their political campaigning.

Despite the abundance of information and supporting evidence in the estimates and the budget statement, the majority of the opposition representatives were so blinded by their egos, political ambitions, and, maybe, absence of any real and practical ideas, that they fabricated their own facts and imputed improper motives on ABLP Parliamentarians without a scintilla of supporting evidence.

None of this augurs well for their contributions to the nation’s affairs at a time of global turmoil, when all hands are needed on deck, and all shoulders are needed at the wheel to navigate the ship of state, safely and securely. Nor does it rec-

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commend them for positive roles in a government of the future.

Discord and the promotion of unreasoned conflict might pass for techniques in banal political campaigns, but, in parliament where a higher standard is expected, such behaviour reveals either a lack of basic capacity, or a deliberate attempt to undermine the national welfare by malevolent acts of dishonesty, disinformation, and deception.

I recall that while I served on the opposition benches of the National Assembly, there were members – one of them still a member of the Assembly - who sought vigorously to encourage me to engage in dishonourable behaviour, to regain power.

My retort to those individuals was: “I’d rather be an ordinary citizen of a successful country, than to be prime minister of a failed state!” I refused to participate in any acts that would harm my country that I loved dearly and hoped one day to lead.

I have heard many lies in the National Assembly. Those lies are not constructive to debate of the nation’s affairs. They are, in themselves, unworthy of a place in parliamentary debate, but when the lies are blatantly entrenched in the consciousness of parliamentary representatives, such that they lie shamelessly and irresponsibly, contemptuous of the na-

tional good, then we are developing a serious problem in the society.

The resort to blatant lies by representatives either because they are incapable of any higher intellectual standard, or because they have adopted lies as a technique for national disruption, seriously undermines representative democracy

and the rule of law in our country. It is a slippery slope to anarchy that would harm the nation and all its people.

There may be no point in appealing to these opposition politicians to raise the bar of their parliamentary behaviour, but they should be mindful, that no society will long tolerate the pro-

motion of discord based on lies, nor will it abide the feckless abandonment of responsibilities by those to whom people entrusted the care of their interest.

Parliament is about attending to the people’s business and not for the pursuit of narrow political ambitions at the expense of the nation’s progress.



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NB: Selected applicants will be required to complete psychometric assessments.

Tony the banana man

By **Tony Deyal**

Remembering Evan Jones and my days watching the ships in many Caribbean islands being loaded at the wharves.

Mr King, our Standard Three teacher and an actor from the far-off city of Port-of-Spain, tried very hard to teach us the English language. In an early-morning session about ensuring that we had the best breakfast as young and growing children, he asked Hanzy, “So what you had for breakfast this morning?” Hanzy’s father and mother were cane-cutters who went out in the fields at four in the morning with their cutlasses and “flambeaux” or “fire torches”.

They were always completely covered from head to toe, tall boots on, to protect themselves from the thousands of mosquitoes that surrounded them looking for loopholes.

That meant Hanzy and his sisters had to grab what they could and then rush to school as soon as it was daylight. Hanzy was always first in school but not in class. He was what we called a Stick-em-Up “pyong” or fanatic.

We each plucked a stick or piece of bamboo we used as a gun. At other times, we played a game of ‘Police and Thief’ where the police group hunted down the other group and shot to kill. Unfortunately, that game stopped when we realised

that, in Trinidad, the police had become indistinguishable from the thieves.

Hanzy’s sisters and the other early girls had found a piece of rope in the cane field, definitely off some big “cattle” neck, and they spent their time in jump rope or joined the other girls playing hop-scotch.

When the boys had time, or had got a couple years older and made time, we sat down flat on the ground and looked at the girls jumping. The ground was so hard that their uniforms flew high enough to almost cover their faces, which were definitely not important to us in those circumstances.

But Mr King did not know that food was secondary (if we had any), so when he asked Hanzy what the family had for breakfast, Hanzy replied, “Fig, sir.” Mr King immediately corrected him, “We don’t have figs in Trinidad or the rest of the Caribbean. We have bananas. What you had for breakfast was a banana, not a fig.”

GAVE A FIG

Quite honestly, none of us gave a fig or cared a fig about what was which. It was like my cousin Savi who went to the village shop and, in her best voice and accent, said to the owner, “Mr Pollard. Good morning, sir. My mummy sent me for a pound of rices, five cents ices, and two banana figs.”

We laughed at her then



Tony Deyal

but I later found out that, while there are no fig bananas, there is a Caribbean product known as a ‘banana fig’.

Actually, in most of the Caribbean, every banana is a fig, and what it lacks in taste it has in appeal. In the Greco-Roman culture, figs are associated with fertility and the female genitalia.

They are also supposed to be a sign of blessing and they help to ward off curses. Fortunately for them, their curses are nowhere close to those of Caribbean people for whom “mother” can be a four-letter word.

The Romans also have a “mano fico” (fig-hand) because it was thought to resemble the female private part, more a leg-end than a legend. In my case, I see things both figuratively

and literally. In this, I am very much like the Jamaican poet, Evan Jones. In his poem **The Song of the Banana Man**, he captured my emotion and spoke my language, “By God and dis big right han I will live an die a banana man.”

While in ancient Greece certain rituals involved beating men and women with the branches of fig trees to promote fertility, and in Egypt the great sex symbol, Cleopatra, preferred figs over any other fruit, including Mark Anthony, they were not alone in their ‘fig-onometree’. Moroccans still throw figs to wish “fruitfulness” to newlyweds. In my case, I am happy like pappy with my bananas and have a health of a good time on them. While Romans use

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figs to wish fruitful lives to one another, they don't know that bananas have more vitamin B6, vitamin C, and manganese than figs. In fact, vitamin B6 is 20 per cent higher in bananas than in figs and they have four times more vitamin C.

While the fig has two milligrams of vitamin C, bananas have eight. More important for old folks like me, banana has less sugar. I suppose that is why the two old ladies stood in the vegetable aisle of the supermarket discussing the price of figs.

One was pointing out that, although they were a dollar each, they could get three for \$2.50. Her colleague eventually capitulated and replied, "Ok then, we can always eat the third one."

For those in the know, male or fruit caprifigs are usually dry, spongy, sticky and inedible. Better to stick

to bananas. However, don't tell my daughter. When she was much younger and I told her that humans eat more bananas than monkeys, she was not convinced and I insisted, "It's true!" To which she replied, "Right, Daddy. When last you eat a monkey?"

SIMILAR TO PLANTAIN

Our banana fig, or what in some islands like Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Dominica and St Lucia are 'green figs' or 'green bananas', is similar to a plantain although shorter, broader and sweeter. One writer said it has "pale strawberry flesh", a "very sweet, full flavour" and no bitterness.

Another said that a mango looked at one and said to it, "We came from India just like some of you and we are so proud that you are taking a step in the ripe direction."

Actually, according to Hindu legend, the banana was the forbidden

Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden. After the Fall of Man, Adam and Eve covered their naked bodies with banana leaves than skimpy fig leaves. It may also be why the banana-fig is known as the *musa paradisiaca*, which translates into 'banana of paradise'.

While some of my friends quip "Time flies like an arrow but fruit flies like a banana", they don't know that, as I rapidly approach the age of 78, I have to be very careful. While I always hope for the best, I am not so optimistic that I will buy green figs or bananas. I am at what they call "a ripe old age".

Tony Deyal, after telling his daughter that a shoe made from bananas is a slipper, then asked her, "So when they locked him up, what happened to the banana?" He won his case on appeal.



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Commonwealth workshop to boost confidence in elections across Caribbean and Americas

The Commonwealth Secretariat has organised a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago this week for Caribbean and Americas election administrators to examine issues impacting electoral integrity, transparency and inclusiveness, with the aim of enhancing confidence in the democratic process.

Held in Port-of-Spain from 19 to 24 March 2023 in partnership with Trinidad and Tobago's Elections and Boundaries Commission, the workshop brought together 21 election administrators from nine election management bodies to exchange experiences and lessons learned in enhancing electoral integrity and transparency in their jurisdictions.

Opening the workshop, Mark Ramkerrysingh, Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's Elections and Boundaries Commission, said the workshop is of critical importance for the efficient functioning of electoral bodies, especially at a time when misinformation erodes public trust in democracy. He continued:

"Greater efficiency and transparency can blunt the impact of such misinformation on the electorate ... The issues of integrity, inclusion, transparency and leadership and efficiency



and effectiveness which are the themes of this training will lead to more rounded election professionals and, therefore, a strengthening of the election management body itself."

Echoing the chairman's words, Linford Andrews, Head of the Commonwealth's Electoral Support Section, said:

"This workshop serves as a valuable forum for the exchange of experience in delivering electoral processes in these exceptionally challenging times and the sharing of emerging good practice."

He added the workshop was the latest in a series of efforts by the Commonwealth Secretariat to strengthen democracy and build trust in electoral processes in the Caribbean region.

Speaking at the workshop, Shanis Lawrence, Senior Clerk at Dominica's Electoral Office, said:

"This week has been important for us. We have been able to listen and learn from other election management bodies from the region about the steps [which] they have taken to make their electoral processes more credible, transparent and inclusive. We will do our best to take this home and put it into practice."

As part of the regional workshop, the Commonwealth Secretariat also hosted a hybrid panel discussion on 22 March, which was joined by more than 40 election administrators from the region.

The panel discussion brought together the Chief Election Officers of Barba-

dos, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to share insights into the role of leadership in building and maintaining confidence in the electoral process.

The workshop falls under the Commonwealth Election Professionals initiative, a multi-year project funded by the Government of Australia that offers professional development opportunities to election administrators throughout the Commonwealth.

Since 2013, more than 250 election professionals from 48 Commonwealth election management bodies have benefitted from at least one of thirteen regional workshops.

The workshop in Trinidad and Tobago is the fourth to be held in the Caribbean and Americas region.

Guyanese teacher goes viral in school cutlass video



Screengrab of the incident at school in Guyana.

Loop - The Guyana Teachers' Union is calling on the Ministry of Education and Guyana Police Force to protect teachers following an incident on a school compound.

It is reported there was an altercation at the Houston Secondary School involving a parent and student last Thursday.

A teacher attached to the school was seen in a video with a cutlass in her hand which has since gone viral.

A report was made to the Ruimveldt Police Station. Attorney Darren Wade secured the teacher's release.

Upon leaving police custody, the teacher told local media that 'this thing has become the new COVID' and as an educator she would like to see a better relationship between

teachers, parents and students so teachers can work on what they are being paid to do, which is to educate the charges in their care.

The female teacher maintained she was attacked.

The Union in a Facebook post said: "It's a total shame to see that a female teacher has to go to an extreme to defend herself at her place of work. The same place where teachers are expected to educate and keep learners safe, they themselves are unsafe."

Meanwhile, Education Minister Priya Manickchand stated this on her Facebook page: "In every altercation between a teacher and parent/s, a child will be affected. Remember that. And dial down all the talks of violence and hostility."

Double homicide: Two men gunned down in St. Kitts

Loop - Police in St Kitts and Nevis are investigating a fatal shooting incident in Stapleton Village that resulted in the demise of Jermaine Henry, 35, and Denzil Edwards, 34, both of Stapleton Village.

The incident occurred around 2 am on Saturday.

Police investigations thus far have uncovered that a group of men were playing cards in a yard when a lone gunman wearing a hoodie entered the yard and opened fire on them.

Two of the men were shot and a third man sustained a broken leg while attempting to escape.

Henry was pronounced dead on scene, while Edwards and the man with the broken leg were transported to the JNF General Hospital by the



EMS.

Edwards succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter.

The scene was processed by the Crime Scene Unit and items of eviden-

tial value were gathered.

The Police are soliciting the cooperation of the public in providing any information that will aid the ongoing investigation.

Court rules President Ali violated Guyana's Constitution

CMC – A High Court judge Friday found that President Irfaan Ali violated Guyana's Constitution when he suspended the then chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), Retired Assistant Police Commissioner Paul Slowe in 2021.

Justice Gino Persaud ruled also that there had been no mechanism in place to give the former top cop a fair hearing.

“In summary, therefore, the decision of His Excellency the President to suspend the chairman and other members of the Commission was unlawful and in contravention of Article 225 of the Constitution, arbitrary, unreasonable, unfair, in violation of a suspended Chairman and Commissioners constitutional rights that are protection of the law and due process of the law,” Justice Persaud said.

Slowe had sought a declaration from the High Court that his suspension and that of the other PSC members by President Ali was contrary to and in violation of the Constitution of Guyana, in particular articles 225 (6) and 210 (3).

In his ruling, the judge noted the issue should have been put to the tribunal of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for ventilation but there is no JSC in place.

Justice Persaud said that President Ali, acting on advice of Prime Minister Mark Phillips, suspended Slowe on June 16, 2021, although there was no Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to appoint a Tribunal to hear allegations against the then PSC.

He said that the doctrine of necessity would have to be invoked to validate the President's actions.

“The President does not have an



unfettered discretion to suspend, as his suspension power only exists on the advice of the prescribed authority and or a decision of the tribunal.

“After the question of removal has been referred to the tribunal, it is still the independence of these constitutional office holders that they ought not be easily dismissed, removed or suspended except in the manner prescribed by the Constitution,” Justice Persaud said.

“It seems apparent that the framers of the Constitution in their infinite wisdom, sought to create a mechanism which ensures due process and security of tenure, so that the membership of the Police Service Commission could not be easily subjected to arbitrary behaviour.”

The judge also noted that although Slowe and fellow PSC member, retired assistant police commissioner, Clifton Conway, had been charged with conspiracy to defraud the Guyana Police Force, the presumption of innocence is what mattered.

“The right to due process is a constitutional right that is not abro-

gated due to the non-existence of the tribunal. Surely, the right of due process envisages the expectation and existence of the Tribunal.

“The non existence of a tribunal left the applicants perpetually suspended an extension of this unhappy situation is a scenario where the citizen has offered a grievance and is unable to come to court for redress because the court is not in existence,” the judge said.

Regarding the absence of a JSC, Justice Persaud remarked that that was a “burden for the President to bear”.

Attorney General Anil Nandlall had earlier challenged the naming of President Ali as a respondent since the Constitution shields him from prosecution through presidential immunity articulated under Article 182 (1) of the Constitution.

Earlier this year, the Attorney General assured that a JSC would have been appointed early in the first quarter of this year, but so far that has not been done.

The parties will have to file submissions on costs by April 14, 2023.

Israel defence minister fired in legal reform row

By **Charlene Anne Rodrigues**

Israeli's defence minister has been sacked after he spoke out against controversial plans to overhaul the justice system.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu summoned Yoav Gallant to a meeting and told him he no longer had faith in him as defence minister.

The plan to limit the powers of the judiciary led to months of protests.

Tens of thousands of protestors returned to the streets on Sunday night following Mr Gallant's dismissal.

In Jerusalem, police and soldiers used water cannon against demonstrators near Mr Netanyahu's house.

The leaders of the pro-

test accuse Mr Netanyahu of behaving like a dictator and destroying the security of Israel.

The new law makes it harder for courts to remove a leader deemed unfit for office, which has angered many who consider it in the interests of the incumbent, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption.

The leader of the opposition, Yair Lapid, described Mr Gallant's sacking as a new low for the government, while Mr Gallant himself has described the planned legislation as an "immediate and tangible danger" to state security.

In a brief televised statement on Saturday night, Mr Gallant said members of the Israeli Defence Forces were angry and disappoint-



Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

ed, with an intensity he had never seen before.

Shortly after his dismissal a day later, Mr Gallant wrote on Twitter: "The state of Israel's security has always been and will always be my life's mission."

The defence minister had won the backing of some fellow members of Mr Netanyahu's Likud party, but others on the far right had called for him to go.

The law is part of the right-wing coalition government's contentious plan to limit the powers of the judiciary.

The reforms include plans that would give the government full control over the committee which appoints judges, which he has said will pass in the Knesset next week.

Far-right national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir supported Mr Netanyahu's move, saying, "The prime minister decided on the nec-

essary step and I congratulate him for that."

It includes enabling parliament to overrule decisions made by the Supreme Court - a move that critics say will undermine the independence of the judiciary and could be used for political ends.

But Mr Netanyahu says the reforms are designed to stop the courts overreaching their powers and that they were voted for by the public at the last election.

Israel's opposition leader Yair Lapid described Mr Gallant's sacking as "a new low" for the government.

"Netanyahu can fire Gallant, but he can't fire reality or fire the people of Israel who are fronting up to resist the coalition's madness," Mr Lapid added.

Former defence minister Benny Gantz praised Mr Gallant, who he said had put the security of the country above all interests.

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Nato condemns 'dangerous' Russian nuclear rhetoric

By James Gregory

Nato has condemned Russia's "dangerous" and "irresponsible" rhetoric after Vladimir Putin's decision to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus.

The organisation is "closely monitoring" the situation and said the move would not lead it to change its own nuclear strategy.

The US said it did not believe Russia was preparing to use nuclear weapons.

Belarus shares a long border with Ukraine, as well as with Nato members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia.

Ukraine has called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to address the potential threat of President Putin's announcement on Saturday.

President Putin said Moscow would not be transferring control of its arms to Minsk and that Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko - a firm ally of the Kremlin and supporter of its invasion of Ukraine - had long raised the issue with him.

Ukraine says the move violates nuclear non-proliferation agreements - an accusation President Putin has denied, instead comparing it to the US stationing its weapons in Europe. But Nato on Sunday described Russia's reference to nuclear sharing as "misleading".

"Nato allies act with



President Putin announced he would station nuclear weapons in neighbouring Belarus on Saturday.

full respect of their international commitments," Nato spokesperson Oana Lungescu said.

The military alliance also accused Russia of consistently breaking its own arms control commitments, including the country's decision to suspend the new START treaty - a deal signed in 2010 which limits the number of US and Russian nuclear warheads and gives each the power to inspect the other's weapons.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Belarus to opt out of the deal with Putin, warning the country could face further sanctions if it went through with it.

"Belarus can still stop it, it is their choice," he wrote on Twitter.

On Sunday, a top security adviser to Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of making Belarus a "nuclear hostage".

Oleksiy Danilov wrote on Twitter that Russia's plans were a "step towards internal destabilisation" in Belarus and predicted anti-Russian sentiment in the country would grow.

Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said Russia's deployment of nuclear weapons in her country "grossly contradicts the will of the Belarusian people" and would make it a potential target for retaliatory strikes.

But Yuriy Sak, an adviser to Ukraine's ministry of defence, told the BBC that Ukraine was used to nuclear threats from Russia, adding that the deployment in Be-

larus would not change the outcome of the war.

"They cannot win this war because it is for them unsustainable, it is unwinnable, [and] they cannot defeat Ukraine because we have been living with the hypothetical threat of a possible nuclear strike from day one of the large-scale invasion," he said.

Mr Sak said there was nothing new in Russia's behaviour, as it had been stationing military equipment in Belarus since the start of the war in 2022.

Mykhailo Podolyak, another senior adviser to President Zelensky, characterised the move as "scare tactics" and said the Russian leader was "too predictable".

Analysts at the US think

cont'd on pg 17

Tunisia migrants: At least 29 die off coast

By Cecilia Macaulay

At least 29 migrants have died after at least two boats sank off Tunisia's coast within hours of each other, officials say.

The sub-Saharan migrants were trying to cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy.

It is the latest in a string of migrant boat capsizes off Tunisia's coast in the last few days, with five others sinking in the past four days.

This comes after Tunisia launched a campaign against undocumented African migrants.

Meanwhile, Italian officials on the island of Lampedusa say they are overwhelmed, after a record 2,500 migrants arrived in the last 24 hours.

The Italian far-right Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, has warned Europe risks seeing a huge wave of refugees arriving on its shores.

Tunisia has become a hub for migrants who wish to make it to Europe, with UN figures showing at least 12,000 migrants who land-



In February this boat of migrants was rescued some 31 miles (50km) from Tunisia's coast.

ed on Italy's shores this year left from Tunisia. That figure was just 1,300 in the same time period last year.

However, the Tunisia coast guard say they are taking steps to stop the migrant crossings, having halted around 80 vessels headed for Europe in the past four days, according to the Reuters news agency. It also says it has detained more than 3,000 migrants, the same agency reports.

In a controversial speech last month, Tunisia's

president accused sub-Saharan African migrants living in the country of causing a crime wave and described them as a demographic threat.

Kais Saied's comments were widely criticised by the African Union and denounced as "racist hate speech" by human rights groups.

These comments have left some sub-Saharan Africans in Tunisia living in fear, with some saying they have seen an increase in rac-

ist incidents.

This has led some countries, like Ivory Coast and Guinea, to repatriate their citizens due to an increased climate of intolerance in Tunisia.

Tunisia's economy is in a poor state, and is facing crisis after negotiations with the the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stalled.

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has also warned that Tunisia urgently needs to reach a bailout deal with the IMF.

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tank Institute for War said the risk of escalation to nuclear war following the announcement remained "extremely low".

A small number of Iskander tactical missile systems, which can be used to launch nuclear weapons, have already been transferred to Belarus, President Putin said in his address on Saturday.

This will be the first time since

the mid-1990s that Moscow will have based nuclear arms outside the country.

The Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 meant weapons became based in four newly-independent states - Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan - with the transfer of all warheads to Russia completed in 1996.

Russia will start training crews to operate the weapons from next week. The construction of a storage facility

for tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus will be completed by 1 July, President Putin said.

The announcement comes only days after Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow, during which Russia and China issued a joint statement saying "all nuclear powers must not deploy their nuclear weapons beyond their national territories, and they must withdraw all nuclear weapons deployed abroad".

Wins for both cup-holders in local volleyball league

Both male and female defending champions won their latest games in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local Club League on Saturday night.

Reigning female champs Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad maintained their perfect record by cruising to a 3-0 straight-set win over Stoneville in the opening game of a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Da Squad notched up their third win in as many games in their title defense with a 25-20, 25-16, 25-16 victory over Stoneville who lost for the third time in four outings.

Reigning men's division champs Stoneville claimed their third win in four games, prevailing 3-1 against



Reigning national female volleyball club champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad. (File photo)

Renegades in the second game of Saturday night's double header.

Stoneville stayed on course for a successful title defense, pulling off a 25-18, 25-14, 23-25, 25-14 victory

against Renegades who were beaten for the third time in four encounters.

Twenty-four hours earlier, newcomers Pytonz secured their second

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Dr. Shallow elected new president of Cricket West Indies

Dr. Kishore Shallow was elected unopposed as the new president of Cricket West Indies at the organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua on Saturday.

He will have Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board President Asim Bassarath as his vice president.

Dr. Shallow succeeds Ricky Skerritt, who decided not to seek a third term. Skerritt became president in 2019 after defeating three-term president Dave Cameron in Kingston.

The new president, who also leads the Windward Islands Cricket Board, has promised significant changes to the way the CWI operates going forward.

Those changes will manifest atop four key pillars that include cricket development, human capital, commercial and marketing as well as governance.

Dr. Shallow said, "On behalf of Cricket West Indies, I sincerely thank the outgoing President Ricky Skerritt for his latest contribution to our beloved cricket.

"He has served with



Newly elected CWI President Dr Kishore Shallow (left) and vice president Azim Bassarath at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua on Saturday, 25th March, 2023. (CWI)

distinction and pride in one of the most challenging periods in our lifetime, the COVID-19 pandemic. His tenure has certainly moved us in the right direction.

"The resounding vote of confidence demonstrated by the shareholders is heartening. My profound gratitude to them and all the stakeholders for supporting me throughout the electoral process.

"As I embark on this new role with Vice President Bassarath, there is no delusion about the consid-

erable workload. My philosophy remains one of unity and inclusivity. For it is only if we pool our resources and efforts together will West Indies cricket make any meaningful advancement as a cricket nation."

Bassarath said, "It is indeed an honour to be elected to serve as the Vice President of Cricket West Indies and I look forward to working alongside Dr. Shallow and the other members of the Board of Directors as we continue the good work done by Mr. Skerritt

for the benefit of everyone involved in West Indies Cricket."

In addition to the election for President and Vice President, the following persons were duly elected as Member Directors of CWI.

Jason King and Conde Riley of the Barbados Cricket Association; Bissoondyal Singh and Deleep Singh of the Guyana Cricket Board; Dr. Donovan Bennett and Wilford Heaven of the Jamaica Cricket Association; Enoch Lewis and Leon Rodney of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board; Kerwin John and Arjoon Ramlal of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board along with Dwain Gill and Carol Henry of the Windward Islands Cricket Board.

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win in three games by grabbing a 3-0 straight-set victory over High Flyers in their men's division affair.

Pytonz prevailed 25-19, 25-22, 25-11 over Renegades who slumped to their third loss in four encounters.

Jets won for the second time in three games when they claimed a 3-0 straight-set victory against former champions Paragons.

Jets cruised to victory, winning 25-14, 27-25, 25-17 to inflict the first loss in three games for Paragons.



The Blackburn Palace team walk on to the field for one of their games in the second division earlier this season. Palace won their third match this season at New Winthorpes on 23rd March, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Attacking Saints, Jennings and Blackburn claim wins in Second Division's group stage

Attacking Saints joined leaders Jennings United and Blackburn Palace in recording wins in the opening round of matches in the second phase group stages of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division.

Joshua Samuel scored a hat-trick and Kerron McKenzie converted once as Attacking Saints beat Belmont 4-0 at the Golden Grove playing field on Friday.

Their 10th win in 15 matches lifted Attacking Saints to 34 points while Belmont remain on 19 points after losing for the 8th time in the same number of outings.

Jennings United hammered FC Master Ballerz 4-1 at the Golden Grove playing field. The goals for Jennings were scored by Shaquille Watkins in the 10th minute, Kevon Samuel in the 37th minute, John-Pierre Williams in the 48th minute and Daryl Massimo in

the 75th minute.

Kerland Ferdinand scored a consolation goal in the 79th minute for Master Ballerz, who remain on 24 points after losing their fifth game in 15 matches. Jennings United advanced to 39 points at the top of the standings after recording their 12th win in 15 encounters.

A 31st minute conversion by Donald Lumsden was sufficient to give Blackburn Palace a 1-0 win over Real Blizzard at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Blackburn Palace advance to nine points after claiming their third win in 15 matches, while Real Blizzard remain on 25 points after suffering their fourth loss in 15 appearances.

Keita Jonis scored his second of two goals just two minutes before the end of regulation time to enable Young Warriors to salvage a 2-2 draw with ABAYA at the Parham playing field.

Jonis' 88th minute conversion was the second time he had scored the equalizer for Young Warriors in the match. He scored his first goal in the 24th minute to level the score at 1-1 after Joshua James' 6th minute conversion had given ABAYA a 1-0 lead.

Shamar Carr scored in the 47th minute to restore ABAYA's one-goal advantage before Jonis converted his second equalizing goal for the Young Warriors. The result carries both teams to nine points from 15 matches.

Akia Floyd scored in the 72nd minute as Bethesda snatched a 1-1 draw with Lingies CPTSA Wings at the St Johnston's playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Jayden Browne had scored in the 58th minute to give Wings a 1-0 lead.

The result lifted Bethesda to 22 points from 15 matches while Wings advanced to 17 points from the same number of outings.

WI Volcanoes beat LI Hurricanes by six wickets

Preston McSween starred with his fifth first-class five-wicket haul as the Windward Islands Volcanoes completed a comfortable six-wicket win over the Leeward Islands Hurricanes on the final day of their fourth-round regional four-day championship match at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Saturday.

The Hurricanes started the day on 99 for five off

39 overs in their second innings with a lead of 128 runs with Montcin Hodge on 45 and Kofi James yet to get off the mark.

Hodge ended up making a top score of 59 as the Leewards eventually folded for 144 off 55 overs.

McSween led the charge with the ball for the Volcanoes with five for 39 off 13 overs, while Larry Edward snapped up three wickets for nine runs in eight overs.

Chasing 174 for victory, the Volcanoes reached 32 without loss at lunch with Teddy Bishop on 15 and Keron Cottoy on 12.

The Windwards lost three wickets after the resumption, including first innings centurion Kavem Hodge, but Alick Athanaze, who also got a century in the first innings, and Sunil Ambris steadied the ship.

At tea, the Volcanoes were 151 for three off 34

overs, needing only 23 more runs to win with Athanaze on 31 and Ambris on 28.

Shortly after tea, Athanaze was dismissed for 38 before Ambris and Tevyn Walcott guided the Volcanoes home to victory at 174 for four off 38 overs. Ambris finished on 40 not out.

Off-spinner Rakheem Cornwall took two for 53 off 13 overs for the Hurricanes.



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Wins for John Hughes and Lion Hill in First Division league

John Hughes and Lion Hill recorded wins in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division.

Following a goalless first half, a Garcel Morrison's 47th minute conversion and an own goal which was scored by Commarley Joseph in the 59th minute gave John Hughes a 2-0 win over Green City at the Bendals playing field.

Their ninth win in 16 matches ensures John Hughes remain in second place, taking them to 30 points, 16 points behind unbeaten leaders Garden Stars.

Green City will remain in third place on goal difference with 26 points despite suffering their fifth loss in 15 matches.

A 24th minute conversion by Tequaine Teague gave Lion Hill a 1-0 win over West Ham at the Golden Grove playing field.

Their seventh win in 16 matches carries Lion Hill level with Green City on 26 points.

But Lion Hill advanced into fourth place due to an inferior goal difference to Green City.

West Ham will remain second from bottom of the 12-team competition with nine points after losing



The Lion Hill Football Team. (File photo)

for the 10th time in 15 encounters.

Bendals will move above Young Lions into fifth place on goal difference after salvaging a 1-1 draw with bottom team JSC Progressors at the St Johnston's Village playing field. Darren Stevens snatched the equalizer for Bendals with a 64th minute conversion after Andre Williams had scored in the 34th minute to give JSC Progressors a 1-0 halftime lead.

Their third draw in 16 matches allows Bendals to join Young Lions on 24 points, while it was also the third draw in 16 matches for JSC Progressors, who will advance to six points but remain root-

ed in the cellar position in the first division.

Fort Road secured a 2-2 draw with Police in their encounter at the Fort Road playing field.

Zakeem Michael scored in the 35th minute and Ezekiel Thomas had a 73rd minute conversion for Fort Road, while Daniel Bryan scored in the 51st minute and Chad Vidal had a 64th minute conversion for Police.

Fort Road will remain in seventh place after their third draw in 16 matches carries them to 21 points, one point ahead of Police who will remain in 8th place after drawing for the 5th time in the same number of appearances.

Following a goalless

first half, Taiem Tonge scored an equalizer in the second minute of added on time to snatch a 1-1 draw for Bolans against Potters Tigers in their encounter at the Potters playing field.

Prior to Tonge's 92nd minute conversion, Potters Tigers were on course to secure victory after Ordel Samuel had scored in the 50th minute to give the home side a 1-0 lead.

Bolans will remain in 9th place after claiming their fourth draw in 16 matches to advance to 19 points, while Potters Tigers will move on to 16 points but will remain in 10th place after recording their fourth draw from the same number of encounters.



Head Coach Nelson Molina, left, and Assistant Coach Wayne Mitchell, right, along with members of the Antigua and Barbuda swim team for the CARIFTA Aquatic Championships in Curacao from 6th to 12th April, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABSF)

ABSF selects national swimming team for CARIFTA Championships

The Antigua & Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) has announced a fifteen (15) member squad, to compete in the upcoming CARIFTA Aquatic Championships in Curacao next month.

The squad is made up of six (6) boys and nine (9) girls, all of whom have competed at regional meets in the past. The competition takes place over the period of 6th to 12th April

Some swimmers have attained the required AA time standard for their age groups and others have surpassed the standard which also gave them qualification for the CCCAN Swimming Championships to be held later in the year.

The team will be accompanied by Head Coach Nelson Molina, Assistant Coach Wayne Mitchell, Team Manager Lisa MacMillan and two chaperons,

Daniela Casmiro-Shaw and Anjanette Wilshire.

Contesting the female 11 to 12 age group category at the CARIFTA Aquatic Championships will be Anya DeGannes while Jamie Tranter and Reuben Edwards will contest the 11-12 Boys category.

Participating in the 13 to 14 girls' division will be Mila Festini-Cromer, Ellie Shaw, Madison MacMillan, Davina Barton and Se-

lah Wiltshire, while Davien Barton will contest the boys 13 to 14 age group category.

Antigua and Barbuda will be represented in the girls' 15 to 17 competition by Angelique Gittens, Aunjelique Liddie and Alandra Dublin. The squad is completed by three swimmers who will contest the boys 15 to 17 competitions. They are Tivon Benjamin, Naem D'Souza and Tony Goodwin.

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clash on Saturday to take a one-nil lead in the three-match series.

The start in Centurion was pushed back because of wet conditions and the contest was reduced to an 11-overs-a-side thrash, with South Africa totting up 131 for eight, helping by David Miller crunching 48 from 22 balls.

Miller struck three sixes as the home side recovered well from los-

ing opener Quinton de Kock to the first ball of their innings at SuperSport Park.

West Indies made a flying start to their reply as Brandon King and Kyle Mayers took 17 runs from the first four deliveries. King's 23, and 28 from Johnson Charles, helped to put the tourists in a strong position, but it was Powell who played the crucial innings.

The 29-year-old Jamaican hit five sixes in an explosive 43no from 18 balls, holding his nerve after West Indies lost two wickets to Sisanda Magala (three for 21) in the 10th over.

Powell's maximum from the second delivery of the 11th over brought the teams level, and he tucked away a single into the leg side from the next ball to seal the win, taking West Indies to victory at 132 for seven.

South Africa chase down record T20 target to beat Windies

PRETORIA, South Africa (Reuters) - Quinton de Kock's sensational century propelled South Africa to a remarkable six-wicket victory over the West Indies in a thrilling T20I after a record-breaking knock from Johnson Charles at Centurion yesterday (Sunday).

Charles' astonishing 118 from 46 balls and an excellent 51 from Kyle Mayers got the Windies to what looked to be a series-winning total of 258 for five.

Yet De Kock (100 off 44) had other ideas, with South Africa's former captain leading the Proteas to a sensational triumph and the highest successful run chase in T20Is.

By the end of the third over the hosts had scored 62 without loss, and they added an additional 20 runs from the next 18 deliveries.

South Africa's total of 102 without loss from the first six overs is the highest powerplay score in a T20I involving Test-playing nations, and the fastest first hundred runs scored in a T20I involving a full ICC member.

In the process, De Kock struck South Africa's quickest 50, from just 15 balls – the fifth-fastest half-cen-



South Africa's batsman Quinton de Kock celebrates after reaching his century during the second T20 International against the West Indies at SuperSport Park Cricket Stadium, Centurion, South Africa, 26th March, 2023. (Reuters)

tury in the shortest format.

De Kock should have been caught in the deep shortly after, but did not let up as he cruised to his maiden T20I century, taking just 42 deliveries to get there, before falling to Raymon Reifer soon after.

Reeza Hendricks (68 from 28 balls) picked up the slack, though he followed Rilee Rossouw (16) in heading back to the pavilion when the Windies claimed wickets in swift succession in the 12th and 13th overs.

Romario Shepherd caught David Miller to hand West Indies a further flash

of hope, yet three big hits from new captain Aiden Markram (38) put the Proteas back in control as they cantered to victory and levelled the series.

If it was not for De Kock's sparkling knock, Charles would have been the story.

His century, which came from 39 deliveries and included 11 sixes and 10 fours, was the fastest T20I hundred by a West Indies player, surpassing a record set by Chris Gayle in 2016 (47 balls). Unfortunately for the tourists, it was not enough.

It was certainly a day

for the batters at SuperSport Park. South Africa's bowlers set the tone for what was to come as they struggled to keep the Windies under wraps, despite Wayne Parnell (two for 42) dismissing Brandon King in the first over.

The Windies attack then suffered as De Kock, Hendricks and then Markram put them to the sword in a stunning display.

Twenty-four hours earlier, New skipper Rovman Powell powered West Indies to a stunning three-wicket win against the South Africans in a rain-reduced T20I

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