



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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PM BROWNE WELCOMES AIR PEACE'S INAUGURAL FLIGHT

Story on Page 2

Carnival Tuesday 2023



PM Browne welcomes Air Peace's inaugural flight

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has been speaking of his role as a leading voice within the Caribbean, calling for establishing direct flights between Africa and the Caribbean, which he referred to as Africa's 'Sixth Region.'

PM Browne recalled that the proposals were announced within 'the halls of CARICOM' and during the time that he served as chairman, he had done much work to advance the process.

"This initiative emanated within the CARICOM space within which we would have held discussions



Director of Economics, Trade and Investment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Akinremi Bolaji, left, and Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

about strengthening the relationship between the Carib-

bean, the Sixth Region, and the 'Motherland.' In 2021, it was the CARICOM chair who presided over the first CARICOM-African summit. In fact, I even recommended that September 7 be set aside as African-Caribbean Day which is now observed each year. The point I am making is that, I have been among the leaders in CARICOM promoting closer ties with Africa," he stated.

According to PM Browne he has been advocating for stronger ties with Africa in trade and investments as well as opportunities for people-to-people exchanges.

"However, to capitalize on these opportunities, we must be able to move people, and if you can't move people then, obviously, that vision would remain un-

realized. This is why Air Peace is so important. It is the first established airline to have crossed the Atlantic to have a commercial flight into the Caribbean region. This is a significant development, and the airline's CEO is giving a commitment for weekly flights linking Africa with the Caribbean," he remarked.

The prime minister promised his government's full support for the efforts by Air Peace to establish weekly flights into Antigua and for its commitment to invest significantly in LIAT 2020 in the coming months.

He also opened the door for a possible starting point for cruises, where Africans arrive to board ships that are homeporting here. He promised to have discussions with the cruise lines to explore this possibility.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
A.D. 2023

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 31 August 2023 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property.

The property is located at Dyett Street in Villa, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 2,178 sq. ft./ 0.05 acre, with a 514 sq. ft. single storey, two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom wooden dwelling thereon.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

REGISTRATION SECTION: Villa
BLOCK: 62 1693F
PARCEL: 37

Parcel No. 37 of Block No. 62 1693F is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 35;
- On the South by: Parcel 39;
- On the East by: Public Road;
- On the West by: Parcel 36

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
Licensed Auctioneer
Office: (268) 562-7653
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653
Email: info@go-going-gone.com
Instagram: [tts_auction_antigua](https://www.instagram.com/tts_auction_antigua)
Facebook: Auction Antigua

Direct commercial flights from Nigeria by yearend

The founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Airline, Air Peace, Allen Onyema, has announced that there will be direct commercial flights between Antigua and Barbuda and Nigeria before the end of the year.

Speaking at a reception on Monday night, to welcome a delegation of business and government officials to the country, Onyema said the VC Bird International Airport (VC-BIA) will be the hub as Air Peace seeks to expand into the Caribbean with a once-weekly flight, initially.

“Antigua and Barbuda will be the hub for the entire Caribbean. This country occupies a central position in the community of CARICOM nations and your geographical location is also very good with a very good and accommodating airport. We are going to bring people from the ‘Motherland’- Africa, to the Caribbean. Air Peace will be acquiring 70 percent of LIAT 2020,” he revealed.

He explained that Antigua and Barbuda will serve as headquarters of the new LIAT 2020, while Air Peace will fly people from Western Africa to VC-BIA, from where LIAT will then fly them to other destina-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Airline, Air Peace, Allen Onyema

tions in the region. Onyema said, already the announcement of regular connections between Africa and the Caribbean has been generating much interest on both sides of the Atlantic, as many Caribbean people have long expressed a desire to travel to Africa but have found the journey to be a daunting task, as well as from people in Africa with a similar desire to visit the region. He is also promising an initial 40 percent reduction in the tickets to travel.

“People now know there is a bridge coming to close the gap between Africa and the Caribbean. We’re going to take people from West and Central Africa; fly them to Nigeria from where they will be flown directly to the VC-BIA and use it as a hub to distribute to other places,”

flight to Africa.

Onyema also announced that when the new LIAT 2020 is fully established, later in the year, there will be plans to fly into other destinations such as the United States and Canada.

Meanwhile, the Director of Economics, Trade and Investment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Akinremi Bolaji, said the Nigerian government has approved the application for Air Peace to operate on the Nigeria/Antigua and Barbuda route.

he further explained. Antigua would also serve as the meeting point for the return

AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
POTTERS & BELMONT	613 1991C	336

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 15th day of August 2023 at 11:00am the above residential property at Potters.

The property is under the ownership of **EUSTACE M. DANIEL JR.** The land is a 0.15 acre plot with a single storey concrete apartment building with 2-2bedroom units.

The property is in residential development with a gentle slope.

The Auction shall be held on site.

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

Dated this the 21st day of July 2023

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

A&B to derive economic benefits from Nigerians' visit

Antigua and Barbuda stands to derive many benefits from the visit here of a group of business, political and social leaders from Nigeria who arrived in the country on Saturday for an important visit. Prime Minister Gaston Browne is reporting that already there have been discussions between the government and members of the delegation who arrived aboard the Air Peace inaugural flight to the country.

“I told Allen (Onyema) that he is a Garveyite, in that, he has been able to achieve what (Marcus) Garvey envisioned but which did not materialize, the direct connection between the African continent and the Caribbean. Through his efforts, we have seen businessmen fly across the Atlantic as free people, who have already been having talks with the government. These are individ-



PM Browne takes photo with visiting Nigerians enjoying the Carnival Tuesday Parade

uals who have discussed with us various areas of collaboration and cooperation,” he disclosed.

Among those holding talks with the government are individuals involved in oil and gas, construction and land development, and manufacturing. He added that several businessmen and women

were invited to the social held on Monday night to make contact with the local business community and to create a ‘partnership’ with the local community.

The prime minister said there was particular interest in a proposal from one member of the group. “One of the individuals with whom we met is about to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing enterprise here in Antigua and Barbuda; to include pharmaceuticals for diabetes, hypertension, and other ailments. Now, as you know, the Caribbean region has one of the highest prevalence of NCDs, and having such a factory here could be of significant importance not only for Antigua and Barbuda but for people in the OECS and the wider CARICOM region,” he declared.

Discussions with the potential Nigerian investors are ongoing.



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GALACTIC

 **FIRST CARIBBEAN
WOMEN IN SPACE**

A teenager found, an alleged sexual offence and wounding... police blatter as Carnival wraps

Summer Glo Lake of Piggotts was reportedly found. Up to Tuesday afternoon, the teenager was at the Parham Police station where officers there are conducting further investigations into her whereabouts.

The 13-year-old reportedly left her parents' home sometime after 8 pm on Saturday, August 5 to visit a relative in the said village and later went missing.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas reported the matter after earlier issuing a statement asking for the public's help with the safe and speedy return of the teenager.

In another police matter, Inspector Thomas is also reporting that the Special Victims Unit is investigating an alleged sexual offence that apparently occurred over the weekend, at an event held at the stadium. The matter is be-



Summer Glo Lake
ing dealt with per the Sexual Offences Act.

The police are further asking that the public be more responsible and empathetic towards victims of these horrendous crimes.

Members of the public should ex-

ercise restraint and desist from making certain comments that will do more harm than good.

Additionally, the police are currently investigating a few reports of wounding, three of which stemmed from domestic disputes. One incident occurred around 10 am on J'Ouvert Morning which left a 15-year-old male of Ottos, nursing a stab wound to his left arm. The wound is said not to be life-threatening. The alleged perpetrator was taken into custody immediately after the incident.

The police launched several appeals before and during carnival asking members of the public to exercise caution and avoid consuming too many alcoholic beverages. These were aimed at reducing conflicts ending in physical injuries to anyone.

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ANTIGUA BARBUDA 2023

Revenue collections up between January and July 2023

The government's main revenue collections department, the Customs and Excise Division, is reporting that its collections for the first seven months of the year are up when compared with the corresponding period, last year.

Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, said total collections from January to July this year amounted to \$232 million. This compares favourably with the \$202 million collected for the same period last year.

Boddu said collections for the month of July were also up compared with the seventh month last year; \$32.5 million in 2023 versus \$26.4 million for 2022. This was a difference of over \$6 million.

The comptroller credits increased efficiencies in the division's efforts to curtail leakages in the system. "We have

been able to develop efficiencies in our strategies and methods, that make it very difficult to circumvent the system. In addition, we have a very good team of officers attached to the Deep Water Harbour, where the bulk of the money is collected," he stated.

The comptroller is of the view that recent statements concerning the operations at the port are coming from those who are no longer able to avoid paying the taxes that are due.

"Some people have been asking for the removal of certain officers and I firmly believe that much of this 'noise' is being motivated because these people are no longer able to do as they like," he declared.

Boddu noted that imports into the country have not grown significantly between July 2022 and July 2023. It

only increased by 6.7 percent. Whilst collections for June 2023 rose by 12 percent and subsequently rose by 14 percent for July.

"Even our tax yield at the port stands at a healthy 21 percent and would have been higher had it not been depressed by falling oil revenues. When there is a drop in oil prices we collect less in revenues from the commodity. This also includes the subsidy granted to bus drivers and Barbudans. We lose an estimated \$3 million each month from consumption tax placed on petroleum products," he disclosed.

Last year, the Customs and Excise Division collected \$382 million. This compares with the pre-pandemic figure of \$389.5 million in 2019.

Boddu said the country is on course to surpass the 2019 figure this year.

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Local businessman backs establishment of National Trade Council (NTC)

A local businessman is welcoming the decision to establish a National Trade Council (NTC) for Antigua and Barbuda.

Managing Director of Shell Beach Seafood, Wilbur Edwards, said such an entity ‘with muscles’ such as the NTC may be able to better represent the interests of small/medium-sized enterprises such as his own in the face of many international challenges.

Edwards, whose company exports lobsters internationally, to as far as China, has recounted the challenges faced, within the last several years, just to keep his business afloat.

From the COVID-19 pandemic issues to difficulties shipping his lobsters into China, Edwards identified

shipping as his greater challenge, especially since only one airline is offering cargo service out of VC Bird International to London where they are transited to China.

According to Edwards, in August of last year, British Airways (BA) the only carrier with a cargo service, placed an embargo on shipping lobsters beyond London. That forced his company to engage in a scramble to find a UK company that would do a joint venture by shipping the lobsters from London to China. “Now, you must understand that BA is the only game in town as Virgin Airlines suspended cargo service into Antigua and Barbuda two years ago. We have begged and begged Virgin to resume



Wilbur Edwards

operations, but we do not have the muscle to convince them to resume operations here. We need support from persons or government entities with the necessary muscle to negotiate on our behalf,” he remarked.

He also reported that calls have been made to senior officials of the airline, but which seemingly have fallen on ‘deaf ears.’ He added that this development has allowed BA to increase their prices sharply because there’s no competition.

Meanwhile, the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Industry and Commerce also welcomes the formation of the NTC.

Executive Director - Martin Cave, said his organization would naturally support the formation of the NTC since “trade is what we do. The NTC may bring the various players together for them to collaborate, this would make trading easier. Whenever this happens, it benefits the whole economy,” he remarked.



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Tory Lanez sentenced to 10 years for shooting Megan Thee Stallion

By Max Matza

Canadian rapper Tory Lanez has been sentenced to 10 years for the shooting of fellow musician Megan Thee Stallion.

Lanez shot Grammy winner Megan Thee Stallion in the feet during an argument between the pair after a party in 2020.

He was found guilty on three gun-related charges in December and has been held in jail since.

The shooting left Megan Thee Stallion needing surgery to remove bullet fragments from her foot.

The LA District Attorney said after the verdict that the fact that she is famous helped bring attention to the issue of violence against women.

“The fact that she is a successful entertainer has brought an important spotlight on the issue of violence against women,” said prosecutor George Gascón.

The shooting occurred during the journey home from a pool party hosted by reality star Kylie Jenner.

Prosecutors had asked the judge to impose a 13-year prison sentence.

They said Lanez deserved a lengthy sentence for shooting a “vulnerable victim” on a quiet residential street, and for waging “a campaign to humiliate and re-traumatise her” after the attack.

Director of Victim Ser-



vices at the Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office, Tanishia Wright, told reporters after the sentencing hearing: “Violence against black women and girls is a long standing national epidemic that has long been overlooked and under-reported.”

“Women of colour more times than not do not come forward to report victimisation due to the fear they will not be believed,” she continued.

Lanez, real name Daystar Peterson, has had seven US top 10 albums in the past seven years.

He was convicted of three felonies last December: assault with a semi-automatic firearm; having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle; and discharging a firearm with gross negligence. The 31-year-old has been in custody since being

found guilty.

His lawyers argued he should get probation and time in a drug treatment programme. It is unclear if Lanez is now facing deportation to Canada.

His lawyer, Jose Baez, said his client plans to appeal the sentence due to “significant issues” with the trial.

Outside court on Tuesday, he cited a lack of DNA evidence against Lanez in relation to the shooting, adding that the rapper’s DNA was not found on the gun used.

Baez added that he believes Lanez did not receive a fair trial.

In a victim impact statement read in court on Monday, Megan, a triple Grammy winner, said she will “never be the same” after the attack.

“Since I was viciously shot by the defendant, I have

not experienced a single day of peace,” the statement said, according to US media.

“Slowly but surely, I’m healing and coming back, but I will never be the same.”

Other witnesses who spoke on Monday included Lanez’s father, who talked emotionally about the effect on his son of the death of his mother when he was 11, and a prison chaplain who said Lanez had been leading daily prayer groups.

The judge said he had received more than 70 letters in support of Lanez from his family and friends, including rapper Iggy Azalea, who called for a sentence that would be “transformative, not life-destroying”.

The shooting happened when the pair left Jenner’s home with his bodyguard and her friend and assistant

cont’d on pg 13

Chance discovery helps fight against malaria

By Naomi Grimley

Scientists have found a naturally occurring strain of bacteria which can help stop the transmission of malaria from mosquitoes to humans.

They found it by chance, after a colony of mosquitoes in one experiment did not develop the malaria parasite.

The researchers say the bacteria could be a new tool for fighting one of the world's oldest diseases, which kills 600,000 people every year.

Trials assessing its safety in the real world are now taking place.

Scientists at a research facility in Spain, run by the GSK pharmaceutical company, made the discovery after noticing that a colony of mosquitoes being used for drug development had stopped carrying malaria.

"The infection rate in the mosquitoes started dwindling and so by the end of the year the mosquitoes just would not be infected with the malaria parasite," says Dr Janneth Rodrigues, who

led the programme.

The team froze the samples from their 2014 experiment and went back to them two years later to explore what had happened.

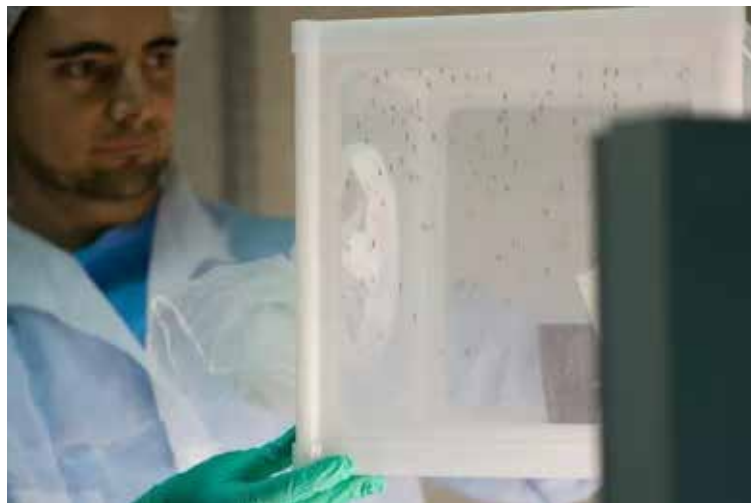
Further studies revealed that a specific strain of bacteria - TC1 - which is naturally present in the environment, had stopped the development of the malaria parasites in the gut of the mosquitoes.

"Once it colonises the mosquito, it lasts for the entire lifespan," says Dr Rodrigues.

"And we found out that, yes, it is the bacteria which was responsible for reducing transmission in those mosquitoes."

New data published in Science magazine suggests the bacteria can reduce a mosquito's parasite load by up to 73%.

The bacteria works by secreting a small molecule, known as harmane, which inhibits the early stages of the malaria parasite growing in the mosquito's gut.



Scientists are researching ways of preventing mosquitoes spreading malaria at a lab in Spain.

In conjunction with Johns Hopkins University, the GSK scientists discovered that harmane can either be ingested orally by the mosquito, if mixed with sugar, or absorbed through its cuticle on contact.

This lays open the possibility of treating surfaces in areas where the insects rest with the active compound.

More trials are now taking place at a contained field research facility called MosquitoSphere in Burkina Faso to assess how effective and safe it would be to use harmane at scale in the real

world.

The hope is that by developing this bacteria-based intervention into a product, scientists may soon have another tool in the box against one of the world's oldest diseases.

Malaria kills about 620,000 people a year - often children under the age of five. Vaccines have now been developed, but they are still in the early stages of being rolled out in Africa.

Gareth Jenkins, from the charity Malaria No More, said the new discovery was promising.

"Malaria kills a child every minute. Significant progress has been made in reducing the global burden of malaria, but to get us back on track we need new and innovative tools in the arsenal.

"With a strong innovation pipeline, it is possible to end the threat of malaria in our lifetimes."

cont'd from pg 12

Kelsey Harris in an SUV in the early hours of 12 July 2020.

Megan, real name Megan Pete, told the court she got into an argument with Lanez over their previous sexual relationship. The row escalated and led to the pair insulting each other's careers.

She said she demanded to be let out of the vehicle, at which point Lanez started shooting at the ground and shouted at her

to "dance".

Lanez has maintained his innocence, with his lawyers suggesting Ms Harris may have shot her friend after discovering the relationship because she had a "crush" on him and was jealous.

Ms Harris denied that. However, on the witness stand she backtracked on previous statements that Lanez was the shooter, instead telling the trial she did not see who shot Megan.

Zoom denies training AI on calls without consent

Zoom has updated its terms of service after a backlash over fears that it trained its artificial intelligence (AI) models on customer calls.

In a blog post the firm stressed that audio, video and chats were not used for AI without consent.

The video-calling app acted after users noticed changes to the firm's terms of service in March which they worried enabled AI training.

The firm said it made the changes to be more transparent.

Zoom launched new AI-powered features in June, one of which lets clients summarise meetings without having to record an entire session. The features were offered as a free trial.

But some experts warned the original wording of the terms of service could have allowed Zoom to access more user data than needed, including from customer calls.

Talking to the BBC, before the terms of service were updated, data protection specialist Robert Bateman said: "The terms appeared to give the service provider a lot of freedom to use data generated by its users for many different purposes."

He said that while there was a question mark over



the risks that could arise, "alarm bells should ring when you encounter broad contractual provisions like these".

Late on Monday Zoom updated its terms to include the line "Zoom will not use audio, video or chat customer content to train our artificial intelligence models without your consent".

AI applications are computer programmes or tools that can perform specific, intelligent tasks that would usually be performed by humans. They are trained using vast amounts of data and algorithms to "learn" and replicate patterns of human-like behaviour.

But the mass extraction of online information to train the models underpinning AI applications has ignited fears, and prompted lawsuits, over the potential

inclusion of personal, sensitive or copyrighted material in their datasets.

Zoom, like many tech companies, has upped its focus on AI products this year in response to the growing hype around the technology.

But the Open Rights Group, which campaigns on digital privacy, has warned that Zoom's decision to launch the features as a free trial and encourage customers to "opt in" made the changes "more alarming".

"While Zoom states that customers will be asked for consent to use their data to train AI models, Zoom's privacy policy is opaque and it is not clear that this is the case," policy manager for data protection Abby Burke told the BBC speaking before the latest update to Zoom's terms.

On Monday, a Zoom

spokesperson reiterated that customers decided whether to enable generative AI features, and separately whether to share customer content with Zoom for "product improvement purposes".

Screenshots in Monday's blogpost showed examples of warning messages for users joining meetings using AI tools, giving them the option to agree to the training use or leave the meeting.

Smita Hashim, Zoom's chief product officer, said that account owners and administrators could choose if they want to turn on the features, which were still available on a trial basis, and that people who turned them on would "be presented with a transparent consent process for training our AI models using your customer content".

Lawyer wants murder charges against Mahdia dorm fire suspect dropped

CMC - The lawyer representing a 15-year-old student charged with several counts of murder arising from the deadly May 22 fire that killed 19 students at the Mahdia Secondary School dormitory, is calling for the charges to be withdrawn.

In a letter to the Director Public Prosecution (DPP), attorney Dr Dexter Todd said that based on the disclosures made at the Mahdia Magistrate's Court during the hearings, it is clear that there is no potential evidence to support the charges against the teenager.

"Upon review of all the statements and other exhibits served on our clients, our suspicions in this matter were confirmed...there is absolutely no potential evidence that could support a charge of murder, much less secure a conviction against our client," Todd wrote in his letter.

The attorney said given that the evidence before the court, he is urging the DPP to review the file, and have the charges withdrawn, warning that failure to do that would result in civil action against the state.

"Please note that should this charge not be withdrawn against our client and it goes the full length, we will be forced to institute civil and constitutional proceedings against the Office of the DPP and the



State, seeking certain order, declaration and substantial damages."

The 15-year-old school girl, who is being held at the Juvenile Holding Centre, is accused of setting fire to the dormitory resulting in the deaths of 19 fellow students between the ages of 12 to 17 and a five-year-old boy. She was not required to enter a plea.

Full disclosure in the matter was completed on July 20, and Todd said the evidence before the court is circumstantial and very weak, and does not meet the requirements for murder charges.

He said some of the witnesses in the matter have claimed that his client was upset with the caretaker of the dorm for taking away her cell phone, and threatened to burn the place down.

However, the attorney said beside the words of a teenager, there is nothing else linking his client to the

deadly blaze and that one of the witnesses told the court that the accused after allegedly issuing the threat said it was a joke.

"We certainly cannot get into the mind of our client to know what she meant nor if it was a joke and neither can the court," he said, telling the DPP none of the witnesses placed the accused in the area where the fire started.

"None of them stated that they saw her light the fire, none of them stated that she accepted responsibility for the fire, none of them said they saw her walking or running from the area where the fire allegedly started prior to the great blaze.

"There is no forensic evidence in any form that incriminates our client," he said.

He said the court only has claims by some witnesses that the accused had threatened to burn the dorm down, and that she had col-

lected a lighter and a perfume from two students.

"The only thing before us is an alleged statement by the accused, a statement that could have been capitalised on by any person who heard it. Note that some witnesses also confirmed that other students from the dorm were engaged in smoking marijuana that very day," Todd told the DPP.

On Monday, President Irfaan Ali told reporters that members of the Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the tragic fire should be sworn in before the end of this week.

"I'm intending to name the complete complement of the COI numbers before the end of this week and have them sworn in before the end of this week," he told reporters.

Ali had in June announced the appointment of retired Major General Joseph Singh to head the inquiry.

Minnis wants parliament to debate sending Bahamian troops to Haiti

CMC - Former Prime Minister, Dr Hubert Minnis, is calling for a parliamentary debate ahead of The Bahamas sending military personnel to Haiti as part of a multi-national force to bring peace and stability to the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

Last weekend, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping welcomed the announcement by The Bahamas and Jamaica that they are willing to join Kenya in sending a multi-national force to deal with the security situation in Haiti.

The Bahamas and Jamaica said they are willing to send up to 350 personnel to the French-speaking CARICOM nation after Kenya's Foreign Minister, Alfred Mutua, said last weekend that his country's commitment is to deploy a contingent of 1,000 police officers to help train and assist Haitian police to restore normalcy in the country and protect strategic installations.

But Minnis wants the issue debated in Parliament, adding also that if the United Nations is putting forth a resolution to discuss and make a determination as to individuals being deployed to Haiti, then Prime Minister Phillip Davis is showing total disrespect to the Bahamian Parliament and the Bahamian people.

"If the UN requires a resolution, then The Bahamas should insist that a resolution is brought to Parliament so it's debated and discussed in Parliament with the involvement and input of the Bahamian people," Minnis said.

But National Security Minister Wayne Munroe has brushed aside the call by Minnis, recalling that Nassau had sent 141 members of the Bahamas Defence Force (BDF) to Haiti in



Former Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis.

1994 as part of a UN peacekeeping mission.

"He (Minnis) would do well to speak to HAI (Hubert Alexander Ingraham) about how it happens," Munroe said, adding "he seems to be clueless about how deployments work".

According to the Defence Act, an order from the Governor-General is the only requirement needed to deploy BDF personnel outside The Bahamas.

Minnis, a former prime minister, said although officers may engage in just technical assistance in Haiti, the volatile situation there should warrant local parliamentary debate before troops are committed to the cause.

"We don't know what would be the extent of their involvement, and this is something totally different altogether," he said, as reporters reminded him about the 1994 deployment of BDF officer in Haiti.

"You talking about gang warfare. There are possibilities that we can lose individuals... you don't know who the gangs are, so we are sending individuals who can be exposed. It's only fair that a resolution should be debated so that Bahamian people would know exactly whether their sons and daugh-

ters are going and what kind of danger they will be exposed to."

"The government should bring forth a resolution so that it could be debated so that the Bahamian people could know for certain this will have no impact on our crime, no impact on migration, no impact on monitoring our waters with respect to fishing, poaching, etc. That has to be debated to ensure we ourselves are not compromised."

Last Friday, the United States said it expects several countries within the Eastern Caribbean to send translators to Haiti as part of a Kenya-led United Nations-backed multinational force.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Caribbean Affairs and Haiti, Barbara Feinstein, told a news conference that "there has been mentioned, for example, that in the Eastern Caribbean, there are certain countries that have the same or a very similar Creole to Haitian Creole, to the extent that they might be able to provide translators or interpreters is something that could also be of use".

St Lucia and Dominica are two countries within the 15-member CAR-

cont'd on pg 17

Jamaica: School girl dies after being raped and beaten

CMC - Police are searching for three men who allegedly raped and bludgeoned a 15-year-old, schoolgirl at her home in Trelawny, a parish in northwest Jamaica early Sunday.

Police said that Jamilla Cole, a student of Albert Town High School, died from her injuries on Monday.

Her mother, Shanice Anderson, and her 17-year-old cousin Kayla Dawson, who



were also brutally battered, remain hospitalised.

The authorities said that

all three were asleep at their home when the men entered the house through a kitch-

en window. They reportedly used blunt instruments to beat the three females in their heads.

The injured females were transported to the Percy Junior Hospital in Spaulding, Manchester, from where Cole was subsequently transferred to the Kingston Public Hospital where she eventually succumbed to her injuries on Monday while undergoing treatment.

cont'd from pg 16

ICOM grouping, capable of communicating in the French creole or patois language widely spoken in Haiti.

Feinstein said that the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti, with material support from the US as well as other countries, depended on an assessment that would be conducted by Kenya in another few weeks.

Last year, Haiti's Prime Minister Dr Ariel Henry, sent an urgent appeal to the UN asking for "the immediate deployment of a specialised armed force, in sufficient quantity" to stop gang warfare.

Last month, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the UN Security Council and major potential contribution countries to act fast to create the conditions for the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Monday said persistent violence in Haiti remains a significant concern for the safety and welfare of its most vulnerable citizens, especially women and children, citing reports of an "alarming spike" in kidnapping and other crimes.

According to UNICEF, nearly 300 confirmed cases were reported in the first six months of 2023, almost matching the total number documented over 2022 and close to three times the number in 2021.

"The stories we are hearing from UNICEF staff and partners on the ground are shocking and unacceptable," said Gary Conille, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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International

AROUND THE WORLD



New York City beach closed after woman suffers shark bite

By Madeline Halpert

New York City closed its popular Rockaway Beach on Tuesday after a 50-year-old woman was bitten by a shark Monday evening, officials said.

The woman was swimming near Beach 59th Street when a shark bit her leg, New York City Parks officials said.

Lifeguards took the woman out of the water and gave her first aid before she was taken to the hospital.

Officials said she is in critical but stable condition, with a deep cut in her thigh.

The incident marks the first confirmed shark bite on Rockaway Beach in recent memory, the parks department said.

“We hope for a full recovery for this swimmer,”



New York City's Rockaway Beach will remain closed to surfers and swimmers on Tuesday.

the parks department said in a statement. “Though this was a frightening event, we want to remind New Yorkers that shark bites in Rockaway are extremely rare.”

The state of New York has seen a spate of human

encounters with sharks off its Long Island beaches this summer. Experts say more sharks are swimming closer to the shore due to warming waters from climate change and a recent law in New York protecting sharks’ pri-

mary food source, bunker fish.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul has been sending more drones to local officials to scan for sharks near the shore so life-

cont'd on pg 19

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Colombian drug kingpin Dairo Antonio Úsuga sentenced to 45 years

By Nadine Yousif

A US court has sentenced Dairo Antonio Úsuga, who was once Colombia's most-wanted drug lord, to 45 years in prison.

Úsuga, also known as Otoniel, was a notorious cocaine trafficker who was the leader of Colombia's most powerful gang for more than nine years.

He pleaded guilty in January to running a criminal enterprise and drug smuggling.

During his sentencing on Tuesday, Úsuga said he was sorry for his actions.

"I apologise to the governments of the United States and of Colombia and to the victims of the crimes that I have committed," the 51-year-old said.

Prosecutors had described him as "the most significant Colombian narcotics trafficker since [the leader of the Medellín cartel] Pablo Escobar" and said he helped ship nearly 100,000 kilograms (220,500 pounds) of co-



Dairo Antonio Úsuga was arrested in 2021 in Colombia and was extradited last year to face drug trafficking charges in the US.

caine to the US.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration labelled him "one of the most violent and prolific drug traffickers in the world".

Úsuga was arrested in 2021 and was extradited last year to face drug trafficking charges in the US.

His lawyers sought a sentence of no more than 25 years. They argued that

his upbringing in rural poverty, surrounded by guerrilla warfare, led him to a life as a career criminal.

But Judge Dora Irizarry, the US district judge presiding over the case, rejected these arguments, saying her upbringing in a South Bronx housing complex around drugs and violence did not lead her down a similar path.

Úsuga has handed over \$216m (£170m) in drug proceeds as part of his guilty plea.

He was the leader of the Gulf Clan cartel in Colombia, which is one of the country's most powerful and brutal gangs.

The gang, which operates in many provinces and has extensive international connections, is engaged in drug and people smuggling, illegal gold mining and extortion.

It controls many of the routes used to smuggle drugs from Colombia to the US, and as far away as Russia.

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guards can take precautions if needed. After the shark bite on Monday, helicopters searched the waters for sharks but did not find any, the parks department said. New York City's fire and police departments will continue to search the waters, and the

beach will remain closed to both surfers and swimmers on Tuesday.

Experts say shark attacks are extremely infrequent. According to the International Shark Attack File, New York state had only 8 unprovoked bites in 2022, and none proved fatal.



Federal workers in Washington DC were sent home early in anticipation of the extreme weather.

Two killed as severe storms rip through eastern US

By **Chloe Kim**

At least two people died, one hit by a lightning and another by a falling tree, as a powerful storm ripped through the eastern US on Monday.

Thousands of flights were cancelled and nearly a million homes and businesses - from New York to Alabama - lost power.

Over 50 million people were under tornado and thunderstorm watches.

Power had still not been restored for almost 250,000 homes and over 1,000 flights were delayed on Tuesday morning.

Evan Christopher Kinley, a 15-year-old boy, was killed by a tree as he exited his car when he arrived at his grandparents' home during the storm in Anderson, South Carolina, the city's fire department chief told the BBC's US partner CBS News.

In Florence, Alabama, police said a 28-year-old man was struck and killed by lightning in a parking lot.

The National Weather Service says being killed by lightning is rare - only about 20 people on average are killed by lightning strikes annually in the US.

Tornado watches and warnings were posted across 10 states but only one tornado was confirmed in upstate New York.

Severe storm spread downed trees and power lines up and down the eastern seaboard.

As of Tuesday morning, power still has not been restored for 100,000 people in North Carolina, 95,000 in Pennsylvania and 64,000 people in Maryland.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued several ground stops on Monday for airports in New

York, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Washington, DC.

Thousands of flights were disrupted and a knock-on effect was felt on Tuesday morning with over 1,000 flights delayed, according to Flight-Aware.

Forecasters had warned of "one of the most impactful severe weather events" and the National Weather Service issued a Level 4 out of 5 risk for the first time in decades for the Washington, DC metro area. Federal workers around the capital were sent home early in anticipation of the extreme weather but the storms were generally less severe than feared.

"Damage is not as bad or as widespread as it could have been, however, we did get a lot of rain, wind, and thunder across the D.C. region," Eileen Whelan, DC meteorologist, wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Usme leads Colombia to first World Cup quarter-finals

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - A second-half goal by Catalina Usme fired Colombia to a 1-0 win over Jamaica on Tuesday and carried the South Americans to their first Women's World Cup quarter-final.

The captain's 51st-minute strike sent Colombian fans into delirium at a packed Melbourne Rectangular Stadium and ensured the last South American team in the tournament will battle England for a place in the last four.

"We are representing the whole continent of South America," Colombia coach Nelson Abadia told reporters.

"This (result) has a very special meaning. When we qualified for the World Cup the first thing I said to my team was, 'We're not just here to spend time, we want to make history.'"

What had been a testy and physical clash up to halftime exploded into life after Usme's breakthrough, with both teams attacking furiously in a match-up of two of the tournament's underdogs.

Jamaica's 'Reggae Girlz' had chances to level the match, but bowed out swinging in front of a crowd of 27,706, having reached the knockout phase for the first time in their second World Cup.

Four years after Jamaica were eliminated from their group in France with three heavy defeats, coach Lorne Donaldson was proud of the Reggae Girlz progress.

His players competed while locked in a pay dispute with their national federation, and had resorted to crowdfunding in the lead up to help cover costs.

"I feel very happy for the players that they could perform at this level



Colombia's Catalina Usme, center, scores her side's first goal during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Jamaica and Colombia in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, August 8th, 2023. (AP)

without adequate games to play (before)," he said.

France coach Herve Renard high-fived his staff on the sideline as it became clear his team was on its way to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

Only 23 minutes had been played at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium on Tuesday, but France was already 3-0 up against Morocco and on course for a showdown with co-host Australia.

The French scored once more in the second half to win 4-0 and end Morocco's historic debut run at the World Cup.

"The result speaks for itself," Renard said. "We were able to score four times and now we've got a foot in the door for the quarterfinals. Things are getting a little bit heated. Only eight teams left in the running. The objective now is to pull off the best performance that the French team has ever done."

France took fourth place in 2011

and this is the fourth straight time it has advanced to the quarterfinals of the World Cup.

A three-goal burst in nine minutes took the game away from Morocco, with Kadidiatou Diani, Kenza Dali and Eugenie Le Sommer all scoring early in the match.

Le Sommer, who is France's all-time leading scorer, headed in a fourth in the 70th minute to complete the win. She has now scored 92 goals for her country - more than any French player, male or female.

Renard knows France has a sizable task to get past Australia when the teams meet in Brisbane on Saturday for a place in the semifinals.

France lost a friendly to the Matildas leading into the tournament. But Renard said the pressure of being a co-host, along with New Zealand, could weigh heavily on the Australians in front of their home fans. France was eliminated as hosts in the quarterfinals in 2019.

Antiguan athletes miss out on medals in T&T

All four Antiguan athletes failed in their bids to medal in both women's and men's 100-meter sprints at the Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Trinidad and Tobago.

Geolyna Dowdye clocked 11.66 seconds to finish just outside the medals in fourth place in the women's Under-18 100-meter final. Fellow Antiguan sprinter LaNica Locker came fifth in a time of 11.67 seconds.

Dowdye booked her spot in the final by finishing second in the second semi-final in a time of 11.73 seconds. Locker advanced to the final by finishing third in the third semi-final by clocking 11.69 seconds.

Dowdye launched her campaign by winning her first-round heat in a time of 11.83 seconds to advance to the semi-finals. Locker qualified for the semi-finals by finishing second in her first-round heat in a time of 12.14 seconds.

Antiguan Kasiya Daley finished 7th in the men's Under-18 100-meter final by clocking 10.67 seconds. But fellow Antiguan sprinter Dwayne Flemming did not contest the men's 100-meter final due to illness.

Flemming fell ill after the semi-finals and was replaced by an athlete from Trinidad & Tobago as per the new world athletics rule. Flemming booked his spot in the final by finishing third in the second semi-final in a time of 10.81 seconds.

Daley advanced to the final by finishing second in the first semi-final in a time of 10.74 seconds.

Flemming advanced to the semi-finals by finishing second in his heat in a time of 10.90 seconds, while Daley also qualified for the semis by fin-



Geolyna Dowdye

ishing second in his heat in a time of 10.87 seconds.

Faith Okwose of Nigeria blazed her way into the record books during the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games, smashing the women's 100-meter record with an impressive time of 11.26 seconds to secure the event's gold medal.

Okwose's path to victory began earlier in the day and accelerated during the semifinals, where she dashed to a quality time of 11.42 seconds to surpass the previous game record.

However, her compatriot Justina Eyakpobeyan, with an equally impressive performance, outshone Okwose's achievement by clocking in at 11.35 seconds in a later semifinal race.

Undeterred, Okwose showed her resilience as she returned to the final event to lower the record yet again



Antiguan sprinter LaNica Locker

and set a new personal best with her remarkable 11.26-second run.

Her team-mate, Eyakpobeyan, secured the silver medal with a still-impressive time of 11.29 seconds. Sanaa Fredericks of T&T came third in 11.48 seconds.

On the men's side, England's Teddy Wilson claimed victory in the men's 100 meters, etching his name in history with a winning time of 10.37 seconds.

His fellow countryman, Ebuka Nwokeji, put in a strong performance on his way to achieving a personal best time of 10.43 seconds while earning the silver medal in the process.

Jamaica's Shaquane Gordon joined the ranks of the honorees, securing the bronze medal with a time of 10.43 seconds.

Antiguans fail to medal at Pan American Junior Games

Both Antiguan men's sprinters, Ajani Daley and debutante Shavique Bascus, failed in their bids to medal at the Pan American Junior Games in Puerto Rico.

Daley claimed a seventh-place finish in the Under-20 Men's 200-meter final.

Daley finished in seventh place in a new personal best time of 21.28 seconds. However, Bascus, who picked up a stom-

ach bug, pulled out of the men's 200 and 100 meter finals on the advice of the game's medical doctor.

Daley advanced to the men's 200-meter final by clocking 21.33 seconds in his first-round heat.

Bascus, competing in Heat 2, showed great resilience in recovering for this event after getting sick at the games on the opening day to finish third in a time of 20.99 seconds to secure his spot in the final.

Daley finished in 6th place in a time of 10.55 seconds in the Under-20 Men's 100-meter final. Daley finished third in his first-round heat in a time of 10.74 seconds to book his spot in the final.

Bascus did not participate in the men's 100-meter final due to a stomach bug. Bascus qualified for the final by finishing third in his first-round heat.

Both athletes were accompanied by manager/

coach Ted Daley as part of a three-member Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the Pan American Under-20 Championships, which were held in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, from August 4th to 6th.



National sprinter Ajani Daley. (ABAA)



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Antigua and Barbuda fail in promotional bid in Davis Cup

Antigua and Barbuda's senior men's tennis players narrowly missed out on gaining promotion at the Americas Group IV Davis Cup Qualifying competition in Tacarigua, Trinidad & Tobago, from July 31st to August 5th.

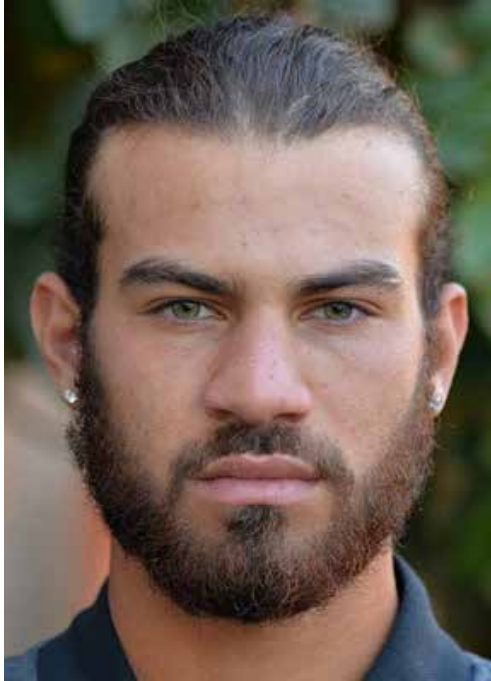
The Antiguan team, comprising its only ATP professionally ranked player, Jody Maginley, Ron Murraine, Cordell Williams Jr., and Rodain Monelle, missed out after making it to the promotional play-off semi-finals against Puerto Rico.

Antigua and Barbuda, who finished as runners-up in Group A round-robin play, lost 2-0 against Puerto Rico, winners of Group B. Jody Maginley was beaten for the first time in singles play at the tournament, going under 1-6, 3-6 against Puerto Rico's Gabriel Evans.

Cordell Williams Jr. was beaten 6-0, 6-1, by Marko Mesarovic in the other singles match.

Puerto Rico and Guatemala, who were both demoted to Group IV, regained promotion to Americas Group III by finishing as the top two teams at the end of the hard court event in Trinidad and Tobago.

Puerto Rico had won Group B by winning all four Round Robin matches in the pool that also included Nicaragua, Aruba, Haiti, and hosts Trinidad and Tobago.



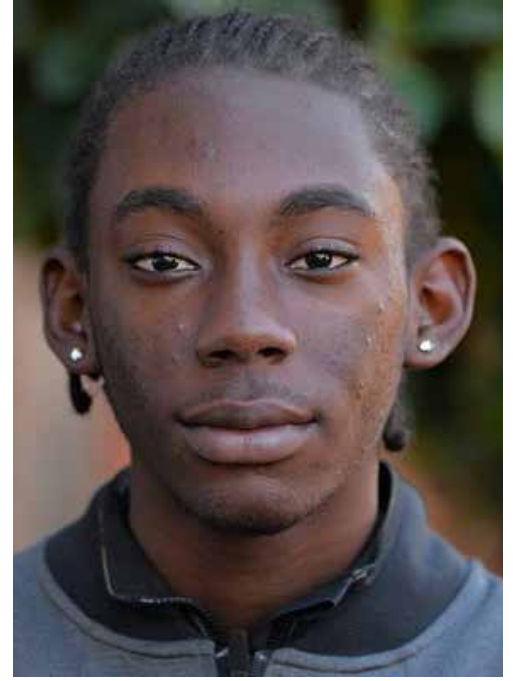
Jody Maginley

Guatemala finished at the top of Group A by winning all three pool matches against teams from Antigua and Barbuda, the United States Virgin Islands, and Cuba.

Guatemala then sealed their promotion back to Americas Group III by beating the second-place finishers in Group B, Nicaragua, 2-1 in the Americas Group IV promotional playoff semifinals.

Guatemala inflicted the first defeat on Antigua and Barbuda by prevailing 2-1 to win Group A.

The Antiguan, who had victories



Cordell Williams Jr

over Cuba and the US Virgin Islands, narrowly lost to the Guatemalans in the top-of-the-table Group A clash.

Kris Mariona gave Guatemala a 1-0 lead by beating Rodain Monelle 6-2, 6-1 in the opening singles. But Antigua and Barbuda drew level after Jody Maginley overcame Juan Sebastian Collado 7-5, 7-5 in the second singles match.

However, Guatemala clinched the tie by prevailing in the doubles match. Rafael Neutze and Kaeri Mariona beat the Antiguan duo of Jody Maginley and Cordell Williams Jr. 7-5, 7-5.

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Kyle Mayers accounting for the other wicket.

After losing two wickets in the first over, the West Indies batsmen did a good job of consolidating. Pooran stood out with the bat again, scoring 67 (40 balls). He hit six fours and four mammoth sixes in an explosive

knock.

Captain Rovman Powell (21 from 19) and hometown boy, Shimron Hetmyer (22 from 22), were the other significant contributors to the successful run chase.

However, it was Akeal Hosein with 16 not out from 10 balls and Alzarri Joseph with 10 not out from eight

balls, who took the team home when the situation got tricky. They got the West Indies home in 18.5 overs.

Captain Hardik Pandya (3-35) early on and Yuzvendra Chahal (2-19) later in the innings, were the standout bowlers for India. Arshdeep Singh (1-34) and Mukesh Kumar (1-35)

picked up a wicket a piece.

The West Indies are aiming to win their first series of two or more matches against India in any format since 2016.

India won the preceding two-Test series 1-0 before beating the West Indies 2-1 in the three-match One-Day International (ODI) series.

India keep T20I series alive

Suryakumar Yadav smashed 83 off 44 balls as India beat the West Indies by seven wickets in the third T20 International at the Providence Stadium in Guyana, yesterday (Tuesday) to keep the series alive.

After India lost T20 debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill cheaply in pursuit of 160, Suryakumar took charge in a dazzling innings comprising 10 fours and four sixes.

He eventually fell clipping an Alzarri Joseph full toss to deep backward square leg, but Tilak Varma finished unbeaten on 49 and captain Hardik Pandya hit the winning six with 13 balls to spare.

West Indies skipper Rovman Powell had earlier dragged his side to 159-5 with a quick-fire 40 not out after winning the toss in Providence and choosing to bat.

Brandon King made a run-a-ball 42 while fellow opener Kyle Mayers (25) and Nicholas Pooran (20) also made decent contributions for the hosts.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, recalled in place of Ravi Bishnoi, claimed 3-28 to lead the Indian bowling attack. Axar Patel and Mukesh Kumar picked up a wicket apiece.



Suryakumar Yadav plays a shot against West Indies during the third T20 cricket match at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on August 8th, 2023. (AP)

India cut West Indies' lead to 2-1 in the five-match series after they lost the opener by four runs followed by Sunday's dramatic two-wicket defeat.

The West Indies won the second T20I on Sunday after another nail-biting contest, in which Nicholas Pooran again showed his class.

The left-hander became the highest run-scorer in T20Is against India, scor-

ing the bulk of the runs in a successful run chase, after the West Indies had restricted India to a fairly modest total.

India won the toss and decided to bat first. The first breakthrough came in the third over as pacer Alzarri Joseph, who finished with two for 28, got the wicket of Shubman Gill for seven.

The West Indies picked up wickets in regular intervals thereafter, with Ishan

Kishan (27 from 23), Tilak Varma (51 from 41) and Hardik Pandya (24 from 18) getting significant scores for the visitors.

Along with Joseph, left-arm spinner Akeal Hosen claimed two for 29, and pacer Romario Shepherd took two for 28 for the home team.

India closed their innings on 152 for seven, with another superb run out by

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