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Mounting complaints lead to **PM BROWNE'S CALL FOR CHANGES AT ECAB**

Story on Page 2



Mounting complaints lead to PM Browne's call for changes at ECAB

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is calling for changes at the level of the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) as complaints mount about poor service from the financial institution.

PM Browne was speaking on the weekly radio programme, the Browne and Browne show on Pointe FM where he was responding to media reports detailing complaints from customers as well as several complaints lodged directly with

him. The Prime Minister explained that whilst he has been raising concerns about the poor services for the past three years, senior officials of the bank have sought to pass it off as though he wanted to interfere in the internal operations of the bank.

Quite the contrary, PM Browne said as the Antigua and Barbuda government is a major shareholder of the bank, with 25 percent of the shares, he has 'locus' in the institution as the Prime Minister of the country.

He wants Board Chairman, Craig Walter, to step down as he is 'unable or incapable' of offering the leadership the bank requires at this time.

He said the leadership of the bank from the chairman, Craig Walter, to senior officers, have shown total indifference and contempt to the many customers who have been complaining about poor service. As a sign of his frustration with the management, the Prime Minister is requesting an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Directors to discuss the matter.

"As the Prime Minister of the government that owns 25 percent of the shares, I have a right to speak, and I am going further. I have asked one of the directors to indicate to the board and the shareholders that I want an extraordinary board meeting to discuss this matter. It's now moved beyond talking; we have to take action as we have to protect the bank. It is the largest bank in the country and the second largest bank in the OECS. This did not come from any action by the board or top managers, but from a policy by my government regarding the then pending sale of Scotiabank," PM Browne recalled.

Browne added that ECAB growth has been due largely to its consolidation with ABI Bank and the purchase of Scotiabank a few



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

years ago. That has led to the bank becoming a US billion dollar entity as it is now worth just over US\$1 billion.

The Prime Minister further recalled that coming out of the financial crisis of 2008-9, his government wanted to ensure that the local banks became bigger to better enable them to withstand exogenous shocks. "That's why they have been able to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic in relatively good shape," he noted.

PM Browne dismissed suggestions that the problems at ECAB have to do with its take-over of Scotiabank. "The acquisition had nothing to do with not enough money in the ATM's, the takeover had nothing to do with poor service. The management and the board have been found wanting and ought to step aside," he declared.

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New ABICE/Harrison Centre to open for Independence

The new Antigua and Barbuda Institute for Continuing Education (ABICE)/ Harrison Centre will open for Independence, 2023.

That’s the word from Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, who said the planning for the opening is now underway and that the benefactor of the project, John Harrison, will arrive in the country to be a part of the activities marking the formal opening.

Minister Matthew was seeking to clear the area over opposition statements that claimed that the funds made available by Harrison to construct the new institution had been exhausted and that entreaties by the government for additional funds had been

rebuffed.

“The UPP chairman was on a radio station suggesting that Harrison had died and we went to this wife for additional funds and she turned down the request. The UPP official stated that the funds have been exhausted and there were no money to complete the project. Nothing is further from the truth,” he stated emphatically.

The minister explained that after the drawings for the ABICE complex were completed it was recognised that the 4-million pounds allocated by Harrison would not be sufficient. However, the ministry took a decision that rather than scale down the building to continue and that



Education Minister, Daryll Matthew

the Board of Education funds would be used to complete the building wherever the Harrison funds left off.

Minister Matthew confirmed that Harrison is alive and well and that both he and his assistant are kept up-to-date with the progress of the project on a bi-weekly basis.

He promises that the project will be completed in time

for Independence this year despite what some naysayers have been alleging on opposition-aligned radio stations.

“We knew that based on what was our concept that the project would cost more than the 4-million pounds made available by Harrison. We decided ahead of time to use the BoE money at the tail end as we did not want a scaled down project. We saw this as an opportunity to upgrade the technical and vocational training that are being offered in the country,” he stated.

Minister Matthew maintains that there is no scandal contrary to reports that have been sent to Harrison. “The project will open this Independence,” he stated.



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Dwayne George launches candidacy



Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre achieves Baby-Friendly Hospital designation

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has announced that it has earned the Baby-Friendly® designation from the Pan American Health Organization for achieving some of the highest standards of care for breastfeeding mothers and babies.

The programme, which is administered by the World Health Organization and UNICEF, supports hospitals in giving mothers information, confidence, and the skills necessary to successfully breast feed in the first days of a newborn's life. SLBMC is one of only three hospitals in the Organization of Eastern

Caribbean States (OECS) to achieve the important designation.

“This designation is a tribute to our commitment to ensuring that every woman who delivers a baby at our facility is given the resources, information and support needed to help her and her baby get the best, healthiest start in life”.

“This milestone builds upon our strong foundation of excellence in maternal and infant care, dating back to Holberton, the nation’s first hospital,” said Jacqueline JnoBaptiste, SLBMC Director of Nursing. “With this new designation, we officially join other Ba-



by-Friendly Hospitals in that mothers receive the leading the way to ensure *cont'd on pg 6*

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KEEP A LITTLE

Local News



cont'd from pg 5

information and support they need to safely and successfully meet their infant’s nutritional needs.”

It’s been a busy year so far, for births at SLBMC. From January to August, over 500 live births including 13 sets of twins. Over 90% of new mothers that give birth at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre initiate breastfeeding during their hospitalization— with 88% being exclusive breastfed on discharge.

Over the past year the hospital extended its antenatal classes to include all expecting parents in an effort to equip them with useful techniques and evidence-based information on their pregnancy to ensure they always make informed choices.

“This has truly been a collaborative effort across multiple disciplines, and, in particular, this designation would not have been possible without the evidence-based practice change

that our nurses embraced,” said Annmarie Browne-Isaac, SLBMC Departmental Nurse Manager with responsibility for the Maternity and Outpatient Clinic Departments.

Another core tenet of Baby-Friendly Hospitals is “skin-to-skin or kangaroo care,” a practice that enhances mother-infant bonding by placing the baby directly on the mother’s bare chest after birth, both of them covered in a warm blanket and left for at least an hour or until after the first feed.

From January to August this year, under the expert guidance of the maternity care team, an impressive 93% of all moms who gave birth at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre experienced skin-to-skin contact with their baby right after birth for at least one hour.

“As a pediatrician caring for some of our tiniest babies, it’s always remarkable how something as simple as breastfeeding and the mother-baby bonding, can be so effective, said Dr.

Shivon Belle-Jarvis, SLBMC Pediatric Depart Chair.

The Ministry’s Chief Nutrition Officer, Samantha Moitt was the lead coordinator.

“The journey to receive Baby-Friendly Hospital designation has been propelled by the enthusiastic support of the entire SLBMC team and many partners such as our community clinics and breastfeeding support network,” said Moitt.

“It was a large and diverse team with different training, priorities, and needs but we had a shared vision and one goal, which is what made the hospital’s Baby-Friendly® designation possible.

Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Teri-Ann Joseph congratulated the hardworking healthcare workers on achieving such a significant milestone and gave the assurance of the Ministry’s continued support towards the programme.

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More than 100 heads of state attend G-77 and China meeting

Over one hundred Heads of State/Government, Foreign Ministers and other Heads of Delegation attending the G77 meeting in Havana that was held in Havana, Cuba, last Friday and Saturday.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene led Antigua and Barbuda’s delegation to the meeting that discussed matters of interest to these states. In the post meeting Declaration, the Group expressed concern over the use of technology.

The declaration also referenced the current unfair state of the world economic order. “We note with deep concern that the major challenges generated by the current unfair international economic order for developing

countries have reached their most acute expression in current times due, inter alia, to the persistent negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, even though the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for COVID-19 has been lifted by the WHO, it stated.

The meeting also called for changes to the world financial system. “We stress the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture and a more inclusive and coordinated approach to global financial governance, with greater emphasis on cooperation among countries, including through increasing the representation of developing countries in



global decision and policy-making bodies which will contribute to enhance the capacities of developing countries to access and develop science, technology and innovation,” the declaration declared.

Greene was accompanied on the trip by Permanent Secretary, Anthony Liverpool and Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to Cuba, George Goodwin.



Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister.

DEWS

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New Minister-Counsellor appointed to the High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda in London

Senior Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Chantal Phillip, has traveled to London where she will assume duties as Minister-Counsellor within the High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda in the United Kingdom.

Phillip comes to the posting with over thirteen years' experience in the Foreign Service. She describes herself as a 'driven and ambitious individual dedicated to continuous improvement while enhancing the organisation's strategic operations through multifaceted stakeholder engagement'.

As Minister-Counsellor, Phillip will be one of the senior officers assisting the High Commissioner, Karen-Mae Hill in the execution of the High Commission's duties. As Min-



Chantal Phillip

ister-Counsellor, Phillip is expected to support the work of High Commissioner Hill in her interactions with the UK or other governments to which Antigua and Barbuda is accredited, as

well as to assist nationals seeking consular and/ or other services," a foreign ministry spokesman stated.

As a Senior Foreign Service officer, Phillip's experiences included assignments of responsibility for the Americas desk (US and Canada), European, CARICOM and OECS desks. She has also served on a number of national committees to include the Committee to Establish a National Alcohol Policy, the Foreign Service Restructuring Committee, and the National Disarmament Committee.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Florida International University and a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Training from the University of Leicester in the UK.

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Automotive Parts Manager - Summary

An automotive dealership in Antigua is seeking an Automotive Parts Manager who strives to return a satisfactory profit on the capital invested in parts inventory. Accomplishes objectives using proper purchasing procedures, inventory control, staff utilization, security and pricing.

Automotive Parts Manager - Essential Duties

- Forecasts goals and objectives for the department and strives to meet them.
- Hires, trains, motivates, counsels and monitors the performance of all parts department staff.
- Prepares and administers an annual operating budget for the parts department.
- Maintains a balanced inventory consistent with the requirements of the service department, and the do-it-yourself public.
- Establishes pricing parameters in each customer category that generate enough gross profit to produce a satisfactory profit while maintaining customer loyalty.
- Establishes individual parts inventory levels and balances them for maximum turnover.
- Ensures that parts inventory turns (established #) times per year.
- Monitors and adjusts inventory to minimize obsolescence.
- Supervises stock order procedures.
- Sets and enforces a policy on the special ordering of parts. Ensures that stock orders represent at least the established percent of all orders.
- Analyzes inventory sales and expenses monthly to maintain profit goals.
- Ensures that the same high-quality level of service provided to outside customers is also provided to internal dealership customers.
- Works with the service manager to ensure a timely turnaround of parts needed for internal jobs.
- Attends managers meetings.
- Holds frequent department meetings.
- Analyzes departmental operations and storage layout and revises as needed for maximum effectiveness.
- Provides technical assistance to parts department employees.
- Coordinates a prompt, efficient and timely flow of paperwork.
- Directs shipping and receiving efforts to ensure timely processing.
- Monitors daily reports such as sales productivity.
- Develops sales promotions.
- Develops, enforces and monitors guidelines for working with customers to ensure maximum customer satisfaction.
- Handles customer complaints immediately and according to the dealership's guidelines.
- Understands, keeps abreast of, and complies with local regulations that may affect parts sales.
- Maintains professional conduct with staff and customers.
- Organize and manage the physical annual stock taking
- Ensures that all stock received is adequately processed and entered into the inventory.
- Quarterly reconciliation of physical stock levels to computerized stock levels for selected stock items.
- Other duties as assigned.

Automotive Parts Manager - Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

Automotive Parts Manager - Education and/or Experience

- 5-10 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience in inventory mana
- Knowledge of automotive dealership software (especially CDK) would be an assets
- Sound knowledge of the automotive industry

Automotive Parts Manager - Other Skills

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups of customers or employees of organization.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers and the general public.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret common scientific and technical journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies or members of the business community. Ability to effectively present information to top management, and/or boards of directors.
- Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, interest, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumference and volume. Ability to apply concepts of basic algebra and geometry.
- Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as probability and statistical inference, and fundamentals of plane and solid geometry and trigonometry. Ability to apply concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios and proportions to practical situations.
- Ability to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram or schedule form.
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions. Ability to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables.
- Ability to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to a wide range of intellectual and practical problems. Ability to deal with nonverbal symbolism (formulas, scientific equations, graphs, etc.) in its most difficult phases. Ability to deal with a variety of abstract and concrete variables.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is September 29,2023, with the names and contact information for 2 referees able to provide professional references on your behalf.

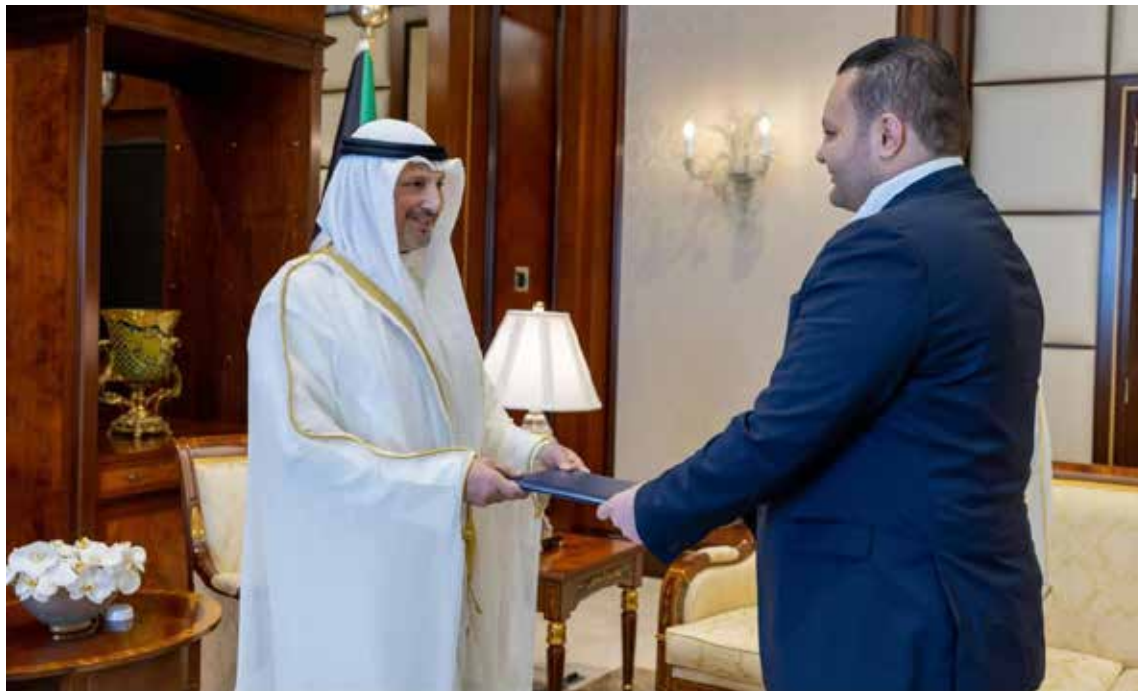
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Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to Kuwait presents credentials

Antigua and Barbuda and Kuwait pledge to maintain strong bonds of friendship between the Caribbean nation and the oil-rich Middle Eastern kingdom.

This as the newly-accredited Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to Kuwait, Muhammad Al-Zoubi, presented his credentials to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Salem Abdullah Jaber Al-Sabah, during a reception held at the Ministry's General Court in Kuwait.

Al-Sabah stressed the strength of relations between the twin-island and Kuwait, wishing Al-Zoubi success in his new duties and hoping that he cooperates in further boosting bilateral relations between both countries, especially in the fields of trade



Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to Kuwait, Muhammad Al-Zoubi, presented his credentials to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Salem Abdullah Jaber Al-Sabah

and tourism.

In turn, Al-Zoubi noted that “Kuwait is a country of love and peace,” expressing keenness on “consolidating

cooperation and friendship ties between the two countries” and “strengthening economic, trade and investment bilateral relations.”

Al-Zoubi was born in Tripoli, Lebanon, and holds Japanese citizenship as well as that of Antigua and Barbuda.

Organisers of Game Fest announce postponement of event's finals

The organisers of Game Fest, an event geared specifically at young men, have announced the postponement of the event finals originally slated for October 22, 2023.

Spokesman for HM Promotions, Mr. Marlon Hunte, said the organisers agonized over whether or not to postpone the finals, but in the end, they decided to delay the finals out of concern over the recent incidents of youth violence.

“Game Fest has always prided itself on creating a safe and inclusive space for participants within a family-friendly environment. However, the current atmosphere of heightened violence amongst our young cannot

be disregarded, and the safety and well-being of our participants, staff, and attendees are of utmost importance to us,” a statement issued on behalf of the organisers stated.

HM Promotions is extending apologies to all the finalists who have dedicated their time and effort to practicing for the finals. “We understand the disappointment and frustration this may cause, but we want to emphasize that this is a postponement, not a cancellation. Once we are confident that youth violence is under control and the safety of everyone involved can be guaranteed, we will proceed with the finals,” the statement added.

Hunte said his team is prepared

to continue to work closely with local authorities, community organizations, and stakeholders to address the issue of youth violence and implement measures to ensure the safety of all participants. Updates regarding the rescheduled date for the finals will be communicated in due course.

He noted that HM Promotions remains committed to promoting a positive gaming culture, fostering talent, and uniting the gaming community.

According to Hunte, Game Fest 2023 started in May with the preliminary rounds. More than one hundred and forty mainly young men were involved in the earlier events with just the Finals left to be concluded.

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Opinion



Battle of the sexiest

By Tony Deyal

I thought of my Dominican friend, colleague and boss at the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB), Donald Peters, and given the number of marriages, ladies and phone that took up his days and nights, I gave him the nickname 'One and Don'.

In a way, this confirms my own experience and observations of male behaviour in the Caribbean, which is completely inconsistent with the conventional wisdom which, while accepting that you cannot trust a man too near, also emphasises that you cannot trust a woman too far. This is supported by the mythology of female fickleness and infidelity. I remember an old Trinidad joke about a man who was involved in a discussion with his rum-shop friends about the relationship between the colour of a woman's eyes and her faithfulness. The consensus was that blue-eyed women were the worst of the lot, you could not trust them at all. Black-eyed women were to be trusted, but not too far.

However, brown-eyed women were the most faithful of all. Not being able to remember the colour of his wife's eyes, having been too busy for such minor matters, the man took a hasty departure from the rum-shop and rushed home. Immediately on his arrival he raced into the bedroom where he found that his wife, already undressed, was fast asleep. Oblivious to

everything else, he grabbed her eyelashes forcing open her eyes to see what colour they were. What he saw pleased him immensely and he shouted in relief, "Brown! Brown!" Whereupon a man crawled from under the bed and asked shamefacedly, "How you know ah here boy?"

It is a fact that, as the Vincentian calypsonian sang, "Man can't take butt", "horn", "tabanca" or, as they say in Guyana, "blow". Or, as this story shows, all of the above. One day in heaven, Saint Peter is said to have been simultaneously confronted by three men all demanding to get into heaven. Explaining that there were rules, he agreed to accept the most deserving of the individuals.

ENTERTAIN A LOVER

The first man said that having heard from friends and neighbours that his wife used to entertain a lover during his absence, he left work early one day, took the elevator to his 10th floor apartment, rushed into the bedroom, and not finding anyone there with his wife went out on the balcony where he saw a man, clinging to the railing. He stamped on the man's hands, beat at the man with a chair and in his rage rushed inside, took the refrigerator and while throwing it on the man, fell over the balcony and plunged to his death.

One of the other men then told his tale. He was exercising on the balcony of his



Tony Deyal

apartment and while trying to do a handstand, slipped, tripped over the railing and was lucky to be able to grab the railing of the balcony below. While trying to climb up, he was suddenly attacked by a madman who beat him with a chair and then threw a refrigerator on him, knocking him to the pavement 10 floors down.

The third man, who had been silent up to this point, then said to Saint Peter, "Picture this. There I am, naked in a refrigerator." What this story shows, is what Dr Richard Allsop, in his Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage, quoted from the Sunday Punch, one of the fun magazines in the early days in Trinidad. "Well-to-do wives in this country have revealed that their cool, suave husbands are deathly afraid of horn" Dr Allsop also

used The Bomb newspaper as an example of the usage of "horn". "Some women can take a horn with dignity and others can't. And often I have found that those who can't are themselves playing footloose and fast, running around with men, but they never would like their husbands to do the same."

Sadly, There are some men who believe that they are far too clever to ever suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or outraged women. There is the lesson of a woman who was in bed having sex with her husband's best friend when the telephone rang. She took the call. After putting down the phone she said, "That was Harry, but don't worry, he won't be home for a while. He's playing cards with you." Some men are too stupid to

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

have a problem. One man answered his phone in the middle of the night, grabbing it before his wife could get it. He heard a man's voice asking if the coast was clear. "Hell, man," he shouted, "how should I know? The sea is about 50 miles from here."

STAY FAR FROM TRUTH

The one thing all of us, men and women, should stay very far from is the truth. A father bought a lie detector which slapped people who lied. The bigger the lie, the harder the slap. Testing the instrument on his son, daddy asked, "Where were you today?" The son answered, "At school of course." The robot slapped him. Then the son changed his story, "All right then. I was watching Kung Fu Panda." The robot slapped the boy even harder. The son, fearful that a third slap could knock him to the ground, admitted, "Dad, I was hanging out with a girl." This upset his father so

much that he shouted, "What! You have your schoolwork to do and you're wasting time hanging out with girls? Let me tell you, when I was your age, I never had time for girls. Not ever." The robot hit the father a resounding slap that left his face swollen. Then the boy's mom started laughing loudly and said, "Why are you so upset with him? He is your son after all!" The slap from the robot floored her.

The best thing to do for men and women is to go with the flow. In the never-ending battle of the sexes, whether for fun or funds, women always have the upper-hand, foot, or other parts, positions and portions. There was the newly widowed woman, Josephine, whose husband had drowned. She inherited 10 million dollars. "Imagine," said her friend, "your husband couldn't read or write, yet he left you so much money." Josephine smiled and confessed, "He couldn't swim either." Then there was

Mr Jones who was so glad to return home to Trinidad earlier than he expected that he decided to surprise his wife. She was very surprised. He too. As well as the man who was on his bed with his wife. Both were nude. Mr Jones was very angry and all he could think about was killing the man. His wife begged, "Wait darling, you know that car I told you I won in the lottery? Well, this kind man gave it to me. Remember the holiday we had in Miami? This same man paid for it. And our son didn't get a scholarship like I told you. This man is paying his university fees." The husband then shouted, "It's cold in here. You better cover him up before he catch pneumonia."

Tony Deyal was last seen replying to a street journalist who asked him, "Mr. Deyal, have you ever seen a lie detector?" He answered, "Listen, I didn't just see a lie-detector, I'm married to one!"



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Campaigners say vape manufacturers deliberately target children by offering fruity flavours and vibrant colours.

France sets out plan to ban disposable vapes

By Hugh Schofield

France is set to ban disposable e-cigarettes - known locally as “puffs” - because of the danger they pose to the environment and public health.

Speaking recently on RTL radio, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne said the measure was part of a new anti-smoking plan being drawn up by the government. It should be in force by the end of the year, campaigners said.

Several other countries in Europe, including Germany, Belgium and Ireland, have announced similar bans. The UK is also said to be considering one.

Sold over the counter by tobacconists, disposable vapes in France cost around €9 (£7.70) - less than a packet of 20 cigarettes. They are supposed to offer around 600 puffs - the rough equivalent of 40 cigarettes.

But France’s National Academy of

Medicine described them as a “particularly sly trap for children and adolescents”.

According to Élisabeth Borne, “they create a reflex, a gesture, which children get used to, and then end up being drawn to tobacco”.

Campaigners accuse manufacturers - many based in China - of deliberately targeting teenagers, using bright colours and a range of flavours reminiscent of the sweet shop, for example marshmallow, chocolate and hazelnut, watermelon, and ice candy.

According to the Alliance Against Tobacco (ACT), 13% of 13-16-year-olds have tried “puffs” at least once. Most say they started around the ages of 11 or 12.

“[The ban] is a great victory for civil society. These disposable e-cigarettes are acting as a gateway to smoking for young people,” says ACT pres-

ident Loïc Jossier.

“It’s become an epidemic. It is terrible how the tobacco industry has set out to hook children.”

Sam, a 16-year-old Paris schoolboy, said he began smoking disposable e-cigarettes two years ago, shortly after they first appeared in France.

“They were talking about it a lot on TikTok. It was like a trend. And I thought, yeah why not?”

“They’re colourful, and in my head they are not as dangerous as tobacco. My favourites are iced grape and apricot. I guess if the ban goes ahead, I will start buying regular vapes.”

In theory it is not possible to buy “puffs” if you are under the age of 18, but Sam said it was easy to evade the restriction. According to ACT, tobacconists systematically refrain from asking for proof of age.

cont’d on pg 15

'Overwhelming consensus' on AI regulation - Musk

Tesla CEO Elon Musk says there was "overwhelming consensus" for regulation on artificial intelligence after tech heavyweights gathered in Washington to discuss AI.

Tech bosses attending the meeting included Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and Google boss Sundar Pichai.

Microsoft's former CEO Bill Gates and Microsoft's current CEO Satya Nadella were also in attendance.

The Wednesday meeting with US lawmakers was held behind closed doors.

The forum was convened by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and included the tech leaders as well as civil rights advocates.

The power of artificial intelligence - for both good and bad - has been the subject of keen interest from politicians around the world.

In May, Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, testified before a US Senate committee, describing the potential pitfalls of the new technology.



Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Congress needs to support AI innovation and safeguards.

ChatGPT and other similar programmes can create incredibly human-like answers to questions - but can also be wildly inaccurate.

"I think if this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong...we want to be vocal about that," Mr Altman said. "We want to work with the government to prevent that from happening," he said.

There are fears that the technology could lead to mass layoffs, turbo charge fraud and make misinformation more convincing.

AI companies have also

been criticised for training their models on data scraped from the internet without permission or payment to creators.

In April, Mr Musk told the BBC: "I think there should be a regulatory body established for overseeing AI to make sure that it does not present a danger to the public."

In Wednesday's meeting, he said he wanted a "referee" for artificial intelligence.

"I think we'll probably see something happen. I don't know on what time-

frame or exactly how it will manifest itself," he told reporters after.

Mr Zuckerberg said that Congress "should engage with AI to support innovation and safeguards".

He added it was "better that the standard is set by American companies that can work with our government to shape these models on important issues".

Republican Senator Mike Rounds said it would take time for Congress to act.

"Are we ready to go out and write legislation? Absolutely not," Mr Rounds said. "We're not there."

Democrat Senator Cory Booker said all participants agreed "the government has a regulatory role" but crafting legislation would be a challenge.

cont'd from pg 14

Campaigners have also highlighted the ecological damage caused by disposable e-cigarettes. In the UK, a study last year by the environmental organisation Material Focus found that more than one million devices were being thrown out every week.

"It's an environmental plague," a group of French doctors and environmentalists wrote in *Le Monde* newspaper earlier this year. They said each disposable e-cigarette was made of plastic and contained a non-removable battery with around 0.15 grams of lithium, as well as nicotine salts and traces of heavy metals.

Regional News



Belize: Attorney defends action of spitting on Guatemalan flag

CMC - Attorney and activist Audrey Matura says she will not apologise for spitting on the flag of Guatemala last week saying that an incident earlier this month involving the Guatemalan Armed Forces on the disputed Sarstoon Island led to her taking the action.

Belize and Guatemala have had a long-standing border dispute and have voted in separate referendums to ask the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague to make a decision on the dispute.

Guatemala recognised the independence of Belize at the beginning of the 1990s, but it never accepted the borders and continues to claim 11,000 square kilometres, about half the territory of the former British colony.

The country was claimed by Spain and settled by British buccaneers during the 17th century. Belize later became a British possession surrounded by countries that Spain had colonised.

In June this year, Belize delivered its rejoinder in the border dispute case with Guatemala to the Registrar of the ICJ ending the stage of written submissions.

Last Thursday, while at the Biltmore Plaza in the capital, Matura came across a Guatemalan flag standing next to a Belizean flag in preparation of an event to celebrate Guatemala's Independence Day.



Attorney and activist, Audrey Matura (News 5 Photo)

She took to Facebook to share her frustration in a live post and proceeded to spit on the Guatemalan flag.

She later told News 5 television news that her emotions had been triggered that had occurred in 2016 when after planting a Belize National Flag it was removed by the Guatemalan military. Matura says, during her latest visit to Sarstoon last week, something similar occurred.

"While we were there, the Guatemalans didn't expect us because we were able to sing our national anthem, have our ceremony and they didn't show up until we finished the national anthem and they kept their distance.

"They kept telling us that is Guatemalan territory and we should remove ourselves. So we then circled around the island and when we came back from circling around the island we saw the flag was missing. We did not see who took the flag; we suspected they took the flag."

She said in the meantime, the Belize Defence Force (BDF) observing the situa-

tion from its base.

She said that they did not intervene and the group decided to plant another flag.

"When we planted a second flag the Guatemalans came and ripped the flag out and threw it in the bottom of their boat. They didn't fold it the way they should, they just threw it. We couldn't believe it. The BDF came and then there were some kind of interaction between the BDF and Guatemalans.

"We didn't know what they say, but the videos that have been released from the Guatemalan military, the video that has been released showed they were disrespecting our BDF. While they are having that altercation we planted a third flag. We left and we weren't even far when they came and in front of our face and the BDF they took our flag and threw it down in their boat. We couldn't believe it," she added.

Matura said she was further frustrated when last Thursday evening the Guatemalan Embassy in Belize was allowed to hold its

event on Belizean territory as opposed to inside the embassy compound.

"When I was there that is when I found out that the Guatemalans are gonna hold an independence ceremony there and they were going to invite our politicians. I could not get more information than that.

"I saw the flag and everything. Several things to that for me, under international law if you have an embassy in any country, any country has an embassy anywhere, the embassy itself is like your territory of your country," she said adding "it is international law.

"These are accords and conventions that governments since the first and Second World War agreed to bring about peace. Guatemala, unlike Mexico and the United States, decided to hold their ceremony not in their embassy, they came and held it on our land at the Biltmore, fine.

"The Biltmore getting paid, I don't mind. But at that moment I saw there and said the audacity of these people, having disrespected us, having the audacity to say that our territory belonging to them, taking us to the ICJ.

"So when I saw the flag I went live and unlike what people say, oh I must have been drunk or whatever, no, very much in my sense, knowing that what I saw

cont'd on pg 17

Over 100 Haitians intercepted on boat near Turks and Caicos Islands

A total of 156 Haitian nationals are currently at the Detention Centre following the interception of an illegal vessel on Friday.

According to police reports, around 9:30 pm the illegal vessel was spotted by the United States Border and Customs aircraft heading towards the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Officers of the Marine Branch intercepted the ves-

sel eight miles southwest off West Caicos. The illegal vessel was towed to the South Dock Port containing 139 males and 17 females.

The illegal migrants were handed over to the Immigration Department for processing.

Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams said: "Last night's interception is indicative of global partnership working. I wish



Haitian nationals stopped near TCI.

to extend my thanks and appreciation to our partners locally, regionally, and internationally who have contributed

to the successful interception and the safe custody of all on-board that sloop.

"To the teams involved, Bravo Zulu".

The public is being asked to contact 911, the closest police station, or call TCI Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 and give any information on any illegal activity anonymously.

cont'd from pg 16

there for me amounted to disrespect. My live was clear what I had to say. The only thing I have to apologise for is my obscene language which gets the best of me when I am pissed off."

The attorney said that in Belize, the defilement of a Belizean flag is not a crime and in Guatemala the defilement of their flag is not a crime.

"So if I spat on the flag, or kick the flag or burn the flag, it is not a crime," she added.

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Caribbean nations named among major drug transit countries

CMC - United States President Joseph Biden has named several Caribbean countries among major drug transit or major illicit drug-producing countries for Fiscal Year 2024.

In a White House memorandum, Biden on Friday listed The Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica among countries world-wide as major transit or major illicit drug-producing countries.

Other countries identified are Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela

"A country's presence on the foregoing list is not necessarily a reflection of its government's counter-drug efforts or level of cooperation with the United States," Biden said.

"Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug transit or major illicit drug producing country set forth in sections 481(e)(2) and 481(e)(5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195) (FAA), the reason countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to be transited or produced, even



if a government has engaged in robust and diligent narcotics control and law enforcement measures," he added.

The US President said the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) amended the definition of major drug source countries to include source countries of precursor chemicals used to produce illicit drugs significantly affecting the United States.

He said for countries with large chemical and pharmaceutical industries, preventing precursor chemicals from being diverted to the production of illicit drugs is "a particularly difficult challenge, including for the United States and other countries with strict regulatory regimes to prevent diversion."

Biden said the PRC has been identified as a major source country due to this change in legislation.

"The United States strongly urges the PRC and other chemical source countries to tighten chem-

ical supply chains and prevent diversion," he said.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, Biden designated Bolivia, Burma and Venezuela as "having failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to both adhere to their obligations under the international counternarcotics agreements and to take the measures required by section 489(a)(1) of the FAA."

He said included with this determination are justifications for the designations of Bolivia, Burma and Venezuela, as required by section 706(2)(B) of the FRAA.

Biden has also determined, in accordance with provisions of section 706(3) (A) of the FRAA, that United States programs that support Bolivia, Burma and Venezuela are "vital to the national interests of the United States."

"The vast majority of illicit drugs causing the most damage in the United States originate from beyond our borders, and our most effective means of reducing the

availability of these drugs is to expand and improve our cooperation with international partners," he said, adding that "The political commitment of our international partners remains critical to achieving success against illicit drug threats."

With key partners in South America, Biden said the United States will continue to support ongoing efforts to reduce coca cultivation and cocaine production, expand access to justice, and promote alternative livelihoods.

He said Colombia has historically been a strong partner in the fight against the drug trade.

Nevertheless, he said illicit coca cultivation and cocaine production remain at historically high levels," urging the Government of Colombia to prioritise efforts to expand its presence in coca-producing regions and achieve sustainable progress against criminal organisations.

In Bolivia, Biden urged additional steps by the government to safeguard the country's licit coca markets from criminal exploitation, reduce illicit coca cultivation that continues to exceed legal limits under Bolivia's domestic laws for medical and traditional use, and "continue to expand cooperation with international partners to disrupt transnational criminal networks."

Sudan conflict: Landmark skyscraper in Khartoum engulfed in flames

By Fiona Nimoni

Buildings have caught fire in Sudan's capital after heavy fighting between the army and rival forces.

Videos posted online on Sunday showed the iconic Greater Nile Petroleum Oil Company Tower engulfed in flames.

"This is truly painful," said Ta-greed Abdin, an architect of the building, in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Air strikes and ground battles have continued in Khartoum and other towns and cities since fighting broke out in April.

Over one million people have been forced to flee the country, the UN has said.

Located near the River Nile, the 18-storey oil firm skyscraper is one of the most recognisable landmarks in Khartoum.

Ms Abdin said it defined the skyline of the city, and lamented "such senseless destruction".

It is not yet clear what caused the building's cone-like structure, which has a glass facade, to catch fire. There have been no reports of injuries or deaths.

The violence in Sudan began on 15 April, triggered by a power struggle between the leaders of the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

It followed days of tension as members of the RSF were redeployed around the country in a move that the army saw as a threat.

The Sudan War Monitor, which provides analysis of the conflict, said the RSF had attacked areas controlled by the army on Saturday, including an office block at the justice ministry. Several government buildings are reported to have caught fire



The RSF has been fighting to take control of Sudan's capital.

as a result of the attack.

Attacks on army premises continued into Sunday, witnesses told AFP news agency.

Residents in a southern district of the city - where the army was targeting RSF bases - told AFP they heard "huge bangs" as they woke up.

Health authorities announced on Sunday that all the main hospitals in Khartoum - as well as the Darfur region - were out of service.

Nawal Mohammed, 44, who lives at least 3km (1.8 miles) from clashes in the capital, said the doors and windows of her family home shook with the force of explosions.

She described the battles on Saturday and Sunday as "the most violent since the war began".

According to a group of pro-democracy lawyers, the fighting had killed "dozens of civilians" in Khartoum since Friday.

Fighting was also reported in the city of El-Obeid, some 400km (250 miles) south of the city.

The RSF has been fighting to take control of the capital, and the military's air strikes have been aimed at weakening RSF positions.

The conflict has killed around 7,500 people and displaced more than five million.

Brazil: 14 killed after plane crashes in Amazon

By Kathryn Armstrong

Fourteen people have been killed in a plane crash during bad weather in the Brazilian Amazon on Saturday.

The small propeller plane was nearing the end of its 400km (248 mile) trip between Manaus, the capital of Amazonas state, and the remote jungle town of Barcelos when it went down.

Officials said all those on board - 12 passengers and two crew - were killed in the crash.

An investigation has been launched into the cause of the incident.

Amazonas state security secretary Vinicius Almeida said initial information suggested the plane crashed



after running out of runway when it descended into Barcelos during heavy rain and low visibility.

Brazilian news site G1 report-

ed that the plane was an EMB-110, a twin-engine turboprop manufactured by Brazilian aircraft-maker Embraer.

cont'd on pg 21

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Libya: Greek rescuers among those killed in road collision

By Kathryn Armstrong

At least three members of a Greek rescue team and three members of a Libyan family have died in a road collision.

The rescuers were among a team who were travelling on a bus to the flood-ravaged city of Derna on Sunday when their vehicle collided with a car carrying the family.

Two others in the car and eight others on the bus were seriously injured, according to a Libyan official.

An investigation has been launched.

Othman Abdeljalil, health minister in the administration that runs the east of the country, told a press conference the team had been travelling from the eastern city of Benghazi when the crash happened.

He put the death toll at four but Greece's armed forces reported three dead and two missing.

Libya is split between two rival governments - a UN-backed administration based in the capital Tripoli,



The Greek rescuers were travelling to join other international teams in Derna (file image).

and a rival Egyptian-supported authority based in Benghazi.

The Greek authorities said that a bus carrying medical personnel collided with a vehicle moving in the opposite direction and reported that three members of Greece's humanitarian mission had died and two were missing.

They added that it was unclear what exactly had

happened and that it was looking into the incident in cooperation with Libya, while an operation was underway to repatriate their personnel.

A diplomatic source has told Greek news site Kathimerini that 16 members of the team were Greek rescuers and three were interpreters.

They were on their way to join teams already on the

ground from other countries including France and Italy.

Thousands of people were killed when two dams above Derna broke during a powerful storm a week ago. The UN says the death toll so far stands at some 11,300.

More than 10,000 more remain officially missing, according to figures from the UN's Office for the Co-Ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

cont'd from pg 20

According to G1, the plane's owner, Manaus Aerotáxi, said the aircraft and its crew met all the necessary requirements to be flying.

"Our teams have been on the ground responding since the moment of the crash to provide the necessary support," Amazonas Governor Wilson Lima wrote on X (formerly Twitter) following the crash.

"My solidarity and prayers to the victims' family and friends."

The mayor of Barcelos, Edson de Paula Rodrigues Mendes, told CNN the plane was chartered by a businessman who works locally in game fishing.

Mr Mendes said the passengers were friends from other parts of Brazil who were involved in the sport.

Officials said the victims' bodies

would be taken to Manaus for formal identification.

Barcelos is a popular tourist destination as it lies close to several national parks.

September is considered to be the start of the peak fishing season in Amazonas. The state is especially known for its various species of ornamental fish such as tucunaré - also known as peacock bass.

Hope steers Warriors to victory over TKR

Shai Hope's controlled half-century helped Guyana Amazon Warriors complete a six wicket win and the double against the Trinbago Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Providence in Guyana on Saturday, as the two sides played out a dress rehearsal ahead of Wednesday night's Qualifier 1.

The Amazon Warriors won the toss and opted to field first and the decision went in their favour as a Knight Riders side shorn of Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell and Sunil Narine posted a competitive 176 for eight.

The Amazon Warriors timed their chase perfectly in reply as Hope carried on his good form with an unbeaten 54 to ensure the game was won with 10 balls to spare.

Earlier on, a much-changed Knight Riders got off to a bad start when Martin Gupatil was run out for one, but Mark Deyal's quick fire 37 from 20 balls ensured the Knight Riders were able to post a healthy 49 for two by the end of the Power-Play.

Chadwick Walton and Keacy Carty put on a 59-run partnership before Imran Tahir dismissed Walton for 25.

However, that merely signaled the moment for Carty to press the accelerator. He took an extreme liking to Odean Smith, taking him for 26 runs in the 15th over to bring up his half century.

Carty made a brilliantly constructed 83 before he was eventually stumped. That wicket was one of three in the 19th over as Imran Tahir finished with three for 12 to halt the Knight Riders momentum.

In reply, the Amazon Warriors got off to the best possible start in the Power-Play. Openers Odean Smith and Saim Ayub guided the Warriors to 56 at the end of six overs. But Ayub fell immediately after the fielding restrictions were lifted, skying a delivery from Akeal Hosein and was caught.



Guyana Amazon Warriors batsman Shai Hope bats against the Trinbago Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Providence in Guyana on Saturday, September 16, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

Smith achieved his best score of the 2023 Republic Bank CPL - benefiting from three dropped catches on his way to a sparkling 44. Smith's knock ensured the Warriors only needed 60 from 44 balls with eight wickets remaining.

It was an equation the Amazon Warriors negotiated with ease as they romped to victory with two overs remaining.

Meanwhile, the Jamaica Tallawahs earned a vital 59 run victory over the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots at the same venue on Saturday to ensure they remained in contention for CPL playoff stage later this week.

The Tallawahs won the toss and chose to bat first, despite losing early wickets to the spin of Ashmead Nedd and George Linde, a 62 run seventh wicket partnership between Shamar Springer and Fabian Allen hauled the side to a formidable 178 for seven after 20 overs.

Despite a valiant 65 from Yannic Cariah, the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots were bowled out for 119, with Mohammad Amir taking four wickets in a brilliant spell and ensuring the Tallawahs won by 59 runs.

The Jamaican franchise were restricted in the Power-Play by the bowling of Sheldon Cottrell and Ashmead Nedd, with the latter taking the wickets of Brandon King and Kirk McKenzie to leave the Tallawahs reeling at 31 for two at the end of the Power-play.

When spinner George Linde took two wickets in successive deliveries in the following over, the Tallawahs found themselves in crisis at 34 for four.

However, Raymon Reifer, Shamar Springer, and Fabian Allen repaired the early damage, as the Tallawahs scored 72 runs from their last five overs. The Patriots fell behind the over rate and were given a red card for the final over, with Cariah leaving the field.

The Patriots lost their experienced openers Evin Lewis and Andre Fletcher in the Power-Play, while big hitters Will Smeed and Sherfane Rutherford lost their wickets shortly afterwards to the superb bowling of Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim.

Yannic Cariah top scored with 65 off 40 balls, his highest score in T20 cricket. However, it was to be in vain as the Patriots were bowled out for just 119 to end their disappointing CPL campaign on a losing note.

India rout Sri Lanka in final to win Asia Cup

COLOMBO (Reuters) - India lifted the Asia Cup after routing defending champions Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final, with Mohammed Siraj claiming a career-best six for 21, including four wickets in one over, at the R Premadasa Stadium in Sri Lanka on Sunday.

Electing to bat, Sri Lanka were bundled out for a paltry 50 in 15.2 overs, with five batters getting ducks in their sorry-looking scorecard with Siraj the wrecker-in-chief.

Siraj's fiery display of pace bowling was best illustrated in his second over when the right-arm quick dismissed Pathum Nissanka, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya de Silva.

Hardik Pandya bagged three wickets, while Jasprit Bumrah claimed one as Sri Lanka registered their second lowest total in One-Day Internationals, lasting only 92 balls.

India needed 6.1 overs to achieve the target for a timely boost before their home World Cup beginning next month.

"It's like a dream," said Siraj, who became only the fourth bowler to take four wickets in an over in ODIs, after the Sri Lanka innings.

"I got four early wick-



Sri Lanka's captain Dasun Shanaka, right, congratulates India's Subhman Gill, left, and Ishan Kishan after India won against Sri Lanka during the Asia Cup final cricket match in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023. (AP)

ets last time I played Sri Lanka (earlier this year), but unfortunately, I could not register a five-wicket haul.

"I realised you get whatever is in your destiny. I just tried to bowl my line and length, and wickets kept coming.

"The ball did not swing much in the early matches here, but today it swung a lot. My effort was to draw the batters forward and make them play the ball."

Bumrah removed Kusal Perera in the first over to trigger a collapse and the Sri Lanka batters looked helpless as Siraj breathed

fire with the new ball.

Only Kusal Mendis (17) and Dushan Hemanta, who made 13 not out, managed to reach double digits for the home side.

India's skipper Rohit Sharma held himself back and sent out Ishan Kishan to open the innings with Shubman Gill, opting for a left-right opening pair.

The openers scored freely to ensure there was no drama and Kishan, who made 23 not out, scored the winning run of the summit clash, which lasted only 21.3 overs. Gill, the tournament's leading scorer, remained unbeaten on 27.

Sri Lanka's coach Chris Silverwood bemoaned his team's "below-par" performance with the bat.

"The way we got dismissed is very disappointing. I think there's a lot of reflection to be done in the dressing room," he said.

"I thought Siraj was superb ... the Indian bowlers made our life difficult but, at the same time, I think we made our own life difficult as well."

India will host Australia in a three-match ODI series later this month and the teams will clash again on October 8 in their World Cup opener in Chennai.

Sports News



GNFC says farewell to coach Desmond 'Zico' Bleau

The executive of the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) has bid farewell to the head of coaching at the club, Desmond "Zico" Bleau, who has left the post.

According to a media release, "The GNFC is expressing its heartfelt gratitude to our Head of Coaching, Desmond "Zico" Bleau, for his unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions during his tenure with the club."

Coach Bleau, a former national youth and senior team midfielder, has been with the GNFC since its inception in 2012.

"Coach Zico has been an integral part of GNFC's success, leading our team with skill, passion, and commitment. Under his guidance, our players have achieved remarkable growth, both individually and as a team, showcasing their talent on the field," the GNFC release added.

It states, "His professionalism, leadership, and mentorship have left an indelible mark on our club, and we are immensely thankful for the time and effort he has invested.

"As Coach Zico embarks on a new chapter in his career, we extend our warmest wishes for his continued success and fulfillment in all his future endeavours. His legacy at GNFC will always be cherished, and he will forever

remain a part of the GNFC family."

Meanwhile, Joshua Henriques of GNFC has been awarded and accepted a partial scholarship at Brooke House College in the United Kingdom to attend St. Anthony's Secondary School here in Antigua.

Henriques, who enrolled at St. Anthony's Secondary at the start of the new school year in Antigua on September 4, was one of four GNFC footballers who traveled to Brooke

cont'd on pg 25



Coach Desmond 'Zico' Bleau. (Photo courtesy GNFC)

cont'd from pg 24

House College in June.

Henriques, Oniah Blair, Ethan Camacho, and Ethan Barton were the players who went on trials at Brooke House College.

GNFC's coaches, Vincent "Nabu" Samuels and Desmond "Zeco" Bleau, accompanied the four players to Brooke House College.

This event was made possible as it was jointly sponsored by the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) and Brooke House College.

In the world of sports, talent knows no boundaries, and dreams often take players to unexpected places. The journey of these four GNFC players began with a remarkable display of talent and dedication on the local football fields.

Hailing from different backgrounds but united by their passion for the beautiful game, they quickly caught the attention of scouts and coaches.

Brooke House College, renowned for its academic excellence and a strong commitment to nurturing young talents, became the destination for the quartet's trials.

The trials were a rigorous process that tested their skills, determination, and adaptability to a new environment. Each player faced challenges both on and off the field, showcasing their resilience and commitment to their dreams.

Amidst this group of talented individuals, Joshua Henriques stood out not only for his exceptional foot-

balling skills but also for his dedication to academics.

It was this unique blend of talent and commitment that led to a life-changing moment.

As part of the scholarship, Henriques would continue his secondary education at St. Anthony's Secondary

School in Antigua. Henriques will then be enrolled in Brooke House College upon completion of his secondary education.

This achievement is not just a personal triumph; it's a momentous occasion for GNFC and the entire community. It showcases the

club's dedication to nurturing young talents and providing them with opportunities beyond their wildest dreams.

The scholarship recipient becomes a role model for aspiring footballers in the region, demonstrating that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible.



9 Teams

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South Africa beat Australia to win ODI series

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - All-rounder Marco Jansen shone with bat and ball as South Africa won the fifth and final One Day International (ODI) against Australia by 122 runs at the Wanderers on Sunday to complete a come-from-behind series victory.

Jansen scored 47 runs off 23 balls as South Africa overcame a slow start to set a formidable target of 315 for nine after being sent in to bat first.

He then took a career-best ODI haul of five for 39 off eight overs, as the visitors were dismissed for 193 in 34.1 overs.

The win ensured a 3-2 series victory for South Africa, who lost the opening two matches but bounced back with three successive wins to boost morale before next month's World Cup in India.

The new ball seamed around early in the thin Highveld air and saw South Africa struggle with opener Quinton de Kock, who has announced his retirement from ODIs after the World Cup, out cheaply in his last home innings.



South Africa cricket team celebrates their 3-2 series win against Australia at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023. (AP)

Heinrich Klaassen, who scored 174 on Friday, was then bowled out for six by Adam Zampa, who he had hit to all corners two days earlier.

But South Africa set about the bowling as Aiden Markram and David Miller put on 109 runs in 107 balls for the fifth wicket before the partnership was broken by the first delivery in ODI cricket by part timer Tim David.

Markram top edged him to Michael Neser, who had dropped him earlier on 81, at deep square leg to depart

seven runs short of his century.

David Miller and Jansen then continued the assault with Miller scoring 63 runs. There was also a late cameo from Andile Phehlukwayo, who hits three sixes in the last over to see South Africa past the 300-mark.

Australia did not hold back as they began their response, keeping up the positive approach that has been a hallmark throughout the series.

But Jansen took two wickets in the fourth over,

dismissing David Warner and Josh Inglis to apply the brakes.

Captain Mitchell Marsh and Marnus Labuschagne put on 90 for the third wicket as Australia stayed well ahead of the required run rate. But a potential match winning partnership ended when Marsh was caught on the third man boundary off Jansen for 71.

The giant bowler then dismissed Labuschagne (44) and Alex Carey (2), with spinner Keshav Maharaj ending any resistance with three wickets of his own at the end.

"These type of performances give you confidence," said Jansen afterwards. "I'd like to play like this more often, which is not easy."

cont'd from pg 28

from last season, and we still have that good camaraderie, so I am looking forward to seeing us build on what we did last season and improve on our position this season," Jarvis said.

"There is no date set to start the new season as yet, so we are doing our training in some small sessions. When we get the date for the season to start, we will intensify our training because we have to guard against burnout."

Villa Lions to cope without main goalkeepers this season

Villa Lions head coach Auckland “Pin Up” Jarvis said losing his two main goalkeepers from last season will be a big challenge for his team to cope with in the premier division league during the 2023-24 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association’s (ABFA) domestic season.

Villa’s number one and national team goalkeeper, 19-year-old Shahoi “Pookie” Dorsett, and fellow 19-year-old custodian Nalian Gonsalves are both overseas and are not expected to feature during the upcoming domestic season.

Dorsett is playing club football in Germany, while Gonsalves is attending college in the United States of



Members of the Villa Lions team engage in a warm-up exercise during a training session at the Fort Road playing field earlier this month. (Photos by Elwin Francis)

America. “Our biggest challenge this year is that we had two goalkeepers last year, and both of them are out for this season. One went to college in the United State, and the other got a stint in Germany,” Jarvis stated.

Villa Lions assembled the youngest ever team to

play in the nation’s highest domestic league last year.

The squad, which predominantly featured players still enrolled in high school and Antigua State College, finished third behind champions Jennings Grenades and second-place finishers All Saints United last season.

Jarvis said the Villa Lions will once again comprise players under the age of 20 during the 2023-24 domestic season.

“Generally, it’s the same group from last season. Most of the players came up through the Villa youth system and the national youth team together, so they have a very good camaraderie,” Jarvis said.

The Villa Lions started their preparations for the new season just over five

weeks ago. The Villa Lions defeated the Master Ballers 6-2 in their first practice match at the PMS playing field last Thursday.

“It has been good; we have been practicing going on six weeks now. I think the turnout has been good. The energy from the players and the enthusiasm from last year are still there, so it has been okay. It’s a fresh and early start, but I’m pleased with what I am seeing so far,” Jarvis stated.

The new Premier League season has been tentatively set to commence sometime next month. Jarvis is hoping Villa Lions will improve on the third-place finish the team attained last season.

“The unit is still there
cont’d on pg 27”



Villa Lions head coach Auckland ‘Pin Up’ Jarvis, left, gives instructions during a training session at the Fort Road playing field earlier this month.