

PM BROWNE SAYS END 'SENSELESS' WAR!

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne celebrated his birthday last Friday.

PM Browne: End 'senseless' war now!

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is calling for an end to what he has described as 'the senseless war' now raging on between Russia and its neighbour, Ukraine.

The prime minister's call comes in response to reaction to comments he made on Saturday February 3 on the *Browne and Browne* show, where he suggested that Ukraine ought to stand down and to disengage from the war with Russia.

In the earlier statement PM Browne indicated that he would never have subjected any country of which he was the leader to the type of destruction that Ukraine has endured in what he saw as a 'lopsided' war, noting that in hindsight, the Ukrainian leader may come to recognize that the price to joining NATO was perhaps a burden too heavy to bear.

Those comments triggered negative reactions both locally and internationally and even one local news outlet suggested that the prime minister was 'siding' with Russia.

Returning to the subject on Saturday, PM Browne reiterated his previous position and accused one me-

dia outlet that said he was 'siding' with Russia of not only mis-quoting him, but for trying to 'rile up' international sentiments against Antigua and Barbuda over the issue.

The prime minister repeated his view that the war in Ukraine must be seen in the context of the United States military blockage of Cuba in the early 1960's when the Soviet Union (with Russia as its dominant member) attempted to set up a nuclear base in Cuba...a mere 90 miles from the US mainland. Similarly, he noted one could understand the Russian position with Ukraine, with which it shares a common border, wanting to join NATO.

He noted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy may have opted to become a member of NATO with the belief that the United States and Europe would assist him in time of conflict. However, PM Browne feels that this support in the US and EU will likely fade over time as the monies being spent on the war comes from taxpayers in these countries.

"The more money that



Prime Minister Gaston Browne is spent on that war, the less money is spent on issues such as climate change and to offer development assistance to countries in the developing world," he stated.

Additionally, the prime minister noted that conflicts such as the one taking place in Ukraine have a ripple effect on cost of living in countries such as Antigua and Barbuda.

"Small island states, such as Antigua and Barbuda, we stand to suffer most. We are some of the most vulnerable countries and these kinds of situation hurt us. In fact, we suffer disproportionately because of the war in Ukraine. Prices have jumped more than 10 percent since early last year because of the war. Its 'who feels it knows it', and we are not burying our hands in the sand and pretend that we are not affected by this 'sense-

less war'," PM Browne declared.

According to the Prime Minister there ought to be a negotiated settlement of the war 'in the interest of everyone'. He added that Antigua and Barbuda has not changed its position as it has upheld all the United Nations sanctions against Russia and it has voted in support of Ukraine in that body.

"Our position has not changed; we however feel that the total destruction of Ukraine is unnecessary and it ought to end and end soon," he remarked.

He emphasized that the country's position regarding any country intervening militarily in another country is something Antigua and Barbuda will never support and that this is a principle from which it will never relinquish.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **RICARDO CARRILLO HERRERA** of Golden Grove, St. John's, Antigua is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

A&B, CDB reach agreement for purchase of aircraft for LIAT 2020

The Antigua and Barbuda government and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) have reached an agreement for the purchase of the three aircraft now owned by the bank that were part of the fleet for LIAT (1974) Ltd., whose operations have formally ended.

Making the announcement, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the agreement was reached after initial disagreements between the two parties.

“Last week, we held a

meeting with the CDB over starting the LIAT 2020 airline. Initially, the tone was uncooperative, but we did not relent. In the end we now have a formal agreement and in the next week or two, we should be able to get things moving to the extent that we can apply for the Air Operator’s Certificate (AOC) for LIAT 2020 and within the next 60 – 90 days we can get LIAT 2020 up and running,” he stated.

He described the progress that has been made so far as a testimony to his

government’s relentless pursuit of its objectives that will benefit the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne recalled that when the other shareholder governments of LIAT (1974) Ltd. had decided to collapse the airline in the wake of the challenges it faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, Antigua and Barbuda decided against the move.

“Today, we are now seeing the silver lining to the extent that notwithstanding that the other two

said it could not be done, we not only kept LIAT (1974) Ltd. alive for an additional four years, but we are now poised to launch LIAT 2020, which we hope will be a profitable and sustaining institution,” he remarked.

Over the last several weeks, both the government and the CDB have been negotiating for the sale of the three aircraft. The disagreement arose over the sale value of the aircraft, two of which are not currently air-worthy.

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Local News



The nation's first female Police Commissioner, Delano Christopher, has died

The woman who rose up through the ranks of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda to be named its first female Police Commissioner, Delano Christopher, has died.

The nation joins the family, Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney and other members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda in mourning the death of former commissioner Christopher.

Christopher was pronounced dead at her home in Gunthropes around

10:30 am on Sunday 11 February.

The former head of the police force was appointed as commissioner in 2005.

She was the first female officer to be appointed to that rank. Commissioner Rodney met with her family and offered condolences on behalf of the rank and file of the police force.

Further details of her passing and funeral arrangements will be provided in coming releases. May her soul continue to rest in peace.

AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
SOUTH CENTRAL	15 1987B	227

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 13th day of February 2024 at 11:00am the above residential property at Buckley's Heights.

The property is under the ownership of **LOREAN DENISE ROBERTS (aka DENISE LOREAN ROBERTS)**. The land is a 10,890 sq. ft. (0.25 acre) plot with an approximate 3,841 sq. ft., 2-storey with a partial basement reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

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

The Auction shall be held on site.

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

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Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre resumes MRI services

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has announced that their Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services have resumed.

Medical Director, Dr. Albert Duncan said services from the imaging unit were all affected due to a faulty chiller system resulting in significant down time.

“We have been working tirelessly to bring this service back on line as it represents a crucial arm of diagnostics for clinicians in their day-to-day care of our



Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre patients,” he said.

“We want to thank the community for your understanding over the past few months”, the Medical Director continued.

“Your patience for the months to come while we recover and adjust back to providing a full range of

services will also be much appreciated as there may be a higher demand for appointments initially.

“Thank you as well to all my colleagues across our hospital and community services for their focus on patient care, dedication and positive attitude over what

has been a very challenging time for SLBMC.

“Following a thorough review of our equipment and ensuring all necessary maintenance and upgrades have been completed, we are confident in providing you with the highest quality MRI services once again. Our dedicated team of experienced radiologic technologists, technicians, and support staff are ready to assist you throughout the process and ensure a safe and comfortable experience.”

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US EPA’s update on air quality could have major impact for Antigua and Barbuda

The recent update to the federal air quality standard for fine soot by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is poised to have far-reaching implications, particularly for small island nations like Antigua and Barbuda.

Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Director of the Department of Environment, underscored the significance of this development for the islands, emphasizing, “This update

to the air quality standard is not only crucial for the health and well-being of our citizens in Antigua and Barbuda, but it also highlights the interconnectedness of global environmental issues.”

She elaborated on the specific challenges faced by small island states, stating, “In our context, the impact of fine particle pollution can be particularly acute due to our limited landmass and susceptibili-



Ambassador Diann Black-Layne

ty to external factors such as transboundary pollution and climate change effects.”

Ambassador Black-Layne stressed the importance of reducing fine particle pollution, which poses serious health risks, particularly in vulnerable communities.

Moreover, she highlighted the need for international cooperation in addressing air pollution and its impacts on public health and the environment.

“We welcome this step toward reducing deadly air pollution and look forward to continued collabora-

tion with the US and other countries to protect our environment and public health,” she remarked.

Ambassador Black-Layne also emphasized the broader implications of this update, noting its alignment with global efforts to mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development.

“By addressing air quality standards, we are not only safeguarding the health of our citizens but also contributing to broader efforts to achieve a more sustainable and resilient future for all,” she concluded.

NOTICE

TO: His WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate’s Court
Gray’s Farm
St. John’s
Antigua

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS FEATHERS POOL BAR

I, Craig Morgan DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Gray’s Farm, St. John’s Antigua on Thursday 4th day of April, 2024 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as “Feathers Pool Bar” situated Nut Grove, in the Parish of St. John’s, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 2nd day of February,2024

.....
Craig Morgan
268-783-8230

PM Browne: “You are the bridge”

Prime Minister Gaston Browne had some kind words to say about Parliamentary Secretary, Sen. Shenella Govia, with whom he shares a common birthday.

Speaking on Friday at a joint birthday celebration at the Office of the Prime Minister, PM Browne referred to Sen. Govia as ‘a standard bearer’ for the youth of the nation based on her accomplishments over the years.

He said she joined the ABLP as a teenager and when he recognised her potential, he invited her to work along with him in the then Office of the Leader of the Opposition.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Senator Shenella Govia on their birthday.

Afterwards, when the ABLP won the 2014 general elections, she was

named a senator and recently, recognizing the many contributions towards the success of the party and government, she was promoted to a Parliamentary Secretary.

“Even as we look at the senate and there are likely to be some changes, Sen. Govia shall be a constant because you are the bridge between our generation and the future generation,” he pointed out.

He urged her to continue her good works and be assured of the love and confidence from the senior leadership of the party and government.



Essay competition to celebrate Black History Month

Young people in Antigua and Barbuda are the focus of an essay competition that is aimed at strengthening their research skills as well as to broaden their knowledge of black history.

Organised by the Priest Isaac Institute of Holistic Knowledge, the essay competition is being held under the theme; “What does African History/Heritage mean to me?” and it is the 11th Annual African History Essay Competition. Submissions are now being accepted until March 8, 2024. This may be done via email at priestisaacinstitute@gmail.com.

The Institute wants parents or guardians to submit the entry essays

on their children’s behalf. Only residents of Antigua and Barbuda may enter. The competition is divided among three categories; senior, intermediate and junior with the age stipulation of 7- 17 years of age.

The organisers have secured a number of attractive prizes for the top winners in the competition. The winners will receive prizes such as laptops, tablets, and computer classes and will be invited to participate in the prize-giving ceremony and banquet.

“Our prizes are provided by collective contributions from sponsors, individuals, and groups of goodwill,” the institute noted.

The Institute sees the competition as an opportunity for young people to showcase their insights, research skills, and understanding of African heritage.

“We emphasize that student’s essays maintain meticulous punctuation and thorough research/examples,” an institute brochure stated.

The Priest Isaac’s Institute of Holistic Knowledge offers Astronomy Study Tours, Greencastle Hill Hikes, Yoga Teacher trainings, and Wellness programmes in the nation of Antigua and Barbuda. It is located in Buckley’s but its programmes are also offered online.

Point Ville Communications team member shares experiences with youth

Point Ville Communications, news presenter, Elizabeth Fane, has been sharing her experiences with young people who attend the Island

Academy International.

Last week, Fane was invited to speak with the young people during their second assembly. Accord-

ing to the school, Fane delivered a witty and impactful session on the power of effective and positive communications.

“She shared invaluable advice from her career in broadcasting and diplomacy (she was once attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to the students; including how to communicate successfully in a variety of situations and for different purposes,” a statement from the school indicated.

In her presentation, Fane underscored the importance of self-confidence, eye-contact and physical posture for modeling good conversation. “She spoke about how young people should be the agents of change when it comes to dangers of communications on so-



Elizabeth Fane (right) with student at Island Academy International. In particular, she stressed the need for young people not to be afraid to challenge hurtful behaviour online,” according to the statement.

The statement called the delivery ‘powerful’ and well-received by both students and faculty at Island Academy International.



Elizabeth Fane speaking with the students at Island Academy International

Aunt Selma turns 104 years old

The name Selomie means peace; and no word better describes Victoria Selomie Rhodes more than peace.

Known to many as Aunt Selma, she was born in the village of Liberta, Antigua to Charles and Mary Rhodes on February 12th, 1920.

At the tender age of three years, she and her only sibling, Rueben, who was then five, became orphans. Although they went to live with relatives in the village of Swetes, life for them was not easy.

As a result, they developed a deep and lasting bond and always looked out for each other. Like her big brother was, she is a quiet person but of very strong will and morals.

She also learnt to trust God from small and up to today the Holy Scriptures have remained her guide. As a member of the St. John's Seventh Day Adventist Church, she has served as Choir Member, Deaconess and Bible Worker. She certainly set an example for many members of the Rhodes Family who continue to sing, serve and teach in their respective church congregations.

As a career she worked in the Government Treasury and for some time at Blue Waters Hotel, always being diligent and honest. Despite her small physical stature, she can put away food. Her favorites are Fungi and Fish and Veggie Soup. And

she loved the occasional Bryson's sweet drinks. When it comes to colour, no one can rock Pink quite like her. And with a mild hint of vanity, you cannot take her photo without her wearing her pink sunglasses and her "good wig".

Aunt Selma loves and is very involved with her family that includes one daughter, one granddaughter, one grandson -in – law, two grandchildren and over two hundred nieces, nephews among others.

However, she is guarding her independence even in the United Nations of Rhodes. This is demonstrated by her walking all



Victoria Selomie Rhodes

kinds of back roads from Fort Road to Nevis Street, even well into her mid-nineties, so that the Church Bus

would not pick her up. The guiding principle in Aunt Selma's life remains "Put God First in All Things".

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A daze of days

By Tony Deyal

When you ask a Trini, “How things going, boy?” (or girl) the reply is inevitably, “Ah day.” If you’re one of those ‘Trinis’ who came home for carnival and wanted to show off your Britishness, you would most likely respond with, “I didn’t ask you how long you’ve been standing there. I asked how you were!” My neighbours in the old days of kerosene lamps and long shadows would first enquire of any noise in the yard, “Who day? Who dat day?”

And if we are seeking to ascertain the whereabouts of someone, we would ask, “Where he day?” or worse, “Way he day?” You can get two answers that are both difficult to understand, “He day day”, or worse, “He day day day.”

From the context, you will realise that “day” can refer to a point close to you as “Ah day right here” of “He just day”. It can refer to a distant point, “He over day” or “He day”, as distinct from “He here”. “He day day” means that he is there over there, and “He day day day” means that he is a little further away. Then the homophone “dey” can also mean “they” or “them”. “Dey day day day” can help you (if you understand the language) to know exactly where to locate any group of people.

While my colleagues

in Jamaica, with Harry Belafonte carrying the tune, sing about “Day-o, day-o, Daylight come and me wan’ go home ...”, now with carnival almost day, or here, or even there, not just Trinis but many other Caribbean people are turning night into day. As Viv Richards, the cricketer from Antigua, said, “The true Caribbean people ... we are carnival people, we are vibrant people, not dead people. We like to be heard and we like to have fun.” In Brazil, people buy tickets to go to the stadium to watch the carnival, but in Trinidad you buy a costume to take part, or buy some liquor and stand on the pavement with your friends while your other friends and their bands pass by and some of them stop for a drink. Many of us will drink to that and, looking back in the past, I know that my friends and I even “drunk” to it in our younger days. Those were the days, my friends, I thought would never end.

However, now, with Carnival heading into its climax, for the first time in all my years, the end of our two-day carnival will be a double-whammy.

Instead of two days of carnival followed by Lent, next week, the Carnival Monday and Tuesday will be followed, not just by “Ash” Wednesday but also by “Cash” Wednesday. While



Tony Deyal

one group heads to church to start Lent, most of us will have to make sure that we have Valentine’s Day gifts for our wives, girlfriends (or both) plus, for some of us, our daughters.

I think back to my early years when Valentine was a Jamaican cricketer and caused more than a day of anger from Trinis. He and a Trini, Sonny Ramadhin, wiped out the English and set up the basis for the emergence of the Caribbean at the top of the cricket world. However, the Trinis were upset.

“Why they have a whole day for Valentine and they leave out Sonny Ramadhin? You ain’t see how they hate we Trinis?” Then Uncle Percy, who worked in Port-of-Spain, set the matter straight. “The Valentine that they talking about, and

all the things for women that the companies have in the papers, is a way of using women to make even more money for them. Is like they don’t already have more than enough!” As we all learnt, instead of the poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways ...”, after all the spending on carnival, you have to put aside enough money to buy the gifts to make sure you don’t suffer for the rest of the year and have to count the days.

The first time I bought Valentine gifts, I started well. I was in Miami heading back to Belize (where I lived) and, instead of a parrot like the one we had in Trinidad, I bought a Dove – the chocolate and not the bird. That scored with the power of Vivian Richards.

cont’d on pg 11

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My wife and daughter loved it. The second one was the problem. It had to be both a peace and a piece offering. All my female colleagues recommended perfume, the stuff of fantasy and eroticism, romance and renewal of relationships. They had names like Shalimar, Jaipur and Obsession. I told the counter clerk that my wife hated heavy, cloying scents, so after a lot of sniffing and smelling I settled for something from Dior. My wife loved it but my daughter, Jasmine, just seven years old asked, "Pure Poison? That is what he give you? This might kill you if you use it! Why he buy that for you?"

Since then, I have been much more careful. I'm not like the man who was shopping for Valentine's Day cards and, when he found one with the words, "Baby, you're the only one for me", bought a box of 12. I am more

like the person who looks for advice about how to manage Valentine's Day. One of my favourites is by the comedian, Groucho Marx, "I was married by a judge. I should've asked for a jury." The American actress Roseanne Barr suggested, "You may marry the man of your dreams, ladies, but 14 years later you're married to a couch that burps." Another one I've found is, "As a man in a relationship, you have two choices: You can be right or you can be happy." I like what the comedian Chris Rock said, "There are only three things women need in life: food, water, and compliments."

Charles Schulz, the man who created Charlie Brown in the comics, put it best, "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." In fact, a list of gift ideas for your loved ones starts with Godiva chocolates and heads into other gifts like Pandora jewellery, Gucci Flora,

Sauvage parfum, and the only one that never fails, red roses.

While others strongly suggest flower bouquets, fragrances, necklaces, earrings and bracelets, one writer asked, "If Valentine's Day is for couples, what day is for single men?" The answer was, "Palm Sunday." If that wasn't bad enough, there is the man who asked in honour of Valentine's Day, "What does a passionate kiss and a spider have in common?" They both lead to the undoing of the fly. So, with that folks, let bygones be flygoned and have a great Valentine's Day. And, if you want to get a date for Valentine's Day, look at a calendar.

Tony Deyal was last seen quoting comedian Jerry Seinfeld who said that, when our day comes, all women should know that men want the same thing from their underwear that they want from women; a little bit of support and a little bit of freedom.



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TikTok and Temu pull cheap heaters after testing revealed fire risk

By Liv McMahon

TikTok and Temu have pulled cheap electric heaters from their online stores after Which? found they could explode or start house fires.

The consumer group tested eight heaters, the cheapest of which was £7.20, and found most did not meet UK safety standards.

It said the devices, some of which had been promoted by influencers on TikTok, posed “a serious safety risk” to users.

TikTok and Temu both said customer safety was their priority.

However, despite both companies removing the items from sale, Which? said it had found that more similar listings had since appeared in their place.

Temu and TikTok, through its Shop platform, have emerged as rivals to more established online marketplaces such as Amazon and eBay, with millions of UK shoppers turning to them for seemingly affordable products.

Which? said its heater research showed they needed to be better regulated.

“Cheap electric heaters are a tempt-

ing purchase for consumers struggling during the cold winter months, but our latest tests have revealed that models sold on TikTok and Temu are a serious safety risk and must be avoided at all costs,” said Sue Davies, Which?’s head of consumer protection policy.

“It’s vital that the government urgently gives greater legal responsibility to online marketplaces for unsafe products so that they are forced to take action to prevent dangerous products ending up in people’s homes.”

Which? has also highlighted the role influencers play in promoting the heaters.

TikTok Shop is interwoven into the video-sharing app, with products available on it frequently appearing in creators’ videos on the platform.

Which? identified several posts from influencers promoting fire hazard heaters in TikTok search results.

Lesley Rudd, chief executive of Electrical Safety First, urged them to take responsibility for their actions, saying they had “a moral duty” to ensure the products they recommended to followers were safe.

She also agreed current regulations were “broken”, given the rise of new online sellers.

“The way we shop has changed, possibly forever, yet it is utterly illogical that our laws have not, leaving people shopping on these online platforms grossly unprotected from dangerous electrical products,” she said.

Which? purchased and tested five portable heaters from TikTok Shop, and three from Temu. Only one was both safe for home use and legal for UK sale, according to the group.

A Temu spokesperson told the BBC “we deeply regret any concern or inconvenience caused by the safety issues” in the products identified by Which?, saying it had removed the heaters.

“The safety of our customers is our highest priority, and we have taken immediate action to address this issue,” they said.

TikTok also pointed to the action it took to keep consumers safe.

“If TikTok finds merchants or products that violate their policies, they remove them”, it said in a statement.

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Trinidad and Tobago hit by mystery ship oil spill

Trinidad and Tobago is considering declaring a national emergency over a huge oil spill from a ship that ran aground and overturned this week.

At least 15km (nine miles) of Tobago's south-western coast have been affected, including some of the Caribbean island's pristine beaches.

Some 1,000 volunteers have now joined government staff to clean up the spill.

Divers have been trying to isolate the leak from the vessel, which was abandoned by its crew.

Farley Augustine, the chief secretary of the island of Tobago, on Saturday said the government may designate the accident a Level 3 disaster, the highest.

"Everything indicates that we are going in that



Oil now covers some of Tobago's pristine beaches.

direction," he was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

The spill is currently Level 2, meaning the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management believes that the country can deal with the spill.

A national emergency is declared when local resources become "overwhelmed" and international assistance is needed.

The ship - identified only as The Gulfstream - capsized last Wednesday off the coast of the Cove

Eco-Industrial Estate.

No emergency calls were made.

The incident happened just days before Trinidad and Tobago's carnival celebrations, which are an important source of income for its economy.

Seismic activity at Kick 'em Jenny decreases



Kick 'em Jenny map.

Grenada's National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) in its latest update on Kick 'em Jenny says activity at the submarine volcano has subsided.

It says according to information from the UWI Seismic Research Center (UWI SRC), between 11:14 pm on February 9 and 3 am on February 11, there was increased seismic activity at Kick 'em Jenny.

The count of events at that time was 3,400 with the largest measuring *cont'd on pg 15*

Ex-US government informant gets life over Haiti president's murder

By Malu Cursino

A former US government informant has been sentenced to life for his role in the assassination of Haiti's former president Jovenel Moise.

The sentencing comes two months after Haitian-American Joseph Vincent, 58, pleaded guilty to taking part in the plot to assassinate the late president.

Before his sentencing in a Miami court, he told the judge: "Please forgive me for what I did."

President Moise was shot and killed at his home in Port-au-Prince in 2021.

Vincent, who worked for the US Drug Enforcement Administration, is the fourth of 11 defendants to be sentenced to life in the Miami federal case for his supporting role in the murder plot.

The trial is being held in Florida because the US justice department ruled that it fell within its jurisdiction - since part of the plot was developed in south Florida.

Vincent, who will be held in a Florida prison, ad-



mitted to having discussed the assassination plot and accompanying co-conspirators to Mr Moise's residence in July 2021.

His role included advising his accomplices on Haitian politics, meeting with local political and community leaders and encouraging protests against Mr Moise as a pretext to overthrow him, according to the AFP.

It is believed that during those meetings, Vincent wore a US State Department pin to make others believe he worked for Washington. But the DEA said Vincent had not been acting on be-

half of the agency.

Haiti's ambassador to the US, Bocchit Edmond, said there was "no way" US drugs agents carried out the attack. Speaking at the time of Mr Moise's killing, the ambassador said he believed it was the work of "professional mercenaries".

Court documents show that the operation was originally aimed at kidnapping the late president, but later became a full-fledged assassination.

Also on Friday, another suspect, Frederick Joseph Bergmann Jr. pleaded guilty to submitting false or mis-

leading export information. He has been accused of smuggling ballistic vests as part of the plot.

Colombian ex-soldiers and businessmen are also among those accused of helping supply funds or weapons, and carrying out the attack.

Haiti has arrested 17 people for the murder of the President Moise, according to the Miami Herald, but none of them have been formally charged.

The Caribbean country has not had a president since Mr Moise's assassination.

Since then, the country has plunged into political chaos and witnessed unprecedented levels of gang violence.

On Friday, the United Nations said January had been the most violent month in the country in more than two years, with some 1,100 people either killed, injured or kidnapped in the month.

cont'd from pg 14

magnitude 3.3 recorded on February 10.

However, since 3 am on February 11, the activity subsided and frequency almost to a complete stop.

The Agency says it should be noted that the level of activity at the Kick 'em Jenny submarine volcano can either increase, decrease or remain at normal readings.

Additionally, activity levels can fluctuate.

tuates.

The UWI SRC will continue to monitor the submarine volcano and provide updated analyses of the situation.

Based on the information from the UWI SRC, the alert level for Kick 'em Jenny remains at YELLOW.

This means that all marine interests should maintain the exclusion zone of 1.5 kilometres.

Pakistan election: Pact may shut out Imran Khan supporters

Pakistan's second and third political blocs have agreed to co-operate after elections in which jailed ex-PM Imran Khan's supporters came first.

Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif's PMLN and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's PPP issued a statement saying they planned to work together to bring political stability.

If they do form a government, the move is likely to anger Mr Khan's followers.

His PTI party was barred from taking part in the election, so most of its candidates stood as independents.

Earlier, police used tear gas to disperse a crowd of Mr Khan's supporters in Rawalpindi.

According to final results, independents won 101 of the National Assembly seats. BBC analysis shows 93 of them went to PTI-backed candidates.

That puts them ahead of the PMLN, who won 75, and the PPP, who gained 54.

The two parties formed an alliance to oust Mr Khan from power in 2022 and ruled until last August.

The Karachi-based MQM party has also made a surprising return in the polls, winning 17 seats, and could play a role in any coalition.

As wrangling continues, independent candidates who did not win have flooded



Some demonstrators supporting Imran Khan gathered in the city of Rawalpindi.

courts with vote-rigging allegations.

Both the PTI, which was blocked from taking part in the election, and Mr Sharif's PMLN say they want to form the next government.

The result was a surprise as most observers had expected Mr Sharif's party - widely seen as having the powerful military's backing - to win, given Mr Khan had been jailed on charges ranging from corruption to having married illegally and his party was barred from the ballot sheet.

To govern, a candidate has to show they are at the head of a coalition with a simple majority of 169 seats in the National Assembly.

Of the National Assembly's 366 seats, 266 are decided by direct voting and 70 are reserved - 60 for women and 10 for non-Muslims -

and these are allocated according to the strength of each party in the assembly.

Under Pakistan's rules, independent candidates are not eligible to be allocated reserved seats in parliament.

The PTI, among several other parties, has called for protests against the results, alleging they have been rigged.

On Sunday, police blocked streets near the electoral commission building in Rawalpindi with barbed wire and large trucks, preventing any protesters from accessing it.

For about 90 minutes, a crowd of a few hundred protesters chanted on the street. Then the atmosphere turned. Police used several rounds of teargas to disperse the crowd, which then left the area.

The Punjab police told

the BBC that there was a section 144 in place - a colonial-era law that stopped a gathering of more than four people.

This restriction had been put in place before the election until 12 February, but it detailed that civilians were not allowed to carry firearms, not that they were prevented from gathering.

The PTI's chairman had called for peaceful protests outside electoral commission offices where they were concerned about "forged" results.

Pakistani media reported that the PTI party claimed that the results of at least 18 National Assembly seats were "falsely changed" by election officers.

On Saturday, Mr Sharif - who is thought to be favoured by the military

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Myanmar's military government enforces conscription law

By Maria Zaccaro

The government in Myanmar has announced compulsory military service for all young men and women as the country's turmoil continues.

The army seized power from the civilian government in a coup in February 2021.

But in recent months it has been defeated in a series of battles with ethnic militias and anti-coup fighters.

The move announced on Saturday will require all men aged 18-35, and women aged 18-27, to serve at least two years under military command.

No further details have been released. But in a statement, the junta said its defence ministry would "release necessary bylaws, procedures, announcements orders, notifications and instructions".

The military has faced a series of humiliating defeats in recent months.

At the end of last year, three ethnic insurgent armies in Shan State - supported by other armed groups that op-



On 1 February, Myanmar entered its fourth year since the coup.

pose the government - captured border crossings and roads carrying most of the overland trade with China.

Last month, the Arakan Army (AA) said it had taken control of Paletwa in Chin State and the last military post in Paletwa township, the hilltop base at Meewa.

The military-installed president of Myanmar, Myint Swe - a former general - has previously warned the country is in danger of breaking apart if the government could not bring fighting under control.

A law allowing con-

scription was introduced in Myanmar in 2010, but has not been not enforced until now.

Under the legislation, the terms of service can be extended up to a period of five years during a state of emergency. Those ignoring summons to serve can instead be jailed for the same period.

A state of emergency was announced by the country's junta in 2021 and was recently extended for a further six months.

Myanmar had endured almost 50 years of rule un-

der oppressive military regimes before the move towards democracy in 2011.

On 1 February 2021, the military announced it had taken control of the country.

Disorders and fighting have affected the country ever since, with more than one million people being displaced and thousands killed. The performance of the army in its recent battles with ethnic armed groups - some of which have ended in defeats and retreats - has sparked criticisms and doubts among its supporters.

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- called for other parties to help him form a unity government.

As negotiations got under way between Mr Khan's political rivals, experts have warned Pakistan could be facing a "prolonged period of political instability".

Dr Farzana Shaikh from the Chatham House think tank told the BBC

that the Khan-linked independents were unlikely to be allowed to form a government and many people feared a "weak and unstable coalition" would result from any tie-up between Mr Sharif and the PPP.

Meanwhile, at least six PTI-backed candidates who did not win their seats have lodged legal challenges in the courts to try to get the outcome over-

turned.

Among them is Yasmin Rashid, who stood against Mr Sharif in Lahore. The petitioners allege collusion in the alteration of election results on specific forms.

Pakistani officials have denied any irregularities. The PMLN has also reportedly formed a legal team to address rigging allegations.

Sports News



2024 Schools volleyball championships commence today

The 2024 Inter-School Volleyball Championships will officially commence at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex today (Monday).

The event will get under way with a parade of teams and a brief opening ceremony, which will be followed by two matches.

Island Academy, which completed the double by winning both male and female division titles last year, will be involved in both matches on the opening day.

Island Academy will take on Christ the King High School in the female division and will face Ottos Comprehensive in a repeat of last year's male division final. Ottos Comprehensive School finished second and Sir Novelle Richards Acad-



The 2023 school volleyball male division champions, Island Academy. (File photo)

emy came third in the male division last year, while Antigua Girls High School came second and Ottos Comprehensive finished third in the female division.

Eight teams will be contesting this year's female division. They are Antigua

Girls High School first and second teams, All Saints Secondary, Christ the King High School, Island Academy, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Ottos Comprehensive School, and Princess Margaret School.

Seven teams will be

contesting the male division. They are Antigua Grammar School, All Saints Secondary, Island Academy first and second teams, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Ottos Comprehensive School, and Pares Secondary School.

This year's school volleyball championships will also feature a development league. This will give schools with a large pool of developing players the chance to expose those players in a competitive format.

Five teams will participate in the development league. They are Antigua Girls High School, Christ the King High School, Clare Hall Secondary School, Island Academy, and Irene B. Williams Secondary School.

Shamar Joseph joins Lucknow Super Giants in IPL

West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph has joined Lucknow Super Giants as replacement for England quick Mark Wood. He will join Super Giants for INR 3 crore (US\$362,000 approximately), an IPL statement on Saturday said.

According to ESPNcricinfo, the England Cricket Board (ECB) pulled Wood, a centrally contracted player, out of IPL 2024 to manage his workload, with the T20 World Cup scheduled in June, and England hosting West Indies and Sri Lanka for Tests in the home summer.

Recently, the ECB had prevented Jofra Archer from being a part of the IPL 2024 auction, as it manages his comeback from injury leading up to the T20 World Cup.

The Super Giants had signed Wood in the auction before the 2022 season for INR 7.50 crore. He, however, missed that season because of an elbow injury.

In IPL 2023, Wood played four matches and picked up 11 wickets at an average of 11.82.

Joseph made his West Indies debut in the drawn series against Australia,



West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph dismissing Steven Smith with his first ball in Test cricket, in a game West Indies lost in Adelaide.

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Sea View Farm Primary gets double wins in school basketball

Sea View Farm Primary recorded two wins in the latest round of matches in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships at the JSC Sports Complex.

Demetra Cox scored four points to lead Sea View Farm Primary to a 9-0 victory against Liberta Primary in the Minigirls Primary Division.

Sea View Farm Primary also secured a 15-5 victory against Post Millennial Academy in the Miniboy's Primary Division.

Keandi Jacobs scored four points for Sea View Farm, while

Enelley Naresh and Jeren Jeremy each had two points for the Post Millennial Academy.

J.T. Ambrose Primary and Golden Grove Primary also recorded wins in the latest round of matches.

J.T. Ambrose Primary snatched an 8-6 victo-



Ezekiel Jackson of Sea View Farm dribbles the ball while leading a fast break against Post Millennial Academy in the Miniboy's Primary Division at the JSC Sports Complex on Friday, February 2024. (Photo courtesy School Basketball Unit)

ry against Post Millennial Academy in the Minigirls Primary Division.

Solena Edwards converted eight points for J.T. Ambrose Primary, and Kamilah Choy had four points for Post Millennial Academy.

Golden Grove Primary prevailed 22-2 against S. R. Olivia David Primary in the

Miniboy's Division.

Elisha McDonald sank eight points for Golden Grove Primary, and Ashorn Davis scored the only two points for S.R. Olivia David Primary.

The inter-school basketball championships will continue at the JSC Sports Complex today (Monday).

Antigua Grammar

School will face defending champion St. Joseph's Academy in the Miniboy's Secondary Division.

In a Senior Boys Division double-header, Irene B. Williams Secondary will face defending champion Princess Margaret School, and Ottos Comprehensive School will take on Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

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He then became a worldwide phenomenon when he took a seven-wicket haul in the final innings despite an injured foot to give West Indies a dramatic eight-run win at the Gabba in the second Test. It was West Indies' first Test win in Australia since 1997.

Joseph had been signed by Dubai Capitals for the ongoing International League (ILT20) season in United Arab Emirates before West Indies' tour of Australia, but was subsequently ruled out because of the toe injury he suffered in the Brisbane Test when a

Mitchell Starc yorker struck him.

But his performance in Australia has since landed him a deal with Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), which starts on February 17.

While Joseph has just played two T20 games in his professional career, and doesn't have a wicket to show yet, West Indies white-ball coach Darren Sammy has indicated that Joseph could find a berth in the T20 World Cup squad, saying the fast bowler has "created a good headache" for the selectors.

Apart from Joseph, the Super Giants' fast-bowling line-up has Naveen-ul-Haq, Mohsin Khan, David Willey, Shivam Mavi, Yash Thakur and Yudhvir Singh.

They also have all rounders Marcus Stoinis, Kyle Mayers and India's Under-19 World Cup player Arshin Kulkarni, who can give them quite a few overs.

Though just two seasons old in the IPL, Super Giants have been one of the best-performing teams, making the playoffs and finishing third both in 2022 and 2023.



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LI Hurricanes lose to West Indies Academy in regional four-day contest

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes (LIH) lost their opening match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional four-day championship by five wickets against the West Indies Academy on the final day at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Saturday.

The Hurricanes, who lost the toss and were sent in to bat, were always chasing the game after being dismissed in their first innings for 137 in 54.2 overs on the opening day.

Jeremiah Louis, batting at number 8, topscored with 45, and pacer Joshua James captured three for 11.

In reply, the West Indies Academy gained a valuable 40-run first innings lead by scoring 177 in 47.2 overs. Bishop, batting at number 9, topscored with 48 off 47 balls, and Mbeki Joseph struck 42.

Pacer Jeremiah Louis grabbed five for 29, and Antiguan left-arm pacer Javier Spencer picked up three for 43.

The Hurricanes had a slightly better batting performance in their second inning, making 232 in 87.4 overs.

Former captain Jahmar Hamilton struck 70, opener Mikyle Louis scored 55, Antiguan Kofi James got 35, and Terrance Warde chipped



All-rounder Joshua Bishop starred with both bat and ball for the West Indies Academy against the Leeward Islands Hurricanes. (CWI Media)

in with 33. Bishop, bowling left-arm spin, claimed three for 33, and pacer Johann Layne took three for 45.

Set 193 to win, the West Indies Academy achieved victory by scoring 195 for five in 33.5 overs. Opener Kadeem Alleyne slammed 57 off 20 balls, Joseph hit an unbeaten 43, and Joshua James was not out on 41 off 21 balls. Jeremiah Louis claimed three for 41.

The Barbados Pride opened their West Indies championship account in a dazzling manner as they

wrapped up a comprehensive nine-wicket win over the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) Marooners in a lopsided contest at Chedwin Park in Jamaica on Saturday.

Scores: Barbados Pride 344 for eight declared and 35 for one; Combined Campuses and Colleges Marooners 185 and 193.

The Windward Islands Volcanoes needed only three days to complete a nine-wicket victory over the Jamaica Scorpions in their opening-round fixture at Sa-

bina Park in Kingston on Friday.

Scores: Jamaica Scorpions 159 all out off 41 overs (Romaine Morris 35, Peat Salmon 26, Ryan John 5-43, Shamar Springer 3-53) and 234 all out off 73.4 overs (Romaine Morris 68, Nkrumah Bonner 45, Gordon Bryan 31, Darius Martin 4-85, Shamar Springer 2-30, Kenneth Dember 2-53).

Windward Islands Volcanoes: 341 all out off 105.2 overs (Johann Jeremiah 80, Shamar Springer 71, Ryan John 57, Sunil Ambris 45, Gordon Bryan 4-64, Peat Salmon 3-78, Marquino Mindley 2-60) and 55 for one off 16 overs (Jeremy Solozano 29 not out, Johann Jeremiah 22 not out).

The contest between Trinidad and Tobago Red Force and reigning champions Guyana Harpy Eagles was abandoned after no play was again possible for a third straight day at Conaree Cricket Centre in St. Kitts on Saturday.

Scores: Trinidad & Tobago Red Force 215 for four (Jason Mohammed 100 not out, Tion Webster 50, Amir Jango 27, Vikash Mohan 20 not out; Ronsford Beaton 2-39, Veerasammy Permaul 2-42) vs. Guyana Harpy Eagles.



Australia's all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, left, plays an attacking shot during the second T20 International against the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide, Australia, on Sunday, February 11, 2024. (Getty Images)

Maxwell leads Aussies to win against West Indies

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) - Glenn Maxwell blasted a record-equaling century as Australia beat West Indies by 34 runs on Sunday and took an unassailable 2-0 lead in their three-match Twenty20 International (T20I) series.

Maxwell smashed an unbeaten 120 off 55 balls, with eight sixes and 12 fours, and shared a 92-run

stand with Tim David (31 off 14 balls) to propel Australia to 241 for four and the highest T20 International score at the Adelaide Oval.

The West Indies chase was derailed by the loss of five wickets in the first seven overs, but a rally led by captain Rovman Powell (63 off 36 balls) and Andre Russell (37 off

16 balls) briefly gave the tourists hope of reeling in the mammoth target.

But the weight of the chase ultimately proved too much as Marcus Stoinis, with three for 36, and debutant Spencer Johnson, with two for 39, led Australia's bowlers in restricting the West Indies chase to 207 for nine in their 20 overs.

Australia beat the West Indies by 11 runs in the first match in Hobart on Friday. The third game of the three-match series will be played on Tuesday at Perth.

Australia, which is playing six T20s over the next three weeks, routed the West Indies 3-0 in the One-Day International (ODI) series.