Country St. Maarten is born

By Judy H. Fitzpatrick

PHILIPSBURG—The Netherlands Antilles flag was lowered in front of the Courthouse at the stroke of midnight Saturday and the St. Maarten flag was hoisted to mark symbolically the end of one era and the birth of new Country St. Maarten, rounding off a decade of lobbying, negotiations and agreements.

The folded Netherlands Antilles flag was presented to the St. Maarten Museum to preserve as a symbol of the dismantled Netherlands Antilles.

With the St. Maarten song playing in the background, roars of applause rang out from the crowd that gathered to witness the ceremony when the St. Maarten flag, designed by Roselle "Rosie" Richardson in 1985, was hoisted. This was followed by fireworks and a celebratory mood as officials embraced and congratulated each other on St. Maarten’s increased autonomy.

The national anthem of the Netherlands, the Wilhelmus, the anthem of the Netherlands Antilles, and the St. Maarten song had been played earlier in the ceremony.

Calling the occasion “momentous” and “historical,” former Acting Lt. Governor Reynold Groeneveldt, who was appointed Acting Governor on Sunday, lauded the “dignified manner” in which country status had been achieved without violence—a point echoed by Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin.

Continued on page 9

Sarah pledges to build strong foundation for new country

By Alita Singh

BELAIR—Building a strong foundation for new Country St. Maarten and bridging the social and political divides were two of the promises made by first Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams in her inaugural address to Parliament during its first ceremonial meeting on Sunday, the day the island attained country status within the Dutch Kingdom.

Wescot-Williams of the Democratic Party (DP) will be at the helm of the United People’s (UP) party/DP coalition government that is supported by independent Parliamentarian Patrick Illidge. DP has two seats in Parliament while UP is the larger coalition partner with six seats.

Continued on page 8

Historic lowering Antillean flag, raising Curaçao flag

WILLEMSTAD—Thousands of people witnessed the historic, symbolic elimination of Country the Netherlands Antilles and the birth of Country Curaçao at Bri-onplein, Curaçao’s largest square, Saturday night. The Antillean flag was lowered a few minutes before midnight Saturday and Curaçao’s flag raised a few minutes after 12 o’clock.

In the presence of Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and his wife Princess Máxima and a score of other invited guests, the formal part of the programme kicked off with the national hymns of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Curaçao.

Continued on page 10

IN BRIEF

Belair

President of Parliament

The first meeting of the Parliament of Country St. Maarten was not lengthy, but full of first acts and symbolism. Page 4.

Belair

Country St. Maarten

Country St. Maarten is an “enrichment to our kingdom” with its people being its “real treasure,” said Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin in his speech during the ceremonial meeting of Parliament on Sunday morning, about nine hours after the island became a country within the Netherlands. Page 9.

Willemstad

Mixed Emotions

Feelings of joy and sadness blended at the last meeting of the Antillean Parliament in Willemstad on Saturday morning. Page 10.
Elated, hoped at the same time and sad is perhaps how best to describe the general mood over the weekend on the five islands that up to Sun- day, 10-10-10, were known collectively as the Netherlands Antilles. The mixed feelings probably were felt most strongly in Curaçao, the seat of the Central Government and Antillean Parliament that are no more. But also in St. Maarten, it seemed to some with strong ties to other islands almost as though part of them was being taken away, yet at the same time many were at least relieved that the constitutional reform quagmire that had kept the Dutch Caribbean busy ever since Aruba chose to step out of the Antilles and gained its “separate status” in 1986 had finally been concluded. As pointed out by several at the commemorations events both in Phillipsburg and Willemstad, the latter merely means that more attention can now be paid on some major socioeconomic problems and challenges that face particularly the two new autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom. In that sense the change of status in itself does not offer solutions, only a larger measure of freedom and at the same time responsibility to deal with the issues at hand. And there is no question that Antillean Government should blame those who are wrong. But the Cabinet and Prime Minister of St. Maarten therefore have taken on in this first stage of the transition to country status proceeds in an orderly and as-smooth-possible fashion, so that the changes in relations within the Dutch Kingdom do not end up turning out for the worse when it comes to the general interest of the population. So, while there is certainly reason to celebrate, also for some to shed a tear, the task at hand is a daunting yet challenging one that oug to bring out the best in the Antillean Government has to offer. In regard it is essential not to take any drastic action with far-reaching consequences that could lead to more instability at a time of relative uncertainty which tends to accompany fundamental change such as the one through which the islands have just gone. It most likely will take all the teething problems to be expected are resolved and Country St. Maarten is where it should be until the very good year of 2010. And the problems and challenges that face particularly the two new autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom are no more, known collectively as the Netherlands Antilles. The mixed feelings probably were felt most strongly in Curaçao, the seat of the Central Government and Antillean Parliament that are no more. But also in St. Maarten, it seemed to some with strong ties to other islands almost as though part of them was being taken away, yet at the same time many were at least relieved that the constitutional reform quagmire that had kept the Dutch Caribbean busy ever since Aruba chose to step out of the Antilles and gained its “separate status” in 1986 had finally been concluded. As pointed out by several at the commemorations events both in Phillipsburg and Willemstad, the latter merely means that more attention can now be paid on some major socioeconomic problems and challenges that face particularly the two new autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom. In that sense the change of status in itself does not offer solutions, only a larger measure of freedom and at the same time responsibility to deal with the issues at hand. And there is no question that Antillean Government should blame those who are wrong. But the Cabinet and Prime Minister of St. Maarten therefore have taken on in this first stage of the transition to country status proceeds in an orderly and as-smooth-possible fashion, so that the changes in relations within the Dutch Kingdom do not end up turning out for the worse when it comes to the general interest of the population. So, while there is certainly reason to celebrate, also for some to shed a tear, the task at hand is a daunting yet challenging one that oug to bring out the best in the Antillean Government has to offer. In regard it is essential not to take any drastic action with far-reaching consequences that could lead to more instability at a time of relative uncertainty which tends to accompany fundamental change such as the one through which the islands have just gone. It most likely will take all the teething problems to be expected are resolved and Country St. Maarten is where it should be until the very good year of 2010. And the problems and challenges that face particularly the two new autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom are no more.
PHILIPSBURG—Uniformed officers marched through Front Street to celebrate the start of the first government of Country St. Maarten.

St. Maarten’s first Parliament gathered on Cyrus Wathey Square, in front of the Courthouse, to watch marines, policemen and Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten VKS officers pass. St. Maarten’s newest officers-in-training were part of the procession.

The officers saluted their new government as they marched past.

Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams, with Democratic Party (DP) President Michael Ferrier at her side, arrived after most of the parliamentarians and other ministers. Governor Eugene Holiday walked down Front Street to meet the gathering, escorted by Dutch Representative Lars Walrave, Dutch Defence Minister Ernst Hirsch-Ballin and other dignitaries.

Reporters, photographers and videographers were relegated to shooting from the sidelines. One official said, “It's country St. Maarten now, and things have to change.”

The parade took about half an hour to set up, but it finished in less than 10 minutes. Parliamentarians and Ministers arrived about 10:30am, after officially taking their posts in Country St. Maarten’s government that morning.

National Alliance (NA) Members of Parliament were absent from the gathering at the Courthouse.

Governor Holiday and his wife, Acting Governor Reynold Groeneveldt and PM Wescot-Williams were spirited away quickly after the ceremony in a motorcade of official cars.

Leader of United People’s party (UP) Deputy Prime Minister Theo Heyliger arrived just minutes after the last servicemen had passed. “I’ve missed everything,” he joked as he walked past members of the press to talk with the remaining dignitaries.

The march was part of a scaled-down celebration of 10-10-10, the first day after the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and the emergence of Country St. Maarten. Poor weather last week had dampened preparations for the celebration.

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He expressed gratitude to Queen Beatrix for allowing him to the representative of the Kingdom Government and the Queen as the head of state of St. Maarten. He also thanked everyone who had confidence in his ability to hold this post.

As a son of the soil, he said he was truly proud of the attainment of country status. He also conveyed the wishes of the Queen to the population on this historic day. The Queen acknowledged that the kingdom had entered into a new constitutional phase and wished the inhabitants of St. Maarten good luck and prosperity.

Moving forward, Holiday said, St. Maarten will have to build critical institutions vital to the parliamentary democracy, such as the Parliament itself and the high councils of state, improve financial management, and strengthen judicial organisations.

“These institutions and their proper functioning are intended to maintain and safeguard the basic rights the people of St. Maarten have embedded in our constitution. Building these institutions will not be easy, but we are here to start doing so in the midst of an unflavourable global financial environment,” he said.

At this milestone in history, it is a great responsibility to build and nurture a stronger St. Maarten for future generations, Holiday said. It is also a great opportunity that no other generation has had through the constitutional authority to take care of the socio-economic, cultural and environmental construct of the island. How these areas are handled will determine success of the new country, he added.

The Governor and the Parliament have a shared responsibility, which is “to serve our people to the best of our ability,” although the tasks are separate, Holiday said.

He said he saw no difference between the parliamentarians supporting the government and those in opposition, because while there were different views on how to do things, all agreed that “the interest of our country is larger than any one of us and that is a shared responsibility.”

Holiday looks forward to working with closely with Parliament.

Three seats empty

Deputy Prime Minister Theo Heyliger, Justice Minister Roland Duncan, Finance Minister Hiro Shimogoto, Tourism and Economic Affairs Minister Franklin Meyers, Education Minister Rhoda Arrindell and Health and Labour Minister Maria Buncamp-Molana also took their

Continued on page 15
Arrindell elected president of first parliament of St. Maarten

By Alta Singh

BELAIR-The first meeting of the Parliament of Country St. Maarten was not lengthy, but full of first acts and symbolism. First-time elected Member of Parliament (MP) Dr. Lloyd Richardson, the oldest of the fifteen Parliamentarians, was selected to chair the first meeting that saw the election of the first President of Parliament, Gracita Arrindell of the United People’s (UP) party.

The first session of Parliament on Sunday morning, the first day St. Maarten was a country within the Dutch Kingdom and no longer an Island Territory of the Netherlands Antilles, was not held at the Parliament Building on Front Street, which is still being outfitted, but at Belair Community Centre.

The centre, while chosen for practical and weather-related reasons, also had some symbolism, as it was in communities and in gatherings at centres like Belair that the quest for country status was waged first by the people and then by the politicians, who were given the mandate to pursue country status in the June 23, 2000, referendum.

As their first act, the new parliamentarians voted for the appointment of the President of Parliament. Richardson appointed the election committee, comprising MPs William Marlin of the National Alliance (NA) and Silia Miaers-Olivace of UP.

After the voting by secret ballot, the large gathering of St. Maarten residents in the centre learnt from the committee that nine votes had been cast for Arrindell, one for Richardson and five blank. Richardson welcomed the new president, who adressed the gathering about what being a country meant and what this parliament would strive for.

“This is the morning after, the morning after bidding farewell to the Netherlands Antilles and the heralding of the birth of new Country St. Maarten,” Arrindell said of the change of constitutional status for St. Maarten, which also changed the composition of the Dutch Kingdom from three countries to four: the Netherlands, Aruba, St. Maarten and Curagao.

The Kingdom Charter, last changed in 1950, had been amended again in July to comply with the wishes of the people of the five islands of the now former Netherlands Antilles as expressed in referenda. The other three islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba have gained the status of special municipalities of the Netherlands.

“You can depend on me to keep raising the bar as we set high standards, while ensuring that our work is conducted in a business-like and professional manner with due recognition for transparency, accountability and integrity, and I shall look for your full support across the political divide.

“This Parliament is the people’s Parliament. It must become the bastion of democracy and a sturdy pillar of good governance. We have a job to do. Let’s roll up our sleeves and get your job done,” Arrindell said in her acceptance speech.

She told Governor of Country St. Maarten Eugene Heyliger and the other five members of the first Parliament of Country St. Maarten on Sunday morning, which ushered in Government Ceremony Committee, which ushered in Governor Holiday, Dutch Minister of Justice Ernst Hirsch Ballin, Acting Governor Reynold Groenevelt and their spouses to the ceremonial meeting.

PHILIPSBURG–The government has informed Winair of its intention to liquidate Winair’s membership in Winair shareholder’s representative that it is ready for the transfer of the airline’s shares, Commissioner Michael Ferrier (DP) said on Thursday.

He told the press that upon taking office on Tuesday, October 5, a letter from shareholder representative of Antillean Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan was found, offering the transfer of the shares.

Based on that letter, Ferrier said, the United People’s (UP) party/Democratic Party (DP) Executive Council had decided to send a letter indicating the “willingness” to receive the shares that will be transferred to St. Maarten, Saba, and St. Eustatius.

Winair operates the most flights in and out of Princess Juliana International Airport and is a vital air link for the islands, especially for Saba.

Come and learn French or improve your knowledge!

武汉怡茶

Naturalisation candidates can collect results and summonses

HARBOR VIEW–Naturalisation candidates can collect their results for Part I of the naturalisation test this week, the Education Ministry said Sunday.

Anyone who took the first part of the test on either September 4 or 6 can obtain their results on these dates if they present valid photo IDs and bank receipts. Part II is scheduled for October 23.
OCaN, MAAPP send congrats

THE HAGUE—Antillean organisations in the Netherlands MAAPP and OCaN on Sunday sent congratulatory messages to the people of Curaçao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba on the occasion of their new status in the Dutch Kingdom.

MAAPP Chairman Raymond Labad called on the islands to put aside feelings of division and to jointly work for the future for the people. “Only mutual respect leads to the unity of a powerful people,” he said.

According to Labad, the elimination of Country the Netherlands Antilles on October 10 doesn’t signify an end, but a new beginning. It also creates perspective for more intense cooperation between the islands of the Dutch Caribbean.

“We have a lot in common and we should make use of that. Let the diversity of race, languages and cultures be one of the most powerful aspects of our new nations and entities,” said Labad, who spoke on behalf of the entire MAAPP board.

OCaN Chairman Glenn Helberg and the rest of the board congratulated the population of the five former Antillean islands, in particular the new Prime Ministers Gerrit Schotte of Curaçao and Sarah Wescot-Williams of St. Maarten, the new Governors Frits Goedgedrag of Curaçao and Eugene Holiday of St. Maarten, and the Lt. Governors of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

OCaN thanked the politicians in the different parts of the Kingdom who made this possible and expressed the hope for further fruitful cooperation in the Kingdom. OCaN said it wished that the new relations would lead to cooperation in all aspects the Dutch Kingdom, without any exception, with a higher level of well-being in all parts of the Kingdom.

Several gatherings took place in the Netherlands on Sunday on the occasion of 10-10-10. Gatherings were held in Amsterdam, Eindhoven, Groningen and The Hague with renowned Antilleans living in the Netherlands. The events included cultural celebrations.
The Honour Guard marches on after the inspection by Governor Eugene Holiday at Belair Community Centre. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

First Ombudsman of Country St. Maarten Nilda Arduin-Lynch takes the oath of office before President of Parliament Gracita Arrindell during the first session of Parliament on Sunday. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

Finance Minister Hiro Shigemoto (UP) takes the oath of office before Governor Eugene Holiday during the first official meeting of the first Parliament of Country St. Maarten. Shigemoto is one of seven members of the Council of Ministers. Also in photo from right: Education Minister Rhoda Arrindell (UP), Deputy Prime Minister/Public Works Minister Theo Heyliger (UP), Tourism and Economic Affairs Minister Franklin Meyers (UP), Health and Labour Minister Maria Buncamper-Molanus (DP). Rounding off the UP/DP cabinet is Justice Minister Roland Duncan. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

First Governor Eugene Holiday congratulates first Prime Minister of Country St. Maarten Sarah Wescot-Williams after she took the oath of office in front of him on 10-10-10, the day St. Maarten ceased to be an island territory of the Netherlands Antilles and became a country within the Dutch Kingdom. Also in photo is Chief Commissioner of Police Peter de Witte. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

First Governor of Country St. Maarten Eugene Holiday (at podium) receives a standing ovation from the first Parliament and a large gathering of residents after accepting his position as ceremonial head of the island and representative of Queen Beatrix on Sunday. His acceptance ceremony was part of the first parliamentary session held in Belair Community Centre. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

Dutch Justice Minister Hirsch Ballin (left) is welcomed by Romain Laville (UP), the youngest Member of Parliament and member of the Parliament Ceremonial Escort Committee appointed by Parliament President Gracita Arrindell. Parliamentarians Leroy de Weever (DP) and George Pantophlet (NA) were also part of the welcome committee tasked with welcoming Ballin, Governor of St. Maarten Eugene Holiday and Acting Governor Reynold Groeneveld. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

A cross-section of St. Maarten residents gathered in Belair Community Centre to witness the first meetings of Parliament, and the swearing-in of the first Council of Ministers, General Audit Chamber, Advisory Council and Ombudsman on Sunday, the first day of Country St. Maarten. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

Member of the Advisory Council Mathias Voges takes the oath of office before Governor Holiday. Other council members (from right standing) are Miguel Alexander, Gaston Bell and Jan Beaujon. The council is chaired by Mavis Brooks-Salmon, who was not present at ceremony held as part of the first parliamentary meeting of Country St. Maarten. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

Governor Eugene Holiday (second right) inspects the Honour Guard outside Belair Community Centre where the first meeting of the Parliament of Country St. Maarten was held on Sunday morning, the first day of country status. The Honour Guard comprised Dutch Marines, Police and Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten VKS. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)

Governor Eugene Holiday (second right) respects the Honour Guard outside Belair Community Centre where the first meeting of the Parliament of Country St. Maarten was held on Sunday morning, the first day of country status. The Honour Guard comprised Dutch Marines, Police and Voluntary Corps of St. Maarten VKS. (Rajesh Chintaman photo)
Caryl: No need for outside contractors for St. Maarten

PHILIPSBURG—St. Maarten Chamber of Commerce President Glenn Carty likened the attainment of country status to the length process of building a house that has many obstacles along the way and noted that at this juncture of the island’s history there was no longer a need for “outside contractors” as the local contractors, the new parliamentarians, should be capable of doing the job.

Carty was speaking at the Chamber luncheon in Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort on 10-10-10. He called on the private sector and government to do their part to build the new country for the betterment of its people.

The chamber hosted Governor Eugene Holiday, Dutch Justice Minister Hirsch Ballin, newly-swnr in Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams and Deputy Prime Minister Theo Heyliger, the other five ministers, the parliamentarians and other invited guests at a luncheon at Sonesta Great Bay Beach Resort on Sunday, after the first meetings of Parliament in Blair Community Centre.

Prime Minister Wescot-Williams also called on all to be part of the building of a strong foundation for the new country. “Today, however, I want to stress on building the foundation first. … Together we will make this country what we would like it to be for generations to come.” She said the hosting of the luncheon showed that the chamber understood that for St. Maarten to grow “we all have to work together.”

There are many bridges to be built and Wescot-Williams affirmed her commitment to pursue these in the best interest of the island. She stressed the need for continued collaboration between government and the chamber.

Carty noted, “Today is not business as usual. Today is a new beginning, today we are breaking ground to build our new home St. Maarten, where we will work on our mistakes and make it better for all of us. The pages of this new history book are now being written and from now on everything we do will be in this history book. Let’s all make this new history book of St. Maarten a book we can look back to and be proud of.”

“Ten years ago, the people of our island instructed government to demolish our old home and to build us a new home. The old home, built by many contractors over the years, no longer suited the people living in it, and our local governments, the sub-contractors, could not make things just right, as they were not completely empowered to make all the necessary changes,” he said.

“Architects were brought in, and several drawings, discussions, meetings, etc., were held over the years, and sometimes it even seemed we would not reach our goals. We nearly reached the point where our house might have been put up for sale on eBay. However, we finally got all the necessary documents in order, and today we are celebrating the receiving of our building permit. We can break ground.

“Now the real work starts. We, the people, no longer deal with outside contractors. We deal with our local contractors. Parliamentarians as representatives of the owners of the house, ministers as masons, tilers, plumbers, carpenters and so on.

“The entire construction of this new house has to be done in such a way that it’s transparent, that it’s according to good corporate governance and that it’s good for more people into the house, thus having to look for more rooms while we did not solve the issues in the room next door.”

The private sector also has to invest more in increasing the quality of the human resources of companies and businesses to improve on the total product. “Our bottom line should go hand in hand with the quality of life and the environment of this country.”

To the Dutch Kingdom, Carty said: “We are part of you. Get to know the real us, the people of this new nation. Do not judge all of us on mistakes made by a few.

“Work along with us. We meant so much for you centuries ago; perhaps we not only learned your good traits. Support us like you support other countries, we are the Dutch Caribbean. Don’t penalise us in your house, but work along with us to solve the problem that we both created. Before implementing all your beliefs, see how it could adversely affect ours.

The ‘wie betaald bepaald’ does not always work fairly.”

Laundry robbers caught in the act

MARIGOT—Three individuals between the ages of 15 and 18 years have received various summonses after they were arrested for robbing a laundry in the former Grand St. Martin Hotel on Wednesday, October 6.

A Gendarme patrol was called to investigate as the robbery was in progress at 4:45pm, but the suspects escaped as soon as the patrol arrived. They were, however, apprehended later with help from the public.

The youngest suspect has been remanded to a secure educational facility in Port Louis, Guadeloupe; the second received a summons to court; and the third was placed under judiciary control.

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Cops probe reported shooting

MIDDLE REGION-Police are investigating reports about a shooting incident in Middle Region Sunday night.

They arrested two men in connection with the incident, which reportedly took place behind Sister Marie Laurence School. However, when they visited the scene, they found no one there.

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FROM LEFT: CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CARICOM DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR LOLITA APPLEWHAITIE, ANGUILLA CHIEF MINISTER HUBERT HUGHES, PRIME MINISTER SARAH WESCOT-WILLIAMS, FIRST LADY MARIE LOUISE HOLIDAY, CHAMBER PRESIDENT GLENN CARTY, GOVERNOR EUGENIE HOLIDAY, DUTCH JUSTICE MINISTER ERNST HIRSCH BALLIN, PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT GRACITIA ABBINDI AND PRESIDENT OF THE COLLECTIVITY OF ST. MARTIN FRANZ GUMBS AT THE CHAMBER LUNCHEON IN SONESTA GREAT BAY BEACH RESORT ON 10-10-10.
**Islands**

**SARAH PLEDGES TO BUILD STRONG FOUNDATION**

Wescot-Williams was sworn in as Prime Minister by first Governor of Country St. Maarten Eugene Holiday in Belair Community Centre, where the 15-member Parliament met for the first time on Sunday morning, as the designated Parliament Building on Front Street is still being outfitted. The other six ministers of the cabinet were also sworn in during the ceremony.

“...And as we begin to man-"..."...le for the first government of the new Country St. Maarten, I reaffirm my oath to uphold the constitution of Country St. Maarten, to work for all the people of this beautiful island, to bridge the divides - social, political, and otherwise, to build a solid foundation for Country St. Maarten, to use all human resources available on our island to make it work and to strengthen the delicate social fabric with strong and lasting fibres," she said.

Concluding the people, she said she was a milestone in the island’s political history, “The birth of Country St. Maarten is here. The life of our country is ours to mould and form. I invite each and every citizen to stand up and be counted, to be proud of our coun-try and of each other. God bless this country and its people, and may He protect our young nation. Long live Country St. Maarten.”

St. Maarten became a country at the stroke of midnight, after being an island territory of the now-dissolved Netherlands Antilles and after long negoti-ations during the past 10 years. The Antillean flag was lowered symbolically at Curacao’s Wathey Square and the St. Maarten flag was hoisted in its place, in the presence of a large gathering.

Speaking in Parliament hours after the flag-raising ceremony, Wescot-Wil-liams said, “This morning it seems as if 10 years have been compressed into the last couple of weeks, even the last couple of days. Of course, that is because of the frenzy and pressures of the last weeks and not because the time spent pre-paring for this day was any shorter than 10 years. To the contrary, constitutional change had been a hot/cold topic for St. Maarten for decades before the referen-dums of 1994 and 2000. “I recall the days follow-ing the referendum of June 2000 and the expectations that we had for this day. The date of June 23, 2000, was set after two postpone-ments and after St. Maarten had banded together to ensure the resolve for constitutional change.”

She added that in the late 1950s and early ‘60s, while other islands in the region were in pursuit of constitu-tional and political change, St. Maarten was in pursuit of economic advancement for an island whose people were scattered all over.

We have oftentimes been accused of stepping outside the constitutional boundar-ies afforded us by the Nether-lands Antilles as we purs-ued economic opportuni-ties for our island and its people. Fate had it that, by 2000, we had several trying years behind us. Five years in a row, we were struck by at least one hurricane every year. “At the onset, we could not imagine what the people’s mandate of June 23, 2000, in actuality meant for the entire Netherlands Antil-les and all the people of these islands. We entered uncharted waters. All we knew was the last 10 years of the Aruba story in our minds, with the resolve of the peo-ple of our island to sustain us, we had to make a go for it.”

On a day like today, some nostalgia will set in. Since the birth of the Nether-lands Antilles, the islands have shared a common past for more than six decades. During this time, our people have developed strong family and social ties. Many St. Maarteners were born on these islands, and the Aruba and Curacao were that for many St. Maarteners. Fur-ther yet, our people tra-versed the region and beyond in search of economic prosperity during those early years,” she continued.

“We are proud as St. Maarten to have initiated that spark of constitu-tional change throughout the Kingdom. Every country today has a brighter future ahead because of our re-solve. So too is the future for St. Maarten. It’s not going to be an overnight change. We have to work together in St. Maarten. We will have to get ourselves accustomed to the new reality.”

That reality is one of new responsibili-ties, new and renewed relations. “Yes, we are still part of the Dutch Kingdom and yes, we are bound by rules and agreements with King-dom partners. But the suc-cess of our fledging country starts with all of us. We can spend endless hours on the debate whether we have more or less autonomy [and] whether we got all we could out of 10 years of ne-go-tiations, she said.

“What do we have in a new country, a new Parliament to shape this new country, a new government to lead this country, and end-less opportunities as a peo-ple to make this country a success. “This did not just happen.” After the initial disappoint-ments and after the in-ma-nent break-up of the Nether-lands Antilles disappeared, most politicians in the Kingdom wanted to see this process concluded. Today is a day to express gratitude to all who, during the last 10 years, for long or short durations, have contributed to this process.”

To Dutch Justice Minis-ter Ernst Hirsh Ballin, who represented the Kingdom government at the ceremo-ny, she said, “You have par-ticipated in this process at different stages and in dif-ferent capacities. Please ac-cept and convey our heartfelt gratitude to the Dutch government for its assist-ance in making this day a reality for St. Maarten.”

“To the government and people of Aruba, we say thank you and God bless you. To the people of Curacao and the new Dutch public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba: God’s strength and speed,” Wescot-Williams said.

“...To the St. Maarten people, we have come this far, yes, by the hard work of many, the sacrifices and, yes, even the mistakes we made, but we look ahead, confident that while there is much to be done, the will to achieve is stronger yet; she con-cluded.

**Caricom congratulates Country St. Maarten**

**PHILIPSBURG--Salu-**

tations and congratula-tions were conveyed to the government and people of St. Maarten as Carib-bean Community Caricom Deputy General Ambassador Lolita Apple-whaite, on an official three-day visit to St. Maarten, joined in the celebrations of St. Maarten attaining country status within the Dutch Kingdom.

The ambassador of the 15-member regional block of countries said on Saturday, “This is a proud and auspi-cious time for St. Maarten and Caricom wishes St. Maarten the greatest success in the future.”

She added that St. Maarten was already inter-acting with Caricom. Rep-representatives of St. Maarten partici-pated in the meetings of the Council for Human and Social Development Cough in the areas of Health and Education. St. Maarten partici-pated in the Caribbean Exami-nation Council CXC discussions and is consid-ered an integral member of Pan Caribbean Partner-ship (PCP) and Caricom, so much so that St. Maarten was chosen to host the 10th Annual General Meeting of PANCAP later this month.

Ambassador Applewhaite said that, taking into ac-count St. Maarten’s new status, it would be possible now for St. Maarten to request observer status in Caricom and participate fully in the council, which deals with an array of other social, health and educa-tional issues that affect the Caribbean region.

Caricom is an organisa-tion of 15 Caribbean na-tions and dependencies. Its main purposes are to pro-mote economic integration and cooperation among its members, to ensure that the benefits of integration are equitably shared, and to coordinate foreign policy. Its major activities involve coordinating economic policies and development plan-ning; devising and institut-ing special projects for the less-developed countries within its jurisdiction; oper-atcing as a single regional market for many of its members (Caricom Single Market); and handling re-gional trade disputes. The secretariat headquarters is based in Georgetown, Guy-ana.

Since the establishment of Caricom by the mainly English Creole-speaking parts of the Caribbean region, it has become multi-lingual in practice, with the addition of Dutch-speaking Suriname on July 4, 1995, and Haiti on July 2, 2002.
BELAIR--Country St. Maarten is an “enrichment to our kingdom” with its people being its “real treasure,” said Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch Ballin in his speech during the ceremonial meeting of Parliament on Sunday morning, about nine hours after the island became a country.

“St. Maarten is no doubt a very special place. You have a unique culture and incomparable natural beauty, but St. Maarten’s real treasure is its people. People from all over the world came here and have built this island nation,” he said.

The 15-member Parliament met in Belair Community Centre where Governor Holiday accepted its appointment and the first ministers of the country took their oaths of office.

Hirsch Ballin was among several dignitaries invited to be part of the historical moment in the island’s history. He addressed his message to the Parliament and gathering of citizens and residents in Dutch, English and French.

“It is not unusual in today’s world that countries are dissolved and new ones are born. It is quite unique, however, that this happens in a perfectly peaceful and harmonious way. You have rightfully claimed your own autonomous position and you also expressed the wish to be an autonomous partner in the kingdom of the Netherlands,” Ballin said.

“It is an ‘honour’ to be a partner with St. Maarten,” he said.

“You are autonomous now, but you are still a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Kingdom Government encourages you to maintain the strong ties with your friends, relatives and partners on the neighbouring islands of the Caribbean: Saba and St. Eustatius,” the Dutch minister said. “The three islands shared the past and certainly the future too.”

PRESCRIPTIVE RIGHTS

By deed of prescriptive rights the heirs of Daniel Hassell and Elsie Hassell-Zagers intend to claim by deed of prescriptive rights the ownership of the following parcels of land on Saba, at Lower Hell’s Gate: in C/A 26/2004 (799m2) bounded N by a public road, E by C/A 18/1960 (public road), S by C/A 19/2004 and lands in possession of the heirs of George Leo Hassell and W by C/A 1/1990 and old public road.

Whoever has any objections against the above indicated intention or the obtaining of ownership, is requested to file these objections in person or in writing at/to the office of Paul J.E.M. Steeman, Civil law notary of Saba & St. Eustatius, Professional Office Park, Osprey Dr. #1, Unit 2B, SXM. Tel. 542-5388, Fax 542-1760, e-mail:pjem@sintmaarten.net, before October 11th, 2010.

COUNTRY ST. MAARTEN IS BORN

~ Says Dutch Minister ~

BELAIR--Country St. Maarten is an ‘enrichment to kingdom’ during the first Parliament meeting on Sunday.

“This process was always conducted in a dignified and businesslike manner. The negotiations were not easy, but never at any time was there any need for re-volt, violence or war, like in some other countries, when it came to the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom,” Groeneveldt said.

“In attendance were local dignitaries, representatives of the United People’s Party/Democratic Party coalition government and the National Alliance, and overseas guests including Hirsch Ballin, Caribbean Community Caricom Deputy Secretary General Lolita Applinkeha, Anguilla’s Chief Minister Hubert Hughes and Minister Walcott Richardson and spouse, and Collector of French St. Martin President Frantz Gumbs and St. Martin Présid Jacques Simmonet.

“Our country has become a beacon of hope for persons from many parts of the world and we must all be very proud of the Netherlands Antilles and what it has meant for us as a people. Nevertheless, the time has come for us to make new arrangements that will go into effect shortly.

“As we embark on another stage in the pursuit of full internal self-government within the Kingdom, we hope that we can continue to count on the support of all the partners in the Kingdom and we look forward to closer ties and more cooperation in mutual benefit of our respective peoples,” Groeneveldt said.

“In 1942, Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina announced in her speech from London that at the end of World War II the Kingdom would embark on creating a new constitutional order within the Kingdom. After several years of negotiations the Statute was adopted creating a Kingdom consisting of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname.

“Today we are 50 years later, and after much deliberation and negotiation the Kingdom again is being re-formed. During the last 50 years we can be proud of the achievements. As a Country the Netherlands Antilles, we have experienced years of mainly prosperity and growth for our people and also some years in which austerity measures had to be taken.”

He asked Minister Hirsch Ballin to convey St. Maarten’s “sincere appreciation” to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and the Dutch government “for the excellent cooperation.”

He also thanked the people of St. Maarten and all those who had served the country through the Netherlands Antilles, as well as members of the previous governments, who said “have worked diligently in the preparation of the new constitutional order, and all those persons who attended the countless meetings and sat for hours and days at the negotiating tables.

“You efforts and valuable contributions are very much appreciated. As the last [Acting] Lt. Governor performing my final official duties, permit me to say farewell to the Netherlands Antilles and entrust the care and responsibility for the people of this great island nation to the Governor and the government of Country St. Maarten.

“I pray that the people of the new island nation will experience prosperity beyond measure and that our difficult days may be but few, that this country will continue to be the most favourite place on earth for many, and that the people of this country will continue to find special favour with God and be protected from all disasters.

“The ceremony was preceded by a cocktail reception for dignitaries and invited guests at Holland House Beach Hotel. Reporters and photographers were refused from covering the reception.

About an hour before midnight, dignitaries walked from Holland House to the Courthouse, where a large tent had been set up. The Courthouse was decorated in the colours of the St. Maarten flag for the occasion.

St. Maarten Flag

The St. Maarten flag was adopted in June 1985 and was officially hoisted for the first time in front of the Government Administration Building in the same year.

The colour red in the flag represents solidarity and courage; while white stands for peace and friendliness and blue represents the environment, such as the skies, beaches and seas.

The coat of arms in the flag depicts the Court House in Philipsburg, the island’s national flower the yellow sage and St. Maarten’s national bird the Brown Pelican in flight with the sun as its backdrop. It also has a silhouette of the border monument and the words “Semper pro grediens” (Latin for “ever moving forward”) towards the bottom.

Rolando Tobias was Master of Ceremonies.

Queen and Governor congratulate Curaçao

EUGENE HOLIDAY--Both the Dutch Queen Beatrix and the newly-appointed Governor of Country St. Maarten Eugene Holiday sent congratulatory telegrams to the newly-appointed Governor of Country Curaçao Friths Goedgedrag.

“Today our Kingdom enters a new phase as the result of the constitutional reforms. On this special day I would like to express my deeply-felt connection with you, inhabitants of Country Curaçao, and I wish you all fortune and prosperity,” Her Majesty’s message stated.

Holiday wrote: “Today the Netherlands Antilles as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has entered a new and challenging phase. Curaçao will take an autonomous position within the Kingdom. St. Maarten too faces a similar challenge.

“Despite the political and administrative separation, our two countries will remain closely tied and the joint history will continue to confirm those ties. I wish the residents and new government of Curaçao much prosperity and luck with giving form to Country Curaçao.”

WILLEMSTAD--Both the Dutch Queen Beatrix and the newly-appointed Governor of Country St. Maarten Eugene Holiday sent congratulatory telegrams to the newly-appointed Governor of Country Curaçao Friths Goedgedrag.
WILLEMSTAD--Feelings of joy and sadness blended at the last meeting of the Antillean Parliament in Willemstad on Saturday morning. Some speakers said they felt the pain of saying goodbye to Country the Netherlands Antilles, while others were happy to enter a new era with the new Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten.

In her last public speech as Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, Emily de Jongh-Elhage spoke of five stars going their own way and five new stars being born. She and several other speakers said saying goodbye to Country the Netherlands Antilles was hard.

Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima attended the last meeting of the Antillean Parliament, as well as Aruba's Governor Frederik Rebolj and Prime Minister Mike Eman, Dutch caretaker Minister of Defence Eimert van Middelkoop, State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, Chairpersons of the Dutch First and Second Chambers Rene der Linden and Gerdi Verbeet, and Chairpersons of the Permanent Committees of Antillel and Aruban Affairs of the First and Second Chambers Maikel de Brauw and William van Beek.

“Saying farewell is not easy and we will miss each other,” said De Jongh-Elhage, who added that the fact that the Netherlands Antilles would cease to exist Saturday midnight would “touch many of us deeply,” as it ended an era of being together under one constitutional entity.

“The Netherlands Antilles will cease to exist and a new future will start for Curaçao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. I wish all the citizens of each of the five islands a wonderful future and I am convinced our friendship will not be erased and we will keep sustaining each other based on mutual understanding,” said De Jongh-Elhage.

MP Ramonisto Booi created a light moment in the solemn session when he gave a spin to the new constitutional status of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba as so-called “public entities” of the Netherlands. He said that actually the Netherlands was becoming part of the Dutch Caribbean, with Klein Curaçao as the new capital of the Netherlands.

In a more serious tone, Booi said the people of Bonaire weren’t and didn’t want to be “parasites” living off the good facilities of the rich Netherlands. “We want to work hard to grow and develop,” he said.

Helmin Wels of Curaçao’s Pueblo Soberano party referred to the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and the launching of Country Curaçao as “closing one cycle to start another one.” He said his party would continue the struggle to reach “the ultimate cycle,” independence.

Long-serving MP Faro Metry of Curaçao’s PNP party said the Antillean Parliament hadn’t made much use of the right of amendment, to revise draft legislation. He called on the Parliaments of the new Countries Curaçao and St. Maarten not to “rubberstamp” anything and to be critical.

Carlos Monk of Curaçao’s Npiu Pan Atras party passionately called for Curaçao’s independence and almost shouted when he said that freedom of the people was a sacred right. Many in the audience didn’t appreciate his manner and many abstained from clapping when he finished his speech.

Gerrit Schotte captured the atmosphere in Parliament well by stating that Saturday was “a day with many emotions.” He said he was looking forward to the next day, when Curaçao would be a country. He said the islands were splitting up, but the solid ties remained.

Schotte called for closer social and cultural ties between the three Dutch Caribbean countries Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten. He suggested establishing representatives on each other’s islands in the form of a Curaçao House and St. Maarten House.

Representatives of the Windward Islands who were supposed to address the gathering, Members of Parliament Rodolph Samuels of the National Alliance St. Maarten, Will Johnson of WIPM Saba and Reginald Zaandam, an independent MP from St. Eustatius, were absent. No reason was given for their absence.

Before officially closing the last meeting, Parliament Chairman Pedro Atacho gave a short overview of the history of the Antillean Parliament and mentioned the names of all MPs of the last Parliament. He wished all entities Godspeed, after which the Antillean anthem was played, with many in the audience softly singing along.

The Antillean hymn, written by Zahira Hiliman from St. Maarten, was played in English and Papiamento.

After blessings from Pastor Simon Horiola, Curaçao Commissioner Sheldry Osipa addressed the audience at Brionplein, which was decorated with Curaçao flags, but also with flags from the other islands of the Dutch Caribbean as well as the Netherlands. Osipa said the birth of Curaçao had involved a tough pregnancy and complicated delivery.

Lt. Governor Lisa Dindial called on the people to grasp the opportunity to build Country Curaçao with both hands. “This is what we wanted, right? Now we have to make something of it. This is our chance. Everyone should contribute. It doesn’t matter what you look like or where you come from,” she said.

Aruba’s Prime Minister Mike Eman came from departing Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage and Prime Minister of the Country Curaçao designate Gerrit Schotte forward. Eman put his arms around the two and, full of emotions, he stated that the islands would always remain companions.

Dutch caretaker State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten addressed the audience to lower the Antillean flag. The immense flag went up, accompanied by the sound of a single trumpet. As the flag reached the top of the pole in the centre of Brionplein, fireworks lit the sky and people started cheering loudly, waving their small paper Curaçao flags.

Curaçao Prime Minister designate Schotte called on the people to “live and work in unity in the new country.” He said country status implied more freedom, taking one’s own decisions, but it also means more responsibility.

“We need to work on giving content to our future. Our country is all together, more than 160 different nationalities,” he said. He said the new government would be sworn in the next morning, would work for everyone.

“That is a solid promise,” he especially thanked De Jongh-Elhage for her dedication.

Schotte’s speech concluded the official part. The festivities lasted well into the night with an elaborate cultural programme. (Suzanne Koelaga)
Princess Máxima holds hands with members of the Aminta Sprockel Challenger Little League after participating in a game. The Royal Couple also visited another Orange Fund award winning project, Pro Alfa Foundation in Wishi/Marchena, in the afternoon. The Royal Couple furthermore performed the opening of an exhibition at Curaçao Museum. The couple left Curaçao on Sunday.

Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage and Aruban Prime Minister Mike Eman walk on the pontoon bridge with, respectively, daughter and wife.

Princess Máxima waves to the crowd as she and her husband Crown Prince Willem Alexander walk over the pontoon bridge on their way to the festivities at Brionplein Saturday night. At right is Governor Frits Goedgedrag and behind the Royal Couple walks Dutch State Secretary Ank Bijleveld-Schouten.

Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage receives the Antillean flag from a member of the scouting after it was lowered minutes to midnight Saturday.

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Antillean Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage receives the Antillean flag from a member of the scouting after it was lowered minutes to midnight Saturday.

Guests express their joy as Curaçao is proclaimed a Country after midnight Saturday. At left is the Royal Couple.

The Crown-Prince runs to first base with a child in a wheelchair during a game of the Aminta Sprockel Challenger Little League at Sabana Ballpark in Curaçao Saturday morning. Aminta Sprockel Challenger Little League won an award of the Dutch Orange Fund this year for working with physically and mentally challenged children.

Guests express their joy as Curaçao is proclaimed a Country after midnight Saturday. At left is the Royal Couple.

Princess Máxima holds hands with members of the Aminta Sprockel Challenger Little League after participating in a game. The Royal Couple also visited another Orange Fund award winning project, Pro Alfa Foundation in Wishi/Marchena, in the afternoon. The Royal Couple furthermore performed the opening of an exhibition at Curaçao Museum. The couple left Curaçao on Sunday.

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KEEP WALKING
Statia lowers Antillean flag in sombre ceremony

Statia’s last Member of the Antillean Parliament Reginald Zaandam (right) presents the flag of the Netherlands Antilles to L.t. Governor Gerald Berkel.

ST. EUSTATIUS—A modest crowd turned out late Saturday afternoon at Fort Oranje to witness an historic occasion during which the flag of the Netherlands Antilles, the country which ceased to exist, was lowered for the last time.

Malvern Dijkstra-Lopes welcomed all present for this extraordinary ceremony, attended by many dignitaries such as L.t. Governor Gerald Berkel and Island Council members Clyde van Putten, Adelka Spanner, and Reginald Zaandam.

The anthems were sung by students of Bethel Methodist, Lynch Plantation, Seventh Day Adventist and Golden Rock Schools. St. Eustatius’s last Member of the Antillean Parliament Reginald Zaandam said in his address that he had mixed feelings about the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles, but “there is no way back,” he admitted.

“Our forefathers fought for this since 1956. We, the people, did not get our rights until present. After tomorrow there will be changes. We will work together with the Dutch, but we won’t lose our Caribean identity. We must stand tall,” Zaandam said, as he called on each and everyone not to let their guard down while Statia was becoming a part of the Netherlands as a special entity.

Officer Dwayne Lindo then requested Lt. Governor Berkel’s permission to lower the Antillean flag. The flag was carefully folded by uniformed groups of the Methodist Church Girls Brigade and the Seventh Day Adventist Church Garfield Pathfinders Club.

The flag was then presented to Zaandam, who in turn presented it to the L.t. Governor. Island Council members Spanner, Van Putten and Zaandam then jointly walked to the Historical Foundation Museum, where the flag was presented to Foundation President Lynn Kennedy. The Antillean flag was given to the museum for safekeeping.

L.t. Governor Berkel said he became very emotional when the Antillean flag was lowered for the last time in history. Commissioner Roy Hooker was also present at the Museum, where they said the Historical Foundation President Kennedy promised to keep the flag in a safe place, where generations to come could have a look at it.

Many persons attending the very sombre ceremony at the Fort were dressed as if they were at a funeral, with many weeping openly when they saw the Antillean flag go down for the very last time in the dying daylight.

Some among the public said the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles was not what they had voted for in the referendum. The majority of Statians voted for the option to stay within the Netherlands Antilles, but this option proved to be a political impossibility. Therefore, they said, they had to accept the next-best option: closer ties with the Netherlands.

Former member of the Antillean Parliament Reginald Zaandam addresses the gathering at Fort Oranje.

Tropical Storm Otto left lots of water and dirt on the roads of St. Eustatius. Government offices were closed on Thursday afternoon, and schools closed early. The public was advised to stay off the roads. The Fire Department was called out to rescue a mother and her baby from a car that got stuck in a ditch. The cleaning company was busy clearing streets of sand and debris Friday morning. The scheduled town hall meeting on education was cancelled Wednesday because of the inclement weather and accompanying power outages. The meeting has been rescheduled for the last week of October, Hermien van Xanten announced.

Statia’s last Member of the Antillean Parliament Reginald Zaandam (right) presents the flag of the Netherlands Antilles to L.t. Governor Gerald Berkel.

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Saba embarks on new journey with Holland

SABA—The island territory of Saba officially celebrated its new constitutional status as a public entity of Holland with a special ceremony followed by a fireworks display and entertainment at Princess Juliana Sports Field on Saturday evening in The Bottom.

The ceremony celebrating the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles, with the larger islands St. Maarten and Curaçao following Aruba as autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom, while the smaller islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES Islands) became part of Holland itself, got underway after 8:00pm with the singing of the Dutch national anthem by Urvin Riley and the Saba anthem by Chulani Levenstone and Lissette Peterson.

Speeches were delivered by Commissioner of Finance and Culture Bruce Zagers, former Member of the Antillean Parliament Ray Hassell, Secretary to the BES Islands Commissioner Ed van Haveren and Commissioner of Constitutional and Economic Affairs Chris Johnson.

"It is nothing but our intention to leave [the Netherlands Antilles] as friends," Johnson said, "We wish nothing but the best to the countries Curaçao and St. Maarten and we look forward to working with together with our new colleagues in Bonaire and St. Eustatius. Aruba of course always has the warm wishes of Saba, and we from Saba are ready to start our new relationship with the Netherlands.

"Let us remember that no matter what divides us in the way of culture, language and location, there are many more things that unite us as members of the same kingdom.

Zagers echoed those sentiments and added that the economic and social benefits of a direct relationship with Holland meant that the island was headed in the right direction. "Saba is on the move," he said. "It’s a move that will bring us standards and services to an elite level.

Each of the night’s speakers offered some historical perspective and nostalgia regarding Saba’s more than-50-year relationship with the other islands of the Dutch Caribbean and their people. Still, when faced with the practical choice of being an independent island without the economic means to provide the level of social services and economic infrastructure residents have grown accustomed to during that time, all speakers agreed that the move to become a de facto municipality of Holland was in the best interest of the island’s future.

During his speech, Van Haveren highlighted the social and economic investments Holland had already made into the island’s infrastructure.

"During the past three years, this process has not only continued, it has increased," he said. "Through development aid, tens of millions of guilders have been spent on projects such as the expansion of the administration building, the paving of roads, the building of social housing, and many, many more, that have continued to demonstrate the Dutch government’s commitment to Saba.

Hassell, who delivered an impassioned speech on the island’s proud history of self-reliance and independence, commended the current executive council for its work on behalf of the island’s future.

"Some of the best politicians that have come across the political arena here in Saba are Mr. Bruce Zagers and especially Mr. Chris Johnson," he said. "As commissioner of constitutional affairs, (Johnson) has achieved much for Saba. Some may say, ‘Oh well, you didn’t get this or that’, but in reality, with these young commissioners along with one of the youngest LT Governors, they have achieved much for this island.

"Not everybody will be happy with this. That’s okay. All families have disagreements, but at the end of the day, I’m pretty sure Sabans will be better off than they have ever been. You can already see changes in the health care system and in the educational system. You name it – in the harbour, the airport…we will benefit."

Following the speeches, those in attendance were treated to a fireworks display in perfect view from the sports field. That was followed by performances by Saba Drumband, XP Band, the lowering-of-the-flag ceremony and a performance by Youth Waves band of St. Maarten.

"Tonight we’ve hoisted the Antillean flag for the last time here, and at midnight it will be lowered for the last time here on Saba," Zagers said. "As citizens, whether you agree or disagree with the process, you are part of an historic ceremony, so now we will pay our last tribute to the countries Netherlands Antilles and also welcome a breath of fresh air as we embark on a new journey with the Netherlands."

DEFINING MOMENT...

Continued from page 1.

Former Saba Member of Parliament Ray Hassell gives a speech during Saturday’s official 10-10 ceremony at Princess Juliana Sports Field in The Bottom.

Oaths

Saba Lt. Governor Jonathan Johnson gets a special gift of appreciation from outgoing division chief Wendell Thode during Saturday’s official Antillean Police Force farewell.

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DEFINING MOMENT...

Continued from page 1.

Former Saba Member of Parliament Ray Hassell gives a speech during Saturday’s official 10-10 ceremony at Princess Juliana Sports Field in The Bottom.

Oaths in front of Holiday, the Parliament and a large gathering of residents.

Wescott-Williams, Heyliger and Arrindell were elected to Parliament and had to give up their seats to become ministers, based on dualism system, which does not allow ministers to also sit in Parliament.

Two of the other high vote-getters on the UP slate from the September 17 election, Council elections are expect ed to fill the seats left vacant by Heyliger and Arrindell, while one wescott-Williams leaves vacant.

For the UP, the two candidates to take next in line based on council, which comprises Dennis Richardson, Mathias Voges, Miguel Alexander and Jan Beaujon. Council chairwoman Mavis Brooks-Salmon was not present.

Members of the General Audit Chamber Danny Hassell, Alfons Gumbs, Ronald Halman, Roland Tutt and Mark Kortenoever also took their oaths in front of Holiday.

The remaining 12 members of Parliament made their pledge of allegiance to the people and Parliament after the pledge had been read by Arrindell.

The oath-taking was followed by the inaugural speech of Prime Minister Wescott-Williams, and greeting from Dutch Justice Minister Ballin.

The ceremonial meeting ended after Holiday had inspected the honour guard outside the community centre.
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CHIPPIE
SABA—Outgoing Dutch State Secretary of the Interior and Kingdom Affairs Ank Bijleveld-Schouten gave the keynote address and made other important announcements during an ecumenical worship service commemorating Saba’s new official status as a public entity of Holland on Sunday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in The Bottom.

Bijleveld-Schouten, who is set to soon become Queen’s Commissioner in the Dutch province of Overijssel, began her address by reflecting on the long months of often contentious negotiations and political disagreements leading up to Sunday’s constitutional change that saw the Netherlands Antilles cease to exist.

“Today we are poised at a turning point,” she said. “After more than 50 years, a country will disappear. Two new countries arise and Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba will become part of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands has taken a major step. A new chapter has been written for our Kingdom.

“After long and sometimes nerve-racking negotiations, we have reached the end of the period of political change. This did not always go smoothly. We sometimes ran into significant differences of opinion and there were interests to defend. Nevertheless, in the end, all parties approved a collective concept.”

During her speech, Bijleveld-Schouten also reached out to dissenters from the new constitutional arrangement. Other topics addressed were the importance of collaboration as a guiding principle going forward, maintaining ties between the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles, the contributions the Government Service for the Dutch Caribbean (Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland (RCN)) and Dutch quartermasters had made, and the importance of recruiting natives of the islands to fill new jobs.

“It is important that public services become a reflection of the people of the islands,” the State Secretary said. “That is why islanders and people from the region will fill vacancies within public services as much as possible. We are recruiting Caribbean Dutchmen currently living in the Netherlands who want to return to the islands. I am proud to say that local people have filled 38 of the last 41 job positions. I feel this is a step in the right direction.”

Bijleveld-Schouten then unveiled the new BES Identification Cards. Head of the local Census Office Nellie Peterson showed an enlarged sample of the new cards to those in attendance before Bijleveld-Schouten called up all members of Saba’s Island and Executive Councils to be the first to receive the new cards.

The new ID cards, which should be available to the general public on Tuesday, can be used by island residents as an official form of identification during traveling, banking and other personal business. Current ID cards are valid through July 1, 2011.

Bijleveld-Schouten then officially presented Lt. Governor Jonathan Johnson with the Chain of Office. The chain is a traditional symbol of the authority vested by the Dutch Kingdom in the leaders of each municipality within the Kingdom. Each chain is uniquely designed to represent that particular municipality. It is worn during certain ceremonial events and emergencies when the mayor has to exercise authority to maintain public order.

The State Secretary explained that although it was customary for the municipalities to purchase the chains of office worn by the local mayor, an exception had been made in this case. “We thought it would be a dignified gesture to present the first chain of office on behalf of the government.”

She closed by reflecting on finally seeing the fruits of the effort put into making the constitutional change a success. “I gladly made my contribution over the last years for what is now complete,” she said. “It was important, necessary, and promising. Soon I will return to the Netherlands and do something entirely different, but you can rest assured that I will always look back with warm thoughts for this exceptional part of the Kingdom.”
PHILIPSBURG—Evaluating last week’s two-day flooding, St. Maarten Pride Foundation emphasises the reduced water retention capacity of the island’s hillsides due to improper excavation as reason for the excessive flooding.

Pride said the removal of vegetation, topsoil, etc., for the construction of roads and houses has reduced the water retention capacity of these hillsides, placing an increased burden on lower areas.

“The influx of rainwater to Fresh Pond and Great Salt Pond has consequently increased at a rapid rate over the past few years. That, combined with poor drainage infrastructure and the filling-in of the area’s main catchment basin Great Salt Pond over the past decades, most recently for the construction of the ring road project, significantly contributed to the extent of flooding in the greater Philipsburg area this past week,” said Rueben Thompson of Pride.

Pride said the ring road’s influence on the extent of flooding had been evident from early on during the first day of rain, when water that had accumulated on Walter Nisbeth Road and adjacent parking lots could not flow into Great Salt Pond, as the ring road formed a barrier, trapping the water and flooding both the parking lots and the street.

“Pride Foundation is not surprised that Public Works representatives have hailed the ring road as a ‘blessing in disguise.’ Doing so is perhaps easier than admitting that the project has had disastrous consequences,” said Thompson.

Pride pointed out that the most significant factor in last week’s flooding of not only the greater Philipsburg area, but many of St. Maarten’s other districts, was the amount of rain that had fallen. “All the more reason why our natural catchment basins, natural and man-made gutters should be properly maintained,” said Thompson.

St. Maarten Pride Foundation therefore reiterated its calls for Government, in particular those in charge of infrastructure and the environment, to plan for increased water storage capacity rather than reducing Great Salt Pond’s water storage capacity with unnecessary projects such as the ring road project.

PHILIPSBURG—A new entity St. Maarten Postal Services NV is being set up to receive St. Maarten’s postal shares.

A board will be set up with Denicio Richardson as interim managing director, former Commissioner Michael Ferrier said at a press conference last week Thursday. His temporary tenure as Commissioner ended Sunday when the new Council of Ministers was sworn in.

He told reporters that it had been decided to set up the board and appoint an interim managing director as an entity was not yet in place to receive St. Maarten’s portion of the shares.

On a separate issue, Ferrier said the Executive Council was looking into the matter of a number of taxi and bus licences “issued or started to be issued” by the previous National Alliance/Heyliger Executive Council.

“We are looking at all of that to see how that process went and what we can do about them. It could be in excess of 40 [bus and taxi licences], and this process is ongoing as we speak.”

Asked whether the Council was examining this issue with a view to withdrawing those in process or issued, he said the process was still being looked at.

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This large tarpon was found floating and caught at Little League Ballpark on Pond Island, which was swamped after last Wednesday’s and Thursday’s rainstorm.

ST. PETERS--Residents approached The Daily Herald with concerns of awfully unsanitary pigpens on Cherrynut Drive in St. Peters, where the pigs are being given expired food or garbage to eat, among other things.

This newspaper contacted Cornelius de Weever of the Inspectorate of Health, who noted that the department was aware of the situation and had contacted the pig owners to have the pens cleaned up and the pigs managed more healthily.

Residents have observed the pig owners feeding them expired baby milk and cereal, among other items, with the rations not even removed from the boxes. Instead, entire boxes are thrown into the pens, which are made of discarded pallets, and the pigs have to rip through them to get to the food.

Moreover, the pigs are not given water to drink regularly; their water bowls remain dry for days at a time. Dead piglets and chickens sit among these pigs, whose skins are filthy from rummaging through waste and sludge.

De Weever noted that more intensive measures could not be taken, because it was not known who owned the property where the pigs were being held. Based on information from the Kadastre Office, the land is in succession.

Moreover, De Weever said the department would be unable to confiscate the pigs because there was no place available to shelter them. These pigs are being purchased and the meat sold. Hence, De Weever encouraged consumers to be cautious when buying pork, because there is no way the department can determine what meat comes from these pig pens.

St. Peters residents have been complaining about stray pigs in the neighbourhood for quite some time. Pigs are often seen roaming the streets of St. Peters, rummaging through garbage bins in search of food and causing serious disarray throughout the district. The same applies to the goats and cows in the area.

Attempts to contact the pig owners for comment proved futile.

Stranded fish put back in Salt Pond

PHILIPSBURG-- St. Maarten Nature Foundation removed approximately 45 large fish from Juancho Yrausquin Boulevard with the help of the Public Works Department, local fishermen, volunteers and passers-by on Saturday morning.

The fish were captured using nets lent to the Nature Foundation by fishermen from town and other helpful individuals.

The Nature Foundation was called early on Saturday morning by both the Fire Department and the police, who requested assistance with the removal of the fish, which were swimming in an area next to Jump Up Caisno flooded by last week’s torrential rain.

The fish were trapped in that location due to the overflow of Great Salt Pond. It was decided to remove the fish immediately not only to save their lives, but also to avoid having dead fish in the middle of Philipsburg, which could have created a very unhygienic situation.

Public Works Commissioner Maurice Lake was also present to monitor the situation and to provide assistance. Many of the fish, some measuring up to five feet and weighing close to 70 pounds, were caught with the assistance of passers-by, especially a group of eager youngsters from the area.

All of the fish were tarpon (Megalops Atlanticaus), which are also known locally as bass. The fish make their home in Great Salt Pond and are considered one of the world’s best game fish.

The Nature Foundation notes the fact that there are so many large fish in Great Salt Pond is clear evidence that there still is a relatively healthy ecosystem there, worth protecting and possibly worth developing and marketing as a tourism product.

The foundation thanked all persons who had assisted in returning the stranded fish safely to their natural environment.
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Collective Preventive Services during the month of October “Breast Cancer Awareness” reminds women of the importance of early detection “Self Breast Examination”

We invite the community to support and participate in the scheduled activities commemorating Breast Cancer during the month of October in our community!

SVB and BZV Services as of October 11

The Executive Council hereby informs that the final negotiations are ongoing pertaining to the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Social Insurance Bank SVB Curacao and Sint Maarten.

In our efforts to guarantee continuation of adequate health insurance services and social security, all procedures will remain as customary as of October 11th, 2010.

Persons in need of SVB related services such as medical insurance and social benefits can contact the SVB office located at W.J. Nisbeth Road #1.

Persons entitled to services provided by the BZV can contact their office located at A.T. Illidge Road 56.

All insurance cards and guarantee letters of the SVB and BZV will therefore remain valid.

Inspectorate of Public Health Warns Establishments and Individuals about Illegal Sale of Pharmaceuticals

Inspectorate of Public Health Pharmaceutical Department is urging any establishment selling unregistered pharmaceuticals and pharmaceuticals registered as pharmacy or prescription other than local pharmacies, to cease the sale of these pharmaceuticals immediately.

There are persons operating illegally on the island and the quality and safety of these pharmaceuticals cannot be guaranteed in the interests of public health.

Only licensed pharmaceutical wholesalers are allowed to import (registered) pharmaceuticals (medicines/drugs).

Inspectorate of Public Health Pharmaceutical Department
Telephone: 542-3579/80
Address: Kanaalsteeg #1, third floor of the Diamond Casino building at the head of town.

PRESS RELEASE

On 10/10/10 the Island Territory of St. Maarten will cease to exist and Country St. Maarten will be born. This means that the Island and Federal Receivers offices as we now know it will cease to exist. These entities will be replaced with the new entity Receivers Office St. Maarten. The new entity Receivers Office St. Maarten will be located where the current Island Receivers Office is now located on the University Blvd. #6. The current Federal Receivers office will be closed as of Monday, October 11th, 2010.

As of Monday, October 11th, 2010 all payments due to the Island Receivers Office and all payments that in the past has been due to the Federal Receivers Office must be paid to the Receivers Office St. Maarten, University Blvd. #6.

Payments via the bank can be made at:
The Windward Islands Bank Ltd. Account # 324800 03NAf 324800 05 USS
Or at RBTT Bank. Account # 542504 Naf and USS.

Please ensure to mention your crib number when making payments via the bank.

For further information please call 54-22083 ext. 437 or 474.

STOP MOSQUITO BREEDING TO PREVENT DENGUE FEVER

Protect yourself; protect your family – STOP mosquito breeding now!
It’s your responsibility to keep your home, business and surrounding yard free of mosquitoes.

* Eliminate stagnant water in old tires and roof spouts;
* Dispose of old tires;
* Empty drums, buckets, jars, bird baths, boats, plant containers, paint cans;
* Containers used for storing water, residents should keep these covered;
* Inlets and outlets of cisterns must be covered with a mosquito net or cloth;
* Persons or businesses making use of the landfill in Philipsburg for the dumping of barrels, buckets or anything that can hold water should cut holes into the items to avoid the accumulation of water.

Clear debris from yards which can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes bringing about an increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases.
For further information about dengue prevention measures, please call the Hygiene Department at 542-2078.

Protect your community! It’s your responsibility! Keep it free from mosquito breeding sites.

Prevention is the best cure.

If you are interested in a career in government visit http://pno.media.officelive.com
Law enforcement agencies hold open day for public

MARIGOT—Live demonstrations and impressive displays of weaponry and hardware marked the third annual Day of Internal Security organised by the Préfecture in the Hope Estate Industrial Zone, Grand Case, on Saturday morning.

The main security services taking part were the Gendarmerie, Police aux Frontières, Police Territorial, and the French-side Fire Brigade.

Several informative stands were set up and demonstrations were organised throughout the morning. Despite the effort to put on a good show for the public, the event attracted only a modest attendance.

The objective of Internal Security Day is to give the public a better understanding of the role of law enforcement and insight into equipment and techniques used for apprehending criminals.

Demonstrations by the Police aux Frontières included showing the techniques used in hand-to-hand combat to restrain a suspect, use of a Taser gun, and immobilising an inflamashoon gun for crowd restraint or a suspect, use of a inflamashoon gun for crowd restraint.

“The Taser gun is a useful weapon to control journalists,” joked Préfet Jacques Simonnet as he browsed the information stands with the security chiefs.

The Gendarmerie had various items of riot control equipment on display as well as their standard day-to-day equipment. One of the morning highlights was a demonstration of extracting a dangerous suspect from a car.

The Fire Brigade also completed a fire drill supervised by Deputy Fire Chief Bernard Maes using a fully extended ladder.

At the end of the morning, the Préfet gave a short press conference, accompanied by the heads of the Gendarmerie, Police aux Frontières, Police Territorial, and Fire Brigade.

“The security services not only work to protect the population by tackling crime, but they are there also to take control in cases of natural crises such as we experienced with Hurricane Earl and the latest tropical depression,” stated Simonnet. “It’s important to know a true synergy exists among all the security partners.”

Commandant Stéphane Brunet explained the Gendarmerie works on two major fronts; prevention and intervention. Police Territorial, on the other hand, has a closer relationship with the population and works more in areas of traffic control.

The police set up a short road circuit at the venue so children on bicycles could appreciate the importance of understanding road signs.

Gendarmeries demonstrate techniques used to stop a vehicle and apprehend a suspect during the Internal Security open day on Saturday.

SHTA: New Govt has unique opportunity to get things right

PHILIPSBURG—The St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association (SHTA) in congratulating the first government of country St. Maarten, urged said government to recognize the unique opportunity it has to “finally get things right.”

“With autonomy comes great responsibility; It is therefore the belief of the SHTA that there is no better moment to reinvent Government,” the association said. It said keen attention should be paid to government structure, long term planning and developing partnerships.

“This unique opportunity only comes around once in a lifetime and it should be handled correctly, particularly as it refers to government services. Focus should be on removing all the red tape (which currently acts as an impediment to business and creates an environment for corruption) and streamlining operations to be more efficient, customer friendly and impactful.”

“Many countries are in the process of implementing severe austerity measures in order to bring government expenditures in line with their budgets. St. Maarten has a unique opportunity to develop its departments in a fiscally responsible manner without the pain that many countries are currently suffering,” the SHTA said.

Furthermore, the SHTA also believes that in order for Country St. Maarten to properly develop, strategic, long-term planning is critical. This means that changes in taxation, legislation and policy would be evaluated by many measurements, but most importantly by their impact on the economy.

“As important tool in evaluating proposed changes would be a Macro Economic Model. The SHTA was pleased to see the Terms of Reference for the Macro Economic Model published in last week’s newspaper. This model would allow government to estimate the financial consequences of decisions, thus paving the way for structured planning and long term fiscal responsibility,” it said.

Finally, the SHTA reiterated the necessity for structured public-private partnership to develop a healthy economy with sustainable growth under a properly governed Country St. Maarten. “This is a unique opportunity to finally get it right, so, please, let’s not waste it,” the SHTA concluded.

Keep serial numbers and packing boxes

MARIGOT—Due to the popularity of desktop and laptop computer thefts, the Gendarmerie advises the public to always make a note of the serial numbers, or keep the cartons in which the computers were packed.

When making a report of the theft, indicating the serial number and make of computer will help Gendarmes relate the cartons in which the computers were packed.

This advice is particularly important for businesses and schools to make note of, as well as for individuals.

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**Two-day Health Awareness conference October 15-16**

MARIGOT—A two-day Health Awareness conference and exhibition organised by Agence Regional de Santé (ARS) and the Collectivité in conjunction with numerous partners is set to be held Friday and Saturday, October 15-16.

Details of the event were explained at a press conference Friday.

Practically the whole gamut of health issues will be covered during an exhibition and information platform to be held in the Omnisports Hall, Galisbay, on Saturday from 8:00am until 1:00pm.

Members of the public will be able to obtain important information on diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, dengue fever, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), AIDS and HIV, birth control, contraception methods, drug and alcohol addictions, first aid, high blood pressure, vaccinations, and many more health issues.

The importance of nutrition, sport, regular exercise and the reasons they are important for optimum health also will be highlighted.

Nutrition specialist Sylvie Crane will present the health benefits of home-grown fruits and vegetables as a preventative measure against obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular problems common in the Caribbean.

A start-up business set for a launch on December 1 has sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS very much at heart with its promotion of Love Coffee. Every purchase of Love Coffee comes with one free condom.

A conference covering blood pressure, diabetes, coronary and cardiovascular conditions, and vascular cerebral accidents will be held in the Chamber of Commerce (CCISM) building in Concordia at 6:30pm Friday.

The programme on Saturday begins at 5:00am with a Walk for Health from the Omnisports Hall to Baie Rouge and back to Marigot.

Organisations and exhibitors taking part in the event include the Collectivité (Pôle Solidarité et Famille), Louis-Constant Fleming Hospital, Social Security Association Guadeloupéenne pour le Dépistage des Cancers (AGAWDEC), cancer organisation Karukera Onco, health professionals union, association of nurses, Liasions Dangereuses, AIDES, Association Sida, Red Cross (Croix Rouge), Maternity Association, Centre de Soins d’Accompagnement et de Prévention en Addictologie (CSAPA), and anonymous information and testing centre CIDDIST.
Consumers want to save energy, don't know how

PHILIPSBURG--Because of the persistent rainfall experienced over a four-day period last week, the Collective Preventive Services (CPS) advises residents to be proactive and take preventative measures against mosquito breeding to reduce any increase in the mosquito-borne disease dengue fever.

Dengue fever is caused by a virus, transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected aedes aegypti mosquito.

“Home and business owners should check and improve their properties and take immediate measures, because the rains have created ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes,” CPS said in a press release.

“Contractors on job sites are advised to take immediate steps by checking around the work site for containers and other items that could hold water, even the garbage of foam food containers or plastic cups. Empty buckets and cover water storage drums and have the site cleaned up at the end of each work day of anything that can hold water, even plastic bags,” it said.

Residents are therefore strongly advised to take action and make sure that there is no stagnant water in their yards and roof spouts; dispose old tires responsibly; and empty drums, buckets, jars, bird baths, boats, plant containers, paint cans and other items that can collect water around their homes and businessnesses,” it was stated in the release.

“In case containers are used for storing water, residents should keep these covered. Inlets and outlets of cisterns must be covered with a mosquito net or cloth to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in the water. Also wear protective clothing or use repellent while outdoors.”

CPS said mosquito fogging can’t take place due to the intermittent rain showers.

Dengue symptoms include high fever, severe headache, backache, joint and eye pain, nausea and vomiting and a rash. Once a person has developed a fever, the infectious period lasts for about a week. Most people recover without any complications, using pain relievers and bed rest.

PHILIPSBURG--It has come to the attention of the Coast Guard of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba that there is an increase in fishing with gill nets.

The Coast Guard announced that according to the Fisheries Regulation Curaçao, it is prohibited to use such nets within the 60-metre isobaths around the island and in the inner area of Curaçao. With gill nets, fish swim into the net and are caught in the mesh by their gills.

Moreover, the Coast Guard said, it is prohibited to use gill nets without a licence within the territorial waters and for inland waters. Authorisation must be granted in writing, or a waiver requested from the service LVV, to fish with these nets.

This can be done through department representative Marvin Leito. He can be reached at tel. number 737-0288 or by e-mail at marvin.leito@curaacao.gov.ar.

The Coast Guard encourages the public to report any illegal fishing observed by calling 913.

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United Telecommunications Services (UTS) employees watched the lowering of the Antillean Flag for the last time in front of the UTS Eastern Caribbean’s headquarters on Codville Webster Road Friday afternoon. Glenn Carty of UTS said the company vows to keep all islands of the Caribbean together by means of telecommunication, especially the Dutch Caribbean islands.

Islands in to be part of the meeting officially. This error was discovered when he went to speak on the last point dealing with the pension fund. This was rectified and no other member made any objection to his comments being added to the record.

Thirteen of the 15 Island Council members present voted in favour of Wit’s candidacy in the first and only meeting of the Island Council that took office on Tuesday. Its term will be the shortest in history, as it comes to an end today, Saturday, after only five days, because of the coming into being of Country St. Maarten.

Absent from the meeting with notice were NA leader Island Councilman William Marlin and independent Island Councilman Patrick Illidge.

Friday’s Island Council meeting also handled and approved unanimously four country ordinances (see related story).

Before closing the meeting, Island Council Chairman Acting Lt. Governor Reynold Groeneveldt said that while this Executive Council of four Commissioners – R. Marlin, Josianne Fleming-Artsen, Michael Ferrier and Maurice Lake – will be recorded as the shortest in history, it also would be recorded as the most hard-working. That comment drew applause from the Island Council, except from the opposition NA members present – Frans Richardson, Laveist and Hyacinth Richardson. (Alita Singh)

Wit’s replacement in the council will be former Netherlands Antilles prime minister Suzy Camelia-Römer. Answering enquiries from National Alliance (NA) Island Councilman Louie Laveist, Commissioner Marlin said the court would review decisions of the Parliament of Country St. Maarten to ensure that they do not conflict with the constitution or other applicable Kingdom Laws.

The court is also where the Ombudsman can file cases as “the guardian of the people,” if there is proof that their constitutional rights are being trampled.

Laveist said the legislation was an important step in the right direction for the new country. He spoke in the meeting without signing.

PHILIPSBURG--The Island Council has appointed well-known Judge Jacob “Bob” Wit as St. Maarten’s representative on the first Constitutional Court, an institution regulated in the Constitution of Country St. Maarten.

The council handled and approved Wit’s appointment as proposed by Commissioner Roy Marlin on behalf of the Executive Council on Friday.

Wit is a member of the Caribbean Court of Justice and served in St. Maarten as a judge. He is also well known in the community. He will serve on the Constitutional Court together with representatives of the Kingdom Council of State and the Joint Court of Justice.

WILLEMSTAD--Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES Islands) becoming exceptional public entities of the Netherlands on October 10 also means that naturalised and legal persons on the BES Islands will be considered non-residents for the purposes of monetary traffic with Curaçao and St. Maarten. This means that currency traffic rules will also be applicable to transactions with the BES Islands.

For capital transactions, such as taking a loan or participating in a company, one will have to apply for a foreign exchange permit with the Central Bank if the amount of the transaction is NAf. 100,000 or more.

In addition, a one-per-cent licence fee will be charged on transfers to the BES Islands, irrespective of the transaction currency, including Antillean guilders.

Curaçao and St. Maarten will become autonomous countries within the Dutch Kingdom, but will continue to cooperate with one another in a monetary union with a joint Central Bank and currency (Caribbean guilder). The introduction of the new currency will take place in 2012, and until then, the Antillean guilder will remain the official currency in Curaçao and St. Maarten.

Money Transfers to BES will have cost
THE HAGUE—The private sector and citizens in Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba finally have clarity on the new fiscal regime that will go into effect as of January 1, 2011.

A vast majority in the Dutch Parliament’s Second Chamber on Thursday approved the three laws BES Tax Regime (Wet Belastingstelsel BES), Implementation Law (Implementatiewet BES) and Customs and Excise Law (Douane en Accijnswet BES). All parties voted in favour, with the exception of the Socialist Party (SP) and the Party for Freedom PVV.

The laws were proposed by Dutch caretaker Minis- try of Finance Han Kees de Jager, in consultation with the governments of the three islands. The original legislation proposal was approved in close to its original form.

The income law was some- what adapted as a result of an earlier amendment of the liberal democratic VVD party that proposed a higher tax tariff for higher incomes. People with an annual income exceeding US $250,000 will pay an additional five per cent tax. The general income tax tariff is 30.4 per cent. De Jager also agreed to reduce the arrangement for so-called ‘’pensionados’’ from five to four years.

Another change that will be made to the legislation as a result of an amendment is the increase in property tax from 20 to 22 per cent. This is the result of an amendment that the Dutch Labour Party PvdA submitted earlier this week and that, as expected, was carried by a vast majority in the Second Chamber on Thursday.

The PvdA amendment will also raise the tax-free sum in the income- and wage- tax law from US $9,000 to US $9,750. This will espe-

Fiscal regime approved for the BES islands
AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2010 DISCONNECTION NOTICE

All St. Maarten Cable TV subscribers who have an outstanding balance for Cable TV and CableNet Internet service for AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2010 are requested to come in and settle this bill. Disconnection for AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2010 will take place on Tuesday, OCTOBER 12TH, 2010.

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Management
WILLEMSTAD--Vistra has welcomed the announcement of the Dutch Caribbean Securities Exchange (DCSX) to introduce an integrated trading platform system within a few months. Vistra, which was founded in Geneva four years ago, is an internationally oriented trust group with 21 offices in various countries, with 450 employees in total. The Curaçao-based exchange announced that the new trading platform provides for “multi-asset class electronic trading and order matching” software meant for stock exchange brokers/traders and stock exchanges. The aim is to have the system operational in November. Director of Vistra Curaçao N.V. Gerard Jan van Spall finds that with this the Curaçao exchange will acquire an even more professional aura. Earlier this year, Vistra was approved as a “licensed listing advisor” (LAD) for DCSX, which means that Vistra has an intermediary function, whereby custom ers who pursue a listing on the exchange are counselled. The listing also arranges that customers comply with the requirements.

With the excellent infrastructure on Curaçao, we have several recognised DCSX exchange traders who are connected with the trading platform and will be available for our customers as soon as the trading starts. Once again, this proves the determination of Curaçao not only to strengthen and refine its financial system, but also to offer our customers service worldwide. This will also support DCSX to strengthen Curaçao in the field of finances,” according to the Vistra director.

Vistra welcomes trading platform

Mass Casualty course starts here Monday

ANGUILLA--A Mass Casualty course organised by the Anguilla Ministry of Social Development in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) will be held in Anguilla from October 11 to 16. The course will focus on the establishment and maintenance of a functional Mass Casualty Management system that will maximise the saving of lives and reduce suffering in the case of a mass-casualty incident. It will emphasise prompt response, information-sharing, scene coordination and patient management. It involves the co-ordination of all responders, and the course will include representatives of the Health Department, Police, Fire and Rescue Services, Civil Aviation, Red Cross and other non-governmental organisations.

The course instructor is Delwin Ferguson, PAHO’s regional Mass Casualty Management Instructor, and the facilitated teams are from Curacao, St Kitts, the British Virgin Islands, and Paramedic Steve McDowell, the chairperson and deputy chairperson, respectively, of the Health Working Group of the National Disaster Management Committee Community Services sub-committee.

Majority of birds in September seen at Road Bay Salt Pond

ANGUILLA--The monthly bird count of Anguilla National Trust at the end of September showed that more than half the 1,555 birds that were seen at Road Salt Pond. Some 1,555 birds of 19 different species were counted on that pond, of a total of 2,363 on the 21 ponds. West End Pond had the next highest number of birds with 259 seen, but only nine different species and Mer rying Pond had 19 species, but just 107 birds. The Pied-billed Grebe were very high on all the salt ponds in September. With these high levels, sandpipers, plovers and other smaller wading birds were found primarily along the sandy shores of the more typically sloping ponds, including Cove, Road and Long Bay Salt Ponds. Stills, yel lowlegs, ducks (the white-cheeked pintail and the blue-winged teal) and herons tended to be in the deeper water of West End, Road and East End Ponds.

The Pied-billed Grebe is a regular visitor to Anguilla. It can be found in small numbers (usually between two and four) on Anguilla’s salt ponds primarily between March and April. Two juvenile Pied-billed Grebes were found swimming and diving for food this month on East End Pond Conserva tion Area. The juvenile birds were identified by their darker bills. It is a small, water bird between 12 and 15 inches in length, and although it swims like a duck, it does not have webbed feet.

Large fines for driving offences

ANGUILLA--Keithly Connor of South Hill pleaded guilty last week in the Magistrate’s Court to three counts of driving without due care and attention. He was fined EC $3,000 for each count. Shanique Rickie and Gif ford Gumbs, both of Coriolo, and Carolyn Webster of Island Harbour, all pleaded guilty to driving without due care and attention. They each were fined $3,000. A fine of $4,000 was given to Randy Webster of Junk’s Hole who pleaded guilty to driving without an insurance policy. Justin Hugging of Stoney Ground was fined $400 for riding a pedal cycle at night without a light and Abdul Sylvester of Cauls Bottom was fined $300 for exceeding the speed limit.

Support breast cancer awareness, says CPS

PHILIPSBURG--Collective Preventive Services (CPS) is calling on the community to support Breast Cancer Awareness activities being held this month.

CPS is also encouraging women to make breast cancer screening a regular part of their life. This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women after lung cancer and is the leading cause of cancer death among women ages 35 to 54 years. As a woman ages, the risk of developing breast cancer increases. CPS is also encouraging self-exams can help women learn how their breasts normally feel and make it easier to notice and find any changes. Remember, doing a breast self-exam regularly is not a substitute for regular mammograms,” it was stated in the release.

Breast Cancer is linked to the uncontrollable division or growing of cells. Cells in the body normally divide only when new cells are needed. Sometimes, cells in a part of the body grow and divide out of control, which causes a mass of tissue called a tumour. If cells that are growing out of control are normal cells, the tumour is called benign, meaning it is not cancerous.

If, however, the cells that are growing out of control are abnormal and do not function like the body’s normal cells, the tumour is called malignant or cancerous. Cancers are named after the part of body from which they originate. Breast cancer originates in the breast tissue. Breast cancer refers to a malignant tumour that has developed from cells in the breast. Usually breast cancer either begins in the cells of the lobules, which are milk-producing glands, or the ducts, the passages that drain milk from the lobules to the nipple.

Like other cancers, breast cancer can invade and grow into the tissue surrounding the breast. It can also travel to other parts of the body and form new tumours, a process called metastasis. At present, there is no known cause on what causes breast cancer; however, there are certain risk factors which may put individuals at higher risk of developing breast cancer, such as a person’s age, genetic factors, personal health history, and diet, it was stated in the release.
Executive Council sets tone for cabinet policy

WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao’s MKP/PS/MAN Executive Council, before it ceased to exist on 10-10-10, took a principle decision that free admission to local beaches, lakes and the coast must be enforced henceforth. The decision does not regard existing situations, but tourism projects to be constructed in the future. Commissioner (and now Minister) of Education, Culture and Sports René Rosalia (PS) indicated during the last press conference of the Island Government that the commissions, installed on September 4, dwelled on what they had achieved during their short time in office and announced many plans that are to crystallise in the new Country Curaçao.

Rosalia in particular elaborated on a matter that annoys the coalition parties, namely that at many places on the island the sea is no longer freely accessible to the public and that one even has to pay an admission fee in certain areas. This was reason to approve a decision, which guarantees free admittance in future projects.

Rosalia also announced the beginning of an official “tambú and Aguinaldo” period of music and dance in public to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. As of October 1 up to January 31, these festivities will be celebrated officially every year. In Rosalia’s new policy, to be executed by the first Cabinet of Country Curaçao, in which he is entrusted with the portfolio of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, there will be more emphasis on organising tambú parties within clubs and other places of entertainment, so that the parties can continue longer.

The Commissioner also made out a case for the renovation of the national theatre “Sentro Pro Arte” (SPA) at the current location on Schouwburgweg. The Executive Council has requested the foundation entrusted with SPA to “give the building back to the people.”

During the press conference, Infrastructure Commissioner Charles Cooper (now Minister responsible for Transport, Communication and Regional Planning) announced the establishment of the Curaçao Maritime Authority (CMA) that is to succeed the Antillean Directorate of Shipping. Cooper (MAN) also announced he would pay much attention to the Aviation Directorate during the coming period. At the beginning of the year this department lost two executives in Director Siegfried Francisco and Inspector Angelo Lema (Parliamentary). Cooper said he would negotiate with personnel who are on the verge of retirement soon to stay on for now and search for new staff for this institute.

Commissioner of Economic and Labour Affairs Rudney Garannes (MKP) dwelled on the mediation he started with the Building, Own & Operate (BOO) plant at the island. There is a conflict between personnel of the government department and interim department head Cristina van der Biezen. In the meantime Garannes has met with all parties in an attempt to resolve the conflict.

The Commissioner also elaborated on attempts he had made the past period to increase the number of flights to the island. He spoke of interest from, among other companies, Continental Airlines, American Airlines and the Portuguese TAP for (extra) flights to the island.

In addition, Garannes dwelled on the project to start an export centre on the island for the production of packaging material for the transport of cold asphalt.

Finance Commissioner Ivar Asjes (now Chairman of the Council of Parliament) mainly spoke of the fact that they had agreed to dissolve privatisation institute STIP.

“It was not easy, because we discussed with a SHIP board that didn’t want to listen; neither to the Island Council, nor to the previous Executive Council, nor to the current Executive Council. We had to take firm decisions, but the result is there.” Social Affairs Commissioner Jacintha Constancia (now Minister of Public Health, Environment and Nature) elaborated on a wide range of social projects that had been initiated in the past period, but also projects to be started in the future. She also mentioned the establishment of a task force Public Health, whereby all actors in the sector will be involved.

She further spoke of the importance to assemble all parties involved in the problems with the Build, Own & Operate (BOO) plant at the Island refinery.

Efforts being made to finalise Dutch funds for university

PHILIPSBURG--Efforts are being made to finalise the transfer of University of St. Martin’s (USM) portion of the “Significant Funds,” which had been signed and agreed to between the Dutch Education Minister and outgoing Antillean Education Minister Omayra Leeflang in October 2009 for USM and University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA).

Former commissioner Josianne Fleming-Artsen had told reporters that the temporary week-long Executive Council was scheduled to discuss how to handle the matter during its meeting last Thursday as the intention was for the funds to be transferred before 10-10-10. The tenure of the Council ended over the weekend when the new Council of Ministers was sworn in.

The idea of the fund is to stimulate students already enrolled in programmes at USM, and to tap additional funding for study purposes. The fund will only offer supplementary monies. It also has an incentive programme for recipients who maintain good grades after their first year to automatically qualify for an additional amount of money to continue their studies.

The “significant fund” (waarderings fonds) is made available to students at UNA and USM via the Dutch government. It replaces the previous programme through which students from the Netherlands Antilles could have tapped funding for studies in the Netherlands.

A total of 138,000 euros (about 360,000 guilders) will be made available annually to students pursuing studies at USM in an effort to stem the brain drain. A foundation has to be established to manage and disseminate the funds.

Fleming-Artsen, the former USM president who recently went on retirement, said the university had been having financial difficulties for quite some time. She said the Council had been studying how to help USM and to ensure that in Country St. Maarten, USM is not treated as a stepchild. Fleming-Artsen said she was sure that the incoming Education Minister, tipped to be Rhoda Arrindell, will ensure that USM is given the attention needed.

She said the Significant Funds is “sitting” in Curaçao and efforts would be made to have it transferred.
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**Dutch Cabinet is taking shape**

**THE HAGUE**—Prime minister designate Mark Rutte continued interviewing prospective cabinet ministers on Saturday.

Christian Democrat CDA Member of Parliament Hans Hillen is set to be given the defence job, while Ben Knappen, former editor of the NRC newspaper, will be appointed state secretary of foreign affairs, according to most sources.

Uri Rosenthal of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) is poised to be appointed foreign affairs minister.

Rutte, leader of the right-wing VVD, hopes to finalise his new cabinet of 12 ministers this week.

The number of ministries is being cut by two to 11. Economic affairs will merge with agriculture, while transport and the environment will be combined to form a new ministry of infrastructure and the environment.

Immigration and asylum seekers will fall under home affairs, rather than justice and they will have a separate minister.

Appointments so far, as based on inside information, are as follows: Maxime Verhagen (CDA) would become deputy prime minister and minister for economic affairs, agriculture and innovation; social affairs and employment would go to Henk Kamp (VVD), the former BES Commissioner.

Home affairs would go to Piet Hein Donner (CDA), security and justice to Ivo Opstelten (VVD), infrastructure and environment to Melanie Schultz van Haegen (VVD), defence to Hans Hillen (CDA), foreign affairs to Uri Rosenthal (VVD).

Immigration and asylum affairs would go to Gerd Leers (CDA), the former mayor of Maastricht. Education to Marja van Bijsterfeld (CDA), finance remains with Jan Kees de Jager (CDA), and health would go to Edith Schippers (VVD).

The following state secretaries have been decided upon: Fred Teeven (VVD) for justice, Ben Knappen (CDA) for foreign affairs, Paul de Krom (VVD) for social affairs, Frans Weckers (VVD) for finance, and Halbe Zijlstra (VVD) for education.

Three state secretaries still need to be appointed.

**Indonesia cancelled PM’s visit because of Wilders**

**THE HAGUE**—The decision by Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to call off his visit to the Netherlands last week had to do with the involvement of anti-Islam campaigner Geert Wilders in the next government, not a lawsuit by Moluccan pro-independence supporters.

The Nederlands Dagblad newspaper based these claims on sources close to the planned state visit.

Yudhoyono cancelled the state visit last week Tuesday, citing a court case initiated by Moluccan activists who accuse him of human rights abuses.

However, the paper said the legal case was just an excuse and the visit had been cancelled because of Wilders’ standpoints on Islam.

Last month, Indonesia’s ambassador to the Netherlands said the visit was at risk because of Wilders.

Indonesia, a former Dutch colony, is the biggest Muslim country in the world.

**KLM angry at Schiphol transit-passerger plan**

**AMSTERDAM**—Amsterdam Schiphol Airport’s plans to increase charges for transit passengers and to encourage more budget airlines like Easyjet to make a base there risk damaging the airport’s entire network, KLM director Peter Hartman said.

“Transfer traffic is the motor behind the KLM network, and that means it drives the airport itself,” Hartman told the Telegraaf newspaper. Whoever does not realise that is shooting himself/herself in the foot, the KLM director said.

Airline sector group IATA has also objected to the plans, the newspaper said.

KLM accounts for some fifty percent of flight movements at Schiphol.

**Surplus of 50 million on Country Curaçao budget**

**WILLEMSTAD**—Curaçao’s MKP/PS/MAN Executive Council will present the national budget 2011 for Country Curaçao to the new Minister of Finance on Sunday, October 10.

Commissioner of Finance Ivan Asjes (PS) announced that this budget would show a surplus of NAf. 50 million. However, according to Asjes, this is only a surplus on paper and he is concerned about the financial situation.

The new Country Curaçao will start with a debt of NAf. 1.7 billion. According to Asjes, this is higher than the 1.3 billion maintained by the previous PAR/PNP/FOL Executive Council.

In view of the fact that the Dutch development aid will stop as of 2012, he therefore refuses to speak of a sound starting position for the new Country Curaçao.

The revenues and expenditures of the new country will each amount to roughly 1.7 billion, which will eventually result in a surplus of 50 million.

However, Asjes constantly spoke of a “surplus on paper,” because in the coming period Curaçao will be confronted with numerous risks. He referred to the Dutch government’s aim to realise a zero rate for profit tax on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba (BES Islands) and calculated that this would involve an income loss of 400 million for Curaçao.

The BES Islands intend to introduce their new tax system as of January 1, 2011, while Curaçao will only be able to introduce its own a year later, on January 1, 2012. According to the commissioner, this could mean that companies in Curaçao have one year to establish themselves on one of the BES Islands.

Asjes questioned the Dutch intention to create a tax paradise in the Kingdom on the BES Islands. Confronted with this situation, the MKP/PS/MAN coalition must strictly guard against wasteful spending, but Asjes guaranteed that the new government would not take any painful measures that would affect the persons who currently in dire need.

“If we become the victim of measures to be taken by the Dutch government, then we will have to make a claim on those who have more than enough, in order to help those who have less. I hope it will not come to this.”

**Dutch woman considered key to FARC image abroad**

A Dutch woman who joined Colombia’s Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia FARC rebels was being used to draw international attention, according to the Colombian government.

Bogotá says e-mails found in a rebel computer show that Tanja Nijmeijer was welcomed by the rebels. The computer was recently seized after a rebel camp run by her commander Mono Jojoy was bombarded by government forces.

The office of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has posted three pictures of Nijmeijer on its Website.

At a meeting in the city of Medellin, the president quoted from a rebel e-mail dating from 2010: “Amid all the tragedies, the appearance of Alexandra [Tanja’s nom de guerre] is good news. The idea to let her work with the international commission is fantastic.”

The e-mail was written by Carlos Antonio Lozada, the commander of the Eastern Bloc, one of the most important in FARC.

“The e-mail continues, “There she will be able to make an important contribution to FARC, given her abilities and professional education in languages and also her training here with us and her well-known sacrifices and victory, and moreover, the impact this news would cause.”

A recent air raid on a rebel camp left Mono Jojoy and seven other guerrillas dead. Forensic investigation determined that Nijmeijer was not among them. The army says at least 20 FARC fighters were killed in the raid. FARC speaks of fewer than 10 casualties.
PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—and in what appears to be a rap on the knuckles of the Works Minister, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar announced Saturday night that the $47 million contract awarded by the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT) to Harry Persad and Sons for the upgrade of lighting at Piarco would be reviewed for the purpose of having it struck off.

The announcement that the contract would be examined with a view to it being rescinded came hours after Jack Warner’s admission that the contract was awarded on his instructions and in the absence of a board.

The PM’s release is as follows:

“The Honourable Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar has taken note of a story headlined “$47m Award in One Day” in today’s Express newspaper (Saturday, October 9, 2010) that refers to the award of a public contract.

“The story refers to a contract to Harry Persad and Sons Limited, approved by the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago on September 21, 2010, and being the line Minister responsible for the Airports Authority, I granted approval (as fast as possible, in accordance with the tender rules) today is the kind of behaviour to which I objected at UDeCOTT—where persons in a State enterprise, whether they are directed by a minister or a prime minister, whoever, such persons could have been handing contracts to contractors without proper procurement procedures,” he said.

“If a large contract like this was awarded to an interest-erased contractor based on proposal, it opens up a series of questions,” he added.

Noting a similarity with the AATT contract reported on by the Express (and Hafeez) yesterday, Rowley said the Uff enquired adjudicated on this and made certain recommendations.

“But if this is true, then it means that we have not come one inch forward since the Uff enquiry has reported. In fact, we have gone further back,” he said.

Rowley said one of the things Warner said on Friday, which should be taken into consideration when examining this action at AATT, is that the Prime Minister will not tolerate in her Government anyone who has violated the procedures resulting in improper procurement process.

“If that is the case, then somebody has a serious question to answer, and somebody's tenure is in jeopardy over this matter,” Rowley said it was precisely on the issue of improper procurement procedures he got into conflict with the PNM cabinet over UDeCOTT - Knowledge of different nets and fish

- Able to work unsupervised
- To destroy any remaining bacteria.
- Able to use nets & knowledge of different nets.

Job description Fish cleaners:

- Knowledge of different nets and fish
- Able to work unsupervised
- To destroy any remaining bacteria.

Job description Fishermen:

- Catching fish-able to identify different type of fish.
- Able to use nets & knowledge of different nets.

Job description Fish cleaners:

- To prepare fish for customers.
- To clean fish then store it properly.
- To destroy any remaining bacteria.

Qualifications:

- Able to work in a team with speed
- Able to work unsupervised
- Knowledge of different nets and fish

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Barbadians say, ‘Hang them!’

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—Barbadians want “an eye for an eye” and a return to the noose – based on the results of the latest Nation-commissioned CADRES survey.

Seventy-nine per cent of all respondents polled believe that strings of the gallows is the way for this country to go, in the wake of a recent worrying crime wave.

The survey was carried out in the aftermath of the Tudor Street tragedy in which six young women perished in a set fire at the popular Campus Trendz store on September 3.

That incident, following closely on the heels of the robbery and burning of Chicken Galore in Bank Hall, St Michael, in August, served to reignite public debate on whether Barbadians, having last carried out an execution in 1984, should adjourn the matter to this morning.

Lawyers for the business- men as well as Edwards and Rodrigues, approached the High Court Saturday morning seeking their immediate release.

Even as the lawyers’ arguments were being heard in chambers, Peniston turned himself into police, Stab- brook News was told. This newspaper was also told that one of the Daby brothers were surrendered on Friday but it is unclear which one. Efforts to contact senior police officials were futile.

Following the conclusion of the court hearing, Attorney- at-law Vic Puran who is representing business- men, Azeez and Hutson in association with El Hai- roman said his clients have to return to court today, Monday, as a nisi order was made. (Stabrook News)
Obama campaigns to rev up Democrats

PHILADELPHIA--U.S. President Barack Obama, kicking off a busy week of election campaigning, strove to energize his base on Sunday in order to minimize losses for Democrats in elections on Nov. 2.

"Are you fired up? Are you ready to go? I've gotta make sure you stay fired up," Obama told a cheering crowd of thousands at an outdoor rally.

Republicans are expected to make big gains in the mid-term congressional ballot, designed to address ordinary Americans during the week, including one event hosted by MTV aimed at young voters, visit Delaware on Friday, and stump for his party again in Massachusetts on Saturday.

He will also host a meeting at the White House on Monday morning to showcase his push for extra infrastructure spending to boost hiring and communicate that he understands the fear of American households over unemployment stuck near 10 percent.

"We need you to fight their millions of dollars with your millions of voices," he said, going on to urge Democrats to re-energize his base on Sunday.

With a little over three weeks to go before election day, Obama is pushing back against Republicans, with surveys showing conservatives significantly more energized and ready to vote than Democrats. A new poll by the Washington Post, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University showed 52 percent of registered voters deems themselves as very interested in the midterm election preferences Republicans gain control of Congress.

That percent rose to 60 percent among voters who favored smaller government, and soar to 85 percent among supporters of the Tea Party conservative movement. All 435 seats the U.S. House of Representatives and 37 of 100 seats in the U.S. Senate are up for grabs on Nov. 2 and polls predict Republicans could win back control of the House.

The election is seen as a referendum on Obama's performance on the economy, particularly unemployment which is currently stalled at 9.6 percent. Republicans, mining deep public resentment over taxpayer bailouts and Wall Street organized by former Republican president George W. Bush in late 2008, have crafted this into a pro-small government and tax cut message that has ignited the party's conservative base.

Obama's Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, in an article published in the Washington Post on Sunday, defended the government's hated Troubled Asset Relief Program, noting it had cost a fraction of the initial price-tag of $700 billion, and had saved the country's financial system from collapse.

Hillary Clinton set to take on Balkan puzzle

WASHINGTON--U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton travels to the Balkans on Monday, seeking to buttress the fragile peace that was one of her husband's chief diplomatic achievements as president.

Clinton will urge reconciliation for Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo, which battled through death and despair of Yugoslavia in the 1990s and dominated the news when former U.S. President Bill Clinton was in office. For Hillary Clinton the Balkan puzzle is a familiar challenge--although it is now she, and not her husband, who speaks for Washington as it attempts to bring the unstable area more closely into Europe's fold.

"She is on a family mission that hasn't been completed yet," said Janusz Bugajski, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank. "They will not be able to solve the mission accomplished until all the loose ends are accounted for."

Bill Clinton helped engineer the 1995 Dayton accords that ended the Bosnian conflict and supported a NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999 that persuadably Belgrade to withdraw from Kosovo, an independence move that saw the Serbian province subsequently placed under U.N. supervision.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden made the Obama administration's first high-level visit to the Balkans in May 2009 and offered a fresh support for the region which saw the United States intervene twice militarily in the 1990s. Strains persist, but analysts say Clinton's three-day visit to Sarajevo, Belgrade and Kosovo followed by NATO discussions in Brussels will show sustained U.S. commitment to putting the Balkans back on track both in the European Union and eventually the NATO alliance itself.

"This one trip won't achieve all of those things, but if it puts the Americans back into play that will be a good thing," said Daniel Serwer, a Balkan expert at the U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington.

The trip, which will see Clinton meet leaders including Bakir Izetbegovic, the moderate Muslim elected as the newest member of the country's tripartite presidency, to urge cooperation to advance political and economic reforms crucial to Bosnia's EU hopes. "European Union and NATO membership (are) Bosnia's future, but the Balkan future, leaders and parties and different ethnic groups are going to have to work together more than they have in the past," Philip Gordon, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for Europe, told reporters.

WASHINGTON--Republican gains in U.S. elections next month, rather than spelling gridlock, could in fact yield more bipartisan cooperation with the Obama administration, a top White House official said Sunday.

"I'm hoping that with more seats, the Republicans will feel a greater responsibility to work with us to solve some of these problems," David Axelrod, a senior adviser to President Barack Obama, told CBS's "Face the Nation".

Analysts expect a somewhat less ambitious legislative agenda from Obama in the second two years of his presidency, with the focus on delicate issues that demand a bipartisan approach like immigration and energy legislation. Obama has branded Republicans as the party of "no" for their bitter opposition to his landmark healthcare and Wall Street reforms, and for blocking more government spending to boost hiring from fear of adding to the record U.S. budget deficit.

But voters, worried by the economy and stubbornly high unemployment near 10 percent, are expected to punish his Democrats in the November mid-term congressional ballot, and could hand control of the U.S. of Representatives to Republicans. Republicans are expected to make gains in the Democratic-controlled Senate as well.

All 435 seats in the House and 37 of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate will be up for grabs on Nov. 2. Axelrod said he did not believe Democrats would lose control of the House, but he was hopeful for more cooperation with Republicans than had been the case in the past.

"The posture of the Republican party from the moment we got here has been basically to deprive the president of bipartisan support so they could accuse him of not being bipartisan," he said.

Republicans say they opposed Obama because they believe his policies took the country in the wrong direction. In the process, they have tapped into smoldering public anger over government bailouts of Wall Street--sponsored by his Republican predecessor George W Bush to tackle the 2008 financial crisis-- energizing conservatives with an anti-big-government, pro-tax-cutting message.

But Putin's actions are in part inspired by his desire to boost hiring from fear of American sanctions, and to bolster his image as a force to be reckoned with in Europe, analysts say.
JERUSALEM—Israel is not closing the door on a further freeze of new construction in West Bank settlements after the Palestinians, backed by Arab powers, gave Washington a one-month window to save peace talks from collapse.

Much could depend on whether the United States opts to sweeten incentives to Israel to agree to a proposed 60-day partial building moratorium, Israeli political sources said on Sunday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has resisted international calls to renew the freeze, which expired on Sept. 26, and the Palestinians say settlement building, on land they want for a state, must stop for now—suspend or freeze.

Netanyahu has resisted in the occupied West Bank. Netanyahu’s demand for a prolonged military presence, while Israel wants the United States to stipulate that Israeli soldiers will remain on the frontier for 30 to 40 years, the sources said. For some cabinet members, the sources added, even the mention of a Jordan River border line for a Palestinian state was problematic, fearing it would be interpreted as Israeli agreement to relinquish settlements in the adjacent Jordan Valley, part of the West Bank. Netanyahu’s coalition is dominated by pro-settler parties and the United States has acknowledged political risks he faces in pressing ahead with talks with the Palestinians, who fear settlements will doom them a viable state.

What appeared to be trial balloons for U.S. incentives Netanyahu might be able to sell in the cabinet have already been floated in the Israeli media. They include Obama’s backing for a 10-year partial building freeze. The proposal promoted by Lieberman’s Yisrael Beiteinu party, Netanyahu’s biggest coalition partner, was brought for cabinet approval on Sunday. It requires candidates for Israeli citizenship legislation as possible political tradeoff with far-right Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman to win his support for a settlement freeze. The proposal is expected to suffer steep losses.

There has been little public sign of U.S. pressure on Netanyahu to bend, with President Barack Obama pressing ahead with talks with the Palestinians, who fear settlements will doom them a viable state.

But Israeli leaders balked at what the political sources said was the package’s vague timeframe for the troop deployment, which Palestinians oppose. It spoke only of a prolonged military presence, while Israel wants the United States to stipulate that Israeli soldiers will remain on the frontier for 30 to 40 years, the sources said. For some cabinet members, the sources added, even the mention of a Jordan River border line for a Palestinian state was problematic, fearing it would be interpreted as Israeli agreement to relinquish settlements in the adjacent Jordan Valley, part of the West Bank. Netanyahu’s coalition is dominated by pro-settler parties and the United States has acknowledged political risks he faces in pressing ahead with talks with the Palestinians, who fear settlements will doom them a viable state.

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Pakistan reopens Afghan border for NATO supplies

LANDIKOTAL, Pakistan—Pakistanian authorities on Sunday reopened a border crossing with Afghanistan, allowing NATO supplies to be trucked to coalition troops, a Pakistani government official said.

Pakistan announced the reopening of the Torkham crossing in the northwest on Saturday, 10 days after its closure, after Washington apologized to Islamabad for a NATO helicopter incursion on Sept 30 that killed two Pakistani soldiers.

Shahriyar Khan, a government official at the crossing, told Reuters that more than 150 vehicles parked on the Pakistani side were allowed to cross into Afghanistan. “Custom clearance has been done since morning and now vehicles have started going to Afghanistan,” he said.

Pakistan closed the Torkham route passing through the famous Khyber Pass soon after the NATO raid, citing security reasons. The incursion sparked public outrage. The Torkham route passing through Baluchistan province from where the second supply route passes through the Chaman border crossing in the southwest has remained open.

An ISAF spokesman said logistics and resupply would be easier for the coalition forces, although he stressed that military operations had been unaffected. “What we have lost is about one percent of all the supplies we really need,” said Brigadier General Josef Blotz. “So in other words, it was not really significant and it did not impede at all on our operations.”

LandiKotal, Pakistan-

Chile rescuers prepare shaft for miners exit

COPIAPÓ, Chile—Chilean rescuers on Sunday reinforced an escape shaft to hoist 33 miners to freedom, bringing their stunning survival story close to its climax two months after they were trapped deep underground.

Engineers have drilled a narrow, nearly 2,000 foot-long (625-metre) shaft to evacuate the men, who have been using explosives to make room for a special capsule dubbed “Phoenix” that will lift them one-by-one to the surface.

The rescuers were inserting metal tubes to line the first 330 feet (100 metres) of the duct to strengthen it, and expect to finish the task on Monday morning. The government aims to start the evacuation on Wednesday in one of the most complex rescue efforts in mining history.

“If everything goes really well (it might happen on Tuesday) and if things don’t go well, it could be Thursday,” Mining Minister Laurence Golborne told reporters. “When we said on ‘about Wednesday’, it means that–it depends on the advances and setbacks that occur in such processes.”

He said it could take up to two days to hoist all 33 men to the surface.

Celebrations broke out across Chile on Saturday when the drill broke through 65 days after the Aug. 5 collapse at the small gold and copper mine in the far northern Atacama desert. Drivers honked car horns in the capital of Santiago and people waved flags in towns across a country still recovering from the ravages of a massive Feb. 27 earthquake.

After weeks of prayers, vigils and simply waiting, there was laughter, singing and dancing at the makeshift settlement called Camp Hope that relatives and friends of the miners have set up near the mouth of the mine.

“I’m so happy,” said Cristina Nunez, whose partner, Claudio Yanez, is among the trapped. “I’m going to be able to be with Claudio before Oct. 21–my daughter’s birthday.”

President Sebastian Pinera said he planned to visit the mine on Tuesday. Among the families waiting is weeks-old baby girl Esperanza, or “Hope,” whose father is trapped miner Ariel Ticona. His wife, Elizabeth, named their daughter after the relatives’ encampment.

Ticona saw the birth on a video sent down a narrow bore hole that served as a lifeline to pass water and food to the men alive during the ordeal, and he yearns to hold his daughter for the first time. Once the men are winched to the surface, they will be given astronaut-style medical checks in a field hospital set up at the mine. Then they will be able to spend some time with their families, before being flown by helicopter to nearby Copiapo to be stabilized at another hospital.

The men have set a world record for the length of time workers have survived underground after a mining accident. They are in remarkably good health, although some have developed skin infections. After spending so long below ground in a humid, dimly-lit tunnel, their eyesight will need time to adjust.

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JERUSALEM—The Israeli government voted on Sunday in favour of legislation that would require candidates for Israeli citizenship to pledge loyalty to the “Jewish and democratic state of Israel”.

Leaders of Israel’s Arab minority have condemned the naturalisation oath—which does not apply to Jews, who are granted citizenship automatically on birth—to an Arab state loyal to the state of Israel. “That is the essence of Zionism and the state of Israel,” he said before the amendment to the country’s citizenship law was approved in a 22-8 vote by his cabinet. The legislation must be ratified by parliament in order to become law.

Some political commentators said Netanyahus backing of the measure, promoted by his biggest coalition partner, the far-right Yisrael Beitenu party, might have been aimed at securing the support of its leader, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, for future peace moves with the Palestinians.

The legislation will have no bearing on the citizenship of Israel’s Arab minority, who make up 20 percent of the population and are represented in parliament. But the requirement to pledge loyalty to a Jewish state might deter Palestinians or other non-Jews who marry Israelis from applying for Israeli citizenship.

“It’s a terrible mistake,” Minority Minister Avihay Braverman said of the legislation.

“In the world, the public opinion will go mostly against us, even more. Inside, you incite the Arab minority—why? Because Netanya has to appease Lieberman. A terrible mistake,” said Braverman, a member of the centre-left Labour Party.

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THE DAILY HERALD, Monday, October 11, 2010

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Serbia gay rights march triggers violent riots

BELGRADE--A gay rights parade in Belgrade erupted in violence on Sunday as thousands of police deployed to protect marchers clashed with anti-gay protesters, who rioted and attacked the headquarters of the ruling parties.

In the worst violence in the Serbian capital in over two years, more than 110 police were injured in pitched battles with gangs of nationalists and skinheads, and one of the 1,500 marchers was badly beaten as he arrived in a nearby suburb, police and officials said.

Pushed back from the parade area by 5,000 police in riot gear, protesters turned to other targets, breaking into the lobby of the state television network, scaling scaffolding to try to enter parliament, smashing windows at the Austrian embassy and burning a car in front of the French embassy.

Firefighters extinguished a blaze at the headquarters of the Democratic Party of President Boris Tadic and the premises of their coalition partner, the Socialist Party, were also attacked before calm was restored by early evening.

Defence Minister Dragan Sutanovac called it a “really sad day for Serbia” and Tadic vowed to bring the people behind the violence to justice. “Serbia will secure human rights for all its citizens regardless of their diversity. No one will tolerate attempts to threaten them,” said Tadic, who like other top government officials did not attend the march.

The clashes highlighted the intolerance that still pervades Serbian society a decade after the country ousted strongman Slobodan Milosevic, ending the pariah status that dogged it during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. The parade, the first of its kind in Belgrade in nearly a decade, had been seen as a test of Serbia’s readiness to become a more modern, open society after years of conflict fuelled by ethnic hatred.

The violence occurred just two days before a planned visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who wants to highlight Washington’s support for Belgrade’s EU aspirations.

Gangs of tough-looking youths threw stones, crowbars, wooden planks, bottles and other objects at police, smashed windows of cars and buses and looted several central shops including that of Italian retailer Benetton. Some sang sing pro-government songs.

Rioters were injured by charging police, backed by armoured vehicles, who wielded clubs and shields and used teargas and stun grenades against their attackers. Police said they had detained 101 people as of late afternoon and kept 53 in custody. Debris lay scattered across the main streets of central Belgrade and clouds of teargas rose from the ground.

“It was more like death march. The atmosphere was terrible,” said Svetlana Simon-Paunovic, a German married to a Serb who attended the rally.

Milena, a 36-year old lesbian activist said: “It is a shame for me to march, to stand for what I am, and to have thousands of cops protect me from hysterical nationalists.”

Traditionally conservative Balkan societies have been slow to adjust to open homosexuality, and last year a Serbian gay parade was cancelled because of threats. “This government wants to protect a deviant, wicked and non-Christian minority against the good, law-abiding majority,” said Milija, 28, a construction engineer who described himself as a religious nationalist.

Putin’s party claims win in Russia regional polls

MOسكو—Russia’s ruling party claimed victory in regional elections on Sunday in a show of strength for Prime Minister Vladimir Putin 18 months before a presidential poll that could return him to the Kremlin.

The opposition called the vote “dirty” and said fraud had played a part in the outcome.

Partial results indicated that Putin’s United Russia party would retain control of at least five of six regional parlaments by a wide margin and win thousands of municipal polls.

“We can say with confidence we got a majority in all electoral territories,” said Boris Gryzlov told journalists, saying early results and exit polls showed an increase in support from elections four years ago. “The results show everything we have done in the past four years was correct.”

The vote was a test for the Kremlin’s political clout ahead of a March 2012 presidential election after several difficult months for the ruling party, culminating with the sacking of one of the party’s founders, the mayor of Moscow. Strong support for United Russia would point to an easy victory for its chosen candidate in 2012 presidential poll, when either Putin or his protege, President Dmitry Medvedev, is expected to stand for a six-year term.

Regional elections in March showed a decline in support for United Russia in most regions from 2007 federal elections. The party this summer blocked the reapportionment of the Karachëvsky region governor, a United Russia member, after 10,000 people demanded his resignation.

Divisions were exacerbated by a dispute that ended with Medvedev’s dismissal last month of longtime Moscow mayor and United Russia ruling council member Yuri Luzhkov.

Opposition communists and liberals alike said fraud was rampant. The Communist Party placed a distant second in the region, according to early results after between 17 and 77 percent of votes were counted.

Hungary races to build dam to block new sludge threat

BUDAPEST—Workers raced to build an emergency dam in western Hungary on Sunday as cracks in a reservoir widened, threatening to unleash a second torrent of toxic sludge on the village of Kolontar and nearby rivers.

About one million cubic metres of the waste material leaked out of the alumina plant reservoir into villages and waterways earlier this week, killing seven people, injuring 123 and fouling rivers including a local branch of the Danube. Nearly a week into the disaster, a person was still missing.

Kolontar was evacuated on Saturday after cracks appeared in the northern wall of the reservoir, threatening a second spill of the toxic red sludge, which swept through neighbouring areas on Sunday, toppling houses.

Miloslav Pálovics, a German married to a Serb who attended the rally.

A by-product of alumina production, the thick, highly alkaline substance has a caustic effect on the skin. It contains heavy metals, such as lead, and is slightly radioactive. Inhaling its dust can cause lung cancer.

Late on Sunday the Veszt-stream of the river Marcal, the Danube near Budapest, had drifted downstream from the river Marcal, where the spill destroyed all wildlife.

Corruption is rampant in the Danube near Budapest. Hungarians looked beyond repair. Illes added that the reservoir could collapse within one day or a week and crews at the scene were scrambling to complete a new dam to protect Kolontar and the nearby town of Deveseser, home to 5,400 people.

Illes said authorities had amassed plaster and various types of acids along 100 kilometres (60 miles) of the river Marcal to neutralise the high alkaline content of any new spill before it reaches the Danube, a major European waterway.

The Interior Ministry said on its website samples taken on Sunday showed alkaline levels in smaller rivers affected by Monday’s spill, and in the Danube, had returned to normal. Later on Sunday it added that radioactive debris was spotted on the Danube near Budapest which had drifted downstream from the river Marcal, where the spill destroyed all wildlife.

Hungary hopes to complete the 600-metre emergency dam within days to stop 500,000 cubic metres of sludge still in the reservoir from escaping.
Austria’s far-right Freedom Party (FPOe) leader Heinz-Christian Strache waves as he celebrates after provincial elections in Vienna, on Sunday.

Far right makes large gains in Vienna vote

VIENNA—Austria’s resurgent far-right party won over a quarter of the vote in Vienna’s provincial election on Sunday as voters took their discontent about immigration and security to the ballot box.

The elections in “Red Vienna,” a traditional stronghold of the centre-left Social Democrats, reflect a wider European trend as voters concerned about the economic crisis and integration of Muslims turn to rightist parties.

Vienna’s Social Democrats under Michael Haeupl, mayor since 1994, won 44.1 percent, losing their absolute majority. Heinz-Christian Strache’s far-right Freedom Party scooped up 27.1 percent, up from 15 percent in 2005.

All the other main parties lost ground in Vienna, Austria’s capital and financial hub with just over a million eligible voters, and its most ethnically diverse province.

The results suggest Freedom, which has called for a ban on mosques with minarets and on Islamic face veils in public and stricter limits on immigration, they might also consider teaming up with Freedom at a national level when Austria votes again in 2013.

Haeupl, 61, a close ally of Social Democrat Chancel-

or Werner Faymann, called the Vienna result “regret-
table” but ruled out teaming up with Freedom to form a coalition. “I’m sorry, I just can’t do it,” he said.

As at the national level, the Social Democrats will prob-
ably turn to the third-placed centre-right conservatives if they need a coalition partner.

Strache, 41, who campaigned with the slogan “Too much foreignness does no one any good”, called Faymann the election-loser of the nation. “Of course this has an importance at the federal level,” he said.

Russian, Polish first
ladies remember crash

SMOLENSK, Russia—The first ladies of Poland and Russia said the plane crash that killed the Polish president and 95 others in April brought the nations closer together, during a ceremony on Sunday at the accident site.

The presidential wives joined 170 relatives of the victims to place flowers and candles and attend a reli-
gious service at Smolensk airport in western Russia, where six months ago the presidential Tupolev Tu-
154M crashed in fog.

“The entire Russian na-
tion was deeply moved by that terrible tragedy,” Russian first lady Svetlana Medvedeva said. “The his-
tory of our countries has always been closely linked and despite its complicated pages, the two nations al-
ways found the road to mu-
tual respect and share the same love of fellow man, country and peace.”

Later, the first ladies, family members and others travelled to Katyn Forest for the second stage of the commemoration.

Late President Lech Kac-
zynski, his wife and many political and military lead-
ers were killed on their way to a ceremony in Katyn to mark the anniversary of the killing of 22,000 Poles by the Soviet NKVD secret police in 1940. The outpouring of grief from Russian leaders in the aftermath helped thaw relations between the Slavic neighbours. Sunday’s ceremony was broadcast live in Poland and Russia.

Anna Komorowska, wife of President Bronislaw Ko-
morowski who succeeded Kaczynski, said she hoped the visit would help the families complete “the un-
finished mission of their loved ones.”

Poland’s rightist opposition, led by Kaczynski’s twin brother Jaroslaw, has criticised the government of Donald Tusk for not playing a more active role in Moscow’s investigation, and a recent poll showed 62 percent of Poles disapprove of the way Moscow has dealt with the crash in-
quiry.
Landmark Kyrgyz election passes without violence

BISHKEK—Kyrgyz voters cast their ballots on Sunday to create the first parliamentary democracy in Central Asia, in an election many hope can unite the country four months after the worst bloodshed in its modern history.

Unique among elections in ex-Soviet Central Asia, dominated by presidential strongmen, voters pinned hopes on parties jostling for enough parliamentary seats to pick a prime minister who will try to bridge political and ethnic rifts.

“Our people do not suffer from amnesia. Our people know their history. They will rise quickly to create a coalition government and protect it themselves,” Roza Otunbayeva, who had taken over after former opposition leader Kurmanbek Bakiyev, a strongman, voters pinned hopes on parties jostling for enough parliamentary seats to pick a prime minister who will try to bridge political and ethnic rifts.

“Our people do not suffer from amnesia. Our people know their history. They will rise quickly to create a coalition government and protect it themselves,” Roza Otunbayeva, who had taken over after former opposition leader Kurmanbek Bakiyev, a strongman, was chased from office by street protests after a popular revolt.

With 29 parties on the ballot, politicians predicted coalition-building will be needed to forge a parliamentary majority with the right to select a prime minister. “No single party will get enough votes to win a majority in parliament,” Omurbek Tekebayev, leader of the Ata Meken party, told reporters after polls closed. “We will have a coalition government, unless we do not yet know its composition.”

Outside the philharmonia where he spoke in the capital, Ata Meken supporters dressed in red shirts waved flags in time to upbeat party songs blasted from loudspeakers on top of a bus. The United States, which operates a military air base in the country to support the war in Afghanistan, has vocally embraced the plan to create the first parliamentary democracy.

Russia, which also has an air base in Kyrgyzstan, is an opponent of the parliamentary model, arguing it could expose the country to more violence or a power grab by Islamist militants as rival factions vie for influence.

TEHRAN—Iranian Sunni rebels said on Sunday they had kidnapped a nuclear scientist and would publish secrets he knows about Iran’s nuclear programme unless 200 political prisoners were released. Authorities dismissed the threat and denied the man was a nuclear expert, saying he had been a labourer for Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation.

Jundollah rebels seized the man they said was an employee of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation and are holding him in the mountains in their southeastern heartland in Sistan-Baluchestan province, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“If the regime does not free (the prisoners) by next week all the information extracted from Mr Amir Hossein Shirani will be released and the whole world will become aware of the regime’s clandestine nuclear activities,” Jundollah said on its website.

Hamid-Khadem Qaemi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation, said Shirani had worked for a time as a welder and driver for a company linked to the organisation. Iran says its atomic programme is purely peaceful, but suspicions that it is seeking nuclear weapons have led to the imposition of several rounds of international sanctions by the United Nations, the European Union and the United States. Jundollah (God’s Soldiers) says it is fighting for the rights of the Baluch people facing “genocide”. It carried out a double suicide attack that killed at least 28 people on July 15 in revenge for the execution of its leader Abdolmalek Rigi.

A local resident casts his ballot into a portable ballot box at his house, while a member of a local electoral commission stands nearby, during parliamentary elections in the village of Kyzyl-Berlik, some 30 km (18 miles) southeast of the capital Bishkek on Sunday.
North Korea’s heir debuts at giant military parade

PYONGYANG—North Korea’s leader-in-waiting, the youngest son of ailing ruler Kim Jong-il, took centre stage during a big military parade on Sunday, making his first national appearance in the secretive state.

Kim Jong-un stood near his father on the dais, clapping and saluting thousands of goose-stepping soldiers, and reviewing missiles, tanks and artillery rockets.

The young Kim’s prominent role at the parade in Pyongyang’s Kim Il-sung Square marked his military debut and showed him standing in one of the world’s largest armies. Until his appearance as a general last month—along with his naming to a key political post—little was known about the young Kim other than that he was educated in Switzerland.

“The future of our country is rosy and bright because Kim Jong-un was elected vice chairman of the military commission of the Workers’ Party,” said a government official, who asked not to be identified.

“We have a proverb in Korean that great teachers produce great students and great parents produce great children. Kim Jong-il is healthy enough to lead our country and to give spot guidance in every field including economic, agricultural, industrial, military and arts.”

Kim Jong-il, 68, is believed to have suffered a stroke in 2008 but he has shown no sign of losing his grip on power and was reappointed last month as secretary-general of the ruling Workers’ Party. He stood for over an hour during the parade and waved to the crowds, but limped noticeably and reached to the balcony for support.

State television broadcast the parade live, giving North Koreans their first real look at their next leader, known only to be in his mid-30s.

Success would be a relief to North Korea’s economically powerful neighbours—China, South Korea and Japan—which worry that a regime collapse could result in massive refugee flows and domestic unrest.

The young Kim, the third son of the ailing leader, is poised to continue dynastic rule in the isolated state which also has ambitions to develop nuclear weapons.

Among the guests at the parade, the biggest in the North in “years,” were foreign diplomats and Communist Party officials from China—destitute North’s only major ally on which it reposed for food and fuel aid.

Foreign media were also invited to watch the parade which marked the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Workers’ Party and gave the world its first independent look at the protege.

Kim Jong-il, who now has a large, unexplained mark on the right side of his face, was greeted with thunderous applause and chants of “Long Live Kim Jong-il.”

Thousands of soldiers marched to the tune of brass bands in the square, dominated by a giant portrait of the state’s founder, Kim Il-sung.

A sea of red and pink flowers, waved by spectators, served as a backdrop to the show of power.

“This military parade shows that we are certain of success if the United States dares to attack us,” said Kim Yoon-jong 21, a factory worker at the parade wearing traditional red, white and pink dress.

“We have a single mind, which is stronger than nuclear weapons,” she said through a translator.

Later on Sunday, father and son returned to a brightly lit Kim Il-sung square for a fireworks display and a spectacular pageant of dancing and music. The military parade was the climax of celebrations which started at the end of last month with the staging of a rare party conference to pick a new leadership.

After months of speculation, the untested Jong-un was made second-in-command to his father on the ruling party’s powerful Central Military Commission, as well as being appointed a party Central Committee member.

Rising with him were the leader’s sister Kyong-hui and her husband, creating a powerful triumvirate ready to take over the family dynasty that has ruled North Korea since its founding after World War Two.

China detains wife of peace prize winner

WASHINGTON—Chinese authorities are detaining the wife of jailed Chinese dissident and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo after Beijing apartment, a U.S. human rights group said on Sunday.

In a statement, Freedom Now said that Liu Xia has not been charged with a crime but has not been allowed to leave her home or use her mobile telephone after visiting her husband in jail to tell him about his award.

When he heard the news, Liu Xiaobo cried and said the Nobel “award is for the Tiananmen martyrs,” according to the Washington-based group, which said it represents the Chinese dissident. The group works worldwide for the release prisoners of conscience and provides free legal counsel.

Freedom Now lawyer and spokeswoman Beth Schwance said one of the group’s human rights specialists, Yang Jianli, obtained news of Liu Xia’s detention from a source in China they could not name over fears that the informant would also be detained. “Liu is under enormous pressure,” said Jianli, who the group said is currently in Taiwan.

Liu Xiaobo won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for two decades of non-violent struggle over human rights, infuriating China, which called the award “an obscenity.”

The prize shines a spotlight on human rights in China at a time when it is starting to play a leading role on the global stage as a result of its growing economic might.

Liu has been in and out of jail since 1989, when he joined student protesters on a hunger strike days before the army crushed the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement. He received the Nobel prize in December for subversion of state power.

Liu Xia said on Friday she was being taken to visit her husband in jail but that police were preventing her from talking to reporters.

China’s party of choice

Sudan’s president warns of greater conflict with south

Khartoum—Sudan’s president accused former South Sudan of breaking the terms of a peace deal, warning worse conflict could erupt if the sides did not settle disputes before a vote on secession due in January.

The comments from President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, reported on state media, raised the stakes in a war of words between Khartoum and the south’s dominant Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), five years after the side signed a dozen years of conflict with an accord.

In three months’ time, that peace deal is supposed to come to a climax with a referendum giving the people of the oil-producing south the right to decide whether to declare independence or stay part of Sudan.

Bashir expressed his regret over the retreat of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (now the dominant party in the south) from its commitment which was stipulated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, reported state news agency Suna.

This happened through “the overt declaration of the SPLM leader (and South Sudan president) Salva Kiir, that he stands in favor of the separation of the south from the Republic,” Bashir said.

Suna quoted Bashir as saying in a speech in Sirte, Libya.

The 2005 peace deal said northern and southern leaders must try to make unity “attractive” to southerners before the vote. Bashir said he was still committed to holding the vote but both sides first had to agree the position of their shared border and how to share out oil, debt and Nile river water.

“He (Bashir) said a new conflict between the north and south will ensue if there was a failure to address these issues before the referendum and that such a conflict could be more dangerous than the one that took place before the peace agreement” said Suna, reporting on the speech which Bashir gave on Saturday.

The last north-south conflict, Africa’s longest civil war, killed about 2 million people and forced 4 million to flee.
To view, please call Zavate: 543-1075 and speak to Ravi.

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WASHINGTON — Emerging market finance leaders came to the center of Western power this weekend and dispensed advice to the world’s richest nations.

Three years into a financial crisis spawned in the United States, advanced nations are realizing that China, Brazil and other fast-growing economies have something to teach the rich world about surviving financial turmoil. The International Monetary Fund could provide the right classroom, provided its old-guard leadership of Europe and the United States can finally put ego aside and agree to do dynamic emerging markets their proper place.

“There has been a distinct resistance among many (Western) policymakers to applying ‘emerging markets lessons’ to some of the challenges their countries are facing,” said former IMF official Mohamed El-Erian, the co-chief investment officer at PIMCO, the world’s largest bond fund. The IMF is uniquely placed to be the trusted adviser.

A common thread running through the weekend IMF meetings in Washington was that countries are pursuing national policies in a fruitless effort to solve global problems. It is still not clear any nation is ready to act for the global good to speed the recovery or fix long-standing imbalances between cash-rich exporters and indebted consumer countries.

Finance ministers of advanced nations agreed to give the Fund heightened powers to oversee their economies, but that has been tried before without much success. While concrete action was lacking, the meetings showcased the growing influence of emerging markets, who are on the verge of winning a greater share of IMF power. The IMF’s steering committee was chaired by Egyptian Finance Minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali, and hints of a developing world perspective were visible in the committee’s closing statement.

The communiqué, representing the consensus of all 187 IMF member states, said the Fund needs to be more even-handed in examining economies to ensure advanced nations don’t evade scrutiny.

In another testament to the growing importance of emerging markets, investors flocked to Washington to gain insight from—and access to—policymakers from Asia, Africa and Latin America, where generous returns have drawn an unminor legislation, such as investment money from the rich world.

“The most striking feature of these meetings was on the private side, where recordattendances reflected a frenzy of interest in emerging market stocks and bonds,” said Kenneth Rogoff, a Harvard University professor and former IMF chief economist. “Nothing policymakers were saying about potential risks seemed to make any dent in rising appetites. Emerging market power will likely be on display next month, as well, when Group of 20 leaders meet in South Korea. One aim of the G20 summit is to be held in a developing country, is to link an agreement on redistributing IMF voting and executive board power to better reflect emerging markets’ growing share of the global economy.

No such deal has been reached, however, and the United States and Europe remain far from agreement on who exactly should give ground so that newcomers can gain more clout. This is part of the reason why the IMF has a reputation for speaking loudly but carrying no stick to force countries to listen to its advice.

Advocated economies control the IMF’s purse strings and the internal power and don’t want to listen to policy lectures. Emerging markets that turned to the IMF for financial help during the Asian and Latin American crises in the 1990s have bad memories and don’t want to be subjugated again.

IMF officials know that in order to be respected, their internal power must reflect the real-world pecking order, and Europe and the United States will have to cede some control. “There is no bigger say of emerging market economies in the IMF is absolutely necessary to give the Fund the legitimacy to do (its) job,” Brazilian Central Bank President Henrique Meirelles said.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said if countries expect greater IMF representation, they must be willing to take the IMF’s advice, a thinly veiled reference to China’s pledge to put $100 billion into the Chinese currency to rise.

The advice ought to go both ways, PIMCO’s El-Erian said. Rich countries have pulled every policy lever yet still cannot generate growth fast enough to drag down high unemployment, a predicament that El-Erian dubbed “active inertia.”

Policymakers have not had much success because they are “reacting with the familiar rather than the effective” and would be well served to listen to ideas from countries that have been through financial crises and recovered, he said.

Many of the so-called “Class of 1998” countries that endured financial crises learned the dangers of overborrowing and over-leverage, and have since built up huge cash reserves as a form of self-insurance against future trouble. U.S. businesses and consumers are doing the same thing now, much to the frustration of President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who have poured trillions of dollars into the economy to try to kickstart growth.

Witness the unusual amount of $700 billion that U.S. companies are hoarding on their balance sheets, and note the extent to which U.S. households are selling their homes to gain cash and bonds,” El-Erian said.

The IMF is the logical place for exchanging ideas. The rich world may finally be ready to listen.
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HOUSTON—As a former oil entrepreneur, Bill White is by no means a foe of Big Oil, the engine at the heart of the Texas economy.

But if the Democrat wins the state governor’s race next month, he will be spending lots of time working with two other resources in abundance in Texas—sun and wind—and trying to make the whole state much more energy efficient. If successful, White could help turn oil-happy Texas into the de facto U.S. leader in alternative energy while Washington’s push toward a low-carbon economy drags on in Congress.

As Houston’s mayor for three terms, White burnished his clean energy credentials by championing efficiency and making the “Petro Metro” the biggest municipal clean energy purchaser in the state. He also proved his mettle as a cool-headed, straight-talking administrator who focused on the bottom line and proved a steely crisis manager after Hurricane Ike barreled through Houston in 2008.

But White, 56, has yet to prove he can win this tough election. Most polls have him trailing Republican Rick Perry, the longest-serving governor in the history of the second most populous U.S. state.

“The guy is darn near a deity in the Houston area,” said Jason Stanford, a political consultant with Stanford Research in Austin, the state capital. “The challenge for him is to make his case to the rest of the state in the time that’s left.”

To his credit, White is already the best Democratic bet in 15 years. “Being a conservative, fiscally careful Democrat puts White in pretty good stead,” said Cal Jillson, a political scientist at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

“The clean energy credentials help distinguish White, but he can’t call Perry a slouch on the matter,” Under Perry’s watch, Texas wind energy bloomed, and the state leads the nation in producing carbon-free electricity from windmills.

Surging interest in renewable energy supplies like wind and solar has made Texas a hotbed for clean energy technology. As governor, observers say White could take the state’s success as the No. 1 U.S. wind energy producer and apply it to the solar industry, harnessing thousands of carbon-free megawatts and boosting the state’s high-tech credentials.

“Like many Texas politicians, White’s position on energy issues is nuanced and complex. As Deputy Energy Secretary under former President Bill Clinton, White worked in a giant federal agency and secured early funds for Texas first wind power. He is no sworn enemy of Big Oil. In his prior career as a businessman, White started an energy company that pursued oil deals in the Caspian Sea. As mayor, he served in a pro-business city that is home to more energy companies than any other U.S. city. However, White has clear pro-environment proclivities. He’s an avid cyclist and public transportation advocate—Houston’s Metro light rail expanded during his watch. As mayor, he made Houston the state’s biggest municipal renewable energy purchaser and won after Houston-area petroleum refiners to reduce their harmful air emissions.
The Colbert Democrats

By Charles Krauthammer

WASHINGTON – A president’s first midterm election is inevitably a referendum on his two years in office. The bad news for Democrats is that President Obama’s “re-elect” number is 38 percent – precisely Bill Clinton’s in October 1994, the eve of the wave election that gave Republicans control of the House for the first time in 40 years.

Yet this same poll found that 65 percent view Obama favorably “as a person.” The current Democratic crisis is not about the man – his alleged lack of empathy, ability to emote, etc., requiring remediation with the backyard, shirt-sleeved shoulder rubbing with the folks – but about the policies.

And the problem with the policies is twofold: ideology and effectiveness. First, Obama, abetted by Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, tried to take a center-right country to the left. They grossly misread the 2008 election. It was a mandate to fix the economy and restore American confidence. Obama read it as a mandate to change the American social contract, giving it a more European social-democratic stamp, by fundamentally extending the reach and power of government in health care, energy, education, finance and industrial policy.

Obama succeeded with the policies. Unfortunately for the Democrats, that and Obama’s other signature achievement – the stimulus – were not exactly what the folks were clamoring for. What they wanted was economic recovery.

Here the Democrats failed the simple test of effectiveness. The economy is extraordinarily weak, unemployment is unacceptably high and the only sure consequence of the stimulus is nearly $1 trillion added to the national debt in a single stroke.

And yet, to these albatrosses of ideological overreach and economic ineffectiveness, the Democrats have managed in the last few weeks to add a third indictment: incompetence.

For the first time since modern budgeting was introduced with the Budget Act of 1974, the House failed to even write a budget. This in a year of extraordinary deficits, rising uncertainty and jittery financial markets. Gold is going through the roof. Confidence in the dollar and the American economy is falling – largely because of massive overhanging debt. Yet no budget emerged from Congress to give guidance, let alone re-assurance, about future U.S. revenues and spending.

That’s not all. Congress has not passed a single appropriations bill. To keep the government going, Congress passed a so-called continuing resolution (CR) before adjourning to campaign. The problem with continuing to spend at the current level is that the last two years have seen a huge 28 percent jump in non-defense discretionary spending. The CR continues this profligacy, agitating an already serious debt problem.

As if this was not enough, Congress then adjourned without even a vote – nay, without even a Democratic bill – on the expiring Bush tax cuts. This is the ultimate in incompetence. After 20 months of control of the White House and Congress – during which they passed an elaborate, 1,000-page micromanagement of every detail of American health care – the Democrats adjourned without being able to tell the country what its tax rates will be on January 1.

It’s not just income taxes. It’s capital gains and dividends too. And the estate tax, which will careen independently from 0 to 55 percent when the ball drops on Times Square on New Year’s Eve.

Nor is this harmless incompetence. To do this at a time when $2 trillion of capital is sitting on the sidelines because of rising uncertainty – and there is no greater uncertainty than next year’s tax rates – is staggeringly irresponsible.

As if this display of unseriousness – no budget, no appropriations bill, no tax bill – was not enough, some genius on a House Judiciary subcommittee invites parodist Stephen Colbert to testify as an expert witness on immigration. He then pulls off a nifty mockery of the whole proceedings – my favorite was his request to have his colonoscopy inserted in the Congressional Record – while the chairwoman sits there clueless.

A fitting end for the 111th Congress. But not quite. Colbert will return to the scene of the crime on October 30 as the leader of one of two mock rallies on the National Mall. Comedian Jon Stewart leads the other. At a time of near-10 percent unemployment, a difficult and draining war abroad, and widespread disgust with government overreach and incompetence, they will light up the TV screens as the hip face of the new liberalism – just three days before the election.

I suspect the electorate will declare itself not amused.
To be poor is indeed a crime

— Jamaica Observer Editoral, October 08, 2010

The veteran Reggae artiste Mr Freddie McGregor really couldn’t have said it any better than he did in his song, To Be Poor Is A Crime. For although we suspect he was really refer-

ring to paucity of the pocket, it is an undeniable fact that in this society, poverty in any form - the mind, the spirit, one’s values and attitudes - carries a sanction that can only be classified as a consequence of the social context in which you look at it, the same might be said of crumbling. No matter how we choose to view it, it all comes down to poverty - poverty of intellect, assuming the houses were sanctioned by the municipal authorities; poverty of the State’s regulatory machinery, assuming they were constructed illegally.

It’s been almost a week now since the passage of Tropical Storm Nicole which ravaged, in addition to the Tucker bridge, several other aspects of the country’s infrastructure. Yet we are still being flooded with reports that many communities remain cut off from main roads with very little idea as to when normalcy will be restored. Major moves upon which much of the running of the country’s business depends remain devastated, even as the obvious need for viable alternatives becomes even more so. The worst thing about all of this is that we’re not out of the woods yet as far as the inclement weather is concerned.

What, God forbid, will happen if another storm hits us? According to the Meteorological Service of Jamaica in Wednesday’s edition, the forecast for the island is an increase in showers and thunderstorms throughout the weekend, due to a broad area of low pressure over the eastern Caribbean.

How will the existing and planned infrastructure - the Bailey bridge that is to be installed in John’s Hall, for example - hold up under this? Surely the plan can’t be to replicate the bridges, roads and what not and then just sit around waiting for them to crumble under the next onslaught of bad weather?

It is said that one of the surest signs of madness is to persist in a course of action that is guaranteed to produce a certain result, in the hope that said consequences will miraculously change. Depending on the context in which you look at it, the same might be said for poverty.

Left to Mourn are:

Her husband: Alfredo Hassell
Children: Manuel Lynch & fam
Alexandra Richardson-Lynch
Renaldo Lynch (deceased), Imelda Lynch
Bianca Every
Franklin Every
Laurel Every & family,
Julio Every (fire chief Saba)

Daughter-in-law: Tara Every
Grandchildren: Arianna Pemberton
Chinissa Thomas
Chyniska Thomas
Sharlene Simmons
Romero/Rachel/Janella Every
Zulema Jordan / Jade Every

Nieces, nephews and other family, friends and neighbors too numerous to mention.

Special cousin: Allan Bustly
Close Friends: Cheryl Gomez, Celia and Marisol,
Lornas Janice, Felicia and Cassandra from the A.M. Medical Center on Saba
the Wilson, Busby, Hassell, Lynch, Every, Thomas, Richardson, Jones, Lake, Gomez, Simmons, Holmes, Caines and Leventon families

The family advices that due to the inclement weather, the funeral services for the late Mary Susan Hassell will be announced at a later date.

Our apologies for any inconvenience caused,

Mary Susan Francisca Hassell
born Wilson
from Saba, better known as Ili Sue or Sue
Sunrise: July 25th, 1939
Sunset: Saturday, October 2nd, 2010

Left to Mourn are:

Her husband: Alfredo Hassell
Children: Manuel Lynch & fam
Alessandra Richardson-Lynch
Renaldo Lynch (deceased), Imelda Lynch
Bianca Every
Franklin Every
Laurel Every & family,
Julio Every (fire chief Saba)

Daughter-in-law: Tara Every
Grandchildren: Arianna Pemberton
Chinissa Thomas
Chyniska Thomas
Sharlene Simmons
Romero/Rachel/Janella Every
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Opinion

Children as the property of the state

Dear Editor,

Remember when people everywhere were outraged at a Cuban diplomat’s remark that Elian Gonzales was the property of the Cuban state? If only our outrage extended to our own homelands! We are living under a system of state schooling, or as it is commonly termed, public compulsory schooling. Under compulsory education and compulsory-attendance laws, the state requires parents to deliver their children to a state institution to receive a state-approved education from a state-approved schoolteacher using state-approved textbooks and follow a state-approved curriculum (socialism).

People look out of their minds that through public schooling, children are effectively made the property of the state. Fidel Castro’s two greatest socialistic accomplishments are free public schooling and free national health care. If a parent in the country St. Maarten resists these policies, the state will ultimately punish him/her by removing his/her children from his/her control and placing them in the custody of state officials.

On the other hand, the state can and will impose an even harsher sanction on the parent. Over the years, many irresponsible women and men had children with no means of supporting them. The result of this is the juvenile criminal delinquency problem we are dealing with today.

Under our form of socialism, the state punishes the wrong party – the parent – for disciplining the juvenile, instead of the juvenile criminal delinquency problem.

Let us give back the power to parents to discipline their children. Furthermore, it is also about time we empower the victims of crime instead of the criminal.

Peter Gunn

Delvina Auguste Maccow

Born on December 27th, 1924. Passed on October 4th, 2010 at the Bethamy Home at age of 86 on the French side of St. Martin. She leaves to mourn her one and only child Similienne Maccow better known as Simi.

The late Delvina Auguste Maccow leaves to mourn a host of nieces too numerous to mention.


We regret to announce the passing of

Delvina Auguste

Maccow

Leaves to mourn his:

Mother: Noreen Maccow (Guyana)
Father: Bertie Maccow (deceased)
Sons: Rondell, Junior and Jermaine
Daughter: Rondell
Brothers: Terrence and Bertie (USA), Brian
Chubbie, Glenford, Steeve, Collin (Guyana), Keith, Benjiah, Gregory, Doctor Glenford Joseph (St. Lucia) and others
Sisters: Shelton (USA), Bernetta (SXM), Patty
Parsaud, Patsy Edwards (Guyana), Marcia and 11 others
Grandchildren: Ashlynn, Shaquan and Shaquelle

Uncles:

(Collin and Alonzo (SXM), Rawle and
Wilber Hatter (SXM), Ianelot, Alonzo, Junior, Veranico, Ravinene, Florence,
Samuel, Michelle, Carin, Keoma, Keville,
Saron, Suzette, Onica, Eva, Maxie,
William and Leroy, Telson, Tessah, Kishana,
Kasa, Kendy, Sharon, Petra, Sandra,
Kevin, Kerrey and Jean and others
Nieces:

Felix, Orin, Andre, Brian, Raymond,
Junior, Manito, the late Kerwin Hatter

We regret to announce the sudden passing of

Roy Hamer

better known as “Dog”

August 18, 1941 - October 4, 2010

Leaves to mourn his:

Father: Roy Hamer (Dec., St. Lucia)
Mother: Noreen Hamer (Guyana)
Sons: Rondell, Junior and Jermaine
Daughter: Ronda Lovern
Uncles: The late Alonzo Hamer and Ulric Hamer
Aunts: Shirley, Evedney, Enid, Alice, Mavis
and others.

Cousin: Collin and Alonzo (SXM), Rawle and
Wilber Hatter (SXM), Ianelot, Alonzo, Junior, Veranico, Ravinene, Florence,
Samuel, Michelle, Carin, Keoma, Keville,
Saron, Suzette, Onica, Eva, Maxie,
William and Leroy, Telson, Tessah, Kishana,
Kasa, Kendy, Sharon, Petra, Sandra,
Kevin, Kerrey and Jean and others
Nieces:

Felix, Orin, Andre, Brian, Raymond,
Junior, Manito, the late Kerwin Hatter

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, October 12th, 2010 at 3:00 pm at the Ebenezer Methodist Church, The Valley, Anguilla. Viewing will be at the church on October 12th, 2010 from 2:00-2:55 pm. Burial will be in the Methodist Cemetery, The Valley, Anguilla.

A charter from St. Maarten will be arranged for persons wanting to attend the funeral in Anguilla leaving St. Maarten at 1:00 pm and leaving Anguilla at 6:00 pm back to St. Maarten. Please contact Mrs. Ada Arrondel in St. Martin at tel: 011-590-590-875029.

Intersment: the Marigot Cemetery
Time to bite economic bullet

--- Daily Nation Editorial, October 10, 2010 ---

It is not a matter of significant moment that Prime Minister David Thompson has appointed a new Minister of finance in the latest reshuffle. The appointment is perhaps a clear consequence of the prime minister’s malady as much as it is recognition that attention must also be paid to an ailing economy, and that such attention requires the efforts of a minister not distracted by his own illness. In our spin-off economy we aim in the main, to provide tourism and international financial services for the metropolitan countries, and it follows, as night follows day, that economic problems “over there” will mean problems over here, and problems in the international economy will mean problems in the domestic. However one looks at it, the bullet will have to be bitten. The Government must as a matter of urgency, reduce its expenditure, and what the economists call “transfers and subsidies”.

Recent European experience suggests that cuts aimed at reducing government expenditure are not popular with voters, especially when the cuts touch the social safety nets or extend the age of retirement; and Britain’s Minister of Finance George Osborne has incurred the wrath of the unions by his proposals for drastic cuts in the social security benefits system. However one looks at it, the bullet will have to be bitten. The Government must as a matter of urgency, reduce its expenditure, and what the economists call “transfers and subsidies”. The Constitution, as amended by the Arthur administration will not permit civil servants’ salaries to be cut, absent another change in the constitution, and therefore “transfers and subsidies” which have grown since 2008 may have to come under the chopping block.

The Government has spoken laudably about the need to create and build a society in contradistinction to building an economy; but it is clear that a proper economic foundation will better support a society rather than the other way round! The new minister of finance has his work cut out, but we feel sure that Barbadians will support policies which though unpalatable, are carefully developed and worked out, properly explained and are workable, and designed to put the economy back on the path to stability.

Such plans and policies must include expenditure cuts on current account reasonably applied, but there must also be increased capital expenditure to boost recovery of the economy. Time is now of the essence brought about in part, by an extraordinary confluence of events. Fortunately we have a level of foreign reserves which leaves us free of IMF clutches, but as the old saying goes, it is minutes to midnight!

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR:
MR. NARI NANDWANI

WE WOULD HEREWITH LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF OUR
BELOVED NARI NANDWANI.


LEFT TO MOURN HIS:
WIFE: MRS. DIVYA NANDWANI
SONS: NAVIN & KARAN NANDWANI
DAUGHTER: BHAVNA NANDWANI
FATHER: MR. DOULATRAM BOOLCHAND NANDWANI
BROTHERS: RAM NANDWANI, HARESH NANDWANI AND LACHU NANDWANI & FAMILIES
SISTERS: SUDHA HARCHANDRAI, BELA WADHWANI, HIS TWIN-SISTER PADMA JASHNAI & FAMILIES

Also left to mourn Director Andre Zwetsloot & Mrs. Winnie Zwetsloot and many other family members and friends here and abroad too numerous to mention. Also Management and Staff of BOOLCHAND-GROUP-OF-COMPANIES ON ST. MAARTEN, ST. THOMAS, CURAÇAO AND ARUBA.

Cremation took place in New York on Wednesday, September 29th, 2010.

Memorial Service will be held at Belair Community Center in Cay Hill (opposite St. Maarten Medical Center) on Monday, October 11th, 2010 from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.

May His Soul Rest in Peace.
People

Dancers perform during the final parade of the Vivamerica festival in central Madrid, Spain on Sunday. The festival celebrates the strength and vitality of Ibero-American culture, both in creative and intellectual spheres.

Michael Jackson basketball raises $294,000 at auction

MACAU—An old, Spalding basketball signed by Michael Jackson and Michael Jordan fetched $294,000 at a “pop culture” auction of celebrity memorabilia, touted as the largest in Asia, in the gambling centre of Macau.

Up to 400 celebrity items were put on the auction block in Macau, including a Marilyn Monroe black lace bra, a pair of Captain Spock’s prosthetic ears, Bruce Lee shoes, a Batman costume and Beatles memorabilia, touted as a “world record.”

Bidding was mixed at times, but picked up substantially for memorabilia linked to the late King of Pop. The basketball—used in the 1992 music video “Jam”—saw ferocious bidding for paddles before an American online bidder finally snared it for $294,000, smashing the ball’s modest pre-sale estimate of $600.

Another star lot, a black Michael Jackson glove and arm brace fetched $216,000, while a BAD era “Beat It” jacket was hammered off for $156,000, more than 19 times its pre-sale estimate.

An earlier sale in June, on the first anniversary of Michael Jackson’s death, also saw strong demand for the pop icon’s former possessions including a Swarovski-crystal-studded glove he wore on his 1984 Victory Tour that sold for $219,400.

Other highlights of the Macau sale, intended to tap into Asia’s growing affluence and infatuation with pop culture, included Michael Keaton’s costume in “Batman Returns” that sold for $43,750 and a burgundy, velvet ball gown worn by Princess Diana, bought by a museum in South America for $114,000.

A Martial arts master Bruce Lee’s yellow adidas sneakers worn in his last, unfinished movie, “Game of Death,” fetched $12,500 while a stunt double costume for the same movie sold for $18,750.

The sale, put on by U.S.-based Julien’s Auctions, which specialises in Hollywood and music industry memorabilia, was held at Macau gambling tycoon Stanley Ho’s casino resort Ponte 16.

Soul singer Burke dies in Amsterdam, aged 70

AMSTERDAM—U.S. soul singer Solomon Burke died at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam on Sunday morning, aged 70, after flying in from Los Angeles, Dutch media reported.

Known as the King of Rock and Soul, the Grammy winner was a preacher turned singer and had released his latest album “Nothing’s Impossible” in April.

He mixed gospel with rhythm and blues and made several soul classics, including the 1964 hit “Somebody to Love.” Famed R&B producer Jerry Wexler referred to him as the “best soul singer of all time,” according to Burke’s Rock and Roll Hall of Fame biography.

Local news agency ANP said Burke was declared dead at the Schiphol morgue and a doctor said he had died of natural causes. His body will be returned to the U.S. next week.

A Schiphol airport spokesman said of the American singer: “He was a real gentleman.”

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Burke called Morrar a “humble man” and said it took her several months to persuade him to be in the documentary. At the beginning of the film he says with painted and hopeful eyes, “We want to raise our kids in peace and hope. We are using a strategy of popular resistance and nonviolence.”

The film has attracted critical acclaim, with The New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof calling it “this year’s must-see documentary” and “a riveting window into what might be possible if Palestinians adopted civil disobedience on a huge scale.” The Guardian called the movie an “eye-opener.”

A Schiphol airport spokesman confirmed Burke had died, but said Burke was declared dead before an American on-looker and a Israeli on-looker saw him for $294,000, smashing the ball’s modest pre-sale estimate of $600.

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Born March 21, 1940 in Philadelphia, Burke started singing in church choirs at a young age and later became a minister. He presented gospel music on a local radio station and made some recordings between 1954 and 1955 before obtaining a contract with Atlantic Records in 1960.

He won a Grammy as recently as 2003, owned a church a funeral enterprise and a limousine rental service. He was known for his showmanship and on stage would sometimes sit on a stage, resplendent in regal robes. He had 21 children and 90 grandchildren.

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BERLIN--Israeli writer David Grossmann won the prestigious peace prize of the German book trade on Sunday for his efforts to reconcile his country with the Palestinians.

Grossman’s son Uri, then in the Israeli military, was killed during the Israel-Lebanon conflict in 2006 by a Hezbollah missile just days after Grossman and other writers demanded a ceasefire. He worked through this loss in “To the End of the Land”, published in 2008—a novel that tells the story of a woman’s decision to leave her home so that if her soldier son is killed in war, the news will not reach her.

“In his novels, essays and stories, Grossman has consistently sought to understand and describe not only his own position, but also the opinions of those who think differently,” the German Publishers’ and Booksellers’ Association said.

Grossman’s literary work has dealt largely with his country’s identity and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He has often called for a peaceful solution and for restraint from his country.

In his acceptance speech in the Church of St Paul in Frankfurt, Grossman, 56, said Germany was an example of a country that had risen from destruction and educated its youth in the spirit of peace. “I wish that my country Israel will find the strength to rewrite its history again,” he said. “… that it will learn to meet its history and its tragedy in a new way, and that from that it will create itself anew.”

The 25,000 euro prize is traditionally awarded on the final day of the Frankfurt Book Fair, the world’s largest, to individuals who have contributed to international tolerance in the fields of literature, science and art.

Grossman had started “To the End of the Land” three years before his son’s death. “A day after the end of the week of mourning, I returned to my desk and continued to write on the book,” said Grossman. “I discovered again that writing was the best way for me to fight arbitrariness, any kind of arbitrariness, and the feeling of being at its mercy like a helpless victim.”

NEW YORK—Rapper Lil Wayne may still be biding his time on gun charges, but that hasn’t stopped developers of videogame “Def Jam Rapstar” from launching an interactive karaoke game featuring him and other hip-hop stars.

Lil Wayne, who is serving a sentence in New York on a gun possession charge, has been among the key promotional faces of “Def Jam Rapstar” which aims to cash in on the craze for music-related video games in at least one unique way. The game’s developers hope to take the genre a step further by linking it to a social networking website in which gamers face-off with their karaoke recordings of hip-hop songs.

“This is actually one of the first video games to really include a social media platform, and that’s going to make all the difference because hip-hop is very social,” said Scott Steinberg, video game analyst at consultancy Tech Savvy.

The game, released this week on Microsoft XBox, Sony PS3 and Nintendo Wii, comes loaded with over 40 old and new hip-hop classics such as Notorious B.I.G. “Big Poppa”, Nelly’s “Hot in Here” and Lil Wayne’s “A Milli”.

The concept is simple. In classic karaoke style, the user selects a song to rhyme over, matching the words and pitch as the music video flashes in the background. The twist, however, is that all of this can be recorded on video, edited and uploaded to the game’s website.

The website, www.defjamrapstar.com, is a sort of Youtube and Facebook mash-up where users are meant to “battle” one another, competing for votes determining whose filmed rendition of a particular song is best. “Listen, at the end of the day, we wanted everybody to have an opportunity to rap to their favorite songs, to rap over the hottest tracks from producers around the world and to battle people around the world,” Kevin Liles, Def Jam Enterprises president, told Reuters.

The rap aspect, however, might be what will keep the game from being a smash hit, said Michael Pachter, video games analyst at equity research firm Wedbush Securities. “Rap is harder to actually do,” Pachter said, alluding to other games that might just involve strumming a plastic guitar.

“The market’s pretty saturated,” he said, adding “karaoke games are not that popular in the United States.” Others were more enthusiastic. “It’s a fantastic game,” said Jermaine Hall, chief editor of Vibe magazine. “I can see a hardcore hip-hop fan in Japan battling somebody in America.”

Previous games on rap culture might have been like “oh, ok hip-hop culture, how can we create some caricatures?” Steinberg said, but “Def Jam Rapstar” is “the first game that really captures what hip-hop is all about.”

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By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clement

Today's birthday (October 11) -- If you obsess over personal issues, you lose power in the social or career arena. Overcome this tendency by detailing work priorities and sharing the list with family members. That way they'll know what's on your plate and understand your moods better.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Combine romance with work today by including your partner in social events involving clients and co-workers. Use creativity to make it really fun.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Your many talents take you in different directions now. Follow the traditional wisdom as far as it will take you. Then be willing to branch out.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Work closely with children and elders to produce better results. You share talents you may not know about. Listen and learn from each other.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) -- Today is a 6 -- A friend or associate brings a gift to a social event at your place, sparking the interests and talents of all guests. Let others play first.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Work and play interweave in an unusual way today. Time away from a problem often allows a solution to emerge. Other imaginations provide the missing key.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Shop for supplies early in the day, so everyone has what they need to get their work done. Capture imagination with the right tools.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Even if you have to work today, make time for recreational activities. You don't need to push that stone uphill all day. Hand it off to someone.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Allow your thinking to wander now. Blurred focus is just what you need, as you apply artistic talents. Use a light touch and broad stroke.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- When issues impinge on your core values, pay attention. You don't want to give up something important to your philosophy. Others suggest solutions.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- The more you work within your sphere of comfort, the more you accomplish. Associates see broader possibilities for future consideration.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- You need to clarify a philosophical point if the group's to move forward. You may call in an expert to clarify specific details and concerns.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- No one knew what you'd say today, not even yourself. The big surprise is that everyone agrees and wonders why they didn't think of it themselves.
Dear Queenie,

I moved into a new neighbourhood not too long ago and I like it very much except for one thing. One of the neighbours, a middle-aged man, has a habit of staring into other people’s windows. He doesn’t sneak around the houses, but he walks up and down the street every evening and you can see him stop and stare at each house he passes. Queenie, isn’t this kind of creepy?—Elderly lady

Dear Elderly lady,

It depends. If he’s staring from the street, he probably isn’t looking into anyone’s bedroom. And if people leave their doors and/or windows open and un-curtained, they probably aren’t doing anything they want to keep private.

This man may be lonely, or he may be a member of some sort of neighbourhood watch group, keeping an eye out for unusual or suspicious activity. Ask some of your neighbours about him. If they know him, they can explain his actions to you. And if they don’t, you will have alerted them to what he is doing – if they didn’t already know.

Only notices of fund-raising events for non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices columns. Events/Notices should be sent to notices@thedailyherald.com in the format used on this page. Do not send fliers or press releases to this address.

Tuesday, October 12

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Parents of children with ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia, Autism and other learning disorders, either diagnosed or suspected, are invited to attend and gain support, get information or share information. Professionals & teachers welcome. Snacks. Call 559-8889 for more info.

Guest Speaker: Various Professionals from local schools Topic: How to Navigate the School System & Advocate for Your Child.

Place: Philipsburg Library - Conference Room

Time: 7:00 pm

Hosted by: Love of Kids & the Sedna Foundation

Sunday October 24

WALKRUN

St. Maarten Roadrunners Fatum loop
3k, 10k run, 8k walk
Start 10k 6:45am, 3k 7:00am
Registration Saturday Oct 23, 1:00-5:00pm at Tri-Sport
More info: 55-67815

Saturday, October 30

CONCERT OF SACRED, CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The choirs of the Anglican (Episcopal) Church in St. Maarten/St. Martin present “Voices in Praise,” a concert of sacred and contemporary music.

DATE: Saturday, October 30

PLACE: Belair Community Center

TIME: 7:30 pm

PRICE: US$15

Tickets available from members of the vestry or call 559-7793. Please reserve the date and support this fundraising effort.

Kinetic Team Swimming Team

Super Splash Swimming Team started the new swimming season and is registering swimmers, in possession of swimming diploma A, to register to become a speed/competitive swimmer. The club is training in the pool of Raoul Ilidge Sports Complex in Cay Hill on Wednesdays, Fridays, and on Saturdays from 4:00 – 5:00pm.

Contact Coach Raymond for more information, at 523-0142 or 5819151 or email to supersplashxsm@gmail.com

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Love Goddess, Helps all problems, Removes obstacles, Clear negativity, Removes all bad luck, luck, success, commitment, inner-peace.

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100% RESULTS - GUARANTEED IN 3 DAYS ON APPOINTMENT EVERYDAY

CALL: 580-9290 / (0590) 690-23721

NOTICES

Book Sale

Philipsburg Jubilee Library invites the public to a used books sale at the Library on Saturday October 16 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Single copies go for US$1, hard covers US$0.50 cents and US$0.25 cents for magazines.

Naturalization Results

Candidates who sat the Naturalization Examination Part 1 on September 4 and 6 are requested to pick up the results of this test. The results will be issued on: Tuesday, October 12 through Friday, October 15 between 9:00am – 2:30pm at Brooks Tower, Falcon 1 Harbour View. Candidates who were recommended to sit the Naturalization Examination Part 2 on October 23, are requested to pick up their summons in person with a valid picture ID and receipt of bank payment at the above mentioned dates and location. Notes: Dates or time than stated will be entertained. Without the summons you cannot sit the exam.

Swim Team

Caribbean Swim and Sports Academy has started swimming classes for children (age 3 and up), teenagers and adults. Beginners, intermediate, advanced or competition level swimmers will be accepted.

Activities: Aqua-gym, Baby swimmers, Swim Team Competition Groups, Masters Training, etc. Information, Tests and Registration at Belair Health and Fitness Club every Saturday morning from 11:00am to 12:00pm. Contact Coach Romain for more information.

Swim Classes

Free Clinical Screenings throughout October

The following is a schedule of free clinical breast examinations offered throughout the month of October. This event is in collaboration with the health care providers listed below and the Positive Foundation.

Union Road Clinic; Cole Bay, Oct 6, 13, 20 and 27, 9:00am – 5:00pm
Bash Road Clinic; Bash Road, Oct 23, 10:00am-12noon
Dr. Spencer; Saunder, Oct 23, 10:00am-12noon
Dr. Deketh & Associates; Mullet Bay, Oct 27, 2000pm – 4:00pm
Dr. Zamora Perez; Orange Grove, Oct 28, 3:00pm – 4:00pm
Road Bash Clinic; Road Bash, Oct 30, 10:00am – 12noon

Music Classes

Foundation for Hope and Music Development is registering swimmers, in possession of swimming diploma A, to register to become a speed/competitive swimmer. The club is training in the pool of Raoul Ilidge Sports Complex in Cay Hill on Wednesdays, Fridays, and on Saturdays from 4:00 – 5:00pm.

Contact Coach Raymond for more information, at 523-0142 or 5819151 or email to supersplashxsm@gmail.com

Grand Parade

All interested persons, foundations, organizations, service clubs, etc. are invited to participate in a Grand Parade to be held on Sunday October 10 for the Celebration of “Country St. Maarten”. All interested entities can contact Jennifer Thomas at the Bureau for Foreign Relations at Tel: 542-0640 or Cell: 523-2855 or Urman “Youmay” Dormoy at Cell: 522-1647

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Nadal downs Monfils to win Japan Open

TOYKO-- World number one Rafa Nadal overpowered Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-1, 7-5 to win the Japan Open on Sunday, capping a week of “Nadal Fever” in Tokyo.

It was the Spaniard’s seventh title of the year and improved his tournament record to 66-8 after a flawless match in which Monfils failed to force a single break point. “I want to finish the season well and winning titles is a prefect way to finish,” Nadal told reporters. “It’s difficult to keep winning. I have to enjoy these moments because you never know when they will end.”

“I’m going to try to keep it going in Shanghai (next week) and the rest of the season and in London (ATP Tour Finals) -- the most difficult tournament for me.”

“Gael is a great player. He beat me in 2009 and we had a tough match at the U.S. Open the same year. But I played really well today.”

Nadal bounced onto the court like a prizefighter and quickly had fifth seed Monfils on the ropes with some brutal hitting from the baseline.

He wrapped up the first set with a ferocious forehand down the line but Monfils, who survived a fright when he took an early tumble and turned his ankle, raised his game in the second.

The Frenchman’s extra energy gave the match its highlight point in the 10th game when he scrambled to return two overheads from Nadal. Monfils charged the net after clawing back the second and dived in front of Nadal, whose third smash narrowly missed giving Monfils a sore backside, after which the two men touched hands.

Luck deserted Monfils in the next game, a net cord giving Nadal break point and the Spaniard nosed ahead 6-5 when a sliced backhand return floated past Monfils and landed flush on the line.

Nadal delivered the knockout punch in the next game, a big serve to the body ending the match and giving this year’s triple grand slam champion a 43rd career title.

He celebrated by striking a gunfighter’s pose as a packed crowd of 10,000 in Tokyo erupted in cheers.

Nadal, a nine-times grand slam winner, pocketed $260,000 for winning on his debut in Japan.

The end of the match triggered a stampede for Nadal’s autographs and it took him 20 minutes to leave the court as he signed everything from baseball caps to teddy bears.

“I think Rafa likes my game of tennis and I never found a solution to give him any trouble,” Monfils said. “He is so tough to play against.”

تيني تغلب على إنجلترا في مباراة تعادل

أعلن مدرب منتخب إنجلترا تيري أنه لن يكون قادرًا على التمثيل في مباراتي المعتادة في الأسبوع المقبل.

أ買いinactive during England’s defeat to Germany in the World Cup, Terry has struggled to find his rhythm and has been criticized for his lack of leadership.

Terry's absence could give younger players a chance to impress, but it will also be a blow to England's prospects of progressing in the tournament.

The England manager Fabio Capello has said that Terry is an important player for the team and that his absence will be felt.

Terry is expected to miss the rest of the group stage, and his exclusion could open the door for other players to step up and take the team further in the tournament.
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Stewards later handed Petrov a five-place penalty on the starting grid for his next race. Behind the leaders, sev-en-times world champion Schumacher finished sixth after battling with Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg, who crashed. Sauber's Kamui Kobayashi was the big crowd pleaser, finishing seventh after a feisty, attacking drive that saw himbang wheels and muscle past a series of rivals from 14th on the grid. Germany's Nicky Hayden made it a double points finish for the Swiss-based team with Brazilian Rubens Barrichello ninth for Williams and Switzerland's Sebastien Buemi collecting the final point for Toro Rosso.

Finland's Heikki Kovalainen gave Lotus Racing their best finish yet, and the best by a new team, in 12th place. It was the championship leaders' third one-two finish in 16 races. Red Bull now have 426 points to McLaren's 381 in the constructors' standings. In an eventful race run in bright sunshine after heavy rain had made the track undriveable on Saturday and forced qualifying to be postponed to Sunday morning, the safety car was deployed for five laps after mayhem at the start. Renault's Russian rookie Vitaly Petrov pilled into the wall after colliding with Williams' Nico Hulkenberg, while Ferrari's Brazilian Felipe Massa tangled with Force India's Italian Vitantonio Liuzzi.

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**India hopesing Delhi will be springboard for Asian Games**

NEW DELHI-- India hopes to use the Commonwealth Games as a springboard for its athletes at next month’s Asian Games in Guangzhou, an official said on Sunday.

India finished eighth on the medals table with 10 golds in the last edition of the Asian Games in Doha and hoped to do better in China, Bhubaneswar Kalita, chief de mission for the Indian contingent at the Delhi Games, said.

“The performance here has raised our hopes for the upcoming Asian Games,” Kalita, a career politician from the Indian state of Assam, said.

The 16th edition of the Asian Games will take place in Guangzhou from Nov. 12-27.

“These are the same athletes who would be in action in Guangzhou and we hope to perform well,” India’s athletes have raised the bar in Delhi and are second with 26 gold medals, ahead of England and Canada and behind powerhouse Australia.

“We have the advantage of being the hosts. We are participating in all events and the chance to choose our disciplines have helped us too,” he added.

The Commonwealth Games must include a minimum of 10 core sports on the programme and hosts are allowed to choose up to an additional seven from a list of optional sports, with a maximum of four team sports on their programme.

India chose wrestling, table tennis, tennis, archery, cycling, diving and shooting for the 2010 Games.

NEW DELHI-- A 19,000 full house roared India’s men’s hockey team to a crushing 7-4 victory over rivals Pakistan on Sunday, giving the Commonwealth Games the sort of pageant and passion the event had been lacking.

While many athletes have competed in front of near-empty stands during these Games, there was no question of anything but a sellout at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, where India secured a place in the semi-finals amid a party atmosphere, complete with Bollywood music.

“The crowd was excellent,” Indian striker Shivendra Singh said. “The pressure was on them (Pakistan) right from the start. They had quite a few new players and the inexperience put them under pressure.”

Cricket may be more popular in India but hockey is the country’s national game and a clash with old adversaries Pakistan can stir the emotions.

Hockey’s popularity in India stems from a glorious past. The men’s team won six successive Olympic golds from 1928-56 but the team has been in steady decline since then.

However, beating the old adversaries once again made headlines as the news bulletins led on the group stage win ahead of the five golds that India won on Sunday.

Political relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours, who have fought three wars, were frozen when Pakistan-based militants killed more than 160 people during a three-day siege of Mumbai in 2008.

Every attacking move from India resulted in passionate fans going berserk and India during the World Cup,” Pakistan’s Rehan Butt said.

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**Fans rejoice as India beat Pakistan to reach semis**

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**Injured Serena likely out for rest of year**

LONDON-- Serena Williams is likely to be out for the rest of the year after she re-injured her right foot from over-training, she said on Sunday.

Williams had earlier pulled out of next week’s Linz tournament in Austria.

However on Sunday she said the pain she felt on Saturday after training had meant she was now likely to be out for the rest of the year.

“I felt discomfort in my foot and tests by my doctor revealed that I had unfortunately re-strained it, as a result of over training (and) I am likely out for the year now,” Williams said on her official website.

“I was really looking forward to beginning my comeback in Linz, followed by the year-end championships in Doha.

“I feel completely heartbroken, and devastated, but knowing I will never be given more than I can handle I plan on coming back stronger and better...”

“However, in order not to make this worse, I have to chill on my physical workouts but I will immediately begin rehabbing as soon as I get the Doc’s OK.”

The American, who has not played since she won the 13th grand slam at Wimbledon, had surgery after she cut her foot on broken glass at a restaurant.

“I get the Doc’s OK.”

**Freire gives Spain Paris-Tours win**

TOURS, France-- Oscar Freire corrected a cycling oddity when he became the first Spaniard to win the Paris-Tours classic on Sunday.

The race, often described as a world championship for sprinters, has been held since 1896 and it was only fitting for the three-times world champion, probably his country’s greatest sprinter, to set the record straight.

“It was a fine consolation for Freire despite a stage for Freire despite a few climbs on the 233-km course.

The RadioShack rider, the last of a group of eight early breakaways, attacked 11 km from the finish on the Beausoleil hill, one of the few peaks on the 233-km course.

But the bunch had timed their move well, setting the stage for Freire despite a great preparation job by Furlan’s Lampre team mates.

The season ends next week in Italy with the Tour of Lombardy.
Sports

Same old story as Yanks sweep Twins

NEW YORK-- Last year the Twins went to a 163rd game to clinch a post-season berth. This year Minnesota strolled into the playoffs after claiming the AL Central crown by six games.

Different scenarios but the same post-season result -- a three-game sweep at the hands of the New York Yankees, who ran their string of playoff games wins to nine in a row against Minnesota.

"You’re always the underdogs when you’re facing the Yankees," left-fielder Delmon Young told reporters in a sombre Twins clubhouse after Saturday’s 6-3 loss ended their American League division series.

"They came at us with (pitchers CC) Sabathia, (Andy) Pettitte and Phil Hughes and they had their best lineup in baseball. You just have to tip your caps."

First baseman Michael Cuddyer said failures in clutch situations led to Minnesota’s 12th successive post-season defeat dating back to 2004.

"They hit. We didn’t," said Cuddyer. "That’s what it comes down to. Especially in big situations with runners in scoring position. You’ve got to give them credit."

Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire may have been in denial when he disagreed with the notion that the Yankees had been dominating the Twins.

"I think if you just look at the games, I don’t think it’s called domination. They find a way to win," he said.

"We had chances, tons of chances in a 6-4 loss in the first game. The next game (5-2) went their way. A little break here and there. "Tonight, yeah, they dominated us tonight. But I think if you look at all the games between us, a mistake here, a mistake there and the game could be turned the other way. "Right now we’re in a little rut here. We can’t seem to put it together."

Heavy rain postpones China finals Monday

BEIJING-- The singles finals at the China Open will be completed on Monday after heavy rain halted play in a smoggy Olympic tennis centre on Sunday with champion Novak Djokovic leading Spain’s David Ferrer 3-1 in the men’s showdown.

New world number one Caroline Wozniacki did not even make it to court and will have to wait another 24 hours before she can face Russian second seed Vera Zvonareva in the women’s showpiece.

Djokovic and Ferrer stepped on court four and half hours later than scheduled. After the dangerous smog that has blighted this week’s tournament gave way to a heavy downpour.

When the rain finally re-entertained, stewards hastily wiped down the hard court before the players were called on to Lotus Centre Court.

Duminy leads South Africa to narrow win over Zimbabwe

KIMBERLEY, South Africa-- JP Duminy smashed a South African record score of 96 not out to lead the home side to an eight-run victory over Zimbabwe in a Twenty20 International on Sunday.

South Africa, who clinched the series 2-0, piled up 194 for six and Zimbabwe made a spirited reply with a national record total of 186 for seven.

Duminy’s first 50 came from a measured 37 balls but his next 17 deliveries produced 46 runs, the middle-order batsman hitting 10 fours and four sixes.

Opener Graeme Smith contributed 46 from 29 balls to add to his 55 in the first match in Bloemfontein which South Africa won by seven wickets.

Zimbabwe refused to be overawed by the daunting total and were ahead of the asking rate at the halfway point thanks to half centuries from opener Brendan Taylor (59 from 39 balls) and Chamu Chibhabha (58 from 41). But crafty death bowling from Rusty Theron stifled the chase and earned the seamer with a reputation for producing wickets on demand figures of two for 26 from his four overs.

The teams begin a three-match one-day international series in Bloemfontein on Monday.
Resurgent Redskins stun Packers in overtime 16-13

LANDOVER, Maryland-- The Washington Redskins won successive games for the first time since 2008 when they shocked the Green Bay Packers 16-13 in overtime on Sunday in a gritty, defensive-minded affair at FedEx Field.

Graham Gano kicked a 33-yard field goal with 8:06 left in overtime to help the Packers move to 2-3 after the resurgent Redskins move to 2-3 on the season and snap a four-game losing streak to the Packers.

After Gano’s kick sailed left in overtime to help the Packers.

“I really didn’t see it go through at all,” said Gano, whose 45-yarder with 1:07 left in regulation tied the score at 13-13. “Coach has been telling me to keep my head down. That’s a key factor in whether I make or miss a kick.”

“So my whole thought process was keep my head down and follow through. It helped a lot. I didn’t see the ball go through until it hit the net.”

Gano’s game-winner was set up when Redskins safety LaRon Landry picked off a poorly thrown ball by Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers at the Green Bay 39 with 11:30 left in overtime.

Washington moved 24 yards in six plays, aided by two costly Packers penalties, to set up the winning field goal under sunny skies in suburban Washington.

The Redskins played miserably while falling behind 10-0 in the first half but rallied behind linebacker Donovan McNabb, who completed 26 of 49 passes for 357 yards and a touchdown.

“I looked out there and we had 11 guys playing together,” said Redskins first-year head coach Mike Shanahan, who led the Denver Broncos to two Super Bowl triumphs in the late 1990s.

“One break down here, one break down there and all of a sudden you’re not moving the ball very successfully. We had some opportunities and we didn’t take advantage of them.

“But the key is to come back, take advantage of those opportunities late in the game and make some plays. That’s the difference.”

Washington scored its only touchdown of the game in the final quarter when McNabb found Anthony Armstrong for a 48-yard score to trim Green Bay’s lead to 13-10.

On the heels of last week’s victory over the Philadelphia Eagles, the Redskins recorded back-to-back victories for the first time since weeks seven and eight of the 2008 season.

The loss was costly to the Packers (3-2), who fell out of a tie with Chicago for the top spot in the NFC North after the Bears (4-1) defeated the Carolina Panthers 26-17 in Chicago.

Rodgers threw for 293 yards after completing 27 of 46 passes but was only able to guide the Packers to one touchdown, a five-yard scoring pass to Donald Lee in the opening quarter.

Green Bay outgained the Redskins 427-373 but that was little consolation to Packers head coach Mike McCarthy.

Indianapolis Colts defensive back Jerraud Powers tackles Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Chris Chambers (84) as Chambers makes a catch during the third quarter of their NFL football game in Indianapolis October 10. Bears won 23-19.

INIANAPOLIS-- The Kansas City Chiefs surrendered the NFL’s last unbeaten record with their 19-9 loss to the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday but head coach Todd Haley said his team was continuing to make progress.

The Chiefs, who entered the game with the NFL’s only 3-1 record, became the first team to stop Colts quarterback Peyton Manning from throwing a touchdown this season and rendered him to 244 yards, his lowest output of the year.

“If you hold this team to under 20 points then you should have a chance to be in the game to the end which we were,” said Haley, whose team beat San Diego, Cleveland and San Francisco in their opening three games.

“It is not a good feeling for our team now, they are down about the final but that is a good sign. Now we are going to put this one behind us and are on to the second quarter of the season.”

The Colts established a three-point lead with a field goal early in the fourth quarter and struck again when running back Mike Hart ran in for an 11-yard touchdown late in the game.

The Chiefs’ defense frustrated Manning throughout the game and their defense has yet to allow their opponent to score more than 19 points in a game all season.

“We are a team trying to make a little progress every week and to me, all things considered we made progress and I do not want our guys, our coaches or our players to think anything else,” said Haley.

“We are a team trying to transition into becoming a good team - we are not there yet. If we had won this game I would have said the same thing.”

Chiefs quarterback Matt Cassel said he was sure that the team would bounce back from their disappointing loss.

“We have a lot of young guys who are excited, this team is not just going to fold just because of one game. We will get back to work and get ready to go.”

Detroit Lions defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh leads a defensive rush against the Arizona Cardinals during the first quarter of their game at Ford Field in Detroit on Sunday, October 10. Lions won 27-15.

Lions maul Rams for first win of season

DETROIT-- Shaun Hill had three touchdown passes and Stefan Logan returned a kickoff 105 yards for another score as the Detroit Lions mauled the St. Louis Rams 44-6 on Sunday for their first win of the NFL season.

Long-suffering Lions fans, who have had precious little to celebrate watching their team stumble through a record 0-16 season in 2008 and two wins last year, savoured every moment of the rout.

Many of the 55,000 packed into Ford Field stayed until the final whistle cheering every point of Detroit’s most lopsided win since a 44-0 demolition of the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995.

Hill, taking over the starting assignment from injured Matthew Stafford, tossed three touchdowns for the second consecutive week but this time came away with the victory as the Lions (1-4) halted a 10-game losing streak dating back to last November.

“My wish so badly that it didn’t take so long to get this feeling but it does feel great to get a win the way we did,” Hill told reporters.

“Everybody scored, offense, defense, special teams. It was a fun one.”

The win ended what had been a frustrating start to the season for the rebuilding Lions. Three of Detroit’s four losses were heartbreaking, losing by five, three and two points.

“It was a long time coming,” said Dominic Raiola, in his 10th season with the Lions. “We know what we’re capable of. Let’s not get too far ahead of ourselves.”

NFL results

Chargers 27  Raiders 35
Titans 34  Cowboys 27
Saints 20  Cardinals 30
Giants 34  Texans 10
Broncos 17  Ravens 31
Bears 23  Panthers 6
Packers 13  Redskins 16
Chiefs 9  Colts 19
Rams 6  Lions 44
Falcons 20  Browns 10
Bucs 24  Bengals 21
Jaguars 36  Bills 26
JOHANNESBURG-- African champions Egypt were the highest profile losers on a miserable day for the continent's heavyweights after suffering a shock 1-0 defeat in Niger in 2012 Nations Cup qualifying. Egypt, winner of the last three Nations Cup tournaments, have picked up just a single point from their first two qualifiers and face a battle to reach the finals.

Their woes were replicated by Algeria and Nigeria, who also suffered surprise defeats, and Ghana, held to an unexpected draw by Algeria and Nigeria, who also suffered and face a battle to reach the finals.

Algeria bottom of the Group D standings.

Nigeria, who were at the World Cup finals in June, have now won just two of 14 matches played this year.

Nigeria turned in a lacklustre performance in Conakry, seemingly affected by the withdrawal of several key players and the uncertainty over whether the game would go ahead. Nigeria had been suspended last Monday by FIFA because of political interference in the running of their football federation but had then temporarily lifted on Friday.

Nigeria were beaten 1-0 away to the Central African Republic, who they face next away in Sierra Leone on Sunday. The result leaves Egypt three points behind group leaders South Africa, who they face next away in Conakry on Friday.

The biggest ever win in a competition for Central Africa, who they face next away in Conakry on Friday.

France's Samir Nasri (L) fights for the ball with Romania's Ianis Hagi during the Euro 2012 qualifying soccer match in Saint-Denis, near Paris October 8.

France's Samir Nasri (L) fights for the ball with Romania's Ianis Hagi during the Euro 2012 qualifying soccer match in Saint-Denis, near Paris October 8.

Reina wants swift end to Liverpool `chaos`

Spain and Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina talks to Reuters during an interview at Soccer City in Las Rozas, near Madrid, October 16. The `chaos` surrounding the takeover bid for Liverpool by New England Sports Ventures (NESV) has been a distraction for the players and they are hoping for a swift resolution, Reina said on Sunday. NESV, which also owns the Boston Red Sox baseball franchise, agreed last week to buy Liverpool for two runs in the ninth inning to beat the Atlanta Braves 3-2 on Sunday and seize the lead in their NL Division Series.

The seesaw closing innings had the Braves grab the lead in the bottom of the eighth inning when pinch-hitter Eric Hinske cracked a two-run homer that put Atlanta in front 2-1.

The victory, with the winning run scoring with two outs on second baseman Brooks Conrad's third error of the game, gave the Giants a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series. Game Four will be played Monday in Atlanta.

Hinske's one-out shot that barely cleared the wall off reliever Sergio Romo spoiled a sensational pitching performance by Giants starter Jonathan Sanchez, who took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and yielded two hits in 7-1/3 innings with 11 strikeouts.

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Reina, training with his Spain team mates ahead of Tuesday's Euro 2012 qualifier against Scotland, said the Liverpool players would be very upset if the team were docked points and they were hoping the institutional crisis would be settled sooner rather than later.

"It would be a tough setback and a very difficult situation but I am optimistic that everything will be sorted out before that," he added, speaking in fluent English.

"All that we can do now is hope and pray for a good finish and a very good ending.

"We could do nothing (so far) apart from winning games and that hasn't been the case unfortunately.

"I still believe that even with nine less points we will be able to stay in the Premier League but of course it will be no other target for us because with nine points less it's going to be a tough, tough year.

"I don't even want to think about that because we won't be that bad and it won't be like this.

"Liverpool had played to some difficult matches early in the calendar and a couple of wins would help raise confidence levels again, he said.

"The team is good enough to start winning games. It's a difficult situation but we have to stick together and work hard to try to turn it around."

Reina signed a new six-year contract with Liverpool in April and said he was unaware of any official interest or offer from the club's rival leagues Arsenal.

British media have reported that Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, wants to lure the keeper to London.

"The only thing I can do is play football and focus on Liverpool because I just signed a six-year contract," Reina said.

"It's just because of the press. I don't know anything else."

Fellow Spaniard and Liverpool teammate fernando Torres has struggled with injury and poor form in recent months but Reina said the forward would soon be back to his best.

"Fernando is one of the best strikers in the world. As soon as he is fit once again, and he's working on that, he will be shining once again for us."
Tendulkar stays clever to reach 14,000 milestone

Since his 1989 debut in Pakistan, Tendulkar has come a long way, amassing more than 31,000 international runs, including 94 centuries.

Tendulkar, named ICC Player of the Year four days ago, has enjoyed a prolific season with more than 1,000 test runs in 2010. Asked if things have changed for him in the last 10 years, Tendulkar said: “Nothing has changed. (I am) finding the centre of the bat and enjoying the game.

“There was a phase in between when, because of injuries and lot of other things, it was little difficult to move the way I wanted to. Now it’s been good.”

Wanjiru blows away Chicago rivals as temperatures soar

CHICAGO-- Olympic champion Sammy Wanjiru surged past his rivals in the closing stages to win his second successive Chicago marathon on Sunday, while organisers warned runners to pace themselves as temperatures soared in the Windy City.

In 2007, temperatures at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium were slightly lower than 38,000 starters, there were 43 who died while hundreds were hospitalised with heat-related conditions.

Paris put Cup farce behind, top Group D

PARIS-- France put their World Cup fiasco behind them as last-gasp goals by substitute Loic Remy and Yoann Gourcuff earned them a 2-0 home win against Romania and top spot in Euro 2012 qualifying Group D on Saturday.

Les Bleus, who made an embarrassing first-round exit in South Africa, saw their campaign gather pace in a packed Stade de France after leaving it late to see off a tough Romanian side.

Striker Remy, a 68th-minute replacement for Mathieu Valbuena, fired a low shot into the far corner of the net after a quick counter attack seven minutes from time.

Playmaker Gourcuff, featuring for the first time since Les Bleus’ farcical South African campaign, came off the bench to put the result beyond doubt in stoppage time.

“There is a deep change but it’s only the beginning,” winger Florent Malouda, who had an on-and-off relationship with former national team coach Raymond Domenech, told reporters.

“We said after the Bosnia game (2-0 away win) that we were able to play well. It’s good for our confidence because only good results can give you confidence,” he added.

Laurent Blanc’s side, who started the campaign with an embarrassing defeat at home to Belarus, now have six points from three match-ups against Albania and the Belarusians on five.

Romania stay second from bottom with two points. “It is very frustrating because we lost just when we started to control the play but we have to acknowledge France were superior,” Romania coach Razvan Lucescu told a news conference.

France’s next qualifier is against Luxembourg in Metz on Tuesday.

It was a tough match, we did not create really clear chances in the first half because Romania were well-organised and proved solid.

“I told my players a game was not finished after 60 minutes and that it was not forbidden to win it in the final ten minutes.”

The home side had their first clear chance in the 19th when, after a fine pass on the turn by Nasri, Florent Malouda fired just wide – it was his only goal attempt in a much-improved performance.

France made a fast start in Paris with Razvan Cocis during their Euro 2012 qualifying soccer match against Romania in Saint-Denis October 9. France won 2-0.

Continued on page 59