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INSIGHT



Next government must break 'rising crime tide'

SEE INSIGHT SECTION

INSIDE



Real Estate

SECTION INSIDE

SPORTS



Mike Sands elected

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All-out brawl at wedding party

Next Attorney General named

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net



JOHN Delaney is to be the country's next Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, a move which came as no surprise to political observers.

However Mr Delaney's criminal law experience has caused concern in some quarters that he will not be effective in tackling the mounting backlog of criminal cases before the courts. There are also questions about whether his responsibilities as AG will conflict with his new role of overseeing relations in the financial services industry.

Opposition MP Fred Mitchell, who claims to be "indifferent" to the move, said he was "not surprised".
SEE page 10

Police called to top restaurant after fight breaks out

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A WEDDING celebration at popular upscale restaurant Luciano's dissolved into an all-out brawl when several Canadian guests attacked the party's disc jockey after he stopped playing music.

The DJ received "minor injuries" from the attack, said police.

Although 18 Canadians were taken into police custody, it is understood that no charges will be filed because the issue was "resolved among the parties concerned".

Conflicting reports on the mayhem have emerged with unconfirmed claims that Italian mobsters held staff at the establishment hostage at gunpoint after beating up the party's DJ.

Restaurant manager Silfredo Naveda said he had no idea where the reports originated while voicing his displeasure with what he called

inaccurate and offensive rumours.

Police say they responded to calls of gunshots being fired near the establishment on East Bay Street around 4am on Saturday.

"We understand that gunshots were fired but we don't know by whom. I know that every time a weapon is discharged we want to know by who but it was not the police who fired the shots," said press officer Sergeant Christlyn Skippings.

However Mr Naveda said restaurant staff called the police after the fight broke out. He claimed police officers who arrived on the scene fired warning shots in the air "to calm everybody down".

Responding officers were told that a group of Canadian guests attending a wedding reception attacked the DJ and his assistants after he decided to stop playing music.

During the brawl, the DJ's equipment was damaged and

SEE page 10

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JOLLIFICATION



THIS YOUNGSTER gets a handful of candy during the Bahamas National Trust's Annual Jollification. The popular event, held at the Retreat on Village Road, featured food, drink and work of artists and craft specialists.

• SEE PAGE 16

People questioned over robbery of 18 tourists

POLICE over the weekend continued to question several people in connection with the armed robbery of 18 tourists.

A decision is expected tomorrow as to whether anyone will be charged.

In a case that has attracted significant attention and concern from Bahamians, the tourists were robbed and threatened with shotguns while on an eco-tour in Nassau on Friday.

The visitors, passengers on the Disney and Royal Caribbean cruise lines, were part of two separate groups touring the Bahamas Association for Social Health's (BASH) Earth Village in the former Perpal Tract Wellfield area when they were attacked by two men at about 1pm.

The gun-wielding thugs tied up the Bahamian tour guide with the first group and ordered them to the ground before robbing them of money, passports, cell phones, credit cards and other personal items.

During the robbery, a second group of

SEE page 11

Calls for Tommy Turnquest to resign

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THERE were renewed calls last night from the Opposition for National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest to resign.

In the latest round of attacks on Mr Turnquest, PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts lambasted the Mount Moriah MP for being "a boy asked to do a man's job".

Mr Roberts went on: "The PLP calls for the resignation of the Minister of National Security in the wake of the latest vicious attacks on our number one industry combined with the precipitous escalation in crime that pose a clear and imminent threat to our way of life."

His comments came two days after 18 tourists visitors touring the BASH site in western New Providence were robbed

SEE page 11

Abaco blackout after power plant fire

AN intense fire that ripped through the main power plant in Abaco left frustrated residents without power for almost 24 hours in some parts of the island over the weekend.

First reports of a fire at the Abaco Power Station in Marsh Harbour came on Friday at about 6.23pm.

Luckily it was soon discovered that the fire was contained in one area, that of the 4,106V switchboard.

The Abaco Volunteer Fire Department, assisted by the Casuarina Point firefighters and the Treasure Cay Crash and Rescue Unit, responded to the call for help.

According to residents, it took firefighters about three hours to extinguish the blaze. During this time, mainland Abaco was without power, and residents feared they would have no hope of getting it back on any time soon if the fire were to consume the entire power plant.

In a statement on Saturday, BEC said that

SEE page 11

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LOCAL NEWS

Kerzner makes major donation to AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas

KERZNER International Bahamas continued its tradition of supporting the country's AIDS Foundation with a donation of \$25,000.

Since 2003, the company has donated more than half a million dollars to the foundation to help fund its local projects.

As the foundation held its 16th Annual Red Ribbon Ball at Atlantis on Saturday night, Kerzner International was once again one of its major corporate sponsors.

"Kerzner International has had a consistent presence in the community dating back to our arrival in 1994. Since that time, we have funded numerous community projects and provided millions of dollars to assist local charitable organisations like the AIDS Founda-

tion. It is our continued aim to give back to the same community which has helped sustain this organisation over the years," said Kerzner International senior vice-president of public affairs Ed Fields.

President of the AIDS Foundation Lady Carol Barnett thanked Kerzner International for its continued support.

"Kerzner International is one of the foundation's leading corporate sponsors and without its donations over the years we would have found it difficult to fund some of the major projects we have undertaken. Without the help of corporate partners like Kerzner International we may not have been able to achieve some of the inroads we have made in the fight against HIV

and AIDS in the Bahamas," Lady Barnett said.

Despite the difficult economic climate, Kerzner International was proud to present the foundation with a cheque for \$25,000.

That donation alone represents half of the sum the foundation was hoping to raise in total through this year's Red Ribbon Ball.

According to Lady Barnett the money will go directly towards funding the Outreach Centre for adolescents who are living with HIV and AIDS, education and awareness projects, lab equipment, and assisting patients from the family islands.

The 16th Annual Red Ribbon Ball was held in the Imperial Ballroom at Atlantis, Paradise Island.

RED RIBBON BALL



\$50,000 DONATION TO THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF THE BAHAMAS: Pictured on Saturday night at Atlantis, from left, chairperson for the Red Ribbon Ball Sandra Knowles; Executive vice chairman and CEO of Colina Imperial Ltd Emanuel Alexiou with his wife; Chief Justice Michael Barnett; Mrs Minnis; Camille Barnette, president of the AIDS Foundation; Minister of Health Dr Hubert Minnis and Sandra Smith, co-chair of the Red Ribbon Ball Committee.



MONSIGNOR PRESTON MOSS shakes hands with Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham, as he receives an award for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Nassau being a partner of the AIDS Foundation on Saturday night.

TROPICAL EXTERMINATORS FOR PEST PROBLEMS
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Felipe Major/Tribune staff



Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.

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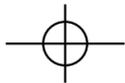
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LOCAL NEWS

CRIME BRIEFS

'More than 90 per cent' of HMP inmates are Bahamians

By TANEKA THOMPSON Tribune Staff Reporter



NATIONAL SECURITY Minister Tommy Turnquest

MORE than 90 per cent of the inmates incarcerated at Her Majesty's Prison are Bahamians, said National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest.

Dispelling a common belief that the majority of crime in the Bahamas is committed by non-Bahamians, Mr Turnquest said: "The prison superintendent provides me on a monthly basis with statistics of the prison population, which breaks down religious denomination, age and nationality and so I said to him you've got the nationality of people in prison at 93 per cent Bahamian."

Mr Turnquest said he questioned the accuracy of these statistics and was told by HMP's superintendent that the information is gleaned through inmate interviews, birth certificates and the nationality of the inmates' parents.

He was responding to the question of whether or not the country's escalating crime problems should lay at the

feet of illegal immigrants and foreigners who have set up home in the Bahamas.

Mr Turnquest added that through police intelligence, the RBPF has determined that a number of criminal enterprises in the country are headed by Bahamians with traditional "Bahamian names."

"I don't want to pass the blame to the immigrants. We as Bahamians are largely responsible for the criminal activity," he told the media at a press conference.

Mr Turnquest also said

two jury trials going on at one time," he said.

He noted the Government's \$7 million facelift plan for the court system which will renovate existing courts and create additional ones.

In terms of the administration of justice, he said Chief Justice Sir Michael Barnett is making "some changes" in that regard.

Stabbed man is identified

THE man who was stabbed to death in Eleuthera on Thursday has been identified as 39-year-old Fitzroy McDonald.

Police believe Mr McDonald was killed in an altercation with another man in Gregory Town at around 11.22pm.

A man in his mid-twenties is being questioned in connection with the incident.

AN employee of the Shell service station on Carmichael and Baillou Hill Road was taken to hospital yesterday after being stabbed.

At around 5.28am, police received information that an employee and a man who was travelling in a bus with the licence plate number 493 got into an altercation, which resulted in the employee being stabbed in the left area of his chest.

The employee was taken to hospital. He is in stable condition.

ILLEGAL drugs worth more than \$300,000 were seized in an operation by the Drug Enforcement Unit and Long Island police on Saturday.

The search of a house in Scrub Hill unearthed 16 packages of suspected marijuana weighing 306lbs.

Two men, a Jamaican and a 23-year-old Bahamian along with a 48-year-old Bahamian woman were taken into custody. Police are investigating.

OFFICERS were called to the scene near a popular club where shots had been fired.

A 8.50pm on Saturday, police received information from an anonymous caller that occupants of a Honda discharged shots at passengers of a brown vehicle near Red Hot on East Street South.

Officers responded and spoke with a man who informed them that he heard a bang outside the club and went to see what happened.

While outside, he saw a man who pointed a gun at him. He then saw a second man smash the passenger window of his grey Dodge Ram. The men stole a shotgun from the truck and escaped heading south in a dark Honda Inspire, heavily tinted.

INVESTIGATIONS are under way into two separate armed robberies that occurred in Nassau over the weekend.

On Friday, around 10.19pm, police received information of an armed robbery at Club Crystal, in Nassau Village. Two men armed with handguns had entered the establishment demanding cash. They took an undetermined amount of cash and fled the area.

Then, on Saturday, at around 1.30am, the police were called to an armed robbery at Royal Castle, on Baillou Hill Road.

Officers spoke with a 34-year-old woman at the scene, who informed them that while parked in front of Royal Castle with two friends, they were approached by a man armed with a handgun who demanded the keys to her 1996 Silver Honda Accord, licence plate number 186444. The keys, along with other personal effects were handed over to the armed man, who fled south on Baillou Hill Road.

TWO women, aged 34 and 36, were taken into police custody at the Lynden Pindling International Airport on Friday for failing to declare an undetermined amount of cash. Together, it is claimed they had more than \$40,000 in their possession.

Two men, aged 18 and 21, were also taken in for questioning by police over the weekend in connection with seizure of an illegal firearm.

At about 3.30pm on Saturday, officers from the South-eastern Division were on patrol on East Street South when they saw a white Honda Accord with two men who had thrown an object from the car.

The officers stopped the car, searched the vehicle and found six .38 live rounds of ammunition. The officers went to the area where the object was thrown and found a .38 black Astra handgun with three additional .38 rounds. The two suspects were taken into custody.

POLICE are asking the public's assistance in locating the following stolen cars:

A 1994 gold Nissan Altima Gold, licence plate number 55962; a 1994 white Nissan Sentra, licence plate number 171624; a 1998 champagne Nissan Maxima, licence plate number 222050; a 1996 blue Nissan Sentra, licence plate number unknown, and a 1996 white Nissan Sentra, licence plate number unknown.

Anyone with information about any of these incidents is asked to call police at 919, or 328-TIPS.

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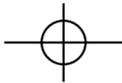
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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Politicians ‘hijacked’ community policing

WE TALKED with several Bahamians this weekend about Urban Renewal and its effectiveness. There were many opinions, but all agreed that the programme was doomed from the beginning because it was bogged down in politics.

“You must remember,” said one sarcastically, “what is now Urban Renewal started as the Farm Road project when a few policemen were strategically placed to impress the people. No Urban Renewal was on anyone’s mind when that happened. The Farm Road project was solely to secure a seat for a politician.”

In fact, said another Bahamian, community policing was “hijacked” by the politicians.

It was only when the police went into Farm Road and discovered such squalor in some of the homes that urban renewal was born and eventually the programme spread to other inner cities.

Instead of the police going into communities and discovering what was wrong and instructing the responsible government department to correct it, police found themselves directing home repairs, cleaning up garbage, and generally being involved in non-police work.

Another person did not see much change in the Urban Renewal programme when it came under the FNM— other than the police being removed from school campuses.

The person felt that it was the parents’ responsibility—not that of the police—to make certain that their child did not go to school with a weapon.

“A lie is being foisted on the Bahamian people that Urban Renewal is dead. This is simply not true,” said one police officer. “The programme has not been stopped, however, it has been changed.”

He said the police had been providing the leadership.

However, when other organisations took their rightful place in the programme, the police stepped back and returned to their policing duties.

However, they continued to support the programme wherever their assistance was required.

The officer did not agree that the police should have ever been on the school campus. “It undermines the authority of the school principal and the school’s staff,” he said. However, although no police officer is stationed on the campus, an effective school programme with the police involved is still in place.

Each school has direct contact with the nearest police station and the police are on call whenever needed.

There are also programmes in place to give children police protection early in the morning when they arrive at school and in the afternoon when they are leaving. Police also supervise children who have been sus-

ended from class. The police contact the parents, and have a programme to which the parents take their child for police supervision for as long as they have been banned from the classroom. These children are not wandering the streets. They are very much under police control.

But for politicians to say that Urban Renewal is dead or that protection is not being given to the schools, “is just intellectual dishonesty,” was this officer’s opinion.

However, another Bahamian saw what should have been a 24-hour community service being turned into a 9am to 5pm job for a civil servant. “They took the police out and flooded us with all these experts,” he said. “In the social services you’d be surprised how many hands a request has to go through just to get one thing approved. In every department the public service is very weak.”

What this country needs is dedicated community policing where police and people come together, united by a common goal.

Community policing was started long before politicians conjured up the controversial urban renewal programme. It was launched and managed by the police and in the areas where it was being developed, it was very successful.

We were intimately involved with the Nassau programme and gave considerable news space to a similar programme organised in Cat Island.

There was ASP Shannondor Evans, spearheading a programme from the police station in Elizabeth Estates, and Supt. Stephen Dean organising a student band and youth clubs in Cat Island. Both programmes were successful—regardless of political affiliation residents were working with the police towards a common goal.

Cat Island, we were told, was a good example of how community programmes could make a difference. Faculty and staff at the Cat Island school commented on how the music programmes in particular had helped improve students’ grades. It was thought that because of these programmes, students had become more focused.

Tomorrow we shall describe in more detail Mr Evans’ successful programme in the Eastern division. This area included Prince Charles, Sea Breeze, Fox Hill Road and the Eastern Road.

There are probably many police men and women who are well versed in community policing. We know of two—ASP Evans, and Superintendent Dean, who represents the Bahamas on the community policing committee of the International Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police. And we have heard of a third—Supt. Carolyn Bowe.

These are the people whose skills and enthusiasm should be utilised in helping to coordinate and spread such programmes.

National Service – a good idea

EDITOR, The Tribune.

“Worker murdered at church building site”; “Stabbing death during fight”; “Man found guilty of unnatural intercourse with boy, 16”; “Shot police officer is identified”; “Boy stabbed during school argument”; “Man to be extradited over smuggling charges.” Was anyone else disturbed by The Tribune headlines of November 17, 2009? I honestly hope and pray that no tourists had a copy that day!

In the Bahamas there is a serious social time-bomb, the fuse of which is getting ever shorter. It is staring us in the face. Kids are growing up with multiple half-siblings who share a common father who is either not there, in Fox Hill, or dead; and mothers who can’t keep track of where their kids are or what they’re doing or who they’re with. These kids become the adults (sometimes still just children) that we read about, who star on the front page of the newspapers. They come from deprived backgrounds, but the circumstances into which they’re born are not their fault. They have no role models. They’re not taught, or don’t realise the concept of ambition. They lack the direction and guidance and feeling of cohesiveness which many are fortunate to have in a family unit. Naturally they gravitate towards the “family” of the gang. Then we read about the results, or fall victim ourselves. I agree with Bishop Simeon Hall in the edition of November 17th, where he calls “for ‘Sir Lynden’s army’ to be established.” He is right. The news today is an embarrassment. I believe in this country—and am quite sure there are too many young people who have great talents they don’t even know about. The court system and police may need improving but this doesn’t deal with the source. There needs to be action tackling the root of crime. The root, in my view is the complete moral breakdown engulfing society. National Service would give young people not only structure in their lives and discipline, possibly for the first time; it would also give them a sense of achievement. They may find the opportunity to learn a trade. In National Service they may discover what real camaraderie is, rather than the kind found in a gang somewhere in the back streets of New Providence. When their tenure in National Service was at an end, they would have had a chance for independent reflection. They would have experienced new structure in their lives and known what it

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

is like to earn a legal wage. Perhaps they would remain in the service or join another profession. They will have structure and purpose in their lives.

They will almost certainly leave with a feeling of patriotism and national unity.

From this will result national pride—until people have this, we will remain on this war path with ourselves.

The first priority of any government is the security of its citizens.

Citizens are not secure. Soci-

ety is failing and the government must step in. It must take action. This must be supported by all political parties, who must lead the way and be seen to be unified on this front. This is not a PLP or FNM issue. This is becoming a national crisis. This cannot just become another political football or a way to “point score.” There is a time and place for that—and this is not it. Bishop Hall says, “there needs to be a national conversation about National Service.” Let’s take this further and say: there needs to be national action towards National Service.

C ANSELL
Nassau,
November 17, 2009.

Everyone should be able to enjoy our beaches

EDITOR, The Tribune.

The Bahamas has some of the most beautiful beaches you could ever find.

Growing up in the Bahamas I have seen that beaches become the place where locals go every Sunday, summer times, and for holidays.

For tourists, well they visit the Bahamas just for the beaches because they like the white sand, nice blue ocean, clean waters and the spacious areas.

The beaches on this island were made for everyone to enjoy. How can they enjoy it if the beaches are always crowded with people, and there is only a limited number of beaches you can go on?

There’s a limited number of beaches you can go on because most of the beaches are blocked off with gates and signs.

There are even houses built on some of the beaches with signs saying private property and some of them may be private property. All of the beaches that are blocked off by gates and signs, if it isn’t owned by someone then they should be cleared and beautified so the citizens/residents can go on and enjoy it.

While the beaches are being blocked they are going to be used to store unused boats, etc. If those person didn’t purchase the beach with the property the gates they have up are illegal. If we say we are beach lovers and would like to enjoy our beaches, we should get together and protest and fight for what is ours. I am sure if we come together as a committee and bring forth this to whoever deals with these kind of problems, a law would be passed to be known that “all public beach should be accessible to everyone.” I did a little survey on “how many persons would say they should be accessible or remain the same way they are now.” I got a number of persons saying that beaches should be accessible and one saying it depends on where the beach is located.

In the Bahamas, not having access to beaches that are right in your backyard is becoming something persons are noticing now that they realise what is going on.

The beaches are what we live for. I don’t think we should let people come and buy property with the beach front without making some way of getting access to that beach if it is not owned by them. Or let them put up signs and gates to block off what is rightfully ours. We need to stop them from doing this the first chance we get or it’s going to continue to happen until we have no rights to say anything to save our beaches. I’m saying we because you and I are a part of this, we are the ones complaining about it. So it’s now that we come together to be as one.

DISHANN STUBBS
Nassau,
November, 2009.

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LOCAL NEWS

Roberts claims FNM delivered 'hardship' to Grand Bahama

CAMPAIGNING for the Progressive Liberal Party in Grand Bahama on Friday, party chairman Bradley Roberts slammed the FNM administration for having delivered "desolation and hardship" to the island and to the entire population of the Bahamas.

"The state of affairs in Grand Bahama is an unholy mess," Mr Roberts said during an address at the PLP House in Freeport.

The PLP chairman also reiterated that he heard reports that current Minister of Works, Lucaya MP Neko Grant may be moved to head a new Grand Bahama Affairs Ministry in the near future.

However, *The Tribune* was unable to confirm the truth of this statement yesterday.

Criticising the Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA) for its revitalisation efforts, the PLP chairman said the island needs more than the planting of trees and other beautification methods, but rather a focused plan to revive its tourism industry, the creation of jobs for its people, the return to the original formula of Urban Renewal and aggressive housing developments.

"Two and a half years after the FNM hoodwinked and bamboozled the people of this island, unemployment has gone through the roof. The Royal Oasis is only one on a list of closed hotel properties. Grand Bahama struggles to attract visitors even though it is only 55 miles from Florida. People are without food and light, and they call this FNM country. We should have paid attention to anything branded as FNM country because what is true for FNM country is now true for the entire country," he said.

Mr Roberts also hit out at the slow progress that has been made in the negotiations with the GBPA.

"From any plausible angle the FNM government has had more than sufficient time to use the weight of their high office to resolve the massive impasse of the controlling shareholders of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, but have disgracefully failed the people of Grand Bahama and the level of misery and hopelessness grow day by day here in the second city," he said.

The PLP chairman also said that the FNM should not be allowed to get away with the excuse that the global recession also led to unemployment skyrocketing in Grand Bahama and in the



BRADLEY ROBERTS

Bahamas in general.

"They blame it on the recession which did not happen until some 15 months after the May 2007 general elections. They are all saying that they are waiting for Obama to turn around the US economy.

"They went on to name some foreign investment properties which have stalled as a result of what they say was the global recession. I wish to point out that the global financial crisis occurred was not in effect until 15 months after the FNM became the Government in May 2007," he said.

"Further, ladies and gentlemen, the record will show that in 2007 the Bahamian economy slowed down ahead of the US economy rather than the usual one quarter to two lag time. Do you know why this happened? This happened because the slow-down was artificially induced. Someone meddled with the economy and facilitated a virtual stall of the economy."

PLP Chairman criticises Tribune editorial

PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts hit out yesterday at a Tribune editorial that defended the Government's remodelling of the much-touted PLP Urban Renewal Programme.

In a statement issued to the media yesterday, Mr Roberts said the editorial sought to demonstrate that the Urban Renewal Programme had no profound impact on crime by utilising police statistics from 2001 to 2006.

"Further, in *The Tribune* of today's date, the Editor went further to state that since the beginning of mankind there has been criminal activity and that 'the warning bell tolls for all of us' of which, not even the PLP's treasured Urban Renewal Programme is "no one antidote for its cure." The Editor expressed that one only need look at *The Tribune* files to see when crime began to mushroom.

"It is blatantly clear that apart from the Editor's obvious bias, she is totally oblivious to what the real issue is today. Madam Editor, the issue is this: What initiative(s) has been introduced by the governing FNM Government since May 2007 to reduce and control crime and the fear of crime in our Bahamian society now?"

"The PLP contends that Urban Renewal was structured in such comprehensive form that it addressed not only crime, but all the criminogenic circumstances which inevitably led to crime. The attempt to undermine the effectiveness of the Programme by the FNM Government has resulted and is continuing to result in anarchy and chaos in our society today. To add, the FNM Government has sought to hide the truth by not painting the full picture in their use of statistics," Mr Roberts said.

The PLP's chairman added that the FNM has also sought to utilize the police statistics in a "limited way" by only focusing on the period from 2001 to 2006.

Statistics

As such, Mr Roberts said, there needs to be a broader look at statistics for the Urban Renewal era (2002-2007) and at least compare it with what has happened since 2007 to present.

"To do otherwise and make such bold statements that Urban Renewal was ineffective is a clear indication of biasness and incompleteness.

"Take for instance the homicide rate.

"The FNM and the Editor expressed that in 2001 under the FNM, there were 43 murders. They neglected to mention that in 2000, a record breaking 74 murders were committed. The decline in 2001 in murders were attributed to the aggressive, round-the-clock, zero tolerance operations that the Police launched to bring crime under some degree of control.

"However, the 'dusk to dawn' operations could not be sustained as the operations took a tremendous toll on the human resource

of the Police Force. In 2002 with the ushering in of the PLP Government came the sustainable and comprehensive Urban Renewal Programme. The PLP maintains that in all areas where Urban Renewal was initiated, crime and the fear of crime was reduced. There was also a decline in the overall crime rate," Mr Roberts said.

Looking at the statistics, the PLP's chairman added that from the cancellation of Urban Renewal and the election of the FNM in 2007, there has been a "quantum leap" in crime.

"A review of the individual categories really reflect the extent of crime under the FNM Government and their inability to address the problem. The homicide rate reveals that the homicide rate is actually higher than is actually being expressed (particularly under the FNM Government).

"And there is a strong possibility that had Urban Renewal remained, crime levels would have been more manageable. Many may question why the PLP has made extensive use of crime statistics and why the FNM Government is endeavouring to discredit the statistics produced by the PLP.

"It should be emphasised that the PLP recognise that statistics are crucial as they provide the greatest source of both qualitative and quantitative data (scientific proof of what really is the case). I emphasise again that the FNM Government is clueless on how to address this crime problem."

As such, Mr Roberts said that the Government should immediately reintroduce Urban Renewal as it was established under the PLP government and revisit the "Swift Justice" initiative to counter the significant backlog of cases.

Casino play to be suspended during transition

THE Ministry of Tourism and Aviation has announced that during the transition of the operation of Our Lucaya Casino from Isle of Capri to Treasure Bay between November 22 and November 30, all casino play will be suspended.

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LOCAL NEWS

Businessmen take on Andros industrial park

FIVE New Providence-based businessmen are taking out two-acre plots in the industrial park slated for North Andros.

"They can start building right away," said Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) executive chairman Edison M Key.

"We are serious. This will generate employment for North Andros residents and training for the young people."

The park is made up of ten two-acre plots, and it is to be expanded by another 20 acres. Andros is still on the duty free list.

Accompanying the BAIC delegation were businessmen Errington Thompson (farm products), Rev James Sweeting (handicraft and canning), Anthony Swabey (dog breeding), Eugene Wright (window blinds manufacturing), and Joseph Curry (trade, investment and real estate).

"I am extremely happy with the progress we are making as we move a little closer each year to sustaining ourselves in food and whatever we could produce here in The Bahamas," said Mr Key.

"I see five to 19 years from now, there is going to be a tremendous amount of activity going on especially in North Andros, Abaco and other areas of the country.

"So, whatever you intend to do, this is an excellent time to get involved."

Accompanying Mr Key, the MP for South Abaco, were general manager Benjamin Rahming, assistant general manager (lands) Judith Thompson, and domestic investment officer Alphonso Smith.

"I am very impressed with what BAIC is trying to do," said businessman Mr Thompson. "If all areas of government were working like BAIC, we would have a wonderful country."

"The chairman seems to have his hands to the wheel. He is aware of what is happening and he is prepared to do what it takes to make things happen. The BAIC staff is doing a wonderful job.

"I believe the potential of Andros will be realised. People will come and see and recognise that Andros has so much to offer. We will have a wonderful place here."

Under Mr Key, said Rev Sweeting, "BAIC is looking like a brand new entity. It is not the BAIC I used to know. It's in the positive whereas it used to be in the negative.

"It's giving Andros a new identity. It used to seem that Andros was a place no Government was checking for. But now, the wind has changed. I see new hope, new inspiration for North Andros and the country is going to benefit from it."

One of Rev Sweeting's goals is to stem "the wastage of farm produce" at the Government's packing house where vegetables that do not meet a particular grade are thrown away.

"If we could preserve some of that rather than letting it all go back into the soil the nation will benefit," he said.



BAIC EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN Edison M Key (foreground) and businessman Anthony Swabey, BAIC technician Ayret Lightbourn, businessman Errington Thompson, and BAIC assistant general manager Judith Thompson at the layout of the industrial park for Andros.



BAIC ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER for land Judith Thompson (left) explains the layout of the industrial park for North Andros to (from left) businessman Joseph Curry, surveyor Hughey Williams (partly hidden), BAIC general manager Benjamin Rahming, and businessman Errington Thompson.

Businessman Mr Swabey said: "If the project we have takes off, then I will be coming to Nassau only to visit. North Andros is a good place to be. No traffic."

Mr Swabey also wants to cater to pedigree pet owners and security dog training.

"North Andros would be the ideal place to establish an industrial park," he said. "The good

thing is that you can bring in everything duty free. What more can you ask for?"

"With New Providence having become saturated in terms of land usage," added businessman Curry, "the vast amount of land in Andros and its proximity to New Providence, present unique opportunities for those who are interested in industry, particularly agriculture."



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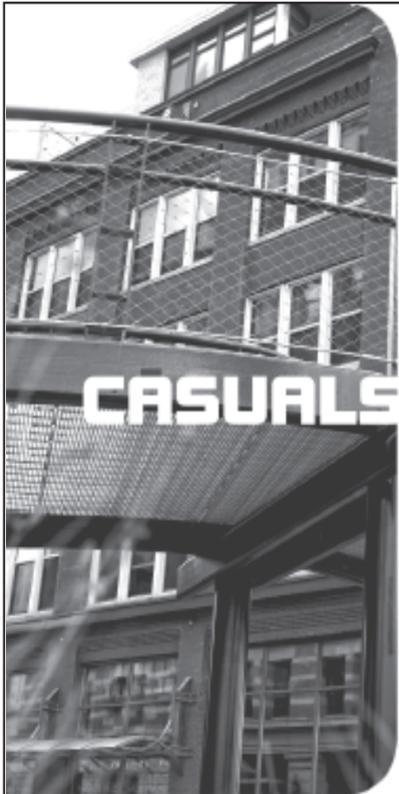
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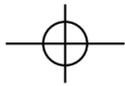
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LOCAL NEWS



Letisha Henderson/BIS

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT Neko Grant, officially launching Road Safety Month during a press conference November 2nd. Pictured from left Karen Mortimer, Road Traffic; Iris Adderley, disability affairs; Nicole Campbell, undersecretary; Colin Higgs, permanent secretary; Minister Grant; Phillip Turner, controller, Road Traffic; Sgt 1235 Garlon Rolle, Traffic Police Department; Marc Ingraham, Road Traffic Department; Albie Hope, transport specialist; and Wendell Seymour, corporate relations manager, The Burns House Group.

Burns House backs Road Safety Month

THE Burns House Group has teamed up with the Department of Transport and other groups to launch a number of road safety initiatives.

November has been declared Road Safety Month by Neko Grant, the Minister of Works and Transport.

The objective is to enhance awareness of four main pillars that impact safety on Bahamian streets: cell phone use and driving, highway codes education, car-pooling and public transportation, and drinking while driving.

Mr Grant said: "We want to raise public awareness of the proper use of our streets in an effort to reduce the number of traffic injuries and fatalities that occur throughout The Bahamas."

According to the Road Traffic Department, some 500 people have died in traffic

accidents in The Bahamas over the last ten years.

Wendell Seymour, corporate relations manager at The Burns House Group, remarked: "We are fully committed to supporting Road Safety Month, and all other initiatives that promote responsible driving. We certainly hope that this endeavor is a long-term collaboration between the Department of Transport, The Burns House Group, and other entities. We are thankful to the Ministry for their kind invitation to participate."

Road Safety Month ends on Nov 28 with a fun run/walk in honour of traffic fatality victims. There is no entry fee and all participants will receive a free t-shirt. In addition, free Vitamalt will be provided at the finish. For more information contact the Road Traffic Department at 328-4825/6.

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	Professional Web Designer	Learn to create and modify web pages and web sites like a professional web designer.	Feb 13—May 8 Saturdays 1pm-4:30pm
BUSINESS	QuickBooks Professional	Learn how to use the world's most popular small business accounting software to manage your company	Jan 23—Feb 6 Saturdays 1pm to 4pm
	Certified Office Administrator	This course equips the business professional with the best office administration practices and develops business communication, customer service and business etiquette as a discipline.	Jan 23—May 8 Saturdays 9am—12pm
	Introduction to Personal Computers	Learn how to use your personal computer to create documents, send email and use internet.	Jan 23—Feb 27 Saturday's 9am—12pm
	Microsoft Office 2007 (MCAS)	Get Certified in the latest Microsoft Office program - including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.	Jan 19 - May 6 Tues & Thurs 6pm - 9pm
LANGUAGE	Sign Language	Learn the fundamentals of communicating in Sign Language and become a certified interpreter.	Jan 19 - May 8 Mon & Saturday 6pm- 9pm & 3pm - 6pm
	Conversational Spanish	Learn to speak Spanish using some of the latest and most proven methods for language learning	Jan 20 - Mar 31 Wed & Saturday's 6pm-9pm & 12pm - 3pm
TECHNOLOGY	CompTIA Network +	Learn the principles of computer networking design and implementation.	March 29 - May 5 Mon & Wed 6pm - 9pm
	CompTIA A+	Want to become an I.T. Professional? First you need to learn how to build and troubleshoot computers	Jan 18 - Feb 24 Mon & Wed 6pm - 9pm
	CompTIA Security+ Certification	Learn the field of network security and understand how it relates to other areas of IT.	March 6 - May 8 Saturday's 9am - 1pm
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VIEW FROM AFAR

JOHN ISSA



PLEASE DON'T FORGET CABLE BEACH

THE full blown Baha Mar project is not going to happen for now. Whether this is a result of the worldwide economic climate or the nature of the project itself matters little. At the same time work on the relocation of the container port and the development of the cruise ship port to accommodate the very largest of cruise ships continues apace. Albany has not slowed down and this ambitious development will bring new economic activity to the south west of New Providence. When the container terminals are relocated from East Bay Street the rebirth of downtown Nassau can commence.

This brings me back to the stagnation on Cable Beach. What should be done while we wait for the conditions to be right for the Baha Mar project to move forward?

It must be almost two years since we were told that the Nassau Beach Hotel would be demolished. It still stands there shuttered creating a depressing ambiance in this most important resort area. Directly to the west of Sulgrave Manor is another derelict structure, which used to be a beach house, creating an eyesore as well as health and security dangers.

These two structures should be demolished and the area landscaped and beautified. Every visitor to the Sheraton, Wyndham and Breezes must presently leave the island with an understandably sorry impression of what was once Nassau's premier resort area. I respectfully suggest that the authorities should use whatever legislation it has at its disposal to have these eyesores demolished and the area beautified. It would probably even assist in attracting the investors that the Baha Mar project so desperately needs to get it off the ground.

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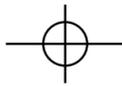
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Commonwealth in danger: Action is

insight

WORLD VIEW

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

(The writer is a Consultant and former Caribbean diplomat)

AS the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting is about to take place in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago's capital, there is not much hope among its member states that it will achieve anything more than declarations without the means to implement them. Indeed, even more wor-

"The escalation of adverse weather related conditions, especially sea-level rise, challenge the very existence of several Commonwealth countries such as the Maldives, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu."

prisingly, there is a mood in some of the developed Commonwealth countries that the organisation no longer has relevance in the international community.

Sadly, even though the Commonwealth Summit is being held on the eve of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, there is strong resistance

from major capitals to any notion of a Commonwealth initiative on this issue.

I hope my information is incorrect, but it is being said in circles that should know that Canada is one of the countries that is opposed to any initiative being taken on climate change outside of what could be achieved in Copenhagen. And, the world now knows that already diluted declarations have been prepared for the Copenhagen conference and they are non-

binding anyway.

If the information about Canada is true, it is much to be regretted, for small states, particularly those in the Caribbean, have long looked to Canada to champion their causes and to stand with them in the Commonwealth especial-

ly. In the past, Canada has not shirked this role, and has not been to Canada's disadvantage. By championing small states, Canada has been able to count small states in the legions of its support.

No other plurilateral organisation has served the interests of small states better than the Commonwealth over the last four decades. Of the now 52 member states, 32 are small with 12 of them from the Caribbean. Certainly, the G20, despite the membership of five Commonwealth countries - Australia, Britain, Canada, India and South Africa - cannot purport to serve small states since not one small state is represented at the table, and, so far, no machinery has been put in place to formally ascertain their views, in advance of G20 meetings, on the global issues that affect them.

As the world has moved increasingly to globalisation and trade liberalisation, the majority of small states, which were from the very outset only marginally capable of economic survival, have found themselves overwhelmed by new challenges such as sea-level rise, drug trafficking and attendant high rates of crime, high migration of their best educated people, and a lack of capacity for negotiating the integration of their societies into larger trading blocs and the new global trading system. While bigger countries have similar problems, they have the resources and flexibility to address these problems, unlike the small states.

This is the context in which this CHOGM is being held. It suggests that the Commonwealth in tandem with the small states themselves should explore ways in which the imperilled societies of the majority of small states could become more viable and so serve their particular interests as well as those of the wider Commonwealth.

What should be the crucial issues? A priority should be Climate Change. The escalation of adverse weather related conditions, especially sea-level rise, challenge the very existence of several Commonwealth countries such as the Maldives, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu. In other cases, sea-level rise and flooding threaten agricultural production and trade for many states such as Guyana, Belize, Ghana, Tanzania and Bangladesh. Both stronger hurricanes and steady beach erosion also threaten tourism and agricultural production in several Caribbean islands. And, for all of the affected countries, the high costs involved in adaptation are simply unattainable on their own.

Why then not a Commonwealth initiative to do something tangible for the most vulnerable regardless of what happens at Copenhagen? Surely, the Commonwealth could resolve to mobilise resources from the World Bank and other organisations to put in place a programme for the countries whose very existence is threatened? If not, what do the leaders of these countries tell their people? What does the Commonwealth tell them? Is it that they must quite literally paddle their own canoe?

A second priority should be the impact of the global crisis on all

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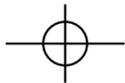


Sonja Gibson



Durell Shearer

SEE page nine



needed in Trinidad



SIR RONALD SANDERS

that the international community should act to provide help.

Essentially small states have been left out in the cold with the IMF still the only mechanism to which they can turn – and no change, despite all the rhetoric, in the prescriptions of the IMF itself.

Yet, the capacity of governments of small Commonwealth countries to service debt that the IMF places as a priority is extremely difficult in conditions in which their main sources of trade and tourism revenues are in decline. The ratio of debt to GDP in several small Commonwealth countries paints the picture: St Kitts-Nevis 178 per cent, Seychelles 151 per cent, Jamaica 128 per cent, Antigua and Barbuda 107 per cent, Barbados 106 per cent, Grenada 87 per cent, Dominica 86 per cent, Belize 80 per cent, St Lucia 70 per cent, Mar-

shall islands 70 per cent and St Vincent and the Grenadines 67 per cent.

The Commonwealth should, at the very least, be considering how it can advance change in the World Bank and other financial institutions for helping small countries to restructure and repay both official and commercial debt on easy terms over the next decade.

Absent practical decisions of this kind, this CHOGM does run the risk of making the Commonwealth irrelevant even to the small states that place such tremendous importance in it. That would be sad for an organisation that retains great potential for serving the world's interest for economic development, peace and democracy.

Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sirronaldsanders.com

FROM page eight

Commonwealth countries and particularly what should be done for the smallest and most vulnerable economies. It was a welcome development to see the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) Secretariat make the statement that CARICOM countries "have not seen any significant inflow for that (the US\$1 trillion pledged to the IMF by the G20 countries), we have not heard or seen any significant changes in policies of the IMF as an example." It is time for that kind of frank talk.

The Global crisis produced the G20 countries to replace the G7, which has controlled the world economy over the last sixty years, to stimulate global demand and supply, but there has been no accompanying measures for the smallest, most vulnerable countries for debt relief, new aid, and sustainable capital flows. It is right that these governments must devise policies that address these issues themselves, but it is also right



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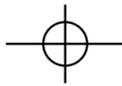
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LOCAL NEWS

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DEATH NOTICE

**Flight Lieutenant
GEOFFREY FRANCIS
ANTHONY SADLER, M.B.E.**



Founder and Vice Patron of the Royal Society of St. George, Nassau, Bahamas died in Nassau, Bahamas on Saturday, 7th November, 2009 (Armistice Day 8th November, 2009 1:00 a.m. GMT)

He is survived by his wife, Chieko Sadler, their daughter Gloria and their granddaughter Monique Thomson.

A Funeral Service will be held in Nassau at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, West Street, Nassau on Thursday, 3rd December, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Police Dependents Fund, P.O. Box N.458, Nassau or The Bahamas Cricket Association, P.O. Box N.16101, Nassau

**IN MEMORY OF FLT. LT.
GEOFFREY FRANCIS ANTHONY
SADLER, M.B.E.**



THE ENTRANCE to Luciano's restaurant.

FROM page one

one person received minor injuries, said Sgt Skippings.

"The matter was investigated by police, however it was further resolved among the parties concerned," she said.

Speaking to *The Tribune* yesterday, Mr Naveda sought to clear up the conflicting reports.

All-out brawl at wedding party

"It was a only fight, it wasn't a hostage situation. I'm very displeased about this. The police came because it was a lot of fighting and arguing but there was nobody shooting. It was the police that shot in the air to calm every body down," he said.

"The police came right away. Nobody had guns and nobody was

held hostage. It was no Italian Mafia or Sicilian Mafia. I don't know where they got it from probably they watched *The Sopranos* the night before."

He added that the restaurant suffered no damage from the brawl excluding a broken dish and flower vase.

FROM page one

ferent" on the appointment, said he doubts the move will have any affect on the country's legal system. He said Mr Delaney lacks a background in criminal justice and doubted whether he will have the know-how to deal with that area's hefty backlog.

"He comes with no criminal law experience and there is a huge problem of a backlog in the criminal law sector. No particular appointment is going to be a magic bullet to solving these legal issues - the severe backlog on the civil and criminal side of the court," said Mr Mitchell.

However, one senior attorney argued that whatever Mr Delaney lacks in criminal law experience will be supplemented by his qualified subordinates.

The prominent attorney, who did not want to be identified, said: "He doesn't have criminal law experience but he

Next Attorney General named

doesn't really need it. He has a director of public prosecutions and a whole load of other people who are experts (below him). He has a sound grounding in the law and he will not be technically conversant with criminal issues but he has a sound foundation in the principles of law which he will apply."

Mr Mitchell also found fault with Mr Delaney's new responsibilities within the financial services sector.

"As the AG, he'll be responsible for being, in part, a regulator or policeman for wrongdoing in the sector. Should that be tied up with someone who should be promoting it?" the MP for Fox Hill asked.

Through a statement, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham announced Mr Delaney's appointment to several plum posts.

He will be appointed to the Senate - his second stint in Upper Chamber since serving as an FNM Senator from 2005 to 2007 - at a swearing in cere-

mony at Government House this afternoon. He will also have carriage over relations with the financial services industry, the Bahamas Financial Services Board and responsibility for the promotion and development of financial services.

The AG's post was temporarily filled by Minister of Foreign Affairs Brent Symonette since the resignation of former AG Sir Michael Barnett - who was recently appointed Chief Justice.

The 45-year-old lawyer spent his high school years at St Augustine's College in Nassau, earned his LLB from the University of Birmingham and a Master of Laws degree from the University of London, England. He was admitted to the English Bar in 1987 as a Barrister of Lincoln's Inn. That same year he was called to the Bahamas Bar.

Mr Delaney is a member of the law firm of Higgs & Johnson and managing partner since 2007.

He specialises in commercial litigation and financial services law, and has for years been cited by international legal directories as a leader in his field, said the Government's statement.

He is a former vice-president and vice-chairman of the Bahamas Bar Association and its Council, a member of the International Bar Association, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London) and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

Mr Delaney served as a director of the National Insurance Board, a director of the Bahamas Financial Services Board, a member of the Road Traffic Authority and lecturer at the College of The Bahamas.

He is presently co-chairman of the Bahamas Trade Commission.

He is married to Daphne Delaney, née Dean and has three children, Amora and twin daughters Dana and Maya.



**Annual
General Meeting**

The Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) invites members of the general public to attend our first Annual General Meeting to recap the past fiscal year and to discuss future plans for the Lynden Pindling International Airport. Please come out to listen to our presentation and ask questions.

Date: Tuesday November 24, 2009
Place: The College of The Bahamas,
Performing Arts Centre
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Topics include:

- > Overview of the LPIA Expansion Project
- > Financials and Passenger Numbers
- > Progress Report on new U.S. Departures Terminal
- > General Airport Updates

Light refreshments will be served. See you there!

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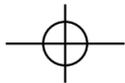
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LOCAL NEWS

FROM page one

Abaco blackout

Department and other entities for their response and assistance in dealing with the fire and related matters. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but Abaconians said that this is only one of a string of incidents that have frequently left the island without electricity for long periods of time. Residents said they are more than fed up with constant power cuts and surges that reportedly often damage their electrical appliances. Plans are currently underway to give Abaco a new and improved electricity supply by constructing the \$105 million Wilson City power plant, but many locals are opposed to this development because of environmental and legal concerns.

People questioned

FROM page one

visitors approached and were also held up. The attackers also gun-butted a Bahamian woman during the robbery. Her injuries, however, were not life-threatening and she was the only person to be hurt. Tourism Director General Vernice Walkine said incidents like the one on Friday make it "harder" for tourism officials "to promote the country as a place to consider for a vacation."



VERNICE WALKINE

This sentiment was shared by many of The Tribune's readers, who on the newspaper's website expressed shock and dismay, fearing that the country's vital tourism industry will be negatively impacted by this and other crime incidents.

FROM page one

Turnquest

prevent spontaneous acts of violence. "I don't go around with a gun in my waist preventing people from shooting each other and I definitely won't be in people's bedrooms when you have these domestic rows that lead to fatal stabbing. "So we ought to stop looking for scapegoats. "I don't mind them criticising me because as long as I do what I know I'm supposed to do, some people will criticise because they don't want me to succeed."

domestic rows that lead to fatal stabbing. "So we ought to stop looking for scapegoats. "I don't mind them criticising me because as long as I do what I know I'm supposed to do, some people will criticise because they don't want me to succeed."

by shotgun wielding thugs. "Minister Turnquest has exhibited terrible leadership in the wake of the latest attack on tourists and the very serious crisis emanating there from; his reaction being no more than a photo-op and mild brief lecture. "In other words, the Minister had nothing of substance to say and his nothingness gives further credence to the widely held view that he is clueless about what needs to be done to get on top of this massive crime scourge"

Mr Roberts also accused Mr Turnquest of having a role in demoralising the police force, helping to force the early retirement of qualified police officers and supporting the removal of police from public schools.

At an impromptu press conference held hours after the tourists were robbed at gunpoint on Friday, Mr Turnquest vowed to continue to serve in his post until otherwise directed by the prime minister.

He also told his critics to stop looking for a scapegoat for the country's crime problem.

Mr Turnquest said: "I continue to do my job. I continue to manage the national security strategy for the Free National Movement administration. I've been given a mandate by the prime minister. I serve at his pleasure.

"If I did have to answer to critics, I would say that we ought not to look for scapegoats but each of us ought to look into the mirror, ask ourselves what are we doing. Each of us has a personal responsibility."

In recent weeks speculation has been rife in the political arena that Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham may be unhappy with Mr Turnquest's performance.

When asked to respond to this, Mr Turnquest said: "That's none of my business. You ask him. I continue to do my job every single day. When Mr Ingraham doesn't have confidence in me he'll fire me. When I think that I can no longer serve, I'll offer my resignation. They're the two options."

In terms of the nation's growing crime problem, Mr Turnquest reasoned that while Government has to take some responsibility, there was little he nor the police force can do to



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General Manager

Bahamas Electricity Corporation

Executive Offices - Blue Hill & Tucker Roads

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No later than 4:00 p.m.

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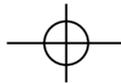
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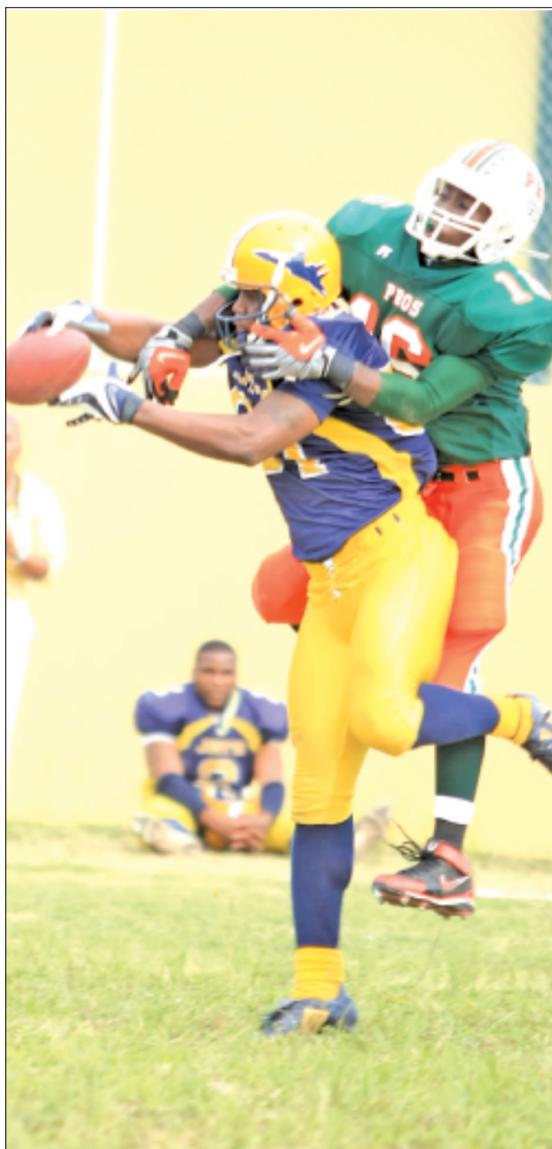
SPORTS

SCENES FROM JETS VS PROS

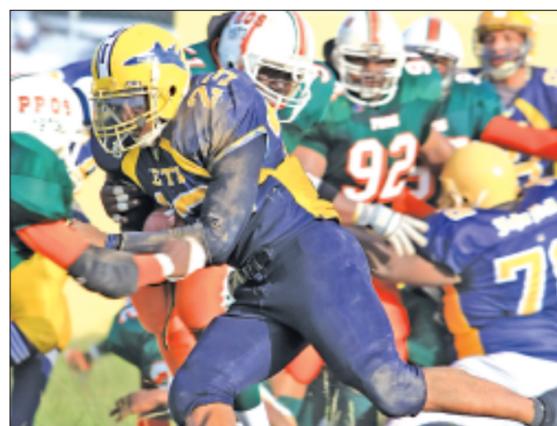
ACTION FROM THE John Bull Jets' clash with the Orry J Sands Pros yesterday. The Jets, up against the Commonwealth American Football League defending champions with both teams undefeated before Sunday, won the game 22-14. The match was rescheduled from late October.



JETS RUNNING BACK runs in for a touchdown. Jets won the match 22-14.



A PROS DEFENDER tries to stop the catch of the Jets receiver.



JETS RUNNING BACK running in for a two-point conversion after the touchdown.

PHOTOS: Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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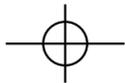
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SPORTS

BAAA: CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

THE Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations, fresh from its annual general meeting of election of officers, hosted its 20th Colony Club Inn and Suites National High School Cross Country on Saturday at Haynes Oval and Fort Charlotte.

Here's a look at the results: Under 13 Girls (2k)

- 1 - Iesha Taylor - Queen's College - 9:36.86
2 - Keniqua Reckley - Saint John's College - 9:40.00
3 - Phileshia Roberts - C.H. Reeves Junior - 9:43.03
4 - Charis McPhee - Anatol Rodgers - 9:49.60
5 - Celine Thompson - Queen's College - 9:50.47
6 - Rosalie Munroe - Saint Anne's - 9:50.95

- Team
1 - Queen's College - 71 (11.83)
2 - C.H. Reeves Junior - 130 (21.66)
3 - D.W. Davis Junior - 162 (27.00)

Under 15 Girls (3k)

- 1 - Johnique David - T.A. Thompson Junior - 12:35.25
2 - Talia Thompson - Queen's College - 12:51.58
3 - Vanillian Walker - Queen's College - 13:00.70
4 - Kristina Knowles - Central Eleuthera - 13:10.47
5 - Hollie Rolle - Saint Augustine's - 13:26.41
6 - Zahra Powell - Saint Augustine's - 13:29.78

- Team
1 - T.A. Thompson Junior - 78 (13.00)
2 - C.H. Reeves Junior - 137 (22.83)
3 - L.W. Young Junior - 203 (33.83)

Under 17 Girls (3k)

- 1 - Angela Chenilus - Anatol Rodgers - 12:09.87
2 - Ashley Johnson - Saint Augustine's - 12:10.15
3 - Desirae Sands - Saint Augustine's - 12:25.60
4 - Marva Etienne - C.R. Walker Senior - 13:13.55
5 - Shafarah Lewis - C.R. Walker Senior - 13:34.12
6 - Jessica Campbell - C.I. Gibson Senior - 13:36.77

- Team
1 - C.R. Walker Senior - 90 (15.00)
2 - Doris Johnson Senior - 208 (34.66)
3 - C.I. Gibson Senior - 225 (37.50)

Under 20 Girls (3k)

- 1 - Deshana Burnside - Saint Augustine's - 12:55.93
2 - Kendra Humes - CR Walker Senior - 13:25.56
3 - Florazel Russell - CR Walker Senior - 13:49.32
4 - Patricia Petit - CR Walker Senior - 14:01.52
5 - Olevia Brennen - Home School - 14:44.72
6 - Candice Ferguson - CR Walker Senior - 15:09.44

- Team
1 - CR Walker Senior - 39 (6.50)

2 - CC Sweeting Senior - 107 (17.83)

Under 13 Boys (3k)

- 1 - Kinard Rolle - Saint Augustine's - 13:33.58
2 - Henrey Francis - LW Young Junior - 13:34.14
3 - Adrian Thompson - TA Thompson Junior - 13:34.57
4 - Jamal Belfour - S.C. McPherson - 13:34.82
5 - Jackson Knowles - LW Young Junior - 13:35.64
6 - Darius Major - Saint John's College - 13:35.83
X - Alexander Scavella - Woodcock Primary - 13:35.25

- Team
1 - AF Adderley Junior - 146 (24.33)
2 - LW Young Junior - 156 (26.00)
3 - CH Reeves Junior - 163 (27.16)

Under 15 Boys (3k)

- 1 - Nakita Higgins - Saint Augustine's - 10:13.28
2 - Darren Young - TA Thompson Junior - 10:31.32
3 - Gordon Williams - TA Thompson Junior - 10:44.82
4 - Chino Milord - DW Davis Junior - 10:45.69
5 - Moses Almonor - CH Reeves Junior - 10:51.38
6 - Dimitri Charlton - Queen's College - 10:51.96

- Team
1 - TA Thompson Junior - 59 (9.83)
2 - Queen's College - 96 (16.00)
3 - DW Davis Junior - 135 (22.50)

Under 17 Boys (4k)

- 1 - Ashton Wallace - Saint George's - 12:45.50
2 - Desmond Major - Saint John's College - 12:59.45
3 - Marvin Minns - Saint John's College - 13:06.31
4 - Romario James - Saint Anne's School - 13:08.54
5 - Shaquille Pratt - CR Walker Senior - 13:12.81
6 - Kivirre Brown - CR Walker Senior - 13:18.00

- Team
1 - CR Walker Senior - 98 (16.33)
2 - CC Sweeting Senior - 134 (22.33)
3 - RM Bailey Senior - 167 (27.83)

Under 20 Boys (4k)

- 1 - Audley Carey - Saint Augustine's - 11:31.21
2 - Kingsley Cajuste - Sunland Baptist - 11:43.30
3 - Leonardo Forbes - Zion Christian - 12:20.81
4 - Ishmael Thompson - CC Sweeting Senior - 12:53.07
5 - Vernal Johnson - CR Walker Senior - 12:56.10
6 - Javaun Dabio - CR Walker Senior - 12:58.55
X - Laquardo Newbold - 11:34.04
X - Cerio Rolle - 11:38.07

- Team
1 - CR Walker Senior - 69 (11.50)
2 - Government High - 143 (23.83)
3 - CC Sweeting Senior - 161 (26.83)



PICTURED above from left are the newly elected officers: Frank 'Pancho' Rahming (technical director); Tim Munnings (General Secretary); Bernard Newbold (statistician); Debbie Smith (assistant treasurer); Laura Pratt-Charlton (treasurer); Sherwin Stuart (first vice president); Mike Sands (president); Felix Seymour (second vice president); Linda Thompson (Special Projects); Alpheus 'Hawk' Finlayson (public relations) and Foster Dorsett (Special Projects).

Mike Sands elected BAAA president again

FROM page 15

the top post 28-18 during the elections at the BAAA's annual general at the Ministry of Education.

The conference room was jammed packed with executives, coaches and delegates from the various affiliated Islands, clubs and track teams.

Just prior to the elections, there was some lengthy discussion on whether or not three inactive clubs, which became financial, should have been allowed to vote.

Eventually it was decided that only one would be granted permission and as the voting procedure began, former BAAA's president Dr Bernard Nottage and former Bahamas Olympic Association's secretary general Larry 'Doc' Davis presided.

There was no further interruption as the delegates were eager to cast their votes and in the end, Sands said he was thrilled to have returned to office.

"It went as expected," said Sands, quite relieved that he was back in control. "We went out and did what we had to do. Now we can move on with our manifesto that we presented to the people."

No doubt surprised and shocked at the outcome, Hollowsworth said that he was grateful for the opportunity that he got to serve during the one year that Sands was in exile and if the opportunity presented itself again, he would take a delight in running for office again.

"I am the immediate past

president of the association, so I still have an opportunity to serve at that level in the association," Hollowsworth said. "So I will continue to make a contribution whenever I'm called upon."

Sands, however, said that he and his executive team will extend an olive branch to Hollowsworth and the other defeated members of his slate as they try to heal the wounds in moving the association forward.

Once the position of president was filled, it seemed quite evident that the delegates were going to vote for Sands' entire slate of officers.

But there were some surprises and some disappointments in the final outcome of the various positions.

Sherwin Stuart captured the first vice president spot 28-18 over Marshall and Felix Seymour beat out incumbent Anita Doherty 25-21 in an all-Grand Bahamian battle.

Olympian Tim Munnings won 26-20 over former treasurer Rosie Carey 26-20 for the general secretary position; former secretary general Don Turnquist won 25-19 over Colie for assistant.

The new treasurer is Laura Pratt-Charlton, who secured a 27-19 decision over coach Dianne Woodside, while Debbie Smith won 26-20 over Lisa Mortimer for the assistant post.

Journalist Bernard Newbold captured the statistician spot over coach George Cleare and veteran executive Alpheus 'Hawk' Finlayson ousted incumbent Kermit Taylor 27-19 for public relations.

Like the president's position, the spot for technical director

was also keenly contested, but in the end, incumbent Frank Rahming retained his position over Rupert Gardiner, the choice for the Visionary Team.

And in the newly formed post of Special Projects, Linda Thompson and Foster Dorsett won with 28 and 24 votes respectively over Dexter Bodie and Doyle Burrows.

The executive team was com-

pleted with 12 council members.

They are Doyle Burrows, Tyrone Burrows, Carrie Young, Grand Bahamian businessman Basil Neymour, May Miller, Julie Wilson, Patrick Adderley, Livingstone Bostwick, Roosevelt Thompson, Stephanie Rahming and Dr. Cypriann Strachan.

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SPORTS

TENNIS: BARCLAYS ATP WORLD TOUR FINALS IN LONDON

BAHAMAS' Mark Knowles and India's Mahesh Bhupathi return the ball to Czech Republic's Frantisek Cermak and Slovakia's Michal Mertinak during their ATP World Tour Finals tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, yesterday.



AP PHOTO/Sang Tan

Knowles, Bhupathi off to winning start

By **BRENT STUBBS**
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

MARK Knowles likes the position he and Mahesh Bhupathi are in, but he's not celebrating just yet.

The Bahamian-Indian combo have taken the early lead in the Group A standings of the men's doubles at the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals yesterday in London, England.

The number three seeded team won their first round match with identical scores of 6-3, 6-3 over the No.5 team of Frantisek Cermak and Michal Mertinak.

And they joined their second round opponents, No.8 seed Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski, who opened up with an upsetting 6-4, 6-4 win over top seeds Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic with 1-0 win-loss records in the week-long round robin play.

"We were not quite sure what to expect because we haven't played in a while," said Knowles about their opener. "But we were able to play very well and was able to pull it off."

"So it's always great when you can win your first round match. But we will just have to get ready for our next match and take it one match at a time."

With a day's rest as Group B, featuring American identi-



INDIA'S Mahesh Bhupathi, left, and Bahamas' Mark Knowles during their ATP World Tour Finals tennis match against Slovakia's Michal Mertinak and Czech Republic's Frantisek Cermak at the O2 Arena in London.

cal twin brothers Bob and Mike Bryan, play today, Knowles and Bhupathi will be back in action on Tuesday when they face Fyrstenberg and Matkowski.

Then on Thursday, they will square off against Nestor and Zimonjic in the final match of the round robin play.

Depending on the outcome of their next two matches, Knowles and Bhupathi will know whether or not they will advance to the semifinal play-offs that will be contested on Saturday.

The final is set for Sunday. "If you win all three, you can guarantee your spot in the

final," Knowles said. "So that is our main focus, but we will just prepare to play our next match on Tuesday."

Last year, in their first appearance in the year-ending tournament, Knowles and Bhupathi failed to advance out of the round robin. However, he's hoping that they can turn things around this week.

"We're playing very good, even though this tournament is tough," Knowles pointed out. "It's good to get the first one under your belt, but we still have a long way to go."

Every year since the inception of the tournament that showcases the best doubles teams and singles players, Knowles has made it.

In 2003 in Houston, Texas, he and Nestor reached the semifinal. The following year when the tournament was played in Texas for the final time, they also got to the semi-

final. When the tournament switched to Shanghai, China in 2005, Knowles and Nestor failed to advance out of the round robin. But in 2006, they lost in the final before they won it in 2007 when they played together for the last time.

Playing separately for the first time after they split up, Knowles and Bhupathi didn't make it out of the round robin. But Nestor and Zimonjic went on to win the title.

CARIBBEAN SPORTS AWARDS & DINNER BANQUET: SUPERCLUBS BREEZES

Sir Durward 'Sea Wolf' Knowles receives top honour at gala event

A large number of persons turned up at SuperClubs Breezes on Friday night for the second Caribbean Sports Awards & dinner banquet.

The gala event recognised some of the most outstanding athletes from the Caribbean.

The highest honour of the night went to Sir Durward 'Sea Wolf' Knowles, who was recognised for his accomplishment in sailing. Knowles, who earlier in the week celebrated his 92nd birthday, has competed in a record seven Olympic Games where he's won both a gold and bronze medal.

In his address to the gathering, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Desmond Bannister said the event was designed to convey in some meaningful, tangible and appropriate way, the admiration and respect of the peoples of the Caribbean



SIR DURWARD KNOWLES

countries for the great men and women of yesteryear who were so largely responsible for creating the framework by which this region has been able to become a world power in sports.

"Allow me to say that tonight's occasion might also be regarded as exceptional in that for the first time, the stature of the local sporting community i being enhanced by its active and full participation in a prestigious awards ceremony such as this which transcends the ordinary boundaries of our sister countries, uniting them in a singular effort to confirm iconic status on persons who have toiled so hard and laboured so long as national and international warriors, marching the vanguard of our region's prospects for excellence in the international arena of high level sports," he said.

Following on the heels of the Ministry's national Hall of Fame where 15 persons were inducted, Bannister said he's had the opportunity to witness a number of the veteran gladiators in their unique responsibilities as ambassadors for themselves, their families, their countries and indeed ss world ambassadors for all the inhabitants of all the islands washed by the Caribbean sea, a regional geography that gave them birth.

Paraphrasing a quote from famous writer Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bannister said "what lies in our past, and what lies in our future, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

He further stated that "indeed the athletic successes and personal accomplishments of all these great icons are ample evidence of the gifts that were within them: a will power and ambition to succeed, irrespective of the liabilities that they each had to encounter."

"This is the message that I would wish to place in the hearts of all the young people of the Caribbean: to dream and them to pursue that dream so that the day will come when

they too will be called upon to receive the same high honour that will be bestowed upon the broad shoulders of the heroes that we seek to recognize tonight."

Bannister also congratulated Al Hamilton, the founder of CASI and journalist Fred Stur-rup, CASI's Regional Director and president of the Commonwealth Boxing Council, for the vision in bringing the awards banquet to the Bahamas.

The banquet drew a number of dignitaries from around the region, including Jamaican hurdler Brigitte Foster-Hylton, who captured the IAAF 12th World Championships' 100 hurdles gold medal in Berlin, Germany in August.

Foster-Hylton cart off the Athletics Female title over Bahamian quarter-miler Tonique Williams-Darling and sprinter Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie; Jamaican sprinters Merlene Ottey and Shelly-Ann Fraser and Cuban 800 metre specialist Ana Fedelia Quirot.

Cuban high jump sensation Javier Sotomayer was named the Male Athletics winner over Jamaicans Lennox Miller, Donald Quarrie, Asafa Powell and Usain Bolt; Bahamian Troy Kemp and Trinidadians Wendell Motley and Haseley Crawford.

Beside Knowles, the only other Bahamian winner was Mychal 'Sweet Bells' Thompson. He took home the award for basketball after his stellar career in the National Basketball Association, winning three titles with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Thompson, who is now a colour commentator for the Laker's games in Los Angeles, won over fellow Bahamian Rick Fox, who also won three titles with the Lakers after he was traded there from the Boston Celtics.

The other three nominees were Patrick Ewing of Jamaica, Olden Polynmice of Haiti and Tim Duncan of the Virgin Islands.

Among the other winners in their categories were:

Antigua's Sir Vivian Richard in cricket over Brian Lara from Trinidad; Clive Lloyd from Guyana, Michael Holding from Jamaica and Sir Everton Weekes from Barbados.

Bermuda's Clyde Best in football (soccer) over Trinidadian Dwight Yorke, Bahamian Leroy 'Uncle Lee' Archer and Jamaican Theodore Whitmore.

And Emile Griffith of the Virgin Islands in boxing for winning a world title. He won over Bahamian elisha Obed, another world champion; Cuban Teofilo Stevenson; Trinidad's Leslie Stewart and Claude Noel and Guyana's Andrew Lewis.

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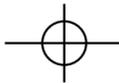
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sports

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009

PAGE 14 • Mark Knowles off to winning start in London



ATP WORLD

ELECTION: BAHAMAS ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

Sands elected BAAA president for third time

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
bstubbs@tribunemedia.net

AFTER a year to reflect on the past mistakes, Mike Sands has reassumed the presidency of the Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations from Curt Hollingsworth.

Sands, ousted from office in a vote of no confidence in the middle of his second term, was elected as president of the BAAA for the third time on Saturday.

And in a resounding return to office for the next three years, Sands had 99 percent of his slate on his Visionary Team voted in with the exception of Rupert Gardiner, who was



Stanley Mitchell

FORMER BAAA PRESIDENT Dr Bernard Nottage makes remarks before he and former BOA Secretary General Larry Davis presided over the BAAA election on Saturday.

defeated 26-20 by incumbent Frank 'Pancho' Rahming as technical director.

"I am very pleased with the outcome," said a jubilant Sands as he regained the confidence of he same people who had voted him out in 2008 because of

some eight matters, including the lack of collective decision-making of the entire executive team.

In a tremendous show of support, Sands won the post for

SEE page 13



Stanley Mitchell

OUTGOING PRESIDENT Curt Hollingsworth gets set to shake hands with the new president Mike Sands following the BAAA election on Saturday. Looking on is former Olympics sprinter Iram Lewis. Seated left is defeated second-vice president Anita Doherty, from Grand Bahama.



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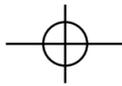
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LOCAL NEWS

ANNUAL NATIONAL TRUST

jollification

SCENES from the National Trust's Jollification event at the Retreat on Village Road. Artists, artisans and cooks had their work on show for the crowds over the weekend.

Photos: Felipe Major/Tribune staff



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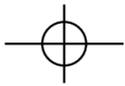
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INSIGHT

The stories behind the news

Next government must break 'rising crime tide'

By RUPERT MISSICK JR
Chief Reporter
rmissick@tribunemedia.net

Is capital punishment the key?

Rodney Moncur who heads the fringe Workers Party used to lament that there were occasions when persons would put a possessive "s" behind Worker "to make it look like it was only me in the party."

But just over a month ago, Mr Moncur, this feisty social activist who many persons find easy to dismiss and hard to take seriously, was leading hundreds of persons through the streets calling for the "return of capital punishment."

The times certainly are changing. But the admittedly impressive turnout at this pro-capital punishment march wasn't evidence that the political fortunes of Mr Moncur or his Workers Party had changed, but it was proof that Mr Moncur is more in touch with the public than are most of our parliamentarians.

He was aware of the rising frustration many feel toward the government, the police and the judicial system because of the rising tide of crime in the country.

The bourgeois sentimentality that once criticised the media for having crime on the front page is now dissipating and is only being parroted by politicians and party supporters embarrassed by their own inability to do anything about the situation. This is because bourgeoisie are being targeted and are increasingly becoming victims of break-ins, burglaries and armed robberies.

It is not unheard of in some areas of the world or even the United States that there are police departments who "adjust" their crime statistics to make instances of criminality appear lower than they are. I suppose the populace of this island should be grateful that the RBDF has not — as far as we know — adopted this policy. Although, if they did, it probably would be a futile exercise that would only increase the public's growing irritation with the organization.

The perception that crime is out of hand can't and won't be eliminated by the regurgitation of cold statistics, whether or not they show — in the minds of officials at least — that they are doing an adequate job.

New Providence is only 21 miles by seven and there are little more than 200,000 people living here. It is impossible to "hide" anything from most people on this island. Nowadays, thanks to the Internet, it's not even taking as long as it once did for news to get around. From the extramarital affairs of politicians and businessmen, to the recreational drug habits of prominent attorneys, media or no media it's all talked about.

Even if you may not know the person sitting at the table across from you in a restaurant, or in a darkened movie theatre, it doesn't mean they don't know you.

A friend of mine made an unset-

ting but true statement to me once. "I'm a Bahamian you know. Just because you're not watching me," she said, "doesn't mean I'm not watching you."

In order to maintain our sanity we fool ourselves into believing that true discretion, anonymity or even privacy can be kept on this small overly populated island. I find it immensely amusing that there are persons who believe that something so public as crime can be "kept under wraps."

The thing is, the "conventional" or "legitimate" (whichever term you prefer) media no longer has a monopoly on reporting crime.

Often, whether an incident is included in the crime report or not, by the time the media gets a hold of it, it has already gone viral.

This happened most recently in the case of the shooting on Paradise Island where persons posted photographs of the crime scene tape on facebook and changed their status to inform their friends of the incident. By the time newspapers come out the next morning, persons are more often than not seeking to validate or confirm what they believe to be the facts of an incident.

No longer waiting for the police or media, citizens circulate e-mails about their relatives, neighbours or themselves, recounting assaults, burglaries or armed robberies.

E-mail, Facebook and other social media become a 21st Century version of the neighbourhood watch, but in this case the "watch" is nationwide or even global. In-boxes are spotted with subject lines reading: "Be careful while walking on RM Bailey Park" or "Third Break In This Week in Winton", etcetera.

In the case of the robbery of the 18 tourists who were held up by two men wielding shotguns on Friday, police were holding the details of that incident close to their chest until their press conference later that evening. However, on forums like "Bahamas Issues" there were already scores of comments, speculations and accounts from third sources already out on the world wide web.

There is an argument to be made about whether or not the media sensationalizes crime. However, it isn't the media that is making people feel unsafe. They feel unsafe because it's their neighbour, their co-worker, their classmate, their relatives, their friends, their children and spouses who are victims of crime and they are wondering whether or not they will be next.

Comedian Chris Rock said famously in his standup special entitled "Rock This": "When I go to the money machine tonight, I'm not looking over my shoulder because



I'm worried about the media."

The media tends to be the vehicle of people's fears and concerns rather than the originator. But that point can be argued at another time.

There may not be any scandals coming out of the FNM of the number or magnitude that forced the PLP out of office in 2007, but the "scandal" of crime will certainly be the party's Achilles heel going into 2012.

Crime is a scandal. It's a product of poverty, a lack of education and opportunity and sometimes just savagery for savagery's sake, all of which are scandalous products of our society. But perception rules when it comes to politics and the current government is quickly losing ground on this front. Increasing attempts to place blame, whether real or imagined, on social issues, the media or other politicians will only be seen by an increasingly worried and angry public as an admission that the government is devoid of ideas.

Just as the PLP placed the blame for their scandals at the feet of those other than the ones responsible for brining the organization shame, the FNM is in danger of looking as equally ridiculous if they do not claim the problem and approach the public with more than nebulous ideas that simply sound good at a press conference.

As Dr Ian Strachan said in an interview with The Tribune whether there is a wider social problem behind crime is irrelevant. In politics the reigning government often takes credit for success that is not of their own making and also takes the blame for problems not of their own making.

"It's immaterial how we got here as far as crime goes. The matter is we are here. People are angry and they want change. They want to see what they perceive as justice being done. They want to see criminals hanged — it doesn't matter whether or not that reduces the murder rate or reduces delinquency — it will be gratifying for many people," he said.

He said although he doesn't support capital punishment, "because most people do — a government that hangs will be rewarded."

For better or for worse Dr Strachan is right. Crime has become so tangible to nearly everyone on this island that anything less than a tangible response is almost insulting to the intelligence of a rationally thinking person.

There are short term and long term responses to crime and the public feels — rightly or wrongly — that both are lacking.

Admittedly it's only in science fiction where the police stop crime before it happens. In fact the film "Minority Report" has at its centre a special unit of a police force in a futuristic city that uses three comatose clairvoyants to predict crime and arrest criminals before they can commit the act. But unfortunately for the hardworking men and women of the police force the public doesn't care that the only thing that one can truly expect from them is a quick response time and their ability to solve a crime after it happens.

This past week it was announced that Commissioner of Police Reginald Ferguson was to retire in the new year. It still remains to be seen if the appointment of a new commissioner is a way for the government to redeem itself in the eyes of voters.

The way the government has handled the economy, the national debt, the frustration in the educational system will all play a role in how people vote next election but crime will be a determining factor.

"I don't think that Mother Pratt, the PLP and Christie did a very good job on the issue of administration of justice, I think it is an amazing, telling fact that the PLP was the sitting government and one of its members of Parliament was representing a convicted drug trafficker who was facing extradition. That man is now (the party's) deputy leader.

"You have difficulty convincing

me that the PLP is serious on crime. I feel for the Bahamian people — they may vote the FNM out on crime but the other option (is) another party that has a questionable record.

"We are in a catch 22 and unfortunately I don't think that there are sufficient Bahamians who are prepared to take a chance on a new breed unless those new men and women are able to (raise) a significant amount of money to make a political run," Dr Strachan said.

Dr Strachan said that solving the problem will involve thinking outside of "hiring a commissioner of police and buying new police cars."

"I think it's time for national service, I think we need to bring the leaders of our country, the civic leaders to craft a national service plan. We need to engage young people who are coming out of school poorly skilled, we can give them a skill, an income and give them a sense of self esteem. Let's stop creating criminals, we need to deal with the machine that creates criminal — and that's poorly socialized young men," he said.

Dr Strachan believes the country is boiling up to a fevered pitch and will soon explode.

"The explosion ain ga be easy and it ain ga be nice. I don't believe we are beyond an actual riot. We're building up to conditions of scarcity, frustration, anger, injustice that are stirring up the people and we just need the right bad thing to happen to the wrong person for things to start getting burned down," he said.

One is almost moved to feel sorry for the Minister of National Security, the Commissioner of Police and the other senior officers on the force. It's almost as if the country were a village by the sea and we're all standing on the shore watching a tsunami approach the island. We're surrounding them, screaming at them, asking why they can't hold the monster wave back.

Like a tsunami, crime is a force of nature — human nature — and the innovation, imagination, dedication and sheer brilliance it will take to turn things around may simply be absent from our political directorate.

No offense is meant by that statement but excuses seem in abundance and frustration isn't dwindling and more and more persons are looking to the people who three years ago claimed to have the answers to this problem.

This growing frustration, just like the words that appeared on the wall during Belshazzar's Feast, should be an indication to the government that above all else crime is the issue that they will be counted and weighed against in the next general election.



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INSIGHT

Iran begins war games to protect nuclear sites

By **NASSER KARIMI**
Associated Press Writer

GN966

Ministry of Finance



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Signed
Wendy Craig
Governor
Central Bank of The Bahamas

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran on Sunday began large-scale air defense war games aimed at protecting its nuclear facilities from attack, state TV reported, as an air force commander boasted the country could deter any military strike by Israel.

It said the five-day drill will cover an area a third of the size of Iran and spread across the central, western and southern parts of the country.

Gen. Ahmad Mighani, head of an air force unit in charge of responding to threats to Iran's air space, said Saturday the war games would cover regions where Iran's nuclear facilities are located.

The drill involves Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard, the paramilitary Basij forces affiliated with the Guard as well as army units.

The United States and its European allies accuse Iran of embarking on a nuclear weapons program. Iran denies the charge and insists the program is only for peaceful purposes.

Israel has not ruled out military action to stop Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

The commander of the Guard's air force, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, meanwhile



A MISSILE is fired in an unspecified location in Iran...

(AP Photo)

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sought on Sunday to play down the significance of Israel's threats against his country, saying they amounted to psychological warfare.

"We are sure they are not able to do anything against us since they cannot predict our reaction," Hajizadeh was quoted as saying by the Guard's official Web site, Sepahnews.

"If their fighter planes could escape from Iran's air defense system, their bases will be hit by our devastating surface-to-surface missiles before they land," he said.

Also on Sunday, Iran's defense minister, Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, said Iran planned to pursue designing

and producing its own air defense missiles, according to the official IRNA news agency.

His comments were apparently in response to the delay in the delivery from Russia of S-300 anti-aircraft missiles, meant to be a key component of Iran's air defense.

Iran complains that the delay is apparently the result of Israeli and U.S. pressure.

Israel and the United States have opposed the missile deal out of fear Iran could use the system to significantly boost air defenses at its nuclear sites — including its main uranium enrichment plant at Natanz.

Commenting on this week's

war games, a senior Obama administration official urged Iran to engage with the international community.

"We would prefer that the Iranian regime follow through on their offer to engage," said Ellen Tauscher, the U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control and international security.

"It is more important for them to build confidence with the international community," she said at a news conference Sunday at the Halifax International Security Forum in Nova Scotia.

• *Associated Press Writer Rob Gillies contributed to this report from Halifax, Nova Scotia*



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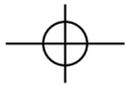
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INSIGHT

Lawyer: 9/11 defendants want platform for views

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The five men facing trial in the Sept. 11 attacks will plead not guilty so that they can air their criticisms of U.S. foreign policy, the lawyer for one of the defendants said Sunday.

Scott Fenstermaker, the lawyer for accused terrorist Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, said the men would not deny their role in the 2001 attacks but "would explain what happened and why they did it."

The U.S. Justice Department announced earlier this month that Ali and four other men accused of murdering nearly 3,000 people in the deadliest terrorist attack in the U.S. will face a civilian federal trial just blocks from the site of the destroyed World Trade Center.

Ali, also known as Ammar al-Baluchi, is a nephew of



SHOWN (l-r) are Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, Waleed bin Attash, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Mustafa Ahmad al-Hawsawi and Ramzi Binalshibh... (AP Photos)

professed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Mohammed, Ali and the others will explain "their assessment of American foreign policy," Fenstermaker said.

"Their assessment is negative," he said.

Fenstermaker met with Ali last week at the U.S. prison

at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. He has not spoken with the others but said the men have discussed the trial among themselves.

Fenstermaker was first quoted in The New York Times in Sunday's editions.

Critics of Attorney General Eric Holder's decision to try the men in a New York

City civilian courthouse have warned that the trial would provide the defendants with a propaganda platform.

Dean Boyd, a spokesman for the Department of Justice, said Sunday that while the men may attempt to use the trial to express their views, "we have full confidence in the ability of the courts and in

particular the federal judge who may preside over the trial to ensure that the proceeding is conducted appropriately and with minimal disruption, as federal courts have done in the past."

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned Holder for hours about his decision to send the five 9/11

suspects to New York for trial.

Critics of Holder's decision — mostly Republicans — argued the trial will give Mohammed and his co-defendants a world stage to spout hateful rhetoric. Holder said such concerns are misplaced and any pronouncements by the suspects would only make them look worse.

"I have every confidence that the nation and the world will see him for the coward that he is," Holder told the committee. "I'm not scared of what Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has to say at trial — and no one else needs to be, either."

The attorney general said he does not believe holding the trial in New York — at a federal courthouse that has seen a number of high-profile terrorism trials in recent decades — will increase the risk of terror attacks there.

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THE WEATHER REPORT

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5-DAY FORECAST

Location	Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Orlando	Nice with a good deal of sunshine High: 82° Low: 61°	Partly cloudy with a shower Low: 71°	Intervals of clouds and sunshine High: 82° Low: 71°	Times of clouds and sun High: 83° Low: 71°	Mostly sunny High: 83° Low: 71°	A full day of sunshine High: 82° Low: 70°
Tampa	High: 82° Low: 61°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
West Palm Beach	High: 82° Low: 67°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Freeport	High: 82° Low: 67°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Nassau	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Eleuthera	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Cat Island	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Great Exuma	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
San Salvador	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Long Island	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Mayaguana	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Crooked Island/Acklins	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°
Great Inagua	High: 82° Low: 71°	Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 83° Low: 71°	High: 82° Low: 70°

ALMANAC
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday
Temperature: High 84° F/29° C, Low 72° F/22° C, Normal high 81° F/27° C, Normal low 70° F/21° C, Last year's high 80° F/27° C, Last year's low 70° F/21° C
Precipitation: As of 1 p.m. yesterday 0.3", Year to date 32.5", Normal year to date 46.2"

UV INDEX TODAY
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11+
LOW MODERATE HIGH HIGH EXT

TIDES FOR NASSAU

Time	High	Low
Today	9:07 a.m. 3.1, 2:42 p.m. 0.1	9:24 p.m. 2.4, 3:38 p.m. 0.3
Friday	9:46 a.m. 2.9, 3:24 p.m. 0.3	10:08 p.m. 2.3, 4:21 p.m. 0.4
Saturday	10:31 a.m. 2.8, 4:07 a.m. 0.4	10:54 p.m. 2.2, 5:05 p.m. 0.6
Sunday	11:15 a.m. 2.7, 4:52 a.m. 0.6	11:44 p.m. 2.2, 5:50 p.m. 0.7
Monday	12:01 p.m. 2.5, 5:43 a.m. 0.9	12:30 p.m. 2.5, 6:36 p.m. 0.7
Tuesday	12:37 p.m. 2.5, 6:38 a.m. 0.9	12:50 p.m. 2.2, 7:29 p.m. 0.7
Wednesday	1:31 a.m. 2.3, 7:37 a.m. 1.0	1:41 p.m. 2.4, 8:09 p.m. 0.6

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise: 6:29 a.m., Sunset: 5:21 p.m., Moonrise: 9:04 a.m., Moonset: 7:44 p.m.
First: Nov. 24, Full: Dec. 2, Last: Dec. 9, New: Dec. 16

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

MARINE FORECAST

Location	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMPS.
ABACO	Today: NE at 6-12 Knots, Friday: NE at 6-12 Knots	3-5 Feet, 4-8 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	79° F, 78° F
ANDROS	Today: NE at 7-14 Knots, Friday: NE at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet, 1-3 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	80° F, 80° F
CAT ISLAND	Today: NNE at 6-12 Knots, Friday: NE at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet, 2-6 Feet	10 Miles, 7 Miles	81° F, 81° F
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: NNE at 7-14 Knots, Friday: E at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet, 1-3 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	82° F, 82° F
ELEUTHERA	Today: NNE at 6-16 Knots, Friday: NE at 6-12 Knots	3-5 Feet, 4-7 Feet	10 Miles, 7 Miles	80° F, 80° F
FREEPORT	Today: NNE at 6-12 Knots, Friday: NNE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet, 1-2 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	77° F, 80° F
GREAT EXUMA	Today: NE at 6-16 Knots, Friday: ENE at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet, 1-2 Feet	10 Miles, 7 Miles	80° F, 80° F
GREAT INAGUA	Today: NNE at 6-12 Knots, Friday: NNE at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet, 1-3 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	82° F, 82° F
LONG ISLAND	Today: NNE at 6-16 Knots, Friday: E at 6-12 Knots	1-2 Feet, 1-2 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	81° F, 81° F
MAYAGUANA	Today: NE at 6-12 Knots, Friday: E at 4-8 Knots	3-5 Feet, 4-7 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	82° F, 82° F
NASSAU	Today: NE at 7-14 Knots, Friday: NE at 7-14 Knots	1-3 Feet, 1-3 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	80° F, 80° F
SAN SALVADOR	Today: NE at 6-16 Knots, Friday: NE at 6-16 Knots	1-2 Feet, 1-2 Feet	10 Miles, 10 Miles	81° F, 81° F
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: NE at 6-16 Knots, Friday: NE at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet, 2-4 Feet	10 Miles, 7 Miles	80° F, 80° F

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INSIGHT



MEMBERS of Iraq's Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) demonstrate their skills during a weapons training class at Interior Ministry in Baghdad, Iraq. Two officers were killed and three wounded Saturday, in attacks targeting policemen in Baghdad, the police said.

(AP Photo: Karim Kadim)

Attackers kill two police, couple in southern Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Assailants killed two policemen and stole weapons in an attack Sunday on a warehouse used by police in the Pacific coast resort of Acapulco.

The Public Safety Department in Guerrero state, where Acapulco is located, said the two officers were shot in the head.

In the attack early Sunday morning near the city's famous coastal boulevard, the assailants made off with two assault rifles, three pistols and a shotgun.

Elsewhere in Guerrero, a couple was found shot to death Sunday in a car. Their two-year-old son was found in the vehicle unharmed.

In the central state of Hidalgo, federal police said Saturday they arrested nine municipal police employees for allegedly collaborating with the Zetas drug gang.

The employees of the local police force in Pachuca, the state capital, were arrested Friday.

The federal Public Safety Department said the police set up checkpoints to identify potential kidnap victims — then passed that information on to the Zetas. They also allegedly shared information about the activities of other police forces.

The department said it had identified about 160 suspects that worked for or were tied to the Zetas in Hidalgo state.

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Applications may be obtained online at www.bahamas.gov.bs/finance or from one of the above locations.

Deadline for submission of applications is **Friday 4th December 2009.**



GN-965

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE RELATIVE TO MATTER No. 3677 OF 2002 THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE V. KEVA MAJOR

Reference is made to the Article published in the Nassau Guardian on Monday, 9th November, 2009 relative to the charges filed against Mrs. Keva Major under The Proceeds of Crime Act. The Article purported to attribute certain remarks to the Learned Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate Linda Virgill. The Office of the Attorney-General hereby provides the factual matrix in respect of the withdrawal of the charges and the making of the detention order in respect of the property, the subject of the charge.

In Case No. 3677 of 2002, intituled Commissioner of Police v. Keva Michelle Major, Mrs. Major was charged before the Learned Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate Mrs. Linda Virgill with Possession of the Proceeds of Drug Trafficking and Assisting Another to Conceal Proceeds of Drug Trafficking.

The Office of the Attorney-General on the 22nd September, 2009 made an application before the Learned Deputy Chief Magistrate Mrs. Carolita Bethell for a detention order for the subject funds contained in Case No. 3677 of 2002. The Learned Deputy Chief Magistrate Bethell granted an Order dated 22nd September, 2009 to detain for a period of three months the sum of \$850,505.00, seized from Mrs. Major.

By a Nolle Prosequi of the Honourable Attorney-General dated 23rd September, 2009 the proceedings in Case No. 3677 of 2002 against Mrs. Keva Major were discontinued.

The Office of the Attorney-General in making the application before the Learned Deputy Chief Magistrate Bethell did not act improperly. It is the Attorney General's unfettered prerogative to enter a Nolle Prosequi in any matter.

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
EAST HILL STREET
NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS
18th November, 2009**