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Sun up: 6:17 a.m. Sun down: 6:06 p.m. Tides: High 3:14 a.m. and 3:03 p.m. Low: 8:45 a.m. and 9:26 p.m. Windspeed: 26 kph. Temp: Max. 29.2°C. Min. 22.4°C. Rainfall: Yesterday: 0.3 mm; Month: 31.1 mm; Year: 97.4 mm. FORECAST: Mostly sunny and breezy.



Harris for fraud probe

by EZRA STUART

PRESIDENT OF the Barbados Football Association (BFA), Randy Harris, wants a police investigation of a "bogus" letter which quoted him as urging football clubs to encourage their members to vote for the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) in last week's general elections.

Speaking at a Press conference at the National Stadium yesterday, Harris, who took over from Government minister Ronald Jones as BFA president last September, said he would be making a formal report to police tomorrow.

Harris said the letter, purporting to come from the president and the BFA's executive members and allegedly signed by him, was read out by Chris Sinckler, the Minister of Finance, at a rally in Independence Square last Wednesday night.

Noting that while he issued a denial on the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and in THE NATION newspaper

after being made aware of the letter, Harris wasn't sure the public heard his side since it came during the height of political campaigning.

"We in the BFA think it is such a serious fraud for someone to be copying my signature and putting it on such a letter," Harris said.

"I just want to say that the Barbados Football Association is a national association comprising of people of all persuasions but when it comes to football, we work as a team and we certainly would not want to influence people in such a way," he said. "We think that was a diabolical act by whoever because we are not sure where it came from, but what we are sure about is that it did not come from the Barbados Football Association."

"I am going to be making a report as president and I am going to invite as many members of the executive council to accompany me to make a report to the police," he said.

However, Harris said he didn't think the alleged letter should affect the BFA's relationship with the newly re-elected

Freundel Stuart-led Democratic Labour Party administration.

"I am not afraid of that because the truth be told, the two most helpful persons to the Barbados Football Association since I became president are the Honourable Minister of Sports, Stephen Lashley and the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands, Mr Michael Lashley."

"They have really gone out of their way to meet with the BFA and to try to resolve any issues that the Government would've been able to help us with, so I would believe that the members of the BFA would've been very ungrateful to circulate such a missive," Harris said.

"I am hoping that the letter would be taken for what it is, a fraud . . . I don't know who did it, so I don't know what is the purpose behind the letter, other than to embarrass the president and the executive members of the BFA."

Harris and re-elected BLP Member of Parliament Mia Mottley are organizers of the popular LIME Pelican Football Challenge tournament.

COST-CUTTING CROWD
 SHOPPING TROLLEYS were snapped up by the dozens yesterday when hundreds of shoppers travelled to Cost-U-Less, the North American retail store which opened its doors for the first time to the Barbadian public. The car park at the new venue in Welches, St Thomas, was filled long before 9 a.m., and customers waited patiently through a 20-minute opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony before heading for the aisles. All the while, busy staff had to deal with the hundreds who lined up for membership cards. Above, some of the shoppers who thronged the store yesterday. (Picture by Sandy PHIL.)

■ Please see also Pages 26A and 27A.

Anonymous

Thanks. To Whoever it is that made these lovely cool mornings, and breathtaking sunsets. Thanks. For quiet showers that cool the day and soften the earth, giving us food and life. Thanks to the One who made the cycles of night and day, waking and sleep, sleep so deep and sweet that, even when asleep you know it's so good. Thanks for work too, that pays bills and fills life with purpose and meaning, work that honours us with opportunities to help someone along the way. Thanks for simple joys that carry no cost – the joy of freedom, of health, the joy of choice. Thanks to the One who made it fun to frolic in the sea, walk on the beach, jog in the park. Thanks for that thing inside that bursts out into laughter at a good ole joke, a funny movie or the memory of a good old time story. Thanks for all the lovely people in our lives who helped and cared and loved. In a million little ways, thanks.

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