

REPORTED STABBING DEATH IN ST. JOHN'S

Story on Page 2



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, third from left, held a meeting with a delegation from South Korea's second-largest company, the SK Group on Monday. *Story on page 2.*

Reported stabbing death in St. John's overnight



A man was stabbed to death in the Lower All Saints Road area shortly after 7 pm, last evening.

The circumstances surrounding the stabbing are unclear, but the Emergency Medical Services received the call at 7:19 pm and dispatched an ambulance to the scene within 6 minutes, where the man was seen suffering from stab wounds.

He later died on the spot.

This is the country's fourth murder since the start of the year.

Further details will be provided as they come to hand.

South Korean company explores business opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda

South Korea's second-largest company, the SK Group, wants to do business in Antigua and Barbuda and it is making an offer to explore opportunities with both the government and the private sector.

This was one of the main outcomes of a meeting held on Monday by Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, with a delegation from the Group headed by the chairman of the SK Supex Council, Cho Daesik.

Minister Greene met with the team in place of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is currently out of state. He welcomed them to St. John's and

shared the hope that this venture would add another level to the existing strong ties between Antigua and Barbuda and South Korea.

Representative of the South Korean government, former Ambassador Seong-ho Hong explained that his country wishes to broaden and deepen the relationship with Antigua and Barbuda in a more systematic, institutional, and sustainable way. "To this end, we have discussed and explored various programmes for cooperation. We believe that strong public/private partnership is also important for the long-term and solid relationship and that's why the lead-

ership of the SK Group is here. The SK Group's business deals with solutions to challenges faced by humanity and future technologies. That is why we view today's meeting as very timely and meaningful and we hope that our discussions would be productive and fruitful," he stated.

Chairman Daesik described his company as a 'top class' and leading company, operating in South Korea, in multiple areas such as semiconductors, telecommunications, energy, and the bio-pharma industries. The Group is also a leader in waste-water recycling, carbon capture, and

renewable energy. He has offered to assist Antigua and Barbuda in any initiative in these areas or other areas that are pursued by other South Korean companies.

SK Vice Chairman, Dong-Hyun Jang outlined four areas in which his group would want to explore opportunities for partnership with Antigua and Barbuda. He identified these areas as renewable energy, noting that the Antigua and Barbuda government has placed much emphasis on this area. He added that the company has made many advances in both solar and wind-generated energy sources. He of-

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ferred to conduct joint research with St. John's to find solutions in this area.

The second area is that of the environment. According to Vice Chairman Jang the SK Group is a leader in plastic recycling and waste water management. This he noted would be an area for further discussion.

A third area is I.T., Jang said the company is the largest telecoms company in South Korea and it can assist Antigua and Barbuda build its I.T. infrastructure and help set up an I.T. disaster response system.

In the fourth area, the South Korean businessman noted that Antigua and Barbuda as a tourism destination, is not known in South Korea and his company is willing to work along with St. John's to begin promoting the twin island state to his country.

Minister Greene listened to the proposals from the South Korean businessmen and noted that already there are several areas he would suggest for further discussions, with the appropriate local authorities. He gave an undertaking to take the proposals to his Cabinet colleagues, for further review.



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SVG PM Ralph Gonsalves taking a favourable look at LIAT 2020

St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Ralph Gonsalves, has criticized the poor service offered by InterCaribbean Airways, which is based in Turks and Caicos. He is now waiting for documents related to a new LIAT.

InterCaribbean passengers have complained about long delays, with some missing international connections, and have had to pay thousands of dollars for new tickets, due to delayed or canceled flights.

One passenger, Arlene John, complained that the

airline needs to go out of business due to its unprofessionalism and lack of communication with customers.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is working on a new LIAT, which is expected to start soon.

LIAT 1974 Limited went into administration in July 2020 after facing debt issues and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Gonsalves has urged Caribbean leaders to support LIAT in the past and has suggested that they put money into the airline.

He has also criticized



those who previously opposed LIAT, saying they are now apologizing.

Gonsalves said the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne had sent two of his officials to talk to him “about an initiative which he was having, but I was suggesting that we don’t need to have these initiatives at cross purposes.”

“There can be initiatives together and I raised some issues also with them. When men and women getting a free ride, they ain’t paying you attention and in St Vincent and the Grenadines, I talk, talk, talk, talk to people, and then you had a lot of persons who (were) not studying the thing carefully, ‘Oh, Ralph putting too much money in LIAT and so on,’” he said.

Gonsalves informed Prime Minister Browne that Kingstown and St. John’s could not shoulder the burden of supporting LIAT

when Barbados decided it could no longer invest, for fiscal reasons. He said the “funny thing” about it is that there were people here, including in Parliament, “The opposition beat me, beat me all the time. “What you doing? You wasting government money.”

“You heard all the know-alls on the radio and so on. Now, of course, they are apologizing. Not those in the NDP (New Democratic Party). Other people (are) saying, ‘I am sorry; we didn’t understand it that way.’

“I have dedicated my life to this region and this country. I am not going to talk to people about anything which I consider to be wrong or false or anything like that, as regards public policy. I come straight with you and explain to you, just as I do with the NIS (National Insurance Services),” Gonsalves said.

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 MTQ VS CUW 9:00AM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER II GROUP C)	 LCA VS GLP 11:30AM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER II GROUP C)
 VIR VS DMA 11:35PM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 2 (TIER II GROUP A)	 PUR VS TRI 2:00PM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER I GROUP A)
 GRN VS AIA 2:05PM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 2 (TIER II GROUP A)	 BER VS BOE 4:30PM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER II GROUP B)
 ARU VS CAY 4:35PM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 2 (TIER I GROUP B)	 ATG VS BRB 7:00PM ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER II GROUP B)

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42nd Anniversary of Independence - Theme Competition

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has launched a competition to select a theme for the 42nd anniversary of Independence celebrations.

In a media release, the ABFC said it is now accepting entries from members of the public for its consideration.

“The competition is open to all citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda. Entries must be submitted electronically to pcthwaites@gmail.com, on or before Friday, 8th September 2023, at 11:59 pm,” the release stated.

The ABFC has also issued a list of all the Independence themes dating back to the very first one in November 1981.

The email should include the proposed Independence theme, the entrant’s name, age, address, phone number, and email address.

For further information, interested persons should contact ABFC Marketing and Communications Department at 462-4707 or 727-9201.

INDEPENDENCE THEMES

FROM 1981 – PRESENT

- 1981 - *A Nation to Build, A Country to Mould*
- 1982 - *Youth Development for Greater Productivity*
- 1983 - *One Nation One Family*
- 1984 - *Freedom Attained Freedom Maintained*
- 1985 - *Youth Participation in National Development*
- 1986 - *A Peaceful Nation Moving Forward*
- 1987 - *Give Thanks Together for Benefits*
- 1988 - *A Solid Foundation*
- 1989 - *Building an Excellent Structure*
- 1990 - *Maintaining Excellence*
- 1991 - *Reflections*
- 1992 - *National Unity for a Secured Future*
- 1993 - *Forward Together*
- 1994 - *The Family Foundation for a Strong Nation*
- 1995 - *United to Rebuild Our Land, Our Pride, Our Heritage*
- 1996 - *Emancipation to Independence: Our Heritage, Our Future*
- 1997 - *Forward Together with Pride and Productivity*
- 1998 - *Positive Development through Sustained Efforts*
- 1999 - *Our Elders or Foundation; Our Youth, Our Hope for the 21st Century*
- 2000 - *Creating a Sustaining Environment for a Culture of Peace*
- 2001 - *Volunteering to Preserve and Safeguard Our Heritage*
- 2002 - *Reunion 21*
- 2003 - *Unrelenting Dedication and Unity the Key to a Better Nation*
- 2004 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family*
- 2005 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Working Together to Achieve Excellence*
- 2006 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family, Embracing the Future Together*
- 2007 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family – Aspiring, Advancing, Achieving”.*
- 2008 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Striving for Peace and Harmony*
- 2009 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Reviving Our National Pride*
- 2010 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Celebrating Our Youth*
- 2011 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Moving Towards A Secure Future*
- 2012 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Uniting for A Cleaner, Greener and More Productive Nation*
- 2013 - *Antigua and Barbuda One Family Celebrating with Pride, Vision and Integrity*
- 2014 - *Rebuilding Our Nation with Togetherness, Commitment and Perseverance*
- 2015 - *Antigua and Barbuda Rebuilding with Unity and Purpose*
- 2016 - *Building an Economic Powerhouse Together*
- 2017 - *Unite to Rebuild*
- 2018 - *Antigua and Barbuda Forward Together*
- 2019 - *Antigua and Barbuda Embracing our National Pride*
- 2020 - *One Purpose, One Vision, One Nation*
- 2021 - *Resilience, Reflection and Recovery*
- 2022 - *Moving Forward with Unity, Strength and Stability*

Local News

Excessive Heat Watch issued for Antigua and Barbuda

The Meteorological Office (Met Office) has issued an excessive heat warning for Antigua and Barbuda with temperatures that are forecast to top 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and which are expected to last for as much as ten consecutive days.

Director of the Met Office, Dale Destin, said the wind speed is expected to drop to as little as 5 knots, thus creating the conditions for the temperatures to rise.

“The winds are going to be particularly light over the next several days and this would allow the seas to become quite calm. As that happens, the heat will then intensify. This means that there is an excessive heat watch in effect from Tuesday (today) until next Tuesday. During this time, the winds are going to be quite light, and this will cause conditions conducive for the heat index to exceed 38 degrees Celsius or



100 degrees Fahrenheit,” he reported.

Destin reported that the small craft warning issued on Sunday, as well as the flash flood warning, have both been discontinued, effective Monday. He said the air quality has improved to a status of ‘good,’ as the particles from the Saharan dust have reduced over the past several days.

Meanwhile, the Met Office says Tropical Storm, Gert, is not expected

to be a threat to Antigua and Barbuda. The latest information overnight, suggests that the storm is unlikely to survive the hostile conditions that it finds itself.

Strong upper-level winds and a dry middle-level atmosphere have combined to lessen the chances of the storm’s survival. The forecast is for Gert to dissipate over the next 12-24 hours.



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Day 2 of Piango Fest moves to the city

The Ministry of Agriculture has rescheduled the rained-out Day Two of the annual Piango Fest to take place on Sunday, August 27 on the grounds of the TN Kirnon School.

A spokesman for the organizing committee said several events were planned for last Sunday that did not take place because of the rain that brought the day's events to a premature end.

According to the spokesman, the agro-processing competition, one of the highlights of the festival was already judged, but the announcement of the winners has not yet been made.



“We still have the mango and pineapple eating competitions to take place, and the performers who were scheduled to perform will take to the stage next Sunday. Additionally, the rescheduling of the event will give the vendors another opportunity

to do brisk business,” the spokesman added.

The decision to stage the event at TN Kirnon School provides an additional advantage, as it makes access to the festival much easier, as it is within walking distance to several suburban communities sur-

rounding St. John's.

Each year, the Ministry of Agriculture stages the Piango festival to promote interest in the value of consuming local products. It also uses the opportunity to promote agro-processing where local fruits are turned into products such as jams, wine, jellies, sauces, confectioneries, smoothies, and cakes.

The reports indicate that whilst the turnout on Saturday, Day 1 of the festival was said to be good, it is widely known that Sundays draw a much bigger crowd. The organizers are anticipating a good turnout, this Sunday.

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Dona Regis-Prosper reflects on her time at ACP

The outgoing General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port (ACP), Dona Regis-Prosper is expressing much satisfaction with what she and her team have been able to accomplish over the course of her appointment.

Speaking with Point Express newspaper after she exited the post last Friday, Regis-Prosper observed, “Friday, August 18th was my last official day as GM for Antigua Cruise Port, and I am filled with wonderful memories and reflection on the many successes that my team and I have achieved in a few short years.”

Regis-Prosper who is taking up a new appointment as Secretary-General of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation in Barbados, counted ACP’s han-

dling of the COVID-19 pandemic as among her major achievements.

“Together, the Global Ports Holdings (GPH) and Antigua Cruise Port safely navigated the tumultuous seas caused by the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic and have made it into a new era in Antigua and Barbuda’s cruise industry. First, I thank Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez for his steadfast leadership of the industry and open dialogue with me. This has helped me build and maintain fruitful relationships which I trust will continue to blossom once I’ve moved on,” she remarked.

She is also expressing her thanks and appreciation to the wider port community including the St. John’s



Dona Regis-Prosper

Development Corporation, the tenants at Heritage Quay, Saint John’s Taxi Association, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the Airport Authority, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourism Association, Ship Agents, Tour Operators, and the Port Authority, “for the maturation of our relationship throughout these years, as we worked for the benefit of Antigua Cruise Port.”

“I must also thank my team who have been agile in adjusting to the demands of the industry which has allowed Antigua Cruise Port to be a strong and capable organization after only being around for a short time. I also congratulate my colleague Cynthia Jacobs-Browne on her appointment as Officer in Charge, as she continues to lead the team into even greater success,” she added.

Regis-Prosper concluded her farewell with these words, “On another note, this is not a “Goodbye” but more like a “See you later.” Many of you are already apprised of the new role I will be taking on as the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization. I am sure our paths will cross in the near future, and I do look forward to seeing you again.”





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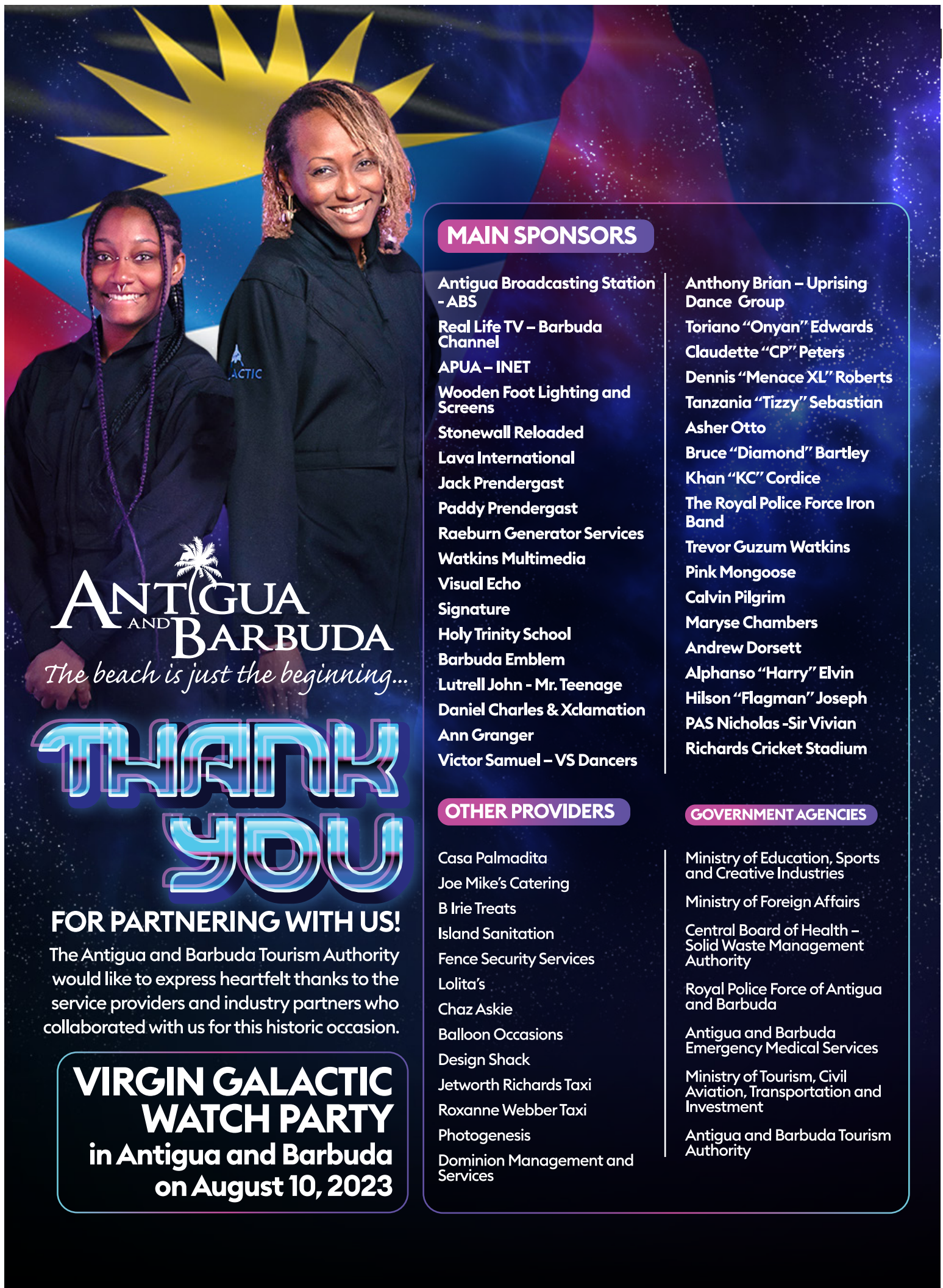
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Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority

Pioneering wind-powered cargo ship sets sail

By Tom Singleton

A cargo ship fitted with giant, rigid British-designed sails has set out on its maiden voyage.

Shipping firm Cargill, which has chartered the vessel, hopes the technology will help the industry chart a course towards a greener future.

The WindWings sails are designed to cut fuel consumption and therefore shipping's carbon footprint.

It is estimated the industry is responsible for about 2.1% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

The Pyxis Ocean's maiden journey, from China to Brazil, will provide the first real-world test of the WindWings - and an opportunity to assess whether a return to the traditional way of propelling ships could be the way forward for moving cargo at sea.

Folded down when the ship is in port, the wings are opened out when it is in open water. They stand 123ft (37.5m) tall and are built of the same material as wind turbines, to make them durable.

Enabling a vessel to be blown along by the wind, rather than rely solely on its engine, could hopefully eventually reduce a cargo ship's lifetime emissions by 30%.

Jan Dieleman, president of Cargill Ocean Transportation, said the industry was on a "journey to decarbonise". He admitted there was "no silver bullet" - but said this technology demonstrated how fast things were changing.

"Five, six years ago, if you would ask people in shipping about decarbonising, they would say 'well, it's going to be very difficult, I don't see this happening any time soon'," he told the BBC.

"Five years later, I think the narrative has changed completely and everybody is really convinced that they need to do their part - everybody is just



The ship at sea trying out its sails.

struggling a little on how we're going to do this.

"That's why we've taken the role as one of the larger players to underwrite some of the risk, and try things, and take the industry forward."

The Pyxis Ocean will take an estimated six weeks to reach its destination - but the technology it is using has its origins in something much faster.

It was developed by UK firm BAR Technologies, which was spun out of Sir Ben Ainslie's 2017 America's Cup team, a competition sometimes called the 'Formula One of the seas'.

"This is one of the most slow-moving projects we've done, but without doubt with the biggest impact for the planet," its head John Cooper - who used to work for Formula One team McLaren - told the BBC.

He thinks this voyage will be a turning point for the maritime industry.

"I do predict by 2025 half the new-build ships will be ordered with wind propulsion," he said.

"The reason I'm so confident is our savings - one-and-a-half tonnes of fuel per day. Get four wings on a vessel, that's six tonnes of fuel saved, that's 20 tonnes of CO₂ saved - per day. The numbers are massive."

The innovation has come from the UK but the wings themselves are manufactured in China. Mr Cooper says a lack of government support in reducing the cost of imported steel prevents the company from making them here.

"It's a shame, I'd love to build in the UK," he told the BBC.

Experts say wind power is a promising area to explore, as the shipping industry tries to reduce the estimated 837 million tonnes of CO₂ it produces each year.

In July it agreed to reduce planet-warming gases to net-zero "by or around 2050" - a pledge critics said was toothless.

"Wind power can make a big difference," says Dr Simon Bullock, shipping researcher at the Tyndall Centre, at the University of Manchester.

He said new cleaner fuels will take time to emerge "so we have to throw everything at operational measures on existing ships - like retrofitting vessels with sails, kites and rotors".

"Ultimately we do need zero-carbon fuels on all ships, but in the meantime, it is imperative to make every journey as efficient as possible. Slower speeds are also a critical part of the solution," he told the BBC.

Stephen Gordon, managing director

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Gas prices rise on fears of strikes in Australia

The prospect of a possible strike at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Australia has pushed wholesale gas prices up in Europe.

The Offshore Alliance union warned that a strike at the North West Shelf facility could start as early as 2 September if no deal on pay is reached.

Benchmark gas prices for the EU and UK rose around 10% on Monday, according to Bloomberg.

Prices soared after Russia's invasion of Ukraine but have since fallen.

There are fears that strike action at Woodside Energy Group's North West Shelf facility could cause disruption to shipments of LNG from Australia, which is a key global supplier.

Workers at two other offshore LNG facilities, Gorgon and Wheatstone, operated by Chevron, are also voting on strike action, with results expected on Thurs-



day.

Together the three plants make up about 10% of the world's supply of LNG.

Ben McWilliams, an affiliate fellow at the think tank Bruegel, warned the strikes might impact the prices globally of LNG.

Speaking to the BBC's Newsday programme earlier this month, Mr McWilliams said: "Australia typically supplies Asia, but if these strikes were to go ahead, and Australian gas were cut to Asian consumers, we would

see Asian consumers turning around and looking, for example, to Qatar and competing with European buyers there."

Mr McWilliams said that if that were to happen there would be a "knock-on effect on prices".

Following the start of the war in Ukraine, Russia slashed supplies of natural gas to Europe, which led countries to seek out alternative sources of energy.

Many countries are relying on LNG to fill the gap.

Australia is one of the world's largest exporters of LNG. The others are Qatar and the US.

Last week, Cornwall Insight predicted that higher gas prices resulting from the Australian uncertainty would contribute to a significant rise in the Ofgem price cap in January.

It forecast a cap of £2,082.56 for a typical annual household bill for the first quarter of 2024, a rise from its £1,925.71 forecast for the fourth quarter of 2023.

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tor, at the maritime data firm Clarksons Research, agreed that wind-related technologies were "gaining some traction".

"We have the number of ships using this technology doubling over the past 12 months," he explained.

"This is from a low base, however. In the international shipping fleet and new-build order book of over 110,000 vessels, we have records for under 100 having wind-assisted technology to-

day."

Even if that number dramatically increases, wind technology may not be suitable for all vessels, for example, where the sails interfere with the unloading of containers.

"The shipping industry does not yet have a clear decarbonisation pathway and, given the scale the challenge and the diversity of the world shipping fleet, there is unlikely to be a single solution for the industry in the short or medium term," Mr Gordon predicted.

John Cooper, of BAR Technologies, is more bullish though, saying the future for wind wings is "very rosy."

He also admits he takes a certain satisfaction in the idea of the industry returning to its origins.

"The engineers always hate it, but I always say it's back to the future," he said.

"The invention of big combustion engines destroyed the trade routes and the sailing routes and now we're going to try to reverse that trend, just a bit."

Fury in The Gambia over India cough syrup deaths

By Vineet Khare

In September last year, Ebrima Sajnia watched helplessly as his young son slowly died in front of his eyes.

Mr Sajnia, who works as a taxi driver in The Gambia, says three-year-old Lamin was set to start attending nursery school in a few weeks when he got a fever. A doctor at a local clinic prescribed medicines, including a cough syrup, but the feverish child refused to take them.

"I forced Lamin to drink the syrup," recalls Mr Sajnia, sitting at his home in Banjul, capital of The Gambia.

Over the next few days, Lamin's condition deteriorated as he struggled to eat and even urinate. He was admitted to a hospital, where doctors detected kidney issues. Within seven days, Lamin was dead.

He was among around 70 children - younger than five - who died in The Gambia of acute kidney injuries between July and October last year after consuming one of four cough syrups made by an Indian company called Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

In October, the World Health Organization (WHO) linked the deaths to the syrups, saying it had found "unacceptable" levels



Ebrima Sajnia and his wife watched their son die last year.

of toxins in the medicines.

A Gambian parliamentary panel also concluded after investigations that the deaths were the result of the children ingesting the syrups.

Both Maiden Pharmaceuticals and the Indian government have denied this - India said in December that the syrups complied with quality standards when tested domestically.

It's an assessment that Amadou Camara, chairperson of the Gambian panel that investigated the deaths, strongly disagrees with.

"We have evidence. We tested these drugs. [They] contained unacceptable amounts of ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol, and these were directly imported from India, manufactured by Maiden," he says.

Ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol are toxic to humans and could be fatal if consumed.

It's a difficult situation for The Gambia, one of Africa's smallest countries, which imports most of its medicines from India. Some bereaved parents say they don't trust Indian-made drugs anymore.

"When I read that a medicine is from India, I barely touch it," said Lamin Danso, who lost his nine-month-old son.

But the reliance on Indian drugs is unlikely to change anytime soon.

"Most pharmacists are still bringing in drugs from India - it's far cheaper than importing drugs from America or Europe," says journalist Mustapha Darboe.

India is the world's

largest exporter of generic drugs, meeting much of the medical needs of developing countries. But allegations that its drugs have caused tragedies like the one in The Gambia - and in other countries such as Uzbekistan and the US - have raised questions about manufacturing practices and quality standards.

"If you see the tragedy, and the kind of alerts declared by WHO, so many countries are thinking twice. They are regularly enquiring. It's not very comfortable. I call it an aberration. It's a costly aberration," says Udaya Bhaskar, director general of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India.

He says while incidents like the one in The Gambia

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and Uzbekistan have “made a dent” on the Indian pharmaceutical industry’s image, it hasn’t impacted exports.

India exported medicines worth \$25.4bn (£20bn) in the financial year ending in March 2023 - of these, \$3.6bn was to countries in Africa. Mr Bhaskar points out that the country has already exported drugs worth more than \$6bn in the first quarter of the current financial year.

But India has announced steps such as making it compulsory for companies to get cough syrup samples tested at government-approved laboratories before exporting. The Gambia, which does not have drug testing laboratories, has also made this mandatory for medicines exported from India since July.

India has also set deadlines for its pharma companies to adopt WHO-standard good manufacturing practices.

But some Indian activists allege that the country has had a “two-tier manufacturing system” for a long time.

“What we export to the US and

Europe, we try and use much more stringent standards compared to drugs made for local consumption and exported to less regulated markets,” alleges Dinesh Thakur, a public health activist.

Mr Bhaskar disagrees, saying that several countries in Africa - India’s third-largest export destination - have “robust” regulatory mechanisms.

A recent Gambian government report on the tragedy has recommended the establishment of a quality control laboratory and two drug regulators have been dismissed.

“We know the anger in the society. We know the anger among the victims,” says Billay G Tunkara, the majority leader of the Gambian National Assembly and head of government business.

But devastated parents say nothing has changed in the country’s health sector over the past year - the medical system struggled to cope with the influx of fever cases and some parents were forced to raise funds to send their children to neighbouring Senegal.

Momodou Dambelleh, who sells wood for a living, was one of them.

He last saw Aminata, his 22-month-old daughter, on a video call as she lay unresponsive on a hospital bed.

“I could only see her head moving. I was trying to let her know it was me, her papa,” he says. That was shortly before she died.

“Those who committed the crime, including the health minister, should face the full force of the law,” says Ebrima EF Saïdy, spokesperson for a group representing the parents of the victims.

Dr Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, health minister of the Gambia, did not respond to the BBC’s request for an interview.

A year on, many of the parents say they are determined to make sure that others in The Gambia don’t have to experience such pain again.

The families of 19 children have sued local health officials and Maiden Pharmaceuticals in the Gambian high court. They say they won’t hesitate to approach Indian and international courts as well if needed.

“The government’s negligence made the children die,” says Mr Sagnia, who is part of the group.



St Vincent PM knocks InterCaribbean's "absolutely terrible service"

CMC - Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves says the service offered to St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) by the Turks and Caicos-based InterCaribbean Airways is "absolutely terrible" and that he is awaiting documents related to a "new LIAT".

"The service is terrible. The service is absolutely terrible. And all what you guys said this morning on the radio about it, I support. It is a terrible service," Gonsalves said on a radio programme in SVG.

Over the past months, InterCaribbean passengers have been complaining about long delays, resulting in some passengers missing international connections.

In some instances, InterCaribbean Airways passengers have had to shell out thousands of dollars to buy new

tickets for their international connections because of the late or non-operation of the airline's flights.

In late July, Arlene John complained in an email to a Kingstown-based online media outlet, iWitness News, that the airline needs to go out of business, adding, "it's so unprofessional that they don't know how to communicate with their customers".

John said she was scheduled to leave St Vincent on a 7.30 pm (local time) flight to Barbados but the aircraft had to go to St Lucia first then fly back to St Vincent before taking passengers to Barbados.

"I had to buy a new ticket to get to my destination. When I asked how am I gonna be refunded, a rude reply was 'go to reservation'. How inconvenient!"



Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

She said the return flight was scheduled to depart at 6 pm, but nothing was said to passengers until after 10 pm when airline staff said passengers would be accommodated at a hotel and would be picked up at 7 am for the flight.

John said that no one showed up at the hotel at 7 am.

"They don't want to refund you or put you on a different flight. A bunch of lame ... excuses they giving you ... People have work and family to go back to; even people with medical conditions who left their medication thinking that they gonna get back home in time to take it and we are stranded in another man's country like homeless people..." John told the online publication.

Speaking on the programme "Issue At Hand" Prime Minister Gonsalves said he was awaiting a document from the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) "for a new LIAT".

cont'd on pg 15



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Belize: Gov't minister on leave of absence following allegations

Prime Minister of Belize John Briceño has accepted a request from Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation, for a leave of absence from the Cabinet.

During his leave of absence, an investigation will be conducted into the recent allegations against Minister Perez.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs will advise the Prime Minister on whether there

has been any actionable wrongdoing.

During Minister Perez's leave of absence, his portfolio duties will be temporarily reassigned to the Prime Minister.

A statement said the Cabinet is confident that Minister Perez remains committed to and will continue to serve the interests of his constituents in Belize Rural South.

In the meantime, the Cabinet respects Minister Perez's privacy as he and his family work through this difficult situation.



Minister of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation, Andre Perez.

cont'd from pg 14

LIAT (1974) Limited, whose main shareholders are the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines, entered into administration in July 2020 following increased debt and the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Regional trade unions say their members are owed millions of dollars in severance payments and other benefits.

Antigua and Barbuda has since established LIAT 2020, which operates a limited number of flights across the region.

Gonsalves said he suggested to the CDB a few weeks ago that their estimate for starting the new airline was "a little on the lower side, knowing what we went through when we did the re-fleeting of LIAT".

In 2013, CDB provided loans totalling US\$65 million to the four shareholder governments of LIAT to assist with the purchase of aircraft in

the context of a fleet modernisation project.

Gonsalves said that when Barbados, for its own fiscal reasons, thought it could not continue investing in LIAT, he told Prime Minister Browne that Kingstown and St John's could not carry the airline along.

He said LIAT used to operate six or seven flights a day into St. Vincent with those numbers increasing to eight or nine during Carnival or Christmas.

"So, we had 40-something flights per week with LIAT, which was a big, big help," Gonsalves said.

"CAL (Caribbean Airlines) is putting in some things," he said, adding that he was working with Mustique Company, which has five 19-seater aircraft, one of which is being serviced now.

"I want to see if we can get them with a little more regular service, a regular service out of St Vincent to Barbados, Trinidad, neighbouring islands, St Lucia and the like.

"I have actually asked them if they

can purchase three more to add to the fleet. And so, we can in a way help to service some of our demand, while we get full solutions."

Gonsalves has become the second CARICOM politician to complain publicly in recent times about InterCaribbean's service.

Last week, Guyana's Public Works Minister, Juan Edghill told the airline it could face sanctions if it does not avoid prolonged flight delays and cancellations.

Edghill said senior government officials as well as representatives of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority met with representatives of the airline last week to address repeated concerns by travellers and that the airline had indicated that there were issues with crew and other internal matters.

"If they don't fulfil those obligations that they made last week Thursday, we will have to step in and take additional actions or possible sanctions," Edghill told the Guyana-based Demerara Waves Online News.

T&T: Minister blames “handful” of persons for cancellation of flights

CMC – A senior government minister from Trinidad and Tobago on Monday blamed “a handful of individuals” that forced the state-owned Caribbean Airlines (CAL) to cancel dozens of flights on its domestic, regional and international routes on Sunday.

In a statement late Monday, CAL said that the actions by pilots to call in sick directly caused the airline to cancel over 60 international and domestic flights.

Speaking at the opening ceremony for a community centre in Cascade on the outskirts of the capital, Energy and Energy Industries Minister, Stuart Young, told the audience that the “complete shutdown of our national airline” had been undertaken “by a handful, a literal handful of individuals who thought that was the way to treat citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

“You must understand with an airline we have a wide, wide, customer net of international travellers as well and when you trace that back it is all about entitlement,” said Young, adding “there is a limited pot that’s the treasury and there are so many persons that have to be looked after, the vulnerable, the aged”.

CAL Monday was granted an ex-parte injunction by the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago, restricting the Trinidad and Tobago Airline Pilots Association (TTALPA) and its membership from taking industrial action within the meaning of the Industrial Relations Act including calling in sick en masse.

The injunction also ordered TTALPA to instruct its membership to immediately report for duty as rostered and required in the normal course of their employment with the airline.

The Industrial Court said that its



orders should continue “until further order” and that the application for the ex-parte injunction “be returnable on the 28th day of September, 2023, at the hour of 9.30 o’clock”.

CAL said some international and domestic flights “are still impacted and our dedicated Reservations Service Centre is actively working to contact all affected customers”.

“In light of the impact on our customers, Caribbean Airlines moved quickly to recover by pursuing alternatives and leased charters to transport the displaced passengers on the international and regional routes. The Port of Port of Spain assisted the airline’s domestic operations, by adding a special ferry sailing which took passengers to and from Tobago.”

Media reports said that the employees of the airline had taken industrial action after wage negotiations had broken down.

But TTAPA denied that there has been a sick out or industrial action, saying it was “unaware of any strike action being taken by the pilot body”.

The association said that in accor-

dance with Section 67(2) of the Industrial Relations Act, Chapter 88:01 the pilot body and its members are barred from taking such industrial action since any employer or worker engaged in an essential service is barred from taking industrial action.

TTAPA said it has assured the public that “its members continue to fly with their safety and best interests at heart”.

Young, who is also a Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, told the ceremony, that taxpayers had taken a decision “in the last few years, especially throughout the period of COVID, where airlines were one of the most affected industries in the world to keep Caribbean Airlines afloat”.

He said the taxpayer had put money “which was difficult to come by into Caribbean Airlines...because we believed as a policy, we should keep a national airline...going.

“Citizens, let us not fall into those traps because we must always think of the others in our society and not only see what is in front of us right here,” Young added.

Syria doubles public-sector pay and cuts subsidies as economy sinks

By David Gritten

Syria's government has doubled public sector pay while at the same time cut fuel subsidies, as it tries to boost the war-torn country's economy.

The announcements were made overnight, after the value of the Syrian pound fell to a new low against the US dollar on the parallel, or black, market.

The currency's collapse has helped fuel hyperinflation and push 90% of the population below the poverty line.

The hardship has recently sparked rare protests in government strongholds.

Syria has been devastated and more than half a million people have been killed by the civil war that erupted after President Bashar al-Assad cracked down violently on peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations in 2011.

More than 15 million people - 70% of the population - require humanitarian assistance, with 12.1 million considered food insecure.

Presidential decrees issued early on Wednesday ordered a 100% increase in the salaries and pensions of civil servants, military personnel and government contractors - the first such rise since December 2021.

They also set the over-



At the start of the civil war, one US dollar was worth 47 Syrian pounds. Now, it is worth 15,000.

all minimum monthly wage for all workers at 185,940 Syrian pounds, which is worth \$21.76 (£17.09) at the official exchange rate of 8,542 and \$12.40 at the current parallel market rate of 15,000. At the start of the war, a dollar was worth 47 Syrian pounds.

The new minimum wage would only be enough to buy a third of the essential food that the World Food Programme (WFP) calculates a family of five requires each month, according to data from May. It would also cover just over a tenth of such a family's minimum household expenditure.

Vulnerable households have been struggling to pay their bills due to spiralling

inflation, with the minimum expenditure figure 62% higher than it was in May 2022 and 159% higher than in September 2021, according to the WFP.

In a separate statement issued overnight, the commerce ministry announced the total lifting of subsidies on petrol and a partial lifting of subsidies on fuel oil. The price of petrol will rise to 8,000 Syrian pounds (\$0.53) per litre from 3,000 pounds, and fuel oil to 2,000 pounds per litre from 700 pounds.

Prime Minister Hussein Arnous said last year that cutting fuel subsidies would ensure the poorest families benefited, reduce the budget deficit and help stabilise the Syrian pound.

However, economists have noted that his government cannot afford to maintain the subsidies.

They have also warned that the public sector pay rise is likely to further increase inflation and the Syrian pound's depreciation, meaning that the economic benefit could be all but wiped out within months.

Officials have blamed the economic crisis and the hardship among its ordinary Syrians on strict US sanctions imposed in 2019, which targeted any foreign person or entity knowingly providing support to Mr Assad's government. The US have said the measures do not affect humanitarian aid.

Pakistan president denies approving laws giving military more power

By Nicholas Yong

Pakistan's President Arif Alvi denied approving two controversial bills which further enhance the military's powers.

In a post on X (formerly known as Twitter) on Sunday, he said he returned the bills unsigned but his staff "undermined my will".

The two laws make it an offence to reveal the identities of military intelligence officers and also propose jail terms for defaming the army.

Mr Alvi's statement could call the legality of the two laws into question.

However, Pakistan's interim law minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam told reporters that under the constitution, the president had the option of either giving assent to the bills, or referring them to parliament with "specific observations".

Instead, Dr Alvi "purposely delayed the assent", and returned the bills with neither assent nor observations, he said.

Mr Aslam added that since the signed bills were not received from the president even after 10 days, they automatically became law.

A gazette from the Senate Secretariat stated that they were "deemed to have been assented to by the president".

The disputed bills were sent to President Alvi before parliament was dissolved on



Pakistan President Arif Alvi has denied signing two controversial bills.

9 August, with the aim of holding elections in November.

However, the polls have been postponed until February as the electoral commission says electoral boundaries must be redrawn to reflect fresh census data, a months-long process, before polls can be held.

The country is currently under a caretaker government.

Earlier this month, the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill provoked bitter debate in the National Assembly.

The former bill recommends a three-year jail term and a fine of up to 10 million rupees (£27,000 ; \$34,000) for anyone who discloses the identity of an intelligence official, informant or source, while the latter im-

poses a jail term of up to five years on anyone who discloses sensitive information relating to national security.

Both the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the coalition partners of the the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) called the government out for passing "draconian laws in haste" and without discussion.

The laws have already been used to arrest some opposition members. PTI vice chair Shah Mehmood Qureshi was arrested over the weekend under the Official Secrets Act.

The PTI claimed that Mr Qureshi was detained for holding a press conference where he challenged the postponement of the election. Authorities accuse him of leaking the contents of a secret diplomatic cable for

political gain.

The Pakistani intelligence services are regularly accused of illegally detaining opposition members, politicians, activists and journalists, with human rights organisations noting the increasing number of enforced disappearances every month.

The PTI has also said that it will take the disputed bills to the Supreme Court, and declared its "complete support" for the president.

Mr Alvi is a founding member of the PTI, led by former prime minister Imran Khan. Mr Khan's arrest in May saw violent protests that also targeted military cantonments. Since then, the party has been systematically targeted, with many key leaders, including Mr Khan, given jail sentences over a variety of charges.

Bernardo Arevalo: Anti-corruption leader wins Guatemala election

An anti-corruption candidate has swept to a shock win in Guatemala's presidential election.

Bernardo Arevalo's victory is seen as a repudiation of the political elite in the Central American nation, long the target of corruption allegations.

The 64-year old former diplomat led his rival, former first lady Sandra Torres, 58% to 37% with all votes counted.

"The people of Guatemala have spoken forcefully," Mr Arevalo told reporters. "Enough with so much corruption."

Guatemala ranks 150th out of 180 in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2022, tied with Afghanistan and the Central African Republic.

Mr Arevalo's supporters celebrated his victory on the streets of the capital Guatemala City on Sunday night, waving flags and lighting fireworks.

"This triumph represents the defeat of a corrupt system," said one of his supporters, sociologist Jorge Mendoza.

The son of former president Juan José Arévalo, his campaign pulled off a massive upset, defying opinion



polls, legal challenges and attempts to disqualify his Movimiento Semilla, or Seed Movement, party.

In the first round of voting last 25 June, Mr Arevalo placed a surprise second to Ms Torres, who has the support of the political elite.

Mr Arevalo will replace unpopular right-wing President Alejandro Giammattei, who is constitutionally barred from re-election. The outgoing leader congratulated Mr Arevalo on X, formerly known as Twitter, and invited him to work on an orderly transition.

Mr Giammattei's rule saw several anti-graft prosecutors arrested or forced into exile. He has also cracked down on critical journalists.

Mr Arevalo will be

sworn in on 14 January 2024 as corruption, poverty and gang violence disillusion the nation of 17 million people, pushing thousands to emigrate in search of better lives, many to the US.

"You can no longer live anywhere, because there is so much crime," 66-year-old housewife Maria Rac, an Indigenous Mayan, told AFP news agency.

Mr Arevalo has received congratulatory messages from the ambassadors of the US and the EU and the presidents of neighbouring Mexico and El Salvador.

His victory "means a defeat of the old politics" and marks a new era for Guatemala, independent analyst Miguel Angel Sandoval told AFP.

However, attacks against Arevalo will likely continue, says Risa Grais-Targow, an analyst at political risk consultancy firm Eurasia Group.

"The ruling pact will likely continue to target electoral officials and Arevalo's Semilla party with investigations ahead of January's change in government," she said.

Mr Arevalo will be leading a nation that is in a "very complicated" state, said Ana María Méndez, director for Central America at think tank Washington Office On Latin America.

"I see it more as a transition government, to restore the democratic values that have been broken in Guatemala," she said.

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Wings Tough Gals exposed to Canadian basketball training

Four playing members of the Wings Tough Gals basketball team of Antigua and Barbuda are presently in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, undergoing intensive training from August 20th to 26th.

The Tough Gals are Alyssa Jardine, Jena Andrew, Jodaliah Constant, and Vianta Olivera. The players are accompanied by the president of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, Lucaso Brumant.

The Antiguan and Barbudans are guests of coach Fergy Neves of the Juel of Ontario basketball club.

The Wings basketball players had their first session with the Simcoe Muskoka Royals at the Georgian College facility in Barrie, Canada, on Monday evening, August 20th.

The Tough Gals will be training with several other clubs throughout their week-long stay in Ontario,



Players of the CPTSA Wings basketball team with the Simcoe Muskoka Royals team following a session at the Georgian College facility in Barrie, Canada, on Monday, August 20th. (CPTSA Wings)

Canada.

It is expected that this collaboration with the Wings Sports Club and Juel of Ontario will be an annual one each summer, exposing six to 10 girls at a time to more intense training.

The exposure to training with different clubs in Canada is expected to

increase the participation of Canadian teams at the annual Gillian Brazier Basketball Shootout in Antigua.

The 18th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shootout, which is organized and hosted by the CPTSA Wings, is slated for March 30th to April 6th, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda.

Barbados take Rising Stars Boys' Under 17s 50-overs title

Barbados have been crowned champions of the West Indies Rising Stars Boys' Under 17s Regional limited overs tournament.

This following the wash out of the fifth and final round on matches on Sunday.

The Bajans ended the white ball

segment with 16.2 points ahead of Trinidad and Tobago with 16 points.

They were followed by Jamaica (11.6 points), Guyana (1-4 points), Windward Islands (7.6 points) and Leeward Islands (6.2 points).

The teams will now turn their attention to the two-day tournament. This bowls off on Wednesday, August 23rd at 10am (9am Jamaica Time).

The opening round will see Trinidad and Tobago hosting the Leeward Islands at Inshan Ali Park, the Windward Islands will meet Barbados at PowerGen and Jamaica and Guyana will do battle at the National Cricket Centre in Couva.



The Barbados Under-17 cricket team. (CWI Media)

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Antigua and Barbuda's defender Tedia Browne (#3 black uniform) tries to dribble away from a challenge from Barbados midfielder Danika Antoine (#11 blue uniform) during their match in Group B of Tier II in the Caribbean Football Union Under-14 Girls Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center on Saturday, August 19, 2023. (ABFA)

Antigua draw second match in CFU Under-14 Girls Challenge Series

Antigua and Barbuda fought to a 1-1 draw with Barbados in their second match in Group B of Tier II in the Caribbean Football Union Under-14 Girls Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center on Saturday.

Jadae Lorde scored an equalizer for Barbados in the 22nd minute after Nafisa Quashie gave the Antigua and Barbuda young Benna Girls a one-nil lead with a fourth-minute conversion.

The Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls were beaten 2-0 by Bermuda in their opening encounter on Friday.

Bermuda conceded an own-goal in added-on time to suffer a 1-0 loss against Bonaire in their second Tier II Group B encounter on Saturday.

The Bermudans suffered their first loss when Miyari Trott scored an own goal in the fourth minute of added time against Bonaire.

Anguilla continued their dominance of Tier II Group A with another

big margin of victory on Sunday. Anguilla won their second game in as many outings by hammering the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) 7-0, following their 6-0 demolition of Dominica in their opening game on Friday.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines recorded their third win in as many matches in Tier II Group A by snatching a 1-0 win against Grenada on Sunday.

St. Vincent prevailed 2-0 against Dominica on Saturday following their 3-1 win against the USVI on Friday. Grenada kicked off their campaign with a 3-0 win against the USVI on Saturday.

Martinique kicked off their campaign in Tier II Group C on Sunday and was leading 2-0 against St. Kitts and Nevis when the match was abandoned due to rain.

St. Lucia and Curacao battled to

a goalless draw in the other Tier II Group C encounter on Sunday.

Aruba won their two matches in Tier I Group B. Goals by Zyana Rogers in the 7th minute and Sharienne Vrolijk in the 26th minute gave Aruba a 2-0 win against the Cayman Islands on Sunday.

Aruba opened their campaign with a 3-0 win against the Turks & Caicos Islands on Saturday. Rogers scored twice with strikes in the 5th and 26th minutes, while the other goal was scored by Vrolijk in the 14th minute.

Puerto Rico also won its two matches in Tier I Group B. Goals by Selymar Centeno Sierra in the 3rd minute, Camila Adame in the 49th minute, and Bryanna Laboy Vega in the 6th minute of added time propelled Puerto Rico to a 3-0 victory over Trinidad & Tobago on Saturday.

Puerto Rico then snatched a 1-0 win against Jamaica on Sunday.



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Fit-again Iyer and Rahul back in India squad for Asia Cup

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India on Monday recalled fit-again batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer to their one-day set-up for the Asia Cup, inching closer to finalising the squad for the home World Cup later this year.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rahul (thigh) and middle order batter Iyer (back) returned from injuries to join the 17-member squad led by Rohit Sharma for the Asia Cup to be co-hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 30th.

While Iyer's return is expected to end India's search for a set batter at number four, Rahul's ability to bat anywhere in the top and middle order, as well as his glove-work, make him a limited-overs asset.

With pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah having made a successful comeback from back surgery in the current T20 series in Ireland, India have now gathered all their

frontline players ahead of the World Cup.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said it was a "no-brainer" that the 17-member squad picked for the Asia Cup pretty much included the 15 who would play in the World Cup in October to November.

"A few important guys are coming back from injuries and I hope all goes well for them," Agarkar said in a press conference called by the Indian board, which usually announces squads in terse statements without explaining inclusions and omissions.

"Shreyas has been declared fit, but Rahul has suffered a niggle though we are expecting him to be fit for the second or third game in the Asia Cup."

Rohit's team will begin their Asia Cup campaign against Pakistan on September 2nd at Pallekele.

"As far as our prepara-



India's batsman Shreyas Iyer. (Getty Images)

tions are concerned, this is the right tournament for us to test ourselves and perform under pressure," the India captain said.

Rohit said flexibility would be key to winning the World Cup on home soil, like India did in 2011 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"I want to make sure that everyone is fine with batting anywhere. It's very critical in any format," the opener said.

"Cricket is moving in a different direction. You need flexibility, you need guys who can step up in any position. That is the message that has been conveyed to every individual."

India Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, and Prasad Krishna. Stand-by: Sanju Samson.

cont'd from pg 26

group class with an overall time of one hour, five minutes, and 28.12 seconds.

Cosmos Richardson of the Vipers captured the Sports Class with an overall time of three hours, six minutes, and 6.89 seconds.

Marcos Ozuna of the Little Rascals finished second in three hours, 11 minutes, and 21.76 seconds, while Eugene of the Road Runners Cycling Club came third in three hours, 39 minutes, and 19.04 seconds.

Micah Challenger contested the time

trial and criterium races in the Sports Class, but he did not compete in the Individual Road Race.

Telesha Choy was the only female to participate in the Time Trial, but she did not compete in the second and third stages of the event.

The cyclists had to participate in all three stages to win the event, which was sponsored by Subway Restaurant, APUA Inet, Anjo's Wholesale, who are local agents for Gatorade sports drink, Anjo Insurances, and the Paradiso Water Bottling Company.

Browne wins ABCF Three-Stage Race

Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Club won the overall title of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) Three-Stage Race over the weekend.

Browne, who also won the Junior Male division, dominated the competition by clocking the overall fastest times in each of the three races.

The teenager clocked an overall total time of three hours, 54 minutes, and 45.33 seconds. Browne won the 8.1-mile Time Trial by clocking 19 minutes and 34.95 seconds.

He captured the 43.86-mile Criterium Race by completing the 20 laps of the Pan Am Base Circuit in a time of one hour, 22 minutes, and 40.80 seconds.

Browne then won the 76.8-mile Individual Road Race by completing the two laps of the course from the Police Recreation Grounds to the St. James' Club in Mamora Bay in St. Paul's in a time of two hours, 12 minutes, and 29.58 seconds.

Fellow Wadadli Cycling Club team-mates Jahiem Telemaque and Jayonte Joseph captured the second and third places, respectively, in the Junior Male category.



Tahje Browne, second right, is flanked by fellow Wadadli Cycling Club team-mates Jahiem Telemaque, second left, and Jayonte Joseph, right, on the Junior Male Podium during the awards ceremony at the end of the ABCF Three-Stage Race outside the Police Recreation Grounds on Sunday, August 20th, 2023. (ABCF)

Telemaque clocked an overall time of four hours, 43 minutes, and 50.02 seconds, while Joseph finished in a time of four hours, 49 minutes, and 19.54 seconds.

Newell Mack of Team Pillars Cycling won the Elite Male class with an overall time of four hours, 24 minutes, and 34 seconds.

Mack completed the Time Trial in 24 minutes, and 56.75 seconds, finished the Criterium Race in

one hour, 27 minutes, and 18.93 seconds, and clocked two hours, 32 minutes, and 18.32 seconds in the Individual Road Race.

Micah Gore of Road Runners Cycling Club captured the Masters Class, with Neil Lloyd of N&R Wheelers finishing second. Gore clocked an overall time of four hours, six minutes, and 52.67 seconds, while Lloyd finished in a time of four hours, 20 min-

utes, and 48.08 seconds.

Jomari King of Vipers won the Cadets 14 to 17 age group class with an overall time of one hour, 56 minutes, and 19.82 seconds.

Aiden Tonge of the East Side Raiders finished second by clocking two hours, 15 minutes, and 26.05 seconds.

Elite Thomas of Road Runners Cycling Club won the Cadets 11 to 13 age

cont'd on pg 25