

RETAILERS CONTINUE TO DEFY THE LAW OVER ABST INCREASE

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, and Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene, right, met separately with the new Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Antigua and Barbuda, Abdullah Muhammad Alsaihani on Tuesday. *Story on page 3.*

Retailers continue to defy the law over ABST increase

Some retailers are employing various tactics to use the opportunity of the two-percent increase in the ABST to charge exorbitant prices to the consumer.

According to the head of the Prices and Consumers Affairs Division, Orrin Steele, the department officers have had to physically visit these retailers and 'read the riot act' so that they will follow the dictates of the law.

"What some retailers

are doing is that they place a notice on the shelves indicating that the prices on the shelves do not reflect the 2 percent ABST increase, which they explain will be added when the customer reaches the checkout point," Steele explained.

He added that this practice is unlawful as all prices, inclusive of the ABST, must be displayed on the shelves. "What is displayed on the shelves is what the consumer should pay, but

in this case the retailers are hiding behind this gimmick to price gouge," he stated.

The Prices and Consumers Affairs boss said he personally visited one business establishment on Tuesday and told them they must discontinue the practice immediately and that they have 48 hours to have all the correct prices (inclusive of ABST) displayed on the shelves as is required.

He explained that some retailers have said that they

do not have the manpower to physically change the prices on the shelves and have requested more time.

Since the new increase went into effect on January 1, consumers have been complaining of price gouging by several retailers. Steele confirmed that the department has received numerous such complaints and it has dispatched officers to visit these establishments to investigate the complaints.

The main complaint has been that retailers are increasing prices beyond what would be considered reasonable based on the 2 percent ABST increase.

Additionally, he said the department has uncovered cases where retailers have been placing the tax on items that are zero-rated. In other cases, retailers have said they needed assistance to do the calculations. Steele revealed that the department has been helpful in these cases.

However, the Prices and Consumers Affairs director wants the regulations to change to give the department more teeth to deal with retailers who flout the law. He said if retailers were asked to pay a fine on the spot whenever they engaged in price gouging practices, then they would see this as a disincentive to do so.



Neil Williams of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (left), CARICOM Ambassador Dr. Clarence Henry (centre) and Juray Roberts of the ONAO (right). They comprised Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the CARICOM Council meeting at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana.

PM makes case for stronger Saudi Arabia-Antigua and Barbuda ties

Antigua and Barbuda is making a strong move to strengthen the ties of friendship between it and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

These were the sentiments expressed on Tuesday when Prime Minister Gaston Browne welcomed the new Non-Resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Antigua and Barbuda, Abdullah Muhammad Alsaihani.

“We are about to appoint an Economic Envoy to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. To this end, discussions are ongoing with the Saudi Royal Family seeking clearance from the Palace on whether or not we can proceed. That person will likely be upgraded to Ambassador as we want to ensure that we continue to strengthen the relations between our two countries,” PM Browne remarked during the courtesy



call at the Office of the Prime Minister.

The prime minister noted that Antigua and Barbuda has signed the MOU for an air services agreement between both St. John’s and Riyadh. He also highlighted ways in which this development could benefit Antigua and Barbuda.

“We understand that Saudi Arabia will be launching a new airline and we are hoping that Antigua and Barbuda would be considered as a possible destination for the airline,” he stated.

PM Browne noted that when Saudi Arabia transported Caribbean leaders to meet with Prince Muhammad bin Salman late last year, Antigua and Barbuda was one of the countries in which the Saudi aircraft made a stop.

“We have already established that there can be direct flights from Riyadh and St. John’s and our understanding is that the fleet for the new airline will include planes that are capable of do-

ing long-haul flights. It is with this in mind that we ask for consideration of Antigua and Barbuda should the airline decide to offer flights to the Caribbean,” PM Browne urged.

Noting that Saudi Arabia has been successful in its bid to be the venue for the 2030 World Expo, the prime minister added that the Saudi campaign for the Expo here in the Caribbean started in Antigua and Barbuda.

Additionally, the prime minister has made a case for Antigua and Barbuda to benefit from the establishment of a Development Fund in the Caribbean to be set up by the Saudi government.

During his visit to St. John’s, the Saudi ambassador also held discussions with Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene as well as visited the campus of the University of the West Indies at Five Islands. Saudi Arabia has approved US\$80 million to finance the expansion of the university. Work on this will begin shortly.



Sample of the broccoli being produced on farm part owned by PM Gaston Browne

Dr. Vonetta George attains prestigious Fellowship at the American College of Healthcare Executives

Chief of Surgery at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, Dr. Vonetta George, has been named as a Fellow at The American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE). This prestigious accolade follows Dr. George's successes in passing the rigorous ACHE Board of Governor's Examination.

Hailing from Newfield, Antigua, Dr. George serves as the Chief of Surgery as well as a distinguished Consultant General Surgeon at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC). With over 19 years of ded-

icated medical practice, Dr. George brings a wealth of expertise to her role. Her academic prowess is highlighted by dual Masters Degrees in Emergency Medicine and Healthcare Administration, underscoring her commitment to excellence in the healthcare domain.

Dr. George's professional affiliations include memberships in esteemed organizations such as the Golden Key International Honor Society, the Antigua and Barbuda Medical Association, the

cont'd on pg 6



Dr. Vonetta George

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The Holy Bible used to conceal illegal firearm and ammunition

Law enforcement agencies have reported that they have intercepted an attempt to smuggle illegal firearm and ammunition into the country by concealing the contraband within what appears to be the Holy Bible.

A release from the police communications unit, STRATCOM said a firearm and several rounds of ammunition were seized at the Deep



These bullets were part of the seizure at the port this week

Water Harbour on Monday by intrepid officers.

“Police and Custom officers were conducting a joint operation at the main sea port on January 15, when they discovered a 9mm pistol and 18 rounds of matching ammunition concealed inside a package label as the holy bible.

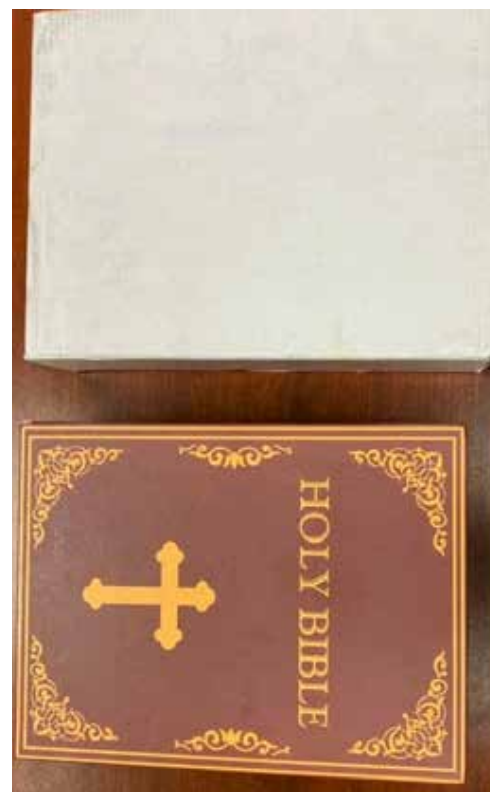
“The items were seized and taken to the police station where further investigations are ongoing,” the release stated.

Just last week, STRATCOM reported that the police seized close to one hundred thousand dollars’ worth of cannabis at the V.C.Bird International Airport on Thursday, 11 January.

The controlled substance, weighing 16 lbs, was discovered inside the Transit Cargo area at the airport. It is valued EC\$96,000.

This is the first drug seizure at the airport for 2024.

In 2023, the police and customs seized approximately 645.5 pounds of cannabis, valued at EC\$3,880,855 at the V.C. Bird International Airport and Deep Water Harbour.



This bible was used to conceal drugs being imported into the country

Four people were arrested and charged for drug offences in three of the seizures made at the Deep Water Harbour. Also, the police seized 250 rounds of 9mm ammunition at Deep Water Harbour in February of last year.

cont'd from pg 4

Pan-American Trauma Society, and The Caribbean Society of Endoscopic Surgeons. Moreover, she serves as the Chair of the Antigua and Barbuda Medical Council, signifying her leadership and influence in shaping medical governance. She is a Fellow of The Caribbean College of Surgeons and Fellow of The American College of Surgeons.

A passionate advocate

for Health Sector Disaster Management and health emergencies, Dr. George holds the position as Antigua and Barbuda’s national focal point for the WHO Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Initiative.

Her prior leadership as the Chair of the EMT Strategic Advisory Group in The Americas emphasises her commitment to advancing emergency healthcare services on a global scale.

The Fellow of the

American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) certification stands as a testament to Dr. George’s unparalleled expertise, extensive experience, and unwavering dedication to continuous professional development in healthcare management.

Recognized as the gold standard for board certification in health management, the FACHE credential signifies leadership excellence, unwavering

commitment to service, and profound recognition as a distinguished industry leader.

Dr. Vonetta George’s attainment of the FACHE credential is a testament to her exceptional leadership qualities and unyielding commitment to advancing healthcare management.

Her achievement reflects her commitment to the highest standards of professional excellence in healthcare leadership.



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ABYSO's Alfranique Joseph earns prestigious music scholarship

The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) has announced that its concert master and head of strings, Alfranique Joseph, has been accepted into the OAcademy 2024 Cohort.

Alfranique was selected from among many highly qualified candidates worldwide to join a community of emerging leaders. She is the first Antiguan and Barbudan to receive this honour.

The fellowship runs from 16th January to 30th June 2024 and combines an immersive digital curriculum with short in-person residency opportunities. The programme merges high-level performance training with leadership development and industry preparation, guided by world-class faculty and mentors.

As an OAcademy Fellow, Alfranique will work on core orchestral and solo repertoire, attend master-classes with the world's most prominent musicians, develop her performance mindset, and enhance her artistic branding.

She will also have the opportunity to join an immersive week-long residency in either the United States of America or Mexico.

These residencies will focus on

different repertoire and allow fellows to perform together in different contexts, experiment, and grow professionally.

Speaking of the fellowship, Alfranique stated: "It is truly a humbling feeling to be accepted as a fellow and to participate in such a prestigious programme.

"A big 'THANK YOU' goes out to the ABYSO, its mentorship programme and its many partners, for providing the avenue where young musicians like myself can rub shoulders and learn from the greats in this field."

ABYSO Chair, High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill, extended congratulations to Alfranique on behalf of the Patrons and Board of Directors of the ABYSO.

She stated: "our vision is to transform lives through the incredible power of music. The ABYSO will continue to challenge our youth to think higher and to reach broadly, using their developing skills to benefit not just themselves but the wider Antiguan and Barbudan community. All good things are achievable through discipline, vision and an attitude humble enough to learn."

Alfranique started her musical journey at the age of 8 in Antigua



Alfranique Joseph

where she was introduced to the piano. Not long after she was gifted with her first violin and has been inseparable from the instrument to this day. She is a past student of the St. Andrew's Primary and the Antigua Girls' High School.

She holds a BA in Music with an emphasis on education from the University of the Southern Caribbean. She is currently a teacher at the St. Mary's Secondary School where she teaches music and English.

Young people to discuss gender equality at forum

Scores of young people will gather at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium today (Wednesday) for a one-day forum where they will discuss issues surrounding gender equality.

The event is being organized by the National Youth Parliament Association of

Antigua and Barbuda and it will be held under the theme "Closing the Gender Gap in the 268".

The project, which is led by probationers of the association, aims to promote awareness and education on the issue, foster inclusion and equal opportunity,

and address intersectionality through speakers within the relevant fields.

The forum will engage students from twelve (12) public secondary schools including the All Saints Secondary School, Antigua Girls High School, Antigua Grammar School, Clare Hall

Secondary School, Glanvilles Secondary School, Irene B. Williams Secondary School, Jennings Secondary School, Ottos Comprehensive School, Pares Secondary School, Princess Margaret School, Sir. Novelle Richards Academy and the St. Mary's Secondary School.

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by consuming contaminated food or water.

Zambia cholera: President Hakainde Hichilema urges people to move to villages

By Wycliffe Muia

Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema has urged people to relocate from towns to villages following the deaths of about 300 people in a cholera outbreak.

Poor sanitation in some densely populated urban areas was a good breeding ground for cholera, he said.

To decongest major towns, residents should relocate to rural areas where there was enough space and “perfect sanitation”, Mr Hichilema added.

More than 7,500 cholera cases have been reported nationwide since last October.

In the last 24 hours, there were more than 500 new cases and 17 deaths, the health ministry said.

The reopening of schools has been delayed as part of a series of preventative measures.

The disease has so far spread to eight of Zambia’s 10 provinces.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is to send about one million cholera vaccine doses in the coming days in a bid to contain the outbreak.

On Wednesday, Mr Hichilema visited the Heroes Stadium Cholera Treatment Centre, where there are more than 1,000 patients, in the capital, Lusaka.

He said the government would take some “hard to swallow” measures in an effort to eradicate the waterborne disease.

He appeared to blame some Zambians who moved to towns “without a clear objective” for the mushrooming of poorly planned informal settlements.

Some young people were “hanging around and doing nothing” in towns instead of moving to rural ar-

reas to farm, the president said.

“There is so much land in the villages, there is clean water. We can build nice homes in the villages, which are not polluted,” Mr Hichilema said.

The authorities would upgrade existing slums in towns, and prevent the emergence of new ones, he added.

Neighbouring Mozambique and Zimbabwe have heightened surveillance to prevent cross-border transmission.

For months now, Zimbabwe has also been battling to stem the spread of cholera because the country lacks clean water.

The bacterial disease is spread by contaminated water or food, and causes severe dehydration from vomiting and diarrhoea. It can kill within hours if left untreated.

Diddy and drinks giant Diageo settle dispute over tequila

Diageo and rapper Sean Combs, known as Diddy, have said they have settled a legal dispute over their joint spirits brands.

The drinks giant ended its partnership with Mr Combs in June after he sued the firm, accusing it of neglecting his tequila brand due to his race.

A joint statement on Tuesday confirmed Mr Combs had withdrawn all of his allegations against Diageo.

The parties said they had no ongoing business relationship.

Mr Combs also said he would “voluntarily dismiss his lawsuits against Diageo with prejudice”.

The rapper is currently facing multiple sexual assault allegations, all of which he denies.

Diddy was accused in a lawsuit by R&B singer Casandra Ventura,



known as Cassie in November, of rape and sex trafficking. The pair set-

led out of court the day after it was filed.

Two further women subsequently came forward accusing the rapper of rape. Diddy has denied the claims.

Diageo, owner of brands such as Johnnie Walker, Guinness and Tanqueray, said in June its relationship with Mr Combs had been on the rocks since the rapper failed to meet his promises to fund DeLeon Tequila, which they bought together in 2013.

Diageo said it had invested more than \$100m (£78m) in DeLeon Tequila and “tried for years to salvage the broken relationship with Mr Combs”.

“Despite having made nearly a billion dollars over the course of our 15-year relationship, Mr Combs contributed a total of \$1,000 and refused to honor his commitments,” the company said.

With the dispute resolved, the Cîroc vodka and DeLeón tequila brands will now be solely owned by Diageo.



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Guyanese government rolls out trillion dollar national budget

CMC - The Guyana government Monday rolled out its GUY\$1.146 trillion national budget for the next 12 months, allocating billions of dollars for the further development of several sectors including, energy, agriculture, health and infrastructural development.

Finance Minister Dr Ashni Singh delivering his fifth fiscal package, which is a 46 per cent increase over the last budget, told legislators that the fiscal package is being presented under the theme “Staying the course: Building prosperity for all” and that the Irfaan Ali administration intends to build upon the socio-economic developments since the administration came to power in the 2020 controversial regional and general election.

“Every single Guyanese family should have access to decent housing... sufficient nutritious food... good quality healthcare... relevant educational and skills training opportunities... potable water and sanitation and recreational facilities to support healthy living.

“These necessities matter not only for current comfort but more importantly for long-term economic empowerment,” Singh added.

He said that Guyana’s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth last year was 33 per cent and that the growth was largely attribut-



ed to a continued expansion of the oil and gas sector. In addition, the country’s Natural Resource Fund (NRF) was able to save an estimated GUY\$1.9 billion last year.

“As with recent years, the estimated growth is driven largely by the expansion in oil and gas and of course, the support services industry, which when combined with growth observed in the other mining industry, outweighs decline that were observed in gold and bauxite mining,” Singh said.

Singh, who did not outline any new taxes, said that Guyana received over US\$1.3 billion in revenues from oil production in the Stabroek Block.

“The profit oil receipts recorded in 2023 correspond to two lifts that occurred in the last quarter of 2022 and 15 lifts that occurred in 2023. Two receipts related to 2023 are anticipated to be made this month, and those relate to lifts that occurred later in the year, that is to say, December

of 2023,” Singh said, noting that royalty payments from the US-based oil and gas company, ExxonMobil, the operator in the Stabroek Block, amounted to US\$208.1 million last year.

He said that just over one billion US dollars was withdrawn from the NRF to finance national development priorities.

“In 2023, US\$1.617 billion in petroleum revenue was deposited into the Fund, and at the end of the year, the overall balance inclusive of interest income stood at US\$1.973 billion,” Singh told legislators.

The government has allocated GUY\$95.7 billion to the energy sector this year with Singh saying the funds will help the government to meet short-term energy needs and invest in doubling its generating capacity for the medium term and advance the transition towards cleaner and more renewable energy.

It also seeks to help rebuild the transmission and distribution (T&D) network

to offtake the projected increases in generating capacity; invest in mini-grid systems for remote communities; and deploy household-level solutions for the less densely populated communities in the hinterland.

A total GUY\$80 billion is budgeted separately to advance the flagship 300 MW gas to energy project with Singh noting that while no monies have been allocated for the 165 MW Amaila Falls Hydropower Project (AFHP), four firms have submitted pre-qualification documentation and these are currently being evaluated.

Singh said that there were other projects in the energy sector being financed by the budget, adding “once these projects are all completed, we will be generating and delivering adequate electricity to meet our needs, and we will be able to reduce the cost of electricity to half of current levels”.

The government has budgeted nearly GUY\$97.6 billion for the agricultural sector and with significant spending going towards drainage and irrigation as the country seeks to deal with its flood management capabilities.

Singh said the state-owned sugar company, GuySuCO has been allocat-

cont'd on pg 13

Belize police brace for reprisals after murder of 'street figure'

CMC - Police are seeking to re-assure citizens regarding their safety after a "well-known street figure" was executed in Belize City in broad day light on Monday.

"I can assure the Belizean people and particularly the residents of Belize City that the police will be doing what needs to be done to make sure the city is safe," Police Commissioner, Chester Williams said, following the killing of 48-year-old, Jose Matus.

Police said Matus had arrived to pick up two sisters when a van approached his vehicle, a pair of gunmen alighted and fired several bullets into his vehicle.

El Wapo, as Jose Ma-



File Photo-Jose Matus. Photo: CMC

tus was known, was found slumped behind the steering wheel of his vehicle, while the sisters, Breena and Brineya Brown, were also injured.

Williams told reporters that the past 24 hours have seen an escalation in violent crimes in Belize City and that law enforcement offi-

cials met earlier on Monday to address the issue.

"We do have a flare up currently and...the police will be doing what needs to be done to get control of the situation. I am not going to disclose what we are going to do, but I can assure the Belizean people that we are looking at the issue and we

are going to deal with it," he said.

Some residents have openly expressed their fears over the situation, noting that Matus was killed in a residential neighbourhood a short distance away from Grace Primary School, and just a stone's throw away from a nearby property where a number of young children often play outside in the yard.

The hit on Matus follows a previous attempt on his life in mid-October last year, after a gunman fired several bullets at the vehicle he was driving.

The authorities say they are now bracing for a wave of reprisals in the wake of Matus' murder.

cont'd from pg 12

ed six billion dollars GUY\$1.3 billion to the rice sub-sector, GUY\$78 million to the coconut sub-sector, GUY\$2.6 billion to advance the production of other crops including high-value produce like broccoli, cauliflower, bell peppers and lettuce, and GUY\$967.8 million, to further develop the Tacama facility where corn and soya is being produced.

The government is continuing to support the agro-processing industry, allocating GUY\$ 527.4 million, GUY\$1.5 billion for the poultry sector and the establishment of a "modular duck processing facility".

It is providing GUY\$ 1.2 billion towards aquaculture and fisheries.

Singh said that a total of GUY\$204.1 billion has been allocated to upgrade and expand the country's

roads and bridges network. He said an additional GUY\$73.2 billion is budgeted to continue the government's programme of constructing, rehabilitating and maintaining community roads.

The government has projected spending in the health sector to be at GUY\$129.8 billion, with Singh telling legislators that the government is investing heavily to engender a "resilient health sector," adding that "like many developing countries around the world, Guyana continues to be challenged by competition for healthcare workers, especially nurses".

The government's housing programme will benefit from GUY \$78 billion, an increase from the \$52.7 billion spent for the construction of roads, drains and bridges in the respective housing areas in 2023.

"We are continuing to build affordable homes to support all income categories," Singh said, noting that since 2020, an estimated 1,165 homes have been completed and works are ongoing for the construction of 1,134 additional homes.

The education sector will this year receive GUY\$135.2 billion including GUY\$4.1 billion to support the operations of the University of Guyana (UG) this year.

A total of GUY\$4.6 billion has been allocated to sports with Singh saying "like in so many other sectors, our sports infrastructure is undergoing its greatest transformation in the history of our country.

"More is being invested in ensuring that our citizens and, in particular, our young people have access to world-class sporting facilities".

Israel Gaza war: Deal reached on aid to Gaza, including to hostages

By **Henri Astier**

Israel and Hamas have reached a deal to allow more humanitarian aid into war-ravaged Gaza, Qatari mediators say.

They say that under a deal brokered by Qatar and France, medicines will be given to hostages held by Hamas.

In return Israel will allow more basic supplies into Gaza. Conditions in the territory are dire after more than three months of Israeli bombardment.

Meanwhile the US says it is hopeful that further talks could lead to the release of more hostages.

The US Middle East envoy has been in Qatar to discuss the possibility of such a deal, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said on Tuesday.

The discussions were “very serious and intensive”, he added. “We are hopeful it will bear fruit and bear fruit soon.”

Earlier, Qatar’s foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari announced the agreement on aid.

Under the deal, the humanitarian supplies will leave the Qatari capital, Doha, for Egypt on Wednesday.

The aid will then be taken to Gaza, to be delivered to civilians, while medicines are to reach Israeli captives.



About 85% of Gaza’s population has been displaced.

More than 132 hostages are thought to be still held in Gaza.

About 240 people were captured by Hamas in a series of raids in southern Israel on 7 October. Some 1,300 people, mainly civilians, were killed.

In a letter sent to Israel’s war cabinet after a ceasefire ended last year, the Hostages Families HQ group said many abductees needed regular medical attention and some were in immediate danger.

Last week Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said David Barnea, head of Israel’s national intelligence agency Mossad, had approached Qatar to secure a deal for providing the medicines needed.

On Tuesday Mr Netanyahu issued a statement expressing “his appreciation to all those who have assisted in the endeavour”.

The Hamas attacks in October triggered Israel’s intense bombardment of Gaza, which has killed more than 24,000 people so far, most of them women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Palestinian officials say that 85% of Gaza’s population has been displaced. While more aid is now getting into Gaza the UN’s humanitarian chief has described the situation as “intolerable”.

Israel is coming under increasing international pressure to consider a

ceasefire or pause in Gaza, such is the scale of the civilian suffering.

Even its closest ally the US, which consistently defends Israel’s right to self defence, has repeatedly told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the civilian death toll is “far too high”.

Last week US State Secretary Anthony Blinken cited UN figures that 90% of the population continued to face severe food insecurity, adding: “For children, the effects of long periods without sufficient food can have lifelong consequences.”

“More food, more water, more medicine, other essential goods need to get into Gaza.”

Gilgo Beach suspect Rex Heuermann charged with fourth murder

By Brandon Drenon

The suspected Gilgo Beach serial killer Rex Heuermann has been charged with a fourth murder in New York state.

Mr Heuermann, 60, was already charged in July with killing three women more than a decade ago, part of a string of Long Island murders that could have up to 11 victims.

He appeared in court on Tuesday and pleaded not guilty, according to the BBC's partner CBS News.

Mr Heuermann has been held in Suffolk County Jail without bail.

Local news described him as silent and stone-faced during his brief court appearance. His estranged wife, Asa Ellerup, and daughter were also present.

"He's looking forward to fighting these charges and we're doing that," his attorney Michael Brown told reporters after the court hearing.

Mr Heuermann also pleaded not guilty this summer to three charges of first-degree murder and three charges of second-degree murder for the killings of Melissa Barthelmy, Megan Waterman and Amber Costello.

The fourth victim was Maureen Brainard-Barnes.

Her daughter Nicolette Brainard-Barnes told reporters that "while the



Alleged Gilgo Beach serial killer Rex Heuermann at a New York court hearing in November.

loss of my mom has been extremely painful", the charges have "brought hope for justice for my mom and my family".

Ms Brainard-Barnes' sister, Melissa Cann, was also in the courtroom on Tuesday.

"It has been 16 years since I last saw my sister, 16 years since I heard her voice, because 16 years ago, she was silenced," Ms Cann said.

The remains of Ms Brainard-Barnes, who was 25 when she vanished, were discovered along Ocean Parkway in December 2010 when authorities were searching for Shan-nan Gilbert, a sex worker who disappeared earlier that year.

Altogether, 11 sets of human remains were found on the same stretch of Gilgo Beach between 2010-

11, linked to nine women, one man and a toddler. The identities of four, including the toddler, her mother and the man, remain unidentified.

The women Mr Heuermann is accused of killing - known as the Gilgo Four - were sex workers last seen between July 2007 and September 2010.

Prosecutors revealed new evidence in the latest court filings unsealed on Tuesday, including a credit card statement showing Mr Heuermann's wife checked into a hotel in New Jersey during the time of the alleged murders.

His family's absence gave Mr Heuermann "unfettered time to execute his plans for each victim", prosecutors said, "without any fear that his family would uncover or learn of his involvement in these

crimes".

His wife, whom he married in 1996, according to CNN, filed for divorce within a few days of his arrest. The Associated Press has reported that he also has a stepson.

Police identified Mr Heuermann as a suspect in early 2022 using cell phone data, witness descriptions and other information.

Authorities also found hair on a piece of burlap used to wrap one of the victims and linked it to Mr Heuermann via a sample from a pizza box he discarded in January 2023.

He was arrested in July as detectives surrounded him outside his Manhattan architecture office, RH Consultants and Associates.

When police and investigators searched Mr

cont'd on pg 17



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Monk looks forward to attend CAF GNFC combine

The former manager of several British football clubs, Garry Monk, said he expects to be traveling to Antigua and Barbuda to attend next week's annual Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) Player Identification Combine (PIC), which is being hosted by the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC).

The Player Identification Combine, which is for male and female players ages 15 to 23, will be held at St. Anthony's Secondary School from Thursday, January 25, to Sunday, January 28.

Monk, a former manager of Swansea City Football Club, will be among several coaches who have confirmed their participation as scouts of various clubs, colleges, and universities at the event.

Monk and his brother Stuart will attend the CAF Player Identification Combined as scouts for Soccer Profile, an innovative soccer platform.

Monk, who accepted an invitation from President



Coach Garry Monk (Getty Images)

Ricky Santos of the GNFC to attend the combine, said Soccer Profile would be looking to provide awareness and opportunities for players at the event.

"We were doing some consultancy work with Ricky and Generation Next, and Ricky made us aware of the combine. I think what we really liked about Ricky and the other people who are organizing it is that it's just to create awareness and

opportunities for players on the islands and in the Caribbean, which I think is pretty much an untapped source of talent," Garry Monk stated.

Monk, a former Swansea City player, went on to manage the club in the English Premier League. He later went on to manage three English Championship clubs: Leeds United, Middlesbrough, Birmingham City, and Sheffield Wednesday.

Soccer Profile was founded in 2018 by the Monk brothers. Stuart Monk is an innovative coach and scout with experience coaching both grassroots and professional players.

The soccer-profile platform has subscribers spanning six continents, from grassroots to professional academies.

Garry Monk said Soccer Profile is relishing its first ever opportunity to scout for talent in the Caribbean region.

The CAF Player Identification Combine is being held for players to showcase their talents in their bids to secure athletic scholarships at colleges and universities or trials at professional football clubs.

cont'd from pg 15

Heuermann's Long Island home - just a few miles from where the remains were found - they uncovered between 200 and 300 hidden guns.

Mr Heuermann also allegedly used a burner phone to conduct more than 200 searches on topics related to serial killers and the Long Island investigation.

Neighbours at his Long Island Massapequa Park home expressed surprise at his arrest.

"The guy's been quiet, never really bothers anybody," neighbour Etienne DeVilliers told CBS.

The investigation into the other victims is ongoing. Mr Heuermann is not suspected in all of the 11 deaths.

McBurnette leads AS United to resounding PL win

Nazi McBurnette scored four goals to lead All Saints United to an emphatic eight-nil drubbing of Ottos Rangers in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday.

McBurnette scored twice on either side of halftime in the encounter at the ABFA Technical Center.

He had conversions in the 11th, 41st, 79th, and 83rd minutes, and Sean Tomlinson scored twice with goals in the 35th and 90th minutes.

The other two goals were scored by Junior Lee in the 88th minute and Zafique Drew in the third minute of added time (90+3 minutes).

The result ensured that All Saints United extended their unbeaten run and remained in fourth place by advancing to 16 points with their fifth win in six matches.

Ottos Rangers would remain on eight points after slumping to their



All Saints United player Nazi McBurnette (ABFA)

third consecutive loss in seven matches.

Celtics claimed their second win in six matches with a three-nil victory against ABAYA in a Second Division

affair at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos on Monday.

Vashki Isaac scored in the 14th minute, Simon Ushakka had a 28th-minute conversion, and Kevin Luke scored in the 37th minute, as all the goals came in the first half.

The win lifted the Celtics to six points, while ABAYA would remain on three points after losing for the fifth time in six matches.

The ABFA's Second Division will continue with five matches today at 4:30 pm.

Soccer Academy will meet Real Blizzard at the ABFA Technical Center, Freemans Village will face English Harbour at English Harbour, West Ham will tackle TAMO FC at the Princess Margaret School playing field, Bethesda will host Young Warriors at Bethesda, and Lingie's CPTSA Wings will clash with Sea View Farm at the ABFA Technical Center.

Roma appoint De Rossi as manager after sacking Mourinho

ROME (Reuters) - AS Roma named their former player Daniele De Rossi as their new manager until the end of the season, hours after parting ways with manager Jose Mourinho on Tuesday.

Mourinho was sacked earlier in the day with Roma ninth in the league after Sunday's 3-1 loss to AC Milan, and have struggled to overcome the loss of key players due to injury, including striker Paulo Dybala. They are 22 points behind league

leaders Inter Milan.

"AS Roma are pleased to confirm that Daniele De Rossi has been appointed as head coach until 30 June 2024," the Serie A club said in a statement.

"After an 18-year playing career with AS Roma, De Rossi will return home as head coach, with his first game being the club's upcoming Serie A match against Verona on Saturday evening at the Stadio Olimpico."

Roma have taken just



Jose Mourinho

four points from their last five league matches, and were eliminated from the Coppa Italia last week in a 1-0 defeat to rivals Lazio.

Following that defeat, Mourinho had likened himself to fictional wizard Harry Potter, saying his position *cont'd on pg 19*



Manchester City

Hearing date set for Man City's financial rule breach charges: Premier League CEO

LONDON (Reuters) - A date has been set for the hearing into Manchester City's alleged financial rule breaches, the Premier League's CEO Richard Masters said on Tuesday.

City were charged in February with more than 100 alleged breaches of finance rules since their acquisition by the Abu Dhabi-based City Football Group, and were referred to an independent commission for a hearing.

"There is a date set for that proceeding. Unfortunately, I can't tell you when that is but it is progressing," Masters told the Culture, Media and Sport (CMS) Committee of the UK Parliament.

When the charges were announced in February, City said they welcomed "the review of this matter by an independent commission, to impartially consider the comprehensive body of irre-

futable evidence that exists in support of its position."

The charges against City, who are targeting a fourth straight Premier League title this season, are different to those brought against Everton and Nottingham Forest on Monday, Masters told the committee.

"If any club, the current champions or otherwise, had been found in breach of the spending rules, they would be in exactly the same posi-

tion as Everton or Nottingham Forest," he said.

"But the volume and character of the charges laid before Manchester City, which I obviously cannot talk about at all, are being heard in a completely different environment."

Everton and Forest are facing potential points deductions, which would be a second for Everton this season after they were docked 10 points in November.

cont'd from pg 18

at the club was raising fans' expectations for success.

He also hit back at critics, labeling himself as the perfect example of professionalism despite his team suffering recent poor results.

"We would like to thank Jose on

behalf of all of us at AS Roma for his passion and efforts since his arrival at the club," club owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin said in an earlier statement.

Mourinho, who has coached a host of top European clubs, including Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Manchester United, was appoint-

ed coach of Roma in 2021.

Under the Portuguese manager, Roma won the third-tier Europa Conference League in 2022. He also led them to the Europa League final in 2023, where they were beaten on penalties by Sevilla. Roma next host 18th-placed Verona on Saturday.



The All Saints Secondary School won back-to-back titles in the Senior Girls Division during the 2023 Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools Basketball Programme at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, April 9, 2023. (Photo courtesy Schools Basketball Unit)

Schools basketball league to tip-off this week

The 2024 Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools Basketball League Programme is set to tip off this week.

Coordinator Carl “Bolie” Knight said this year’s basketball competition, which will involve both primary and secondary schools, will commence with an official opening ceremony at the JSC Sports Complex at 3:30 pm on Thursday, January 18.

Knight said, as in previous years, over 35 teams are expected to participate in this year’s schools’ basketball programme.

Knight has been meeting with the various basketball coaches within the Ministry of Sports to get a final assessment of the participating teams, as

well as preparing and distributing the game schedules to the schools.

Similar to last year, competitions will be held in the Mini Boys and Mini Girls Under-13 Primary divisions, Mini Secondary, Junior Boys, Senior Boys, and Girls divisions.

“All is looking well. We should have about 39 to 40 teams registered, and we are expecting a great and outstanding season this year,” Knight said.

“We want to say thanks to our sponsor, Cool and Smooth, for making this happen. We will play one game after the opening ceremony on Thursday. We are going to have the Antigua Grammar School facing Clare Hall

Secondary in the Mini Secondary Division.”

Knight is looking forward to this year’s competitions, especially in the mini divisions.

Several teams will be defending their titles, which they won last year. Cedar Grove Primary captured both the mini boys and mini girls’ titles in the primary division. St. Joseph’s Academy won the Mini Boys crown in the secondary division.

Clare Hall Secondary claimed the junior boys title. All Saints Secondary School captured back-to-back titles in the senior girls division, and Princess Margaret School took top honours in the senior boys category.