

# LIAT 2020 WILL HAVE 'VASTLY DIFFERENT' BUSINESS PLAN

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A group of fourteen first year college students enrolled in the Politics Course in the Business Department at the Antigua State College, recently visited Government House and engaged with the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams on a range of subject areas. Photo left to right - The Governor General centre front row, is flanked by students and the Antigua State College Instructor Mrs. Goodwin (front row extreme right).

# Local News



## LIAT 2020 will have a ‘vastly different’ business plan

The chairman of the newly created airline, LIAT 2020, Ambassador Daven Joseph, said the airline will have a ‘vastly different’ business plan as it prepares to begin operations from its Antigua and Barbuda home-base.

Ambassador Joseph made the assessment in recognition that since the demise of LIAT (1974) Ltd., several other regional airlines have been filling the void by providing air services to many of the destinations that the now defunct airline once served.

His comments were made with the knowledge



that the regional airline market has changed remarkably since LIAT (1974) Ltd. scaled down operations before it ceased all operations earlier this year.

“What would be apt for LIAT 2020, is that realising the mistakes that were made in air transportation in the region and to correct that, and what we have for the new airline is the ability to offer competitive prices than the

other airlines so we are ensuring that we keep the operations nimble, but effective and safe along with proper customer service,” he stated.

LIAT 2020 is in the process of attaining its Air Operator’s Certificate through a process being handled by the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA).

One airline official, Haf-sah Abdul-Salam, who represents the majority owner

of the airline, Air Peace out of Nigeria, announced last week that St. Lucia and St. Kitts are the two islands to which the airline will commence service following the acquisition of the AOC’s.

LIAT 2020 has long-term plans to operate flights as far south as Suriname and as far north as Miami. Already, the airline has two 50-seater E-145 jet aircraft with the expectation that a 120-seater jet will be added to the fleet over the coming months.

This will enable the longer haul flights to destinations as far north as Miami or down to Suriname.

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## PM Browne travels for international engagements

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will be in New York for the 3rd Global Citizen Now 2024 Summit, which he will co-chair today and tomorrow (May 1 & 2).

The event convenes government leaders, private sector executives, grassroots activists, cultural innovators, and philanthropic experts to discuss solutions to achieve the end of extreme poverty and to protect the planet.

This year, Global Citizen is campaigning to drive financial investments to support developing countries recover from and mitigate the effects of the global food, energy and climate crises, and to empower adolescent girls with a focus on health and education, particularly vulnerable yet extremely powerful group; themes often championed by Prime Minister Browne.

Prime Minister will also be one of the main speakers for the mainstage panel under the theme, "World at a Crossroad: Act Today to save Tomorrow".

The event will focus on current global headlines, rising temperature, widening conflicts, hunger, and policy clashes. The other speakers include Hugh Evans, CEO of Global Citizen, Fran Katsoudas of the Cisco Corporation and Danai Gurira, Zimbabwean-American actress and playwright.

During his interactive presentation, Prime Minister Browne is expected to tell leaders that the decisions they all make have the power to shape the course of tomorrow.

The country's leader is expected to ask leaders to consider the harrowing reality facing Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS, relentlessly pummeled by increasingly monstrous hurricanes, leaving a train of devastation, once serene landscapes transformed into apocalyptic scenes of destruction, with homes shattered, livelihoods obliterated, and communities left in despair.

He will repeat a call for the urgent need for global unity in combating climate change, as the very existence of Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS hang precariously in the balance.

During the two days in New York, Prime Minister Browne will also hold bi-lateral meetings and interactions with a number of leaders including Alex Rafalowicz, Executive Director, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative; President of Rwanda, H. E. Paul Kagame; Hans Vestberg, Chairman and CEO of Verizon and Hugh Jackman, Actor and Global Citizen Ambassador, among others.

Following his two-day engagement in New York,

Prime Minister Browne will travel to Nigeria where he will be the main speaker at the Nigerian Business Forum at Victoria Island, Lagos Nigeria.

In his invitation to Prime Minister Browne, Allen Onyema, Chairman and CEO of Air Peace Limited, which is organizing the forum in conjunction with key investors in Nigeria, said that the interest of many Nigerian investors is shifting towards the Caribbean – with Antigua and Barbuda as the chief focus.

Onyema pointed out that Prime Minister Browne's

participation in the Forum will provide the requisite platform to address and interface with the investors, and produce a win-win for the investors and the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Browne is accompanied by Minister of Works and Housing, the Hon. Maria Browne; Acting CEO of LIAT 2020, Ambassador Davin Joseph and Air Peace Caribbean Limited in Antigua CEO, Hafsah Abdul-Salam.

Prime Minister Browne returns to Antigua and Barbuda on the weekend.



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# Local News



## Statement by the Honourable E. P. “Chet” Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda concerning remarks by Puerto Rican politician

“Stop maligning Antigua and Barbuda to promote your selfish political interests.” That is the message from E. P. “Chet” Greene, the Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, to former Puerto Rican legislator, José Aponte Hernández.

The Minister stated, “In a recent outburst, José Aponte Hernández launched unfounded and false allegations against the sovereign nation of Antigua and Barbuda, claiming that our infrastructure developments are part of a military strategy by China, particularly alleging that our airport is used for the landing and take-off of Communist Chinese bombers.”

“His statement is not only baseless, but it also ap-



E. P. “Chet” Greene

pears crafted to promote his long-held and unsuccessful desire to annex Puerto Rico to the United States as a state.”

“Antigua and Barbuda is a world-renowned tourism destination. Our airport and seaport welcome many of the world’s leading airlines and cruise ships, bearing hundreds of thou-

sands of US citizens annually, including officers of the US Embassy. Not one of these entities or individuals has ever corroborated Mr. Aponte’s outrageous and highly malicious claims.”

“These assertions by Mr. Aponte are grounded in a sensationalist article written by a known ardent anti-China advocate in the publication *Newsweek*. Aponte demonstrated a profound disregard for the truth by not seeking to ascertain the facts before uttering his falsehoods against a neighbouring country, thereby calling into question his credibility as a responsible leader in Puerto Rico.”

“I doubt that Mr. Aponte will be decent enough to apologize but, as the For-

eign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, I am compelled to demand that he cease using unfounded and libelous statements against our sovereign nation. We urge him to focus on constructive and truthful discourse, rather than propagating falsehoods that serve no purpose other than to promote his political ambitions at the expense of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.”

“Our country remains committed to stability and prosperity in the region, fostering relationships based on respect and mutual benefit. We stand strong against any efforts to undermine our nation through deceit and manipulation and will continue to uphold our values of democracy and freedom.”

## Run-off election to select ABLP All Saints West Caretaker

The ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party will stage a run-off election in the All Saints West constituency to select a caretaker/candidate for the area.

That’s because the two top candidates in March’s 15 primary election – Regis Burton and Lamin Newton – ended up with matching results from the two polls that were conducted on behalf of the party by pollsters, Peter Wickham of CADRES and Jamaican Don Anderson of the Anderson Group.

Since neither candidate attained fifty percent of the votes cast in the primary, the party had announced that the selection of the caretaker/candidate

would have been determined by the results of the two polls. But that route proved inconclusive.

Party sources say the results of the polls showed both candidates in a statistical ‘dead-heat’ as both were within the margin of error in terms of their standing within the constituency. According to the sources both candidates had high likeability within the constituency which augurs well for the party’s chances of winning back the seat at the next general elections.

“Who ever emerges as the winner in the run-off election stands a real good chance of winning the seat for the party at the next polls based on the

numbers from the polls. They indicate that the ABLP remains a strong and viable force within the constituency. All the winner has to do is to put in the work that would be required,” ABLP General Secretary, Senator Mary Clare Hurst stated.

She said the date and the procedures for the run-off election will not be revealed until sometime within the next few weeks as currently the party is engaged in activities marking Labour Week, 2024.

In the March primary elections, Newton gained a total of 157 votes versus Burton’s 142. The third candidate in the race, Arry Simon polled 60 votes.

## Bragging rights up for grabs in Antigua and Barbuda's first 'Best Pepperpot and Fungee' competition

Issued by the ABTA

Prepare for the throwdown, as local cuisine takes centre stage with the introduction of the highly anticipated Antigua and Barbuda 'Best Pepperpot and Fungee' Competition, for Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week. Foodies and fans of the country's National Dish, Pepperpot and Fungee, will discover this May, the very best dining spots from which they can savour this must-have local delicacy. In collaboration with the Department of Culture, the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, The Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority proudly presents this inaugural competition in support of the 'Eat Like A Local' programme.

"Our 'Eat Like A Local' initiative celebrates our fascinating cuisine and authentic local dishes prepared by passionate chefs and cooks, using traditional methods and with a unique mix of herbs and spices", said the driving force behind Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week, Shermain Jeremy. Pepperpot and

Fungee is our national dish. It is a key part of Antigua and Barbuda's cultural heritage, and we are thrilled to showcase it, and uncover the very best of the best, to feature within our Eat Like A Local experience".

Residents of Antigua and Barbuda are invited to join the quest to uncover the top dining establishment—whether busy restaurant or laid-back food stall—recognized for their mastery of this iconic dish for Antigua and Barbuda. "The winning establishment and the locations favoured by our community will be part of our tourism marketing efforts, promoting the richness of our local fare," added Jeremy.

Whether you have a favourite cookshop, food stall or restaurant in mind or are eager to nominate your own establishment, now is the time to step up to the plate, by nominating your favourite spot. Complete the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority sign-up form here: ENTER BEST PEPPERPOT AND FUNGEE COMPETITION (<https://form.jotform.com/AntiguaBarbudaTourism/best-pepperpot-and-fungee-contest>) or give us a call on 1-268-562-7600 by 2:00 p.m. on May 7, 2024, letting us know the name of your nominated restaurant, their contact details and address. To participate in the competition, Pepperpot and Fungee MUST appear on the establishment's weekly menu.

The nominated establishments, once they accept the challenge will navigate through the preliminary judging stage of the competition, impressing a discerning panel of international and nationally recognised chefs and cultural food experts with their Pepperpot and Fungee in a blind-tasting showdown. The judges will be looking for an Antigua and Bar-



buda flavour profile, taste, texture, technique and creativity in presentation.

The top four establishments will then face the ultimate test as they welcome the judging panel to their establishment for a second round of tastings. The pressure will be on as the contenders prepare to showcase their culinary finesse once more, vying for the prestigious title of Antigua and Barbuda's Best Pepperpot and Fungee.

To explore a range of local food spots across Antigua and Barbuda, browse our 'Eat Like A Local' digital map.

The second annual Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week (ABRW) kicks off from May 4 through Sunday, May 19, with a total of 65 restaurants featuring diverse cuisines, prix fixe menus and special dining experiences for food-lovers. Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week is proudly sponsored by ACB Caribbean, Digicel and Grace Foods. For more information on events and experiences go to: [www.antiguabarbuda-restaurantweek.com/](http://www.antiguabarbuda-restaurantweek.com/)



# Island Prince – Showing his musical pedigree

By Leandra Norville

Island Prince, is the stage name of Dalik Dyer, a young and talented Antiguan artist and entertainer with a bold vision to become one of the biggest soca stars in the world.

With a musical lineage, Island Prince is guided by his father, Dalton Dyer, a well-respected musician and music producer. In 2018, Island Prince entered the Junior Party Monarch competition and emerged victorious. Since then, he has been consistently releasing high-quality soca music. In 2023, his songs “Gimme Waist” and “Ms. Grippy” did exceptionally well on the Caribbean’s music charts.

For Antigua’s Carnival 2024, Island Prince released a slew of hits, including the trending sensation “Banana.”

On Sunday, April 28th, Island Prince dropped the remix of “Banana” featuring Trinidadian superstar Lil



Island Prince  
Bitts. Lil Bitts, known for her incredible talent and charisma, is making waves in the Soca game, making it an honour for Island Prince to collaborate with her.

IP has an exciting lineup of collaborations for the upcoming season that you won’t want to miss! Get ready to



Soca Villain  
jump to “Bad We Bad” featuring the past Jumpy Monarch King, Hard-Knaxs, “White Flag” featuring the sensational Asher Otto, “Benna” featuring the talented Boogy Ranks, and “Shakalack Shakalack” featuring the dynamic Soca Villain and K-Lee on the Whistle Riddim produced by Triple K.

These collaborations are guaranteed to get you moving and keep you coming back for more!

A graduate of the Antigua Grammar School and Monroe College in New York, Island Prince emphasizes that education is key to success. Island Prince’s captivating music continues to win the hearts of fans worldwide, and there is no slowing him down. Stay in the loop with the latest and greatest from IP music by following him on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Spotify! Join @Islandprince to discover new tunes, exclusive content, and exciting updates.



Asher Otto



Lil Bitts



# Labour DAY

**MAY 6TH 2024**

**FORT JAMES**

**12:30 PM BEACH PICNIC**

**2:00 PM ENTERTAINMENT**

CLAUDETTE PETERS | TIAN WINTER | MENACE XL | ZAMONI  
DRASTIC | KAUTION BAND | NEW GEN BAND | SUPA D  
SAMMI C | PEETRON | G'EVE | ISLAND PRINCE  
DJ JIME | MAD RAS

## Fort Road men arrested following machete attack

Two Fort Road residents are now in police custody and await charges for a wounding incident that took place in the village on Monday afternoon.

According to reports, the two men whose names have yet to be released jumped out of a rental Vitz on Penny Lane.

One of the assailants who was

armed with a cutlass then began attacking 24-year-old Anthony Joseph also of Fort Road while he was walking to a nearby supermarket with his girlfriend.

A viral video shows a portion of the attack where Joseph can be seen trying to run away from the masked assailant.

Bystanders can be seen intervening at some point, and it was then that the two men made their escape.

Joseph however received injuries to his head and left hand and is being treated at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre. The two men were however identified to the police and were later arrested and await charges.

## Heating up at Antigua Sailing Week - Citizenship by Investment Unit Race Day 3

Tuesday, April 30: Racing at Antigua Sailing Week goes past the half-way mark on Day 3 for Citizenship By Investment Unit Race Day. The warm trade winds continued to build, with a south easterly gradient breeze piping up to 15 knots. Squall activity early in the day caused some big shifts, mixing it up for the 88 boat international fleet.

The CSA Racing Classes duked it out on short, sharp, windward leeward courses off Windward Beach. Sir Hugh Bailey's Farr 45 Rebel (ANT) had a red hot day with two bullets in CSA 1, moving up the big boat rankings to just three point off the leader, after a race win by Woody Cullen's Swan 58 Wavewalker (USA).

The close racing was



exemplified in CSA 3 by a tie for first after CSA time correction between Chris Wood's Swan 48 Assuage (GBR) and Michel Ngo's J/133 Credit Mutuel Jivaro (FRA).

Congratulations to all

of the provisional Class Winners on Citizenship By Investment Unit Race Day: Rebel, Wavewalker, Sang Neuf, Clippers Ship Doub 6, Pepsi Zéro-Montebello, Assuage, Credit Mutuel Jivaro, McFly on El Ocaso,

Strada Geothermal Escapado, Caccia alla Volpe, Madness, Jigsaw, Absolute Properties Blue Peter, Braque-KH+P, Lunatic Fringe Island Time, Nevis KH+P, Noble KH+P, Jabberwock, and Donna.





# Labour Queen 2024

"Salute: The Best Is Yet To Come"



**Venue: ABLP Headquarters**

**Date: May 4th, 2024 | Time: 8PM | ADM: \$45**



Tickets are available at Bridge Gas Station or ABLP Headquarters on either Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 6PM

# Local News



## Remarkable movement ignited among Antigua Girls High School alumnae

The Alumnae of Antigua Girls High School have united to establish the Bee Worthy Foundation Inc., boasting a Board of Directors representing several decades of the school's history. This non-profit organization is dedicated to empowering students and nurturing community spirit. Engaging in projects to enrich the educational journey and advance overall well-being, the Foundation aims to make a lasting impact.

The Alma Mater Day, organized by the Ministry of Education, sparked a remarkable movement among the alumnae of Antigua Girls High School this year. Alumnae from the graduating class of 1991, Leslie-Ann Browne James, Rasona Davis-Crump and Gail Christian, spear-



headed an initiative that has resonated with over 1,000 old girls.

What began as a conversation blossomed into a force for positive change. In less than two months since its inception, the movement has exceeded expectations, raising over \$17,000 in funds. This achievement, driven by the unwavering dedication and generosity of alumnae, speaks volumes about their



commitment to giving back to their alma mater.

With the support of current teachers, notably Zahra Airall, the Bee Worthy Foundation Inc. has executed its first two projects. These include the refreshing of bathroom facilities and the installation of sanitary dispensers, bins, and pads, enhancing Menstrual Health and Hygiene. Additionally, a beautiful mural now adorns the exterior walls of the bathroom facility, a testament to the remarkable talent of former students Kamlah Kew the mural designer, Chaneil Imhoff, who designed the scroll that prominently displays the first verse of the school song, and Aziza Lake, the project

coordinator.

In addressing the student body, Leslie-Ann Browne-James, the newly elected President of the Foundation is eager to see the alumnae bring new project to life stating that "Looking ahead, the Bee Worthy Foundation Inc. is excited to launch its Mentorship Programme, connecting alumnae with current students. With numerous alumnae eager to participate, the foundation is poised to make a meaningful impact on the lives of students" In her presentation to the students, Leslie-Ann Browne James urged students to cherish the education received within the

*cont'd on pg 11*





*cont'd from pg 10*

walls of Antigua Girls High School, encouraging all to uphold its legacy and strive for excellence.

Addressing the student body and alumnae, Mrs. Croft, Principal of Antigua Girls' High, expressed her admiration for the remarkable energy displayed by the school's alumnae, finding it truly inspiring. She eagerly anticipated the years of collaboration ahead with the Bee Worthy Foundation Inc.

The Honourable Minister of Education, Sports, and the Creative Industries commended the Foundation's impactful work, noting that Antigua Girls High School remains highly sought after post-Common Entrance Exams. He praised the insti-

tuition for nurturing women who occupy prominent positions locally and globally. Reflecting on the school's legacy and strong foundation, he expressed hope for the emergence of Antigua and Barbuda's first female Prime Minister from its ranks. The students, principal, staff, students and alumnae of the School all toured the facility to view the contribution of the Foundation and the mural, which showcases the remarkable work of the students.

The Foundation's accomplishments are owed to the generosity and dedication of many, including the alumnae who believed in this cause. Special recognition goes to Chekema Hector for keeping the WhatsApp com-



munity connected, and to Zahra Airall, Reisa Charles, and Desree Markham for spreading the message and to the administration group who served as the backbone of the Foundation's progress.

Gratitude is extended to all the students who contributed their time and talent—Angel, Nashayrah, Tekyra, Abigail, Justine, Leyla, Cheyanne, Janica, Kellisa, Royal, Kenneka, Nafisa, and Kayandra, your contributions are truly valued.

Thanks to Total Imports for shipping and clearing items, to Raisa Charles, Jason Galloway and Amer Hourani at Cool & Smooth for their consistent generosity. Special thanks also go to the team at Public Works and Seton Macalmond's team for their exceptional service.

Without the support of each of these individuals and organizations, our mission would not have been possible.

*About the Bee Worthy Foundation*

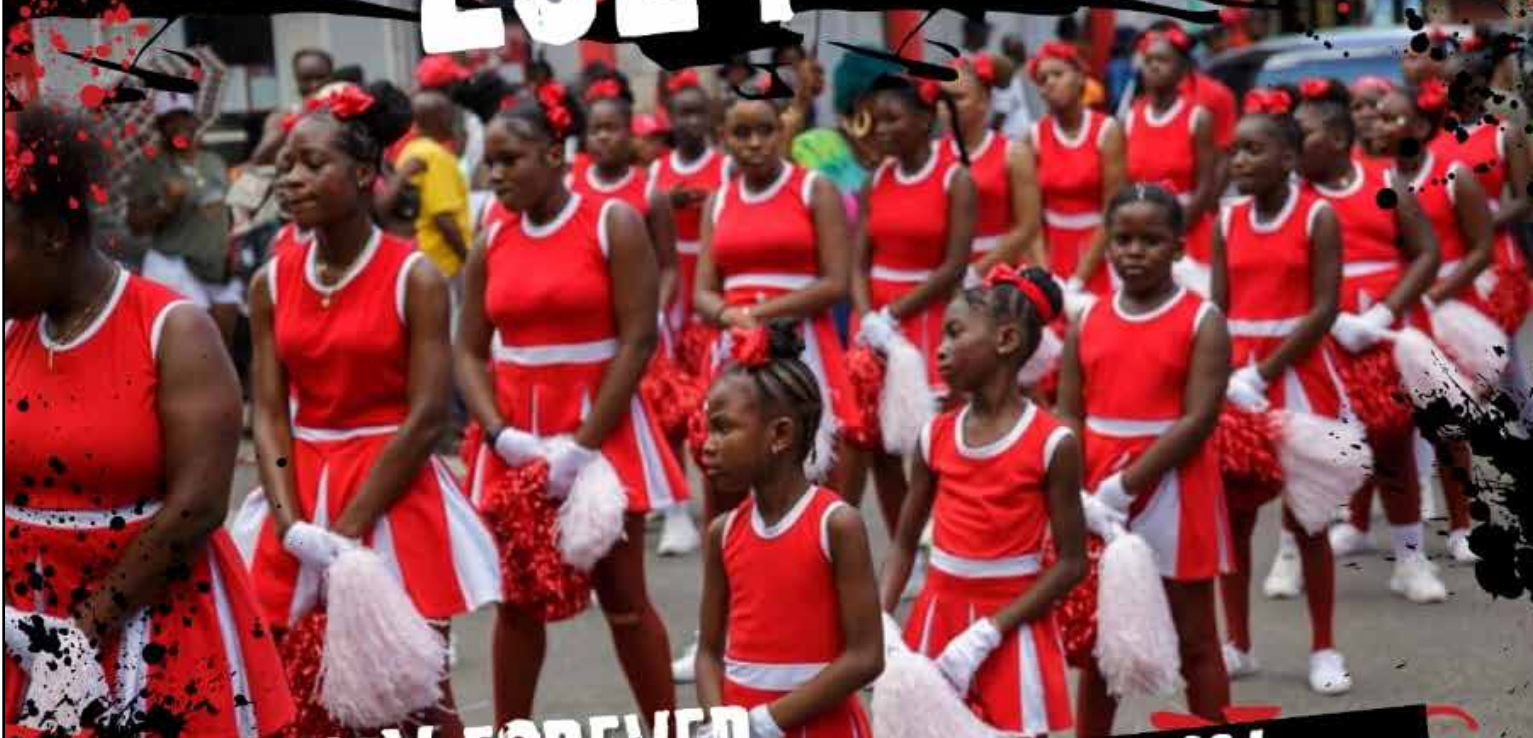
*The Bee Worthy Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by passionate alumnae of Antigua Girls High School. Committed to empowering students and fostering community spirit, the foundation engages in projects aimed at enhancing the educational experience and promoting well-being. Through initiatives focused on mentorship, community engagement, advocacy, and sustainability, the Bee Worthy Foundation strives to create lasting positive change within the school and beyond.*





# LABOUR DAY 2024

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## Binance crypto boss Changpeng Zhao sentenced to four months in prison

By Liv McMahon

The founder of the world's largest crypto exchange has been sentenced to four months in prison for allowing criminals to launder money on his platform.

Changpeng Zhao resigned from Binance in November and pleaded guilty to violating US money laundering laws.

Binance was ordered to pay a \$4.3bn (£3.4bn) after a US investigation found it helped users bypass sanctions.

Prosecutors had sought a three-year sentence for the former Binance boss.

At a sentencing hearing on Tuesday in Seattle, Judge Richard Jones said Zhao put "Binance's growth and profits over compliance with US laws and regulations", according to the Verge.

US officials said in November that Binance and Zhao's "wilful violations" of its laws had threatened the US financial system and national security.

"Binance turned a blind eye to its legal obligations in the pursuit of profit," said Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

"Its wilful failures allowed money to flow to terrorists, cybercriminals,



Changpeng Zhao and child abusers through its platform."

Commonly called "CZ", Zhao has a \$33 billion fortune, according to Forbes magazine.

Nigerian authorities are currently investigating the company, registered in the Cayman Islands, as well.

Tigran Gambarayan, who is in charge of financial crime compliance

at Binance, denied money laundering charges in a Nigerian court in early April.

Fellow executive Na-deem Anjarwalla, detained in Nigeria alongside Mr Gambarayan in February, escaped custody in March.

Zhao's sentencing comes shortly after Sam Bankman-Fried was sentenced to 25 years in pris-

on for fraud committed at his rival crypto platform, FTX.

Widely known as the "crypto king", Bankman-Fried was found to have stolen billions from customers ahead of the firm's failure.

The Justice Department said its investigation into Binance also found the exchange made it easy for criminals to move money.

# Regional News



## Bahamas murder climbs to 44

Gun violence has claimed another life on The Bahamas.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) reported that a 38-year-old man was shot dead at a house, which is located at Graham Drive, Yellow Elder Gardens, just after midnight on Sunday.

Police Press Liaison Chief Superintendent Chrislyn Skippings told reporters at the crime scene that the deceased was chatting with his sibling when there was a knock at the door.

“The homeowner opened the door and upon opening the door a male that is known to the family produced a handgun and opened fire on the victim,” Skippings said.

This murder took the country’s 2024 homicide figure to 44.

Skippings said preliminary investigations revealed the man and his killer had a previous dispute.

She called on the country’s men to



seek alternative means other than violence to solve their problems.

“Males in particular have got to be able to find different ways to resolve their conflicts by putting aside their egos and understanding that it is a part of everyday living. Conflicts are inevitable, it will definitely happen,” Skippings said.

Skippings urged the suspect to turn

himself over to police.

Meanwhile, police have begun an investigation into another shooting that took place around the same time as the homicide.

Skippings said a couple were at their home at Cow Pen Road when they heard someone knocking at their front door.

*cont’d on pg 15*

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## Suriname: Unions plan protest strike against electricity rate increase

CMC - The Trade Union Federation of Suriname, (C-47) has warned that the two day industrial action planned for later this week to protest the increased electricity rates, will last longer if the Suriname government does not give a favourable response to its concerns.

C-47 says it has the support of several trade unions, including the police union and several unions within the education sector and is also preparing a lawsuit against the Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi government over the increased electricity rates.

In February, the government announced plans to phase out subsidies for gas, electricity and fuel as it seeks to reduce expenditure and keep within the guidelines of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The government said while a social program is being implemented to help the vulnerable groups in the society, it is not sustainable to continue the subsidies



According to the government, diesel must be reduced by SRD10 (One SRD=US\$0.03 cents) per liter, with electricity SRD260 per connection and "gas bombs" of 28 pounds, more than SRD400 each.

But the C-47 maintains that the government must first correct the abuses in the energy sector and that the increases in electricity rates did not have to be so drastic.

It said that the first increase of 40 per cent has already taken effect, and after

that another 28 per cent will be added followed by a seven per cent hike per month until November.

Speaking at a special meeting of labour unions on Monday, C-47 chairman Robby Berenstein outlined the plans the federation will take should the government's response be inadequate.

He said the the unions affiliated with the trade union federation will keep their members at home on May 2 and 3.

"Everyone stays at home,

no dog goes on the street, as the late Fred Derby would say. If there is no clarity within those two strike days – the days we stay at home – we will continue with the action," Berenstein said.

"We are also going to litigate against the government about how this rate increase came about. We are working with the lawyers, we are preparing it.

"When the time comes you will hear how we are going to litigate. So please know that we are working on that," the C-47 leaders aid, adding "until now they were taking the unions to court. Now we are taking them to court".

Monday's meeting was also attended by representatives of unions that are not affiliated with C-47, including the Military Union, Police Union, FOLS, KOB, SOB, and the Syndicate for Educators in Suriname.

*cont'd from pg 14*

She said before they could open the door, an armed man broke in an announced a holdup.

The couple was ordered to lie face-down on the floor while the man and an accomplice robbed them.

"The owner of the home recognising that he had a need to protect his home, confronted the first suspect. The homeowner was able to successfully disarm the suspect, shooting him multiple times.

During the time that happened, the second suspect produced a firearm and there was an exchange of gunshots.

"He was able to leave the home unharmed but during the process the female was shot," Skippings said.

The police spokeswoman said a check of an area near the crime scene result in the discovery of a large cache of drugs and an illegal firearm.

She said the homeowner was arrested in connection with the drugs.

## Israeli PM Netanyahu says Rafah attack will happen regardless of deal

By Matt Murphy

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Israel will launch an invasion of the southern Gaza city of Rafah regardless of truce talks with Hamas.

It comes amid ongoing attempts to try to reach an agreement for a ceasefire and hostage releases.

But at a meeting of hostages' relatives, Mr Netanyahu said he would invade "with or without" a deal.

His comments follow renewed warnings by the US against a Rafah invasion unless civilians were properly protected.

In a phone call with Mr Netanyahu on Sunday, US President Joe Biden "reiterated his clear position" on Rafah, a White House statement said. Mr Biden has previously described an invasion of Rafah as a "red line".

On Tuesday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said an assault on Rafah would be an "unbearable escalation", appealing for "all those with influence over Israel to do everything in their power to prevent it".

More than half of Gaza's 2.5m population is in Rafah, having fled there to escape fighting in other parts of the territory. Conditions in the overcrowded city are dire, and displaced people there have spoken of a lack of food, water and medication.



Benjamin Netanyahu has long warned that Israel will invade Rafah.

The West Bank-based Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Monday that an invasion of Rafah would be the "biggest catastrophe in the Palestinian people's history".

Israeli sources told the Reuters news agency on Monday that plans to attack Rafah would be shelved in favour of a "sustained period of calm" if a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel was reached.

Days earlier, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz told Israeli Channel 12 television that "if there will be a deal, we will suspend the [Rafah] operation".

But on Tuesday Mr Netanyahu insisted that the war would continue until Israel had achieved all of its objectives in Rafah.

"The idea that we will halt the war before achieving all of its goals is out of the question," he said.

"We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate the Hamas battalions there with

or without a deal, in order to achieve the total victory," according to a statement issued by Mr Netanyahu's office.

It said the families urged the prime minister and his national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, to continue the war and ignore mounting international pressure. Many hostage families however have publicly demonstrated for the government to agree to a deal to return their loved ones at any cost.

About 130 hostages from among 253 kidnapped by Hamas during its unprecedented attack on Israel on 7 October remain unaccounted for. At least 34 of them are presumed dead. The rest have been released or rescued.

Indirect talks have been at an impasse for weeks, although the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said on Monday that he hoped Hamas would accept what he has called Israel's "extraordinarily generous of-

fer" for a truce.

Meanwhile the head of the UN's refugee organisation has warned that the looming invasion was causing people in Rafah to live in a state of "constant traumatic stress disorder".

"People have not yet been asked to evacuate from Rafah, but there is a sense that if there is no deal this week that could happen," Philippe Lazzarini told reporters.

"My colleagues on the ground are describing constant state of trauma among the people."

Mr Netanyahu also denounced as "a scandal on a historical scale" recent reports, citing Israeli officials, that the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague could be preparing to issue arrest warrants for Israeli government leaders and military commanders on charges related to the war.

"I want to make one thing clear: no decision, neither in The Hague nor anywhere else, will harm our determination to achieve all the goals of the war," the prime minister said.

"Israel expects the leaders of the free world to come out strongly against this scandalous step, a step that will harm the self-defence capacity not only of the State of Israel, but of all democracies in the world."

*cont'd on pg 17*



## Colombian military loses millions of bullets, says president

Colombia's military has lost millions of bullets, thousands of grenades and several missiles, the nation's president has said.

Gustavo Petro said the missing items had come to light during recent inspections of military bases.

He blamed the disappearances on internal corruption, saying military personnel sold weapons to arms traders.

His defence minister said investigations into the disappearances were under way.

"The only way to explain this type of lacking [inventory] is that there has existed, for a long time, networks of people in the armed forces and civilians dedicated to mass commercialisation of arms, using legal arms from the Colombian state," Mr Petro told a news conference on Tuesday.

He said the missing items came to light during surprise visits to two military bases - Tolomaida and



Colombia's president Gustavo Petro blamed military corruption for huge losses of arms and ammunition at two bases.

La Guajira - on 12 February and 1 April, respectively.

At Tolomaida, there was a shortfall of more than 808,000 bullets and nearly 10,000 fewer grenades than the inventory listed on official records.

Meanwhile at La Guajira, the discrepancies included nearly 4.2 million bullets and more than 9,300 grenades. Mr Petro also said the base had lost two Spike missiles, 37 Nimrod missiles and 550 rocket-pro-

pelled grenades.

He told reporters that the military supplies would have been passed on to armed groups within Colombia, but could have been smuggled to Haiti or the international black market.

"The saddest thing about this is that these same munitions end up wounding and killing the same members of the military forces," the Colombian president said.

Colombia has suffered from decades of conflict in-

volving government forces, left-wing guerrilla groups and right-wing paramilitary forces, in which more than 450,000 people have been killed.

At the same time, members of its military forces have been convicted of a number of corruption and human rights abuse charges.

Defence Minister Ivan Velasquez told the same news conference that investigations into the missing items had begun and that some officials had been moved from their posts.

He added that further inspections of military bases across the country were being planned.

The Colombian military is one of the best equipped in the region. It has received billions of dollars from the United States to tackle drug cartels.

### *cont'd from pg 16*

There has been no announcement from ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan KC.

However, his office has been formally investigating alleged war crimes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip since June 2014, and Mr Khan has confirmed that the investigation will cover the 7 October attack and the ensuing war.

Israel has never ratified the Rome

Statute, the ICC's founding treaty, and Mr Netanyahu insisted that the ICC had "no authority" over the country. However, the ICC ruled in 2015 that it had jurisdiction because the Palestinians had ratified the treaty.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Monday that the US - which has also not ratified the Rome Statute - did not believe the court has jurisdiction and did not support the investigation.

# Sports News



## Wins for Lower Ottos Warriors and Da Project in D-2 basketball

Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors and Da Project recorded contrasting wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Monday night.

The Lower Ottos Warriors claimed their ninth win in 11 games by snatching a narrow 76-73 victory against the Spanish Heat II in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 24 points; Ariel Quallis produced 18 points, 13 rebounds, and six assists; and Michael Barton converted 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Lower Ottos Warriors.

Rohland Hamilton converted 15 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Is-



mael Palemo sank 14 points and snatched 13 rebounds; Jesus Emmanuel scored 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Gabriel Perez had 11 points, eight

steals, and eight assists for the Spanish Heat II, who lost for the third time in 10 games.

Da Project continued to lead the Second Division

after securing their ninth win in 10 games with an 86-48 drubbing of the bottom team, MJ Gray's Green Phoenix, in the first game on Monday.

Bryan Matthew produced a game-high 28 points and five assists; Joshua Adams had 15 points, eight assists, seven steals, and five rebounds; Tyler Jacobs scored 10 points; and Shane Rivera chipped in with nine points and nine rebounds for Da Project.

Tyreke Lewis produced 22 points, 12 rebounds, and five steals; Isaac Perez had nine points and 15 rebounds; and Dimetre Leitch sank six points and grabbed 15 rebounds for MJ Gray's Green Phoenix, who remain in the cellar after suffering their 10th defeat in as many games.

## Buckley's 3J's extend unbeaten run in 30-over men's softball competition

Marco Inc. Grill Box Buckley's 3J's kept their unbeaten run intact in the We the People (WTP) 98.5 FM Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) 30-over men's competition on Sunday.

Buckley's 3J's defeated the Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets by 39 runs to claim their third win in as many matches in the competition, which is hosted by the ABSCA along with its corporate sponsors, Everyday Store 24/7, Alva Joseph, Natural Construction, Enforcers, and Goody's Taxi Services and Tours.

Buckley's 3J's made 111 in 20 overs. Gregson Merrick hit 25, and Randino Turner got 16. Vaughn Charles grabbed four for 24, Kerry Burton took three for 36, and Dorian Grant picked up two for 30.

In reply, the Bullets were dismissed for 72 in 20.2 overs. Kerry Burton made 16. Steve Martin snapped up four for 14, Curtis Daniel grabbed three wickets for six runs, and Rodney Williams captured two for 11.

The Dredgers and PMS also recorded wins in the latest round of matches. Dredgers beat Sisserou by

seven wickets.

Sisserou was all out for 46 in 16 overs. Alfred Jarvis made 12. Stelbert Plant claimed three wickets for nine runs, and Rickey Buckley picked up two for 12.

Dredgers achieved victory by scoring 47 for three in 9.2 overs. Loy Weste cracked 20.

PMS defeated Rackaman Construction Strictly Business by three wickets. Strictly Business won the toss and batted, scoring 144 for eight off their allotted 30 overs.

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Bassarath dismisses GCB legal action as 'laughable'

Cricket West Indies (CWI) Vice President and President of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB), Azim Bassarath, has dismissed the legal action taken by the Guyana Cricket Board (GCB) against CWI as laughable, especially given their organization's recent history with alleged questionable elections at the territorial board level.

On April 20, the GCB announced it was commencing legal proceedings against CWI, continuing its year-long allegation that Bassarath was unlawfully elected vice president.

This move comes despite CWI's statement on October 7, 2023, where they addressed the GCB's concerns and confirmed that the election was conducted in accordance with the organization's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

According to CWI's statement: "The Board of Cricket West Indies has thoroughly examined the matters raised by the Guyana Cricket Board and wishes to assure all stakeholders that the election for the post of Vice President was

conducted in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the organization. CWI recognizes the importance of transparency and fairness in all its operations, including elections, and is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity."

Speaking after last weekend's conclusion of the two-day CARICOM cricket symposium in Trinidad, Bassarath, in an interview with Sportsmax.tv, responded to the GCB's legal action.

"As long as I've been a CWI director, unfortunately, the Guyana Cricket Board has been the one and only shareholder whose elections were accused of being unlawful. Guyana's board is the only instance where CWI was forced to stop international cricket from being played in a territory due to government intervention, which went against both CWI and ICC positions against government intervention in sport. Therefore, I genuinely find it laughable what Mr. (Bisoondial) Singh is doing, considering the GCB's history."

Sportsmax.tv has obtained the original letter sent



Azim Bassarath

by the GCB to CWI under then-President Ricky Skeritt ahead of the March 25, 2023 election, which contradicts the assertion in the GCB's April 20, 2024, letter that one of the reasons for withdrawing its nomination of Bassarath was due to misconduct allegations against the TTCB.

In the letter, the GCB only cited Article 92 of the CWI Articles of Association.

Bassarath also questioned Singh's administration of affairs in Guyana: "Mr. Singh joined CWI in 2021, and I have no clear

information as CWI vice president about when local cricket elections are due in Guyana, unlike other territorial boards. This is concerning, considering the history of Mr. Singh's predecessor at the GCB.

"Similar to me, he created all sorts of alleged unlawful acts to remove former Guyana director Hilbert Foster, which surprised many on the CWI board. Mr. Foster, from the area of Berbice, as we are seeing around the Caribbean with the young Shamar Joseph, is producing many talented West Indies players."

Bassarath concluded by urging his Guyanese counterpart to follow the lead of Guyanese head of state Dr. Irfan Ali, who is taking productive actions to benefit Caribbean cricket.

### cont'd from pg 18

Kim George slammed 44, and Raymond Leadette struck 37. Nicholas Thomas captured three for 16.

PMS secured their victory by scoring the required 145 for the loss of seven

wickets in 29.2 overs.

Clarence Francis hit 57, Walter Carr struck 26, Nicholas Thomas hit an unbeaten 16, and Kenny Benjamin also contributed 16. Kenroy "Bingo" Fredericks grabbed four for 17.



From left to right: Everton Cornelius, Roland Samuel, His Excellency Sir Dr Rodney Williams, and Aarion Nicholas, Chief Executive Officer of State Insurance Company Ltd.

Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda His Excellency Sir Dr Rodney Williams, left, presents a medal to an athlete during the award ceremony.

## Dignitaries attend 11th Sir Reginald Samuel Track and Field Classic

A number of specially invited guests were on hand to present medals and prizes to outstanding performers at the 11th Sir Reginald Samuel Track & Field Classic at the YASCO Sports Complex in St. John's on April 27 and 28.

Among the dignitaries at the annual two-day event, which is organized and hosted by the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, were Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, His Excellency Sir Doc Rodney Williams, and the President of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association, Everton Cornelius.

Roland Samuel, son of Sir Reginald Samuel, in whose honour the classic is held, was also in attendance to make



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association Everton Cornelius, left, congratulates an athlete during the award ceremony.



Roland Samuel, left, congratulates female athlete Geolyna Dowdye during the award ceremony.



Aarion Nicholas, left, congratulates an athlete during the award ceremony. (Photos courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

presentations to the outstanding athletes. Sir Reginald is the designer of the national flag of Antigua and Bar-



Athletes compete during the 11th Sir Reginald Samuel Track & Field Classic at the YASCO Sports Complex in St. John's on April 28.

buda.

Aarion Nicholas, Chief Executive Officer of State Insurance Company Ltd., one of the sponsors of the event, also presented medals to the winners.

The event ended prematurely on the second day due to a glitch in the computerized timing device.

Medals not presented will be presented to the coaches of the participating clubs during this week.

The Wings Youth Track and Field Unit and, by extension, the CPTSA Wings Sports Club apologize for the inconvenience caused to the athletes and spectators.

## Legacy Thunder take over lead in ABNDA's three-hand domino competition

Legacy Thunder has taken the lead in the opening three-hand competition of the 2024 Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) domestic season.

Legacy Thunder took over the lead from Legacy Lightening after the second round of matches in the Three-Hand Competition, which is being conducted in the accumulated points format, at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

Legacy Thunder moved to the top of the standings with a total of 164 points after winning their second round encounter by scoring 82 points to prevail against De Unstoppable with 78 points and the Ramplers with 59 points.

Double Six Diamond advanced from joint-third place to second in the standings with a total of 159 points, scoring 77 points to win their second round match against Fire Police with 72 points and the Willikies Super Stars B team with 58 points.

Double Six Ice jumped to third place with a total of 158 points after securing victory in their second round encounter with 81 points to prevail against Highly Favoured with 76 points and SK Eagles with



Players compete during the opening round of matches in the ABNDA's three-hand domino competition at its headquarters in Ottos. (file photo)

72 points.

Triple Dynamite slipped from second to fourth place with a total of 156 points after finishing third with 70 points in their second round match, which was won by Parham Strikers with 77 points ahead of the Full Clip A team with 74 points.

Parham Strikers, who got a bye in the opening round, are second from bottom of the standings, while the Full Clip A team is in fifth place with a total of 154 points.

The Bolans Revellers A team and Bravo won the

other two second-round matches. The Bolans Revellers accumulated a total of 138 points after scoring 74 points to beat Rising Stars and Dominatrixx with 63 points each.

Bravo advanced to a total of 127 points by scoring 76 points to prevail against the Bolans Revellers B team with 74 points and the Willikies Super Stars A team with 58 points.

The Willikies Super Stars claimed their second win during the second round of matches in the ABNDA's first four-hand

competition of the new season at its headquarters in Ottos.

The Willikies Super Stars prevailed 29-21 against the Bolans Revellers, who lost for the first time after winning their opening round match.

But Double Six and Dominatrixx recorded their first wins after losing their opening encounters.

Double Six snatched a narrow 32-30 victory against the SK Eagles, and Dominatrixx romped to an emphatic 48-23 win against the Ramplers.

## Windies to test T20 World Cup readiness this month

With the ICC Men's Twenty 20 World Cup now just about a month away, Darren Sammy and his West Indies team will up the tempo on preparations, as they test their readiness for the June 1-29 global showpiece with a final warm-up match against Australia in Trinidad and Tobago.

The West Indies final squad, which is expected to be named sometime this week, will be one of nine teams to travel to the Trinidad and Tobago in May for eight warm-up matches.

Four of the warm-up matches will take place at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, while the other four is scheduled for the historic Queen's Park Oval. The teams will arrive in the twin-island republic on May 21.

The revelation came from Cricket West Indies (CWI) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Johnny Grave during the recently-concluded CARICOM conference on West Indies cricket themed "Reinvigorating West Indies Cricket" in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

Grave explained that the final West Indies squad will not convene in full until they travel to Jamaica at the end of May to engage South Africa in three warm-up contests.

However, he pointed out that there will be a camp in Antigua prior, which will involve members of the final squad, who are not plying their trade in the Indian Premier League.

From Jamaica, the Rovman Powell-captained squad will then travel to Trinidad and Tobago for the clash



Chief Executive Officer of Cricket West Indies Johnny Grave. (CWI Media)

against 50-over World Cup winners Australia, ahead of the tournament to be hosted in the Caribbean and United States.

West Indies, the 2012 and 2016 champions, are hunting a third T20 World Cup title.

"We're going to have a week-long preparation camp in Antigua from May 12, before heading to Jamaica. We're then going to leave Jamaica and come here to Trinidad and Tobago for a week's preparation, including playing at the historic Queen's Park Oval on May 30, in an evening fixture against one of the tournament favourites Australia," Grave shared.

"That will probably be one of the only games in the warm-up schedule that will be ticketed, and we certainly hope that the fans here in Trinidad, and particularly those in Port of Spain, will come out and rally behind the West In-

dies in that warm-up match, which is the final game we'll play before we head to Guyana for the opening game on June 2," he added.

The West Indies, who are drawn in Group C alongside New Zealand, Afghanistan, Uganda and Papua New Guinea, will open against the latter at the Guyana National Stadium on June 2.

Grave urged fans to come out and rally behind the West Indies outfit in their push to start the tournament on a high.

"Making sure we have a huge party in Georgetown, and we get off to a winning start (will be crucial). We all know in these global tournaments, confidence and momentum are important and we can think of nothing better than starting with a victory in Guyana and ending it in Barbados on June 29 with a similar victory," Grave said.