

# PM BROWNE WANTS VOTERS TO HOLD LEADERS RESPONSIBLE

*Story on Page 2*



Four students at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus were the recipients of scholarships to continue their studies at the institution. *Story on page 6.*

# Local News



## PM wants voters to hold leaders responsible if their countries continue to be heavy polluters

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has made a bold request at the Global Citizens NOW meeting taking place in New York City. Speaking on one of the several panels being held as part of the two-day meeting, PM Browne called on voters in countries where discriminate polluting is taking place to hold their leaders responsible for their action, or lack thereof.

“I’m of the view that leaders globally ought to show some level of climate responsibility and I’m also of the view that voters need to hold their leaders responsible because, ultimately, they are the ones who will determine their level of success.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

“Many leaders are obviously captured by certain organisations, especially organisations in the fossil fuel industry and lobbyists, but they need to liberate themselves,” he declared.

PM Browne is of the view that leaders of countries across the globe, have a responsibility to all of humanity and a responsibility to protect and preserve the

planet and it will be the voters who hold them responsible to make sure that they phase out the use of fossil fuels.

He voiced concerns over the commitments made year after year at the annual COP meetings where grandiose commitments are made but which are never implemented once the conference is over.

“They have been ‘gamifying’ the system,” he stated.

Other than the actions of voters, the prime minister also suggested that countries may wish to pursue legal action as Antigua and Barbuda and Vanuatu have done when they brought a case before the International Court of Justice.

Global Citizen NOW is

the space for the biggest moments of action in advocacy. The two-day event brings together a diverse group of leaders from both private and public sectors, alongside artists and advocates, to urgently address and work towards ending extreme poverty.

*Global Citizen is a social action platform for a global generation that aims to solve the world’s biggest challenges. On our platform, you can learn about issues, take action on what matters most, and join a community committed to social change. We believe we can end extreme poverty because of the collective actions of Global Citizens across the world.*

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## Cabinet receives SIDS4 update

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene presented his Cabinet colleagues with a written report on the readiness of the country to receive the 3,000 or more delegates likely to travel to Antigua and Barbuda for the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) from May 27 to 30.



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene

The Cabinet Notes said the written report was intended for internal uses only.

examined to ensure they meet the high standards set by the Ministry of Tourism.

However, it reported that the hotels and the other accommodations are fast filling-up, as the dates draw near; more sites are being

It revealed that additional flights on the days immediately before the Conference and after the Conference are being

planned, whilst the airlines are reminded of their promise to add flights.

“Transport systems are being ironed out to allow for the smooth collection from the airport, transport to the places of accommodation, and to-and-from the Conference Center at the American University of Antigua (AUA) daily; the system planners report that they are all falling in place,” according to the Notes,

ter of Works, and other officials (including the Foreign Minister himself); they were satisfied that it will be ready long before the start date.

The landscaping and the carpark are also being undertaken by both the AUA and the Ministry of Works.

The field hospital is being constructed on the grounds of the AUA and will be fully staffed during the days of the Conference; that medical site is 90% complete. High speed fiber optic lines are nearly complete to allow for high loads during the days of the Conference.

It was reported that the Conference Center itself is very close to completion and was visited by the Prime Minister, the Minis-

GLOBAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED				
Non-consolidated Statement of Financial Position				
December 31, 2019				
(Expressed in United States Dollars)				
	Notes	2019	2018	
<b>Assets:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	8	\$ 15,490,273	8,180,574	
Restricted cash	8	3,131,408	3,131,408	
Loans and advances	9	66,662,133	67,889,546	
Investment securities	10 (a)	46,657,555	74,771,591	
Investment in subsidiaries	10 (b)	26,282,989	26,282,989	
Other assets	11	33,450,941	33,373,572	
Property and equipment	12	10,889,068	1,135,852	
Intangible assets	13	83	1,083	
Investment property	14	1,204,118	1,247,115	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$ 203,768,568</b>	<b>216,013,730</b>	
<b>Liabilities and Shareholder's Equity</b>				
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Deposits from customers	15	196,296,753	191,412,440	
Other liabilities	16	4,058,942	13,741,342	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>200,355,695</b>	<b>205,153,782</b>	
<b>Shareholder's Equity:</b>				
Share capital	17	22,620,000	22,620,000	
Reserves	18	(24,450,942)	(21,385,001)	
Retained earnings		5,243,815	9,624,949	
<b>Total Shareholder's Equity</b>		<b>3,412,873</b>	<b>10,859,948</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholder's Equity</b>		<b>\$ 203,768,568</b>	<b>216,013,730</b>	
Approved for issue by the Board on <u>27 APRIL 2024</u> and signed on its behalf by:				
Director			Director	
The notes on pages 7 to 54 are an integral part of these financial statements.				

GLOBAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED				
Non-consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income				
Year ended December 31, 2019				
(Expressed in United States Dollars)				
	Notes	2019	2018	
Interest income	20	\$ 6,919,550	6,886,230	
Interest expense	21	(3,452,854)	(3,567,501)	
<b>Net interest income</b>		<b>3,466,696</b>	<b>3,318,729</b>	
Fee and commission income	22	1,743,630	3,106,850	
Fee and commission expense	23	(1,271)	(200)	
<b>Net fee and commission income</b>		<b>1,742,359</b>	<b>3,106,650</b>	
Other income	24	358,914	717,834	
<b>Operating income</b>		<b>5,567,969</b>	<b>7,143,213</b>	
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Personnel expenses	25	557,967	1,342,509	
Directors' fee	19(d)	133,037	208,066	
General and administrative expenses	26	3,819,439	3,248,945	
Loan loss expense	9	4,102,260	2,938,651	
Depreciation and amortisation		363,589	181,152	
Other asset written-off		-	-	
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>8,976,292</b>	<b>7,919,323</b>	
<b>Profit before tax</b>		<b>(3,408,323)</b>	<b>(776,110)</b>	
Taxation	27	-	-	
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>(3,408,323)</b>	<b>(776,110)</b>	
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>				
Unrealised loss on securities		(6,693,543)	(22,152,161)	
Revaluation Reserve		3,633,333	-	
Business risk reserve		(5,731)	(10,000)	
Other comprehensive loss for the year		(3,065,941)	(22,162,161)	
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>		<b>\$ (6,474,264)</b>	<b>(22,938,271)</b>	
The notes on pages 7 to 54 are an integral part of these financial statements.				

# Local News



## Antigua and Barbuda and India discuss assistance for the ABDF

Antigua and Barbuda and India have been engaged in discussions on a wide array of matters relating to assistance for the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF).

These discussions have been ongoing for over a year, but gathered some momentum when the Indian High Commission to Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean, Dr Amit Telang, visited Antigua and Barbuda last week.

“Ever since I visited India last year for an air-show, we have been having ongoing discussions regarding areas where India could assist the country with certain assets for the military such as vessels and other equipment that we need for the proper functioning of the ABDF,” Chief of Defense Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin stated.

He reported that the High Com-



From left Mr. Amit Singh from High commission, Col. Benjamin, Indian High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang, Mr. Vijay Tewani, Hon. Consul of India & Major Philip from ABDF

missioner has been able to help the ABDF make contact with several Indian companies through which some of the equipment may be sourced. “We are looking for assistance beyond military hardware to include matters such as training, equipment and partnering

with the armed forces in other areas,” Col. Benjamin detailed.

Despite the issue of geography, the army chief noted that Antigua and Barbuda has been benefitting from its relationship with India in key areas such as training, particularly in maritime training, the transfer of technologies, aviation and marine resources.

“Antigua and Barbuda and India have been working closely in several areas to support each other’s development,” he remarked. A note from the Indian Honorary Consul stated that the visit underscores the deepening diplomatic ties between the two nations to create engagements not only to enhance bilateral cooperation but also pave the way for strategic collaborations in defense and security, fostering mutual understanding and goodwill.

## CBH conducts three days of training for food vendors

Following two weekends of rolling inspections by officers of the Central Board of Health during which several food vendors were asked to cease operations, there has been an influx of persons applying for training from the health agency.

Principal Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix has announced that due to the demand for training this week, the CBH has had to organize three consecutive days of training to keep up with the demand. These sessions started with approximately 35 persons on Wednesday at the CBH Offices on Upper Church Street and will continue today (Thursday) and again tomorrow, (Friday). More than 250 persons are expected to be trained by the end of the sessions. Thursday and Friday’s sessions will take place at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre.

“Prior to this week, our schedule of

training sessions was slated for May 16 and 23, but after dozens of food vendors were asked to cease operations during our rolling inspections, there have been an influx of food vendors seeking to be trained and to be certified,” she disclosed.

The training sessions cover five key areas for food safety. These are;

- keep food clean at all times and ensure clean water is available
- separate raw food from that which is already cooked
- pay attention to time and temperature regarding the storage of food
- thoroughly use safe water to wash/clean food
- pay attention to hand hygiene as well as ensuring a sanitary environment as well as pest control and a safe temperature

“We are getting much request from individuals who lost their rights to vend



Principal Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix

food and when this is coupled with the demands with Labour Day, SIDS4 and ICC T20 World Cup, many individuals see this as an opportunity to get the training and to avoid any embarrassment or loss of business from a future rolling inspection,” she remarked.

Successful persons who undergo the training are presented with a badge and a certificate that are valid for the next two years.



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

### APUA Strengthens Oversight of Renewable Energy Systems for Safety and Grid Stability

**ST. JOHN'S, Antigua, May 1, 2024 - The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is enhancing its efforts to ensure that all renewable energy systems comply with established policies, with a focus on safety and the stability of the national energy grid.**

APUA has been overseeing the incorporation of renewable energy systems through the interconnection policy that has since evolved after first being introduced in 2011. In 2015, this policy shifted focus from net metering to net billing which allows customers with renewable energy systems to offset their electricity bills by selling excess energy back to the grid. This initiative caters to different system sizes with two interconnection categories:

- Sale of Excess: For systems producing 5 kW or less.
- Buy-All, Sell-All: For systems producing over 5 kW.

In July 2023, APUA began an island-wide survey to ensure that all renewable energy systems align with its interconnection policy. These recent assessments indicate that the total capacity of renewable energy systems in Antigua and Barbuda has reached 10.23 MW, entirely comprised of solar power.

This policy alignment is crucial for maintaining grid stability, as the variable output of solar energy can affect voltage and frequency, impacting overall power quality. Additionally, unregistered or improperly installed systems can pose significant safety risks, especially during the hurricane season, where power could be fed back onto the grid from these unregistered renewable energy systems.

APUA's Renewable Energy compliance campaign will focus on two key areas:

**Grid Stability:** Ensuring the consistent delivery of high-quality power amidst the variability of renewable energy sources.

**Safety:** Protecting technicians and the public from risks associated with non-compliant or unsafe installations, particularly during severe weather events.

APUA's assessment has identified a number of unregistered renewable energy systems; to include battery systems, which poses a significant safety risk. Owners of such systems are urged to contact APUA's Customer Service Department to begin the registration process immediately. Failure to comply may lead to APUA taking lawful measures to protect its employees, customers and its grid stability.

For more information or assistance, visit [www.apua.ag](http://www.apua.ag) or contact APUA Customer Service at 480-7150. APUA is committed to ensuring that renewable energy systems operate safely and reliably, benefiting everyone in Antigua and Barbuda.

## Four UWI FIC students receive scholarship bursaries to continue studies

Two students from the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus were the recipients of scholarships from the Antigua Rotary Club to continue their studies at the institution.

The two students – Pia Nichols who is pursuing a degree programme in Business Management and Lauria Lewis, whose programme of study is in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence – received a combined \$10,000.00 bursary to continue their studies at the UWI FIC.

Speaking at the ceremony on Wednesday, Director of Administration, Hyram Forde, said the university follows the Triple Helix model where government, private sector and academia combine efforts to fund the operations of a university.

“Many universities around the world cannot thrive unless they have a stakeholder involvement that would be making constant contributions to its existence.

“The renowned Harvard University has boasted of having an endowment of US\$50 billion giving them that ability to fund their operations



well into the future. Very early in the game, FIC espoused this Triple Helix model and I have to say that the Rotary Club of Antigua was arguably the first entity to come forward and to make a contribution,” he reported.

He thanked the Antigua Rotary Club for its partnership with the university and its unwavering support for its tenets and programmes. He noted too that the UWI FIC decided from the onset to pursue some niche programmes and this is one reason why it's the first campus within the UWI

system to offer studies in Artificial Intelligence.

President of the Antigua Rotary Club, Michael Spencer, said the Club takes seriously its responsibility to assist the community where it exists. “Education is the cornerstone of progress, and these scholars represent a very bright future for Antigua and Barbuda We believe in your potential to make meaningful contributions to the society and we are honoured to support you in your academic journey,” he told Nichols and Lewis.

Meanwhile two other students received bursaries through a new scholarship programme presented by business woman, Dr. Vanetta Rodgers. Although the amount was not disclosed, the two students were the first recipients of the UWI FIC Dr. Vanetta Rodgers Award. They are Shahein Fitzpatrick and Diana Triana.

Dr. Rodgers said she intends to make the award an annual presentation to assist needy students complete their programme of studies at the university. Fitzpatrick said receiving the award ‘fueled’ him because of challenges he has encountered in his life, but his message to other students is simply, never give up!





# 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

## Three gov't educational agencies launch TVET awareness programme

The Ministry of Education, the Antigua and Barbuda National Training Agency (ABNTA) and the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) have announced the launch of a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign to promote the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

In a media release, the implementing agency, the Office of National Authorising Officer (ONAO), said the initiative underscores the country's commitment to promoting the signifi-

cance of TVET as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth, enabling a skilled workforce to contribute to the sustainable development of key industries across Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the release, the awareness-raising campaign forms part of the project entitled Enhanced Technical Vocational Training (TVET) Framework for Certification in Antigua and Barbuda, which is being spearheaded by the ONAO. The two-year initiative provides EUR 257,535 in Technical Assistance to the Government of Antigua and

Barbuda from the EPA and CSME Standby Facility.

The Project aims to reach and inspire diverse audiences to consider TVET as a pathway to rewarding careers while promoting professional development as well as contributing to a competitive workforce. The Ministry of Education, ABNTA and ABICE will engage with students, learners, educational institutions and industry representatives to raise awareness of the TVET courses, qualifications, and training institutions across Antigua and Barbuda.

At the heart of the cam-

paign, is the launch of ABNTA and new TVET website, a central hub designed to empower individuals with information and resources on TVET opportunities in Antigua Barbuda. The website, which will be made publicly available in the coming weeks, will act as a one-stop destination for exploring vocational pathways, accessing training programs, and learning about ABNTA and commitment to promoting TVET initiatives.

"TVET serves as a powerful catalyst for economic development and social mobility.

In an increasingly competitive global economy, nations such as ours must leverage their human capital to drive innovation and productivity," stated Ileathia Cabral, Project Coordinator (ONAO). "We must recognize and embrace the invaluable role that TVET plays in shaping our societies and economies," she noted.

The Standby Facility is a EUR 8.75 million resource managed by the Caribbean Development Bank, which offers opportunities to 15 Caribbean economies to grow trade, deepen integration and economic involvement, impact competitiveness, enhance market access and exports by implementing targeted projects in thematic areas.

## Police ask for the public's help to identify stolen items

The police have seized several pieces of electrical tools and building materials that may have been stolen from construction sites and are asking members of the public to assist in identifying them.

They include a wheelbarrow, kitchen cupboard doors, construction tools, electrical wires, and an assortment of electrical tools.

These items were seized during the execution of several search warrants on different properties across the island. A 36-year-old man is currently in police custody assisting with investigations.

Anyone, who may have been the victim of larceny is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or visit the office on Newgate Street.

Meanwhile, the police are appealing to residents to ensure they have proper security measures in place to protect their properties at all times.



Stolen items on display by the police





# 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

## May is Stroke Awareness month

May is designated as Stroke Awareness Month, aiming to raise awareness about the symptoms and risk factors of stroke, which are largely preventable with lifelong control of risk factors, particularly high blood pressure.

At its 5th Annual Cardiac Symposium in February, the Heart and Stroke Foundation brought together experts and professionals to discuss groundbreaking insights into stroke prevention.

Consultant Neurologist, Dr. Gaden Osbourne, a prominent figure at the

symposium, emphasized the significance of primordial prevention in his address on 'Stroke Care in Antigua and Barbuda.'

"While we address various aspects of stroke prevention, I must emphasize primordial prevention – the proactive approach of promoting a healthy lifestyle among individuals without existing risk factors," said Dr. Osbourne.

The key takeaways from the symposium remain: the importance of taking proactive steps to prevent stroke occurrence and promptly recognizing



ing its signs. Individuals should be prepared to act swiftly if they or someone around them experience any of the following symptoms:

**F - Face Drooping:** Is one side of the face drooping or numb?

**A - Arm Weakness:** Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

**S - Speech Difficulty:** Is speech slurred, or is the person unable to speak or hard to understand?

**T - Time to Call 911:** If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call emergency services immediately. Time is crucial in treating a stroke.

Dr. Osborne underscored the Stroke quadrangle, comprising: surveillance, prevention, acute care, and rehabilitation, especially for individuals in advanced age.

"In our pursuit of preventing strokes and severe

disabilities, primary prevention plays an important role.

"Identifying and controlling risk factors is instrumental in averting strokes from occurring in the first place," Dr. Osbourne further explained.

Dr. Osborne encourages a "grassroots approach" to stroke prevention, urging individuals to take charge of their health by adopting a proper diet, reducing fast food consumption, increasing intake of fruits and vegetables, staying hydrated, and engaging in regular physical activity.

These lifestyle changes, when implemented, can significantly reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation continues to lead the way in promoting proactive and comprehensive approaches to combat heart disease and strokes.

From: The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Antigua and Barbuda



**AT&LU'S SOCIAL NIGHT LABOUR DAY EDITION**

**New Date**

**FRIDAY 3RD, MAY 2024**

**6:00 PM - 12:00 AM**

**46 NORTH STREET**

**DON'T MISS OUT THE CHANCE TO RECONNECT WITH COMRADES FROM THE PAST AND MEET THE YOUTH OF THE TRADE LABOUR MOVEMENT FOR THE UNITY OF LABOUR IS THE SALVATION OF OUR COUNTRY.**

**Antigua Trades Labour Union**



# LABOUR DAY 2024

V.C. BIRD BUST



**SOLIDARITY FOREVER  
AT&LU & ABLP**

**6 MAY 2024**  
STARTS 9.00 AM  
MARKET STREET ST. JOHN'S, ANTIUGA

MARCHING THROUGH THE STREETS OF  
ST JOHN'S, THEN FORWARD ONTO THE  
HISTORIC FORT JAMES FOR OUR LABOUR  
DAY PICNIC & CONCERT.



# Photo Essay



**ON AIR**

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**POINTE FM 99.1**

Your **Monday Conversations**,  
this and every **Monday!**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

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Expansion of the Port**

**Hosts**

**Michael Freeland and Senator Rawdon Turner  
talk to Port CEO Darwin Telemaque.**



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## Grenada begins 90-day firearms amnesty

The Government of Grenada has announced the commencement of its firearms amnesty from May 1, 2024, ending at 12 am on July 30, 2024.

The government reminds that any person who satisfies the conditions specified in section 4 of the Firearms Order (Gazetted April 29, 2024) will be granted the relief specified under section 51A of the Act, referred to as “the firearms amnesty”.

The aim of the amnesty is to lessen the potential for the commission of violent crimes and firearms-related incidents by reducing the number of firearms and ammunition circulating illegally in the State of Grenada.

In furtherance of this objective, the Government believes that declaring a firearms amnesty is one of the approaches which may help to achieve the stated objectives.

The Firearms Amnesty Act provides an opportunity for individuals

to surrender firearms, firearms-related items, and ammunition without fear of prosecution. During the designated period, individuals can turn in these items at designated drop-off locations, no questions asked.

Here are the conditions of the Amnesty:

1. During the period specified the firearm or ammunition should be surrendered:

(a) at any police station, to the officer in charge or the officer on duty; or

(b) at the office of the Royal Grenada Police Force Headquarters, to an officer designated by the Commissioner of Police for that purpose.

2. A person shall not be required to disclose his or her identity or any information when surrendering a firearm or ammunition and no details of the person who surrendered the said firearm or ammunition shall be recorded.

3. An attorney-at-law may surrender a firearm or ammunition on behalf of a person seeking a firearms amnesty in accordance with the Act.

The government says by offering a safe and anonymous way to relinquish firearms, the Firearms Amnesty Act aims to reduce the risk of firearm-related crimes, and tragic incidents of violence in our communities.

“We believe that every firearm surrendered through this amnesty programme represents a potential life saved and one less gun on the street,” said Prime Minister and Minister for National Security Dickon Mitchell. “Our priority is the safety and well-being of our citizens, and this initiative is a proactive step towards achieving that goal.”

The amnesty is part of a comprehensive approach to addressing gun violence and promoting community safety.

## Sudden announcement of a prime minister divides Haiti's new council

By Dánica Coto

A surprise announcement that revealed Haiti's new prime minister is threatening to fracture a recently installed transitional council tasked with choosing new leaders for the gang-riddled Caribbean country.

Four of seven council members with voting powers said Tuesday that they had chosen Fritz Bélizaire as prime minister, taking many Haitians aback with their declaration and unexpected political alliance.

The council members who oppose Bélizaire, who served as Haiti's sports minister during the second presidency of René Préval from 2006 to 2011, are now weighing options including fighting the decision or resigning from the council.

A person with direct knowledge of the situation who did not want to be identified because negotiations are ongoing said the council's political accord had been violated by the unexpected move and that some council members are considering other choices as potential prime minister.

The council on Tuesday was scheduled to hold an election and choose its president. But two hours and a profuse apology later, one council member said that not only a council president had been chosen, but a prime minister as well. Murmurs rippled through the room.



Transitional Council members, from left to right; Fritz Alphonse Jean, Laurent Saint-Cyr, Frinel Joseph, Edgard Leblanc Fils, Regine Abraham, Emmanuel Vertilaire, Smith Augustin, Leslie Voltaire and Louis Gerald Gilles, pose for a group photo after a ceremony to name its president and a prime minister in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, April 30, 2024. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

The Montana Accord, a civil society group represented by a council member with voting powers, denounced in a statement late Tuesday what it called a "complot" hatched by four council members against the Haitian people "in the middle of the night."

"The political and economic mafia forces have decided to take control of the presidential council and the government so that they can continue to control the state," the Montana Accord said.

Haitian politics have long been characterised by secretive dealings, but many worry the country cannot afford further political instability as gangs lay siege to the

capital of Port-au-Prince and beyond.

"People change parties (like) they're changing their shirts," said François Pierre-Louis, a professor of political science at Queens College in New York and former Haitian politician.

He spoke during an online webinar on Tuesday evening.

Like others, he said he believed that Jean-Charles Moïse, a powerful politician who was a former senator and presidential candidate, was behind Bélizaire's nomination.

"Interestingly, Moïse, of all the politicians there, is the one calling the shots," Pierre-Louis said.

Moïse, however, does

not sit on the council. His party, Pitit Desalin, is represented by Emmanuel Vertilaire, who is among the four council members who support Bélizaire.

The others are Louis Gérald Gilles, Smith Augustin and Edgard Leblanc Fils, the council's new president.

They could not be immediately reached for comment.

Fils represents the January 30 political group, which is made up of parties including PHTK, whose members include former President Michel Martelly and slain President Jovenel Moïse. Meanwhile, Augustin represents the EDE/RED political party, founded by former Prime

*cont'd on pg 16*

## China highway collapse kills 24 people

By Joel Guinto

Twenty-four people have died after a section of a mountainside highway collapsed in China's Guangdong province, following days of heavy rain.

Thirty others were taken to hospital after a 17.9m (58 feet) stretch of the Meilong expressway crumbled at 02:10 local time (19:10 BST) on Wednesday.

Authorities have yet to state the cause of the incident.

Images on state media showed a massive gash in the forested mountainside below the highway.

The 30 people in hos-



State media carried pictures showing a massive gash in the mountainside.

State media initially reported that 19 people had died and 30 others were hospitalized. The provincial government has dispatched 500 emergency response personnel to the scene.

State media initially reported that 19 people had died and 30 others were hospitalized. The provincial government has dispatched 500 emergency response personnel to the scene.

*cont'd on pg 17*

*cont'd from pg 15*

Minister Claude Joseph, and Gilles represents the December 21 agreement, which is associated with former Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who recently resigned.

A document shared with The Associated Press and signed by the four council members who chose the new prime minister state they have agreed to make decisions by consensus. The document is titled, "Constitution of an Indissoluble Majority Bloc within the Presidential Council."

Henry was on an official visit to Kenya to push for the UN-backed deployment of a police force from the East African country when gangs in Haiti launched coordinated attacks starting February 29.

They have burned police stations, opened fire on the main international airport that remains closed since early March and stormed Haiti's two biggest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates. The violence continues unabated

in certain parts of Port-au-Prince, including the area around the National Palace.

Haitians are demanding that security be a top priority for the council, which is tasked with selecting a new prime minister and Cabinet, as well as prepare for eventual general elections.

But some Haitians are wary of the council and the decisions it's taking.

Jean Selcé, a 57-year-old electrician, noted that most of the council members are longtime politicians: "Their past is not really positive."

"I hope their mentality can change, but I don't believe it will," he said. "They don't really love the country. Who's dying right now? It's Haitians like me."

Robert Fatton, a Haitian politics expert at the University of Virginia, noted that some of the parties represented on the council are responsible for the current chaos in Haiti.

"It's a contradiction," he said. "Every time we seem to be in a crisis, we

reappoint the same people and hope that they change their ways, but they do not."

Raising the same criticism is Michael Deibert, author of "Notes From the Last Testament: The Struggle for Haiti," and "Haiti Will Not Perish: A Recent History."

He noted in a recent essay that the council is "dominated by the same political currents who have spent the last 25 years driving Haiti over a cliff, taking advantage of impoverished young men in the slums to be used as political bludgeons before - bloated on the proceeds from kidnapping, extortion, drug trafficking and other criminal enterprises - these groups outgrew the necessity of their patrons."

More than 2,500 people have been killed or injured across Haiti from January to March, according to the UN.

In addition, more than 90,000 people have fled Port-au-Prince in just one month given the relentless gang violence.



## Brazil floods: Residents stranded on rooftops in Rio Grande do Sul

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

At least 10 people have died and more than 20 are missing after storms caused flooding in the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Helicopters are flying over the region searching for people who have been left stranded.

In some areas, the flooding is so severe that helicopters have been unable to land and have had to winch residents to safety.

The state's governor has asked the federal government for help.

"President Lula, please immediately send as much air support as possible for RS [Rio Grande do Sul]. We need to rescue hundreds of people in dozens of municipalities who are in an emergency due to the intense rain which has already fallen and which is going to continue falling in



coming days," Governor Eduardo Leite wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva responded, saying that the federal government would "join the efforts of state government and municipalities to get through this difficult time, which is the result of climate change affecting the planet".

According to officials,

10 people were killed. Two people died when the car they were in was swept away by the floodwaters in the small town of Paverra. Another died in a landslide in Salvador do Sul.

Twenty-one people are still missing, and around 1,500 people are stranded.

"We continue to work hard to locate the missing and ensure the safety of communities in at-risk ar-

reas," Mr Leite said.

The mayor of Sinimbu told the G1 news site that her town was living through "a nightmare".

In Candelária, residents took to the roofs of their homes as their houses filled with water.

Bridges have collapsed and more than 20 streets rendered impassable, making it hard for emergency services to reach the affected areas.

Meteorologists have predicted further rains to fall in the region as a cold front moves across it.

Last year, more than 30 people were killed in a cyclone in Rio Grande do Sul.

Brazil's National Institute of Meteorology attributed the increased intensity and frequency of rainfall to the climate phenomenon El Niño.

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died but local authorities later said 24 people had been killed, with the number of injured persons still at 30.

Footage that appeared to have been taken shortly after the collapse showed flames and black smoke billowing from below the highway.

A total of 20 vehicles fell into the collapsed portion of the road, authorities said.

Another video carried by state media showed a smoking pile of charred cars partially covered in mud.

Guangdong, China's most populous

province, was hit with flash floods last week that killed four people and displaced 110,000 others.

The floods also damaged dozens of houses, shut schools and caused flight cancellations and delays. Authorities have estimated economic losses of 140.6m yuan (\$19.4m; £15.5m).

The wild weather continued over the weekend, when a tornado ravaged a factory district in the provincial capital of Guangzhou, killing five people and wounding 33 others. Hailstones the size of golf balls were also seen raining down on the city.

# Sports News



## Spanish Heat advance to semi-finals in ABBA's Division 1 playoffs

The fourth-seed Spanish Heat have advanced to the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division playoff championships.

The Spanish Heat booked their spot in the semis after clinching their best-of-three first-round series 2-1 against the fifth-seed Kennedy's Club Ottos Full Throttle on Tuesday night.

The Spanish Heat wrapped up the series by coasting to a 70-59 victory in the deciding Game 3 at the JSC Sports Complex.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 23 points; Damian Floyd converted 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; and Kelvyn Pimental produced 16 points, 16 rebounds, six assists, and five steals for the Spanish Heat.

Akeem Davis produced



19 points, 14 rebounds, five steals, and five assists; Morlon Davis sank 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; and Shaquille Kelly scored eight points and snatched nine rebounds for the Ottos Full Throttle.

The Spanish Heat will advance to face current league winners and defending Division 1 playoff champions, the EZ Fit Flyers, in one of the two best-of-three semi-final series.

The top-seeded Fly-

ers and second-seeded Northside Stingerz had gained first-round byes in the playoffs after finishing as the top two teams at the end of the round-robin Division 1 league competition.

The Spanish Heat and the Flyers will clash in the opening game of their semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex today at 8:30 pm.

The third-seeded Potters Steelers will take on the Northside Stingerz in the other semi-final series.

The Potters Steelers booked their spot in the semis after eliminating the sixth-seeded New Generation All Saints Slam by prevailing 2-0 in their best-of-three first-round series.

The Potters Steelers and Northside Stingerz will clash in Game 1 of their best-of-three semi-final series at the JSC Sports Complex today at 6:45 pm.

## PMS and AGS to clash in Schools' Cricket Under-15 Division final

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Antigua Grammar School (AGS) will clash in the final of the Ministry of Sports Inter-Schools' Under-15 Boys Division Championship today.

Both teams booked their spots in the final by securing victories in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

Princess Margaret School cruised to a 10-wicket victory against Pares Secondary School in their semi-final at the Factory Grounds.

Pares Secondary was restricted to 68 for eight in 15.5 overs.

Tyron Francis grabbed three for 15, Ondre Peters snatched three for 21, and Kerique Mentore picked up two for 14.

Princess Margaret School wrapped up their win by achieving the required victory target of 69 runs without losing a wicket.

The Antigua Grammar School snatched a two-wicket win against Sir

Novelle Richards Academy in the other semi-final at the Rising Sun playing field.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy was restricted to 66 for six off 20 overs. Shaun Balgobin scored 13, and opener Cheldon Charles got 12.

Rolando Fields captured two for 14, Malik Ambrose took one wicket for nine runs, and Donte Odlum picked up one wicket for 12 runs.

*cont'd on pg 19*



Johnson Charles scored an unbeaten 119 from just 61 balls for the West Indies A against Nepal in the third ODI in Kirtipur, Nepal.

## Charles guides Windies A to victory against Nepal

In a dazzling display of power hitting, Johnson Charles led the charge for West Indies A with a spectacular unbeaten 119 from just 61 balls, guiding the Caribbean team to a commanding 76-run victory over Nepal and taking a 2-1 lead in the T20 series in Kirtipur on Tuesday.

Charles' explosive innings included 13 fours and seven sixes, as he anchored the West Indies A

innings, propelling them to a formidable total of 227 for three against the hosts.

His half-century came in a blistering 24 balls, setting the stage for a dominant performance. Charles formed a crucial second-wicket partnership of 145 runs with Andre Fletcher (53), after Alick Athanaze was run out for 17.

Fletcher's innings featured four fours and three

sixes before he departed in the 16th over. Contributions from Fabian Allen (19 from nine balls) and Keemo Paul (13 from seven) further bolstered the West Indies A total, which marked the highest score by the tourists in the series so far.

In response, Nepal faced an uphill battle chasing more than 11 runs per over for victory and struggled under scoreboard

pressure, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Opener Lokesh Bam and Karan both managed 28 runs, while Kushal Malla contributed 20. However, Nepal ultimately collapsed to 151 all out in 19.2 overs.

Antiguan leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. led the bowling attack for West Indies A with impressive figures of three for 28, while left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie provided valuable support with two for 28.

Fabian Allen, Matthew Forde, and Obed McCoy also chipped in with a wicket each, as the West Indies comfortably secured a pivotal series lead.

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Antigua Grammar School secured their win by achieving the required victory target of 67 for the loss of eight wickets with eight balls to spare.

Opener Hosea Roberts scored 14, and Rolando Fields made 10. Rohan John

snapped up four wickets for 15 runs, Clayton Joseph claimed one for 10, Cheldon Charles picked up one for 12, and Shawn Harris captured one for 16.

Antigua Grammar School and Princess Margaret School will clash in today's final at the Rising Sun playing field at 2 pm.



Anrich Nortje

## Nortje makes international return for South Africa's T20 World Cup squad

Anrich Nortje earned a recall to South Africa's fold as he was included in the Proteas' 15-man squad for the T20 World Cup.

Nortje has been in action in the Indian Premier League (IPL), but has not played for South Africa, who will be captained by Aiden Markram, in nine months.

While he has taken seven wickets in six matches for the Delhi Capitals, Nortje has gone at 13.36 runs per over, but has been given the nod due to his pace.

"Anrich has got another month before the World Cup starts so I have no doubt he'll hit his straps," South Africa coach Rob Walter said.

"It's good to see that his speed is up. The one thing Anrich has that separates him from others is raw pace. There's not many guys who can bowl 150kph and he can. Pace is an X-fac-

tor."

Lungi Ngidi has missed out, though he is a travelling reserve. Quinton de Kock has not been in good form, but has made the cut due to historical performances.

He is no longer under contract at Cricket South Africa (CSA) and retired from ODIs last year.

"Quinny, we've seen him do it time and time again for us," Walter said.

"Reeza [Hendricks] has been a star performer for us in T20 cricket, was a standout in this domestic CSA T20 challenge again, and Ryan Rickelton has had two outstanding competitions really where he's played the brand of cricket that we're looking to play.

"And then we're going to have Markram and that'll be the top order. It's mostly a performance-based decision and from Quinton's point of view is just a real knowledge of what he's

capable of."

Rickelton and Ottniel Baartman have been standout performers in the SA20 this year, and could earn their maiden T20I caps. South Africa did not make it out of the Super 12 stage at the last World Cup in 2022.

Three big players, Temba Bavuma, Rilee Rossouw and Wayne Parnell, have missed out compared to the squad for that tournament.

The Proteas start their World Cup campaign against Sri Lanka on June 3, after playing a warm-up series against the West Indies.

**South Africa squad:** Aiden Markram (capt), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, and Tristan Stubbs.

## Marsh named captain in Australia's T20 World Cup squad

Mitchell Marsh will captain Australia at next month's T20 World Cup, but Steve Smith and Jake Fraser-McGurk have been left out of the 15-man squad.

Marsh, who has shared the duties on an interim basis since Aaron Finch's retirement, was named Australia's permanent T20 skipper on Wednesday.

Test captain Pat Cummins, fast bowler Mitchell Starc, and Glenn Maxwell have also been named in the squad, which features 11 of the players that were part of the team that won this tournament in 2021.

However, there is no place for former skipper Smith following a difficult spell of form, while Fraser-McGurk is also absent despite his impressive form in the Indian Premier League.

"This is an experienced squad with extensive World Cup experience that offers a variety of structures and covers the scenarios the pan-



Mitchell Marsh

el believes will factor in the West Indies with the unique nature of the venues and our opponents," selection chief George Bailey said.

"Steve Smith, Matt Short, Jason Behrendorff, Aaron Hardie, Spencer Johnson, and Xavier Bartlett were all part of long conversations, along with several others, including Jake Fraser-McGurk, who is yet to play T20 Interna-

tional cricket but continues to impress and is developing rapidly.

"Being constrained to a squad of 15 for World Cups is always a challenge given the different scenarios and options we'd like to cover.

"Ultimately, the balance of the final 15 needs to provide the best chance of being successful in this campaign."

"It's been an immense

privilege to play for my country and now an even greater honour to lead the squad to a World Cup," Marsh added.

"We have had some strong success in recent times, and I am hopeful that will continue in what looks like a wide-open tournament."

Australia will begin their tournament against Oman on June 5, while they will also play England, Scotland and Namibia in Group B.

**Australia's provisional squad:** Mitchell Marsh (captain), Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Wade, David Warner, and Adam Zampa.

### cont'd from pg 22

opportunity in the 27th minute.

Their 11th win in 17 matches carries the Police level with the Attacking Saints on 36 points. However, the Police have a superior goal difference and a game in hand.

Bendals will remain third from the bottom of the standings with 12 points after suffering their 12th defeat in 17 matches.

Thair Thomas scored twice as Bolans tightened their grip on seventh place by prevailing 4-2 against Fort Road at the

Jennings playing field.

Thomas had conversions in the 38th and 60th minutes, Taiem Tonge scored in the 13th minute, and Braheem Spencer scored an own goal in the 25th minute for Bolans. Ezekiel Thomas scored both goals for Fort Road in the 4th and 23rd minutes.

Their fifth win in 17 matches allows Bolans to remain in seventh place by advancing to 17 points. Fort Road will remain second from the bottom of the standings with 10 points after suffering their 13th defeat in 17 matches.

# Sports

THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2024



## Potters Tigers close in on First Division title

The Potters Tigers on Tuesday took a major step towards capturing the current Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division title and in the process attained promotion to next season's Premier Division.

The Potters Tigers snatched a 2-1 victory against their closest rivals, Five Islands, in a top-of-the-table clash at the ABFA Technical Center.

Brian Davis scored the winner for the Tigers in the 48th minute after Jaheim Jeremy scored in the last minute (45th) of regulation time in the first half to equalize for Five Islands, as both teams finished level at 1-1 at the halftime interval.

Javorn Benjamin scored in the 22nd minute to give the Potters Tigers a one-nil lead. However, the Potters Tigers finished the match with 10 men as Benjamin was sent off in the 78th minute after receiving a second caution (yellow card), which is an automatic red card and expulsion from the match.

Their 13th win in 17 matches allows the leaders,



The Potters Tigers football team. (Photo courtesy of the Potters FC)

the Potters Tigers, to move three points clear of Five Islands, who remain in second place at the top of the First Division.

Both teams entered Tuesday's clash level on 40 points from 16 matches, but the Potters Tigers occupied first place due to a superior goal difference.

However, Tuesday's win carries the Potters Tigers to 43 points, three ahead of Five Islands, and both teams have three matches remain-

ing. The top two sides at the end of the First Division competition will gain automatic promotion to compete in the Premier Division next season.

Demitri Scotland and Glenroy Prince each scored twice as the Police leapfrogged the Attacking Saints into third place on goal difference by romping to a 6-1 victory against Bendals at the ABFA Technical Center.

Scotland scored in the

24th and 64th minutes, and Prince had conversions in the 49th and 83rd minutes. Clinton Daniel had a 77th-minute conversion, and Joumol Semper scored in the second minute of added time for the Police.

Darren Steven scored a consolation goal in the 58th minute for Bendals, who ended the game with 10 men after Peirson Vital received a red card for denying an obvious goal-scoring

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