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PM BROWNE SAYS ABWU NOT DOING A GOOD JOB



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Local News



PM says ABWU is doing a bad job for hotel workers

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is calling on the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) to reach out to hotel workers to offer them representation because he believes that the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) is doing a poor job representing these workers.

Speaking at the joint Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party/AT&LU Rally at the VC Bird Bust on Lower Market Street on Monday (Labour Day), Prime Minister Browne said the ABWU has represented workers in the hotel industry for more than thirty years without getting proper increases for them over that time.

He noted that his admin-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the ABWU has represented workers in the hotel industry for more than thirty years without getting proper increases for them over that time. He noted that his admin-

istration had increased the minimum wage twice since coming to office almost ten years ago and that this has resulted in hotel workers making only three percent more than do those working

for minimum wage. He said this is due primarily to the poor job that the AWBU is doing on behalf of hotel workers.

“I say to the AT&LU, as you continue to re-align,

its not just about Artificial Intelligence and ICT’s, you must look at the basics, you must look outside of the public sector and to realise that there are workers in the private sector who are suffering and are in need of the services of the AT&LU. You must now target the hotel workers whose lot has not improved in the last thirty years. You know why; that’s because they are represented by the ABWU and the leadership has been ‘sold out’ to the hoteliers in the country,” PM Browne contends.

Browne is accusing the ABWU leadership of ‘having no use’ for workers and only ‘use them’ for political

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AT&LU to push for 'child-care allowance'

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) is putting employers on notice that it intends to seek the inclusion of a 'child-care allowance' in future collective bargaining agreements that it negotiates.

That's the word coming from the AT&LU's two most senior officers, President Bernard DeNully and General Secretary, Alrick Daniel.

Both men were speaking at the joint ABLU and AT&LU Labour Day rally at the Bust of VC Bird in St. John's on Monday.

The two union leaders contended in their separate presentations that it is unfair for workers to work overtime, and that the extra money they are paid goes back to paying a baby-sitter for her services while the employee is at work.



AT&LU President Bernard DeNully

They hold the view that the baby-sitting amount is this ought to change so that even covered partially by the employer.

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reasons.
"I say to the AT&LU, you have an opportunity to expand your base; go to the various work places; go to the hotels in the country and say to the workers that you are the best suited to represent them because with your alignment with the ABLP, you cannot sell out to any employer in this country," he declared.
According to the prime minister hotel workers are not able to earn a decent pay because the ABWU has not pursued their cause as it should. "Hotel workers cannot afford a car loan; they cannot pay a mortgage," he stated. This he suggests is because of this level of 'mis-representation' from the ABWU.

At the same time, the AT&LU president and general secretary have called on workers to be productive on their various work sites. To respect their employers and to engage in training that is organized at their work places.

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Aliyah Wayne is Miss Labour Queen 2024

The contestant representing the All Saints West constituency, Aliyah Wayne, has emerged as the winner of the 2024 Labour Queen Pageant held for the first time at the People’s Place, headquarters of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour party on Nugent Avenue.

It was a highly entertaining and highly competitive show as all nine of the delegates put on a show that thrilled the audience. Such was the competitiveness of the show, that the segments were largely distributed among the delegates.

Aliyah Wayne won two segments – Best Interview and Best Speech; the Best Talent went to the overall second place delegate (First runner-up) Adde-nya Aska, who wrote and directed her dramatic piece; Best Evening Wear went to Dominic Trotman; and Best Swimwear went to Nevaeh Greene.

Nevaeh Greene won two of the non-judged prizes – Miss Congeniality and Miss popularity, while Kennisha James won the Most Photogenic prize. James also placed third (Second Runner-up) in the pageant.

The new Miss Labour Queen said she is thrilled to have won the pageant and she thanked her family and members of her team for helping her to attain her goal. “I am so happy to be here...I struggled a bit in the beginning but being



here tonight shows that hard work and determination pay off. The preparation for the show was intense but nothing comes easy; you have to work hard to attain your goals and your dreams,” she stated moments after she was crowned.

The Miss Labour Queen Pageant has grown in stature in recent years as the show has become an important stepping stone to the Queen of Carnival show, where the winner represents Antigua and Barbuda in other regional pageants.

Several past winners of the Labour Queen Pageant have gone on to win the Queen of Carnival show.

Meanwhile, the woman who has been at the helm of the show for close to fifteen years has decided to call it a day. Sharilyn James announced on the night



Sharilyn James of the pageant that she intends to step down and pass on the baton to a new generation to take it into the future.

“It has been an immense honor to stand before you, not just as the chairperson but as someone who has grown, learned, and celebrated every milestone alongside the Labour Queen show. For close to fifteen incredible years, I’ve witnessed the transformation of this platform into something far greater than a show; it became a community, a beacon of inspiration, and a testament to the dedication and talent by which we are surrounded.

“As I bid farewell to the position that has given me so much, I want to acknowledge the effort of every person who has played a part in this journey. To the contestants who pour their hearts



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Suspected drowning at Long Bay, homicide at Bendals

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of 76-year-old Rupert Thomas of Cassada Gardens.

It was reported that around 4:25 pm on Monday, 6 May, the deceased and his family were at Long Bay bathing, when he was spotted struggling in the water

against the waves.

Other sea bathers who saw what was happening went to his assistance and pulled him ashore. Emergency personnel were called to the scene; however, when they arrived, he was found unresponsive. He was pronounced dead at 7pm.

Further investigations

are ongoing to determine the cause of death.

Meanwhile, the police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the alleged murder of 17-year-old Omarrie Graham of Bendals.

It was reported that Graham and a fellow villager were involved in an altercation on Middle Road, Bendals, when he was allegedly stabbed with a sharp object.

The incident occurred on Saturday, May 4, around 9:35 pm. He was pronounced dead at 12:44 am. The police detained a male suspect in

connection with the ongoing investigation.

Meanwhile, the police are once again appealing to the general public to find non-confrontational ways of resolving differences, other than resorting to violence. Members of the public are further encouraged to seek professional help in conflict resolution when it comes to settling family disputes.

The administration is saddened by these unfortunate incidents and expresses condolences to the families of the deceased.

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out on stage, you are the true stars, continually pushing the boundaries of what we believe is possible," she remarked.
The other members of the Labour Queen committee 2024 are; Monifa Browne, Dwannia Lake, Leanda Norville, Charity Henry, and Devonte Spencer.

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Restaurant Week starts off with a bang!

It was the start to the second annual Restaurant Week that brought a big smile to the faces of the organisers of the event as hundreds of persons, perhaps more than one thousand turning out on a Sunday afternoon to be a part of the start of two weeks of 'gastro-nomic journey'.

The setting was the historic Dow High overlooking English Harbour and Nelson's Dockyard on the south-west and the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea on the east. The event was the media launch and sampling of the many delights that will be on offer at the more than sixty restaurants that have registered to be a part of the event.

In this its second installment after being introduced last year, Restaurant Week has generated much excitement and anticipation among the Antigua and Barbuda public. The turnout on Sunday afternoon, was reflective of an event that has been around for much longer.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Max Fernandez, who is credited with initiating the idea of Restaurant Week, said the event plays a pivotal role in



showcasing the country's culinary excellence on a global stage. "Through this event, we not only tantalise taste buds, but we also offer a glimpse into our vibrant food culture of our nation; the melting pot of the Caribbean which allows us to have a range of cuisines. This year we have 65 restaurants participating and having a look at the menus, I am amazed at the variety of local products and herbs that are being utilized in their various dishes. This is important because our visitors want to come and taste some of what we have as a country," he remarked.

The welcome remarks for the media launch were delivered by ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James, who noted that several overseas media representatives and outlets had arrived in the country specifically to report on Restaurant Week.

"As we celebrate the ultimate 'eat-fiesta' in beautiful Antigua and Barbuda, it is heartwarming to welcome all of you here this afternoon. It is something that we have not been known for over the years; but something we all knew, the wide variety and of our culinary delights. So last year



we started Restaurant Week, which is actually two weeks, but it was so good, so nice, that we had to do it twice. We are not only going to be doing it twice, it is now officially part of our annual Calendar of Events by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority," said CEO James.

An overview of Restaurant Week was delivered by ABTA Special Projects and Events Manager, Shermain Jeremy. She explained that there are restaurants of every type as well as a host of local eateries that are partici-

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43 new immigration officers complete training

A total of forty-three new officers have joined the Immigration Department following two weeks of intense training and orientation.

The new officers have been hired following a decision made by the Cabinet earlier this year to recruit additional Immigration Officers to meet the need to process arriving passengers to the country in a speedier manner and generally to upgrade and improve the service offerings at the department.

Deputy Chief Immigration Officer, Nigel Emman-



uel said over the past two weeks the new officers were exposed to a wide variety of subjects with which they need to become knowledgeable in quick time.

The subject areas include; the Immigration Law,

Interview techniques, Ethics, Sea Port Operations, Intelligence, E-visas, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling,

Court Procedures, Arrest Procedures, Customer Service and Customs Procedures.

With Antigua and Barbuda hosting two major international events within days of each other – SIDS4 and ICC Cricket T-20 World Cup - the role of Immigration Officers takes on greater significance as they are the first and often the last contacts a visitor has with the country. How they interact with visitors is therefore critical to the international reputation of Antigua and Barbuda.



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Antigua and Barbuda native gets top job at luxury hotel in The Maldives

The Nautilus Maldives is excited to announce the appointment of Christopher Terry as Executive Chef, infusing its cuisine with a global flair and a passion for simple, authentic flavours. A native of Antigua and Barbuda, Chef Chris Terry's culinary repertoire spans the diverse tastes of Mediterranean, French, Caribbean, European, and Asian cuisines, making him the perfect match for the eclectic and unscripted dining experiences at The Nautilus.

With a career that spans over 15-years across the Caribbean, United Kingdom, and the USA, Chef Chris-

topher has honed his craft in some of the world's most esteemed luxury brands, including Aman, Rosewood Resorts, and Sandals Resorts.

His exceptional skill has earned numerous accolades, such as the Artisan Award at the Antigua and Barbuda National Youth Awards and Young Chef of the Year by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotel and Tourist Association.

Chef Christopher is a firm believer in working with the highest quality ingredients, focusing on local produce, and bringing out genuine flavours through simplicity. His culinary philosophy is a seamless fit with The Nauti-



Christopher Terry
lus's commitment to offering not only exceptional experiences but also true taste journeys.

Under his guidance, The Nautilus's guests can look forward to exploring Zeytoun's focus on the aromatic herbs and spices of the Wider Mediterranean, Ocaso's artful blend of Japanese cuisine and precision with a modern Latin American twist, and Thyme's comforting international cuisine, from Asian to Mediterranean flavours. Chef Christopher's creations promise to be a reflection of pure, unadulterated ingredi-

ents paired thoughtfully.

Equipped with a degree in Culinary Arts and a Wines and Spirits certification, Chef Christopher brings a spirit of curiosity and passion for culinary innovation to The Nautilus. Inspired by the archipelago's rich natural bounty and pristine ingredients, he aims to enhance The Nautilus's menus with some of his signature Caribbean-infused creations.

Chef Christopher is the son of Ricky and Donna Terry. His father has been an employee at ABS Television for several decades.

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pating in the event. Each person entering the event on Sunday was presented with a bag containing a number of souvenir items, but most importantly, the much sought-after, food passport.

This features advertising from several restaurants, but also includes pages where stamps may be pleased at each of the restaurant that an individual with the passport patronize.

Persons eating at six restaurants have an opportunity to return to one of the six and win a special prize and the person eating at the most restaurants over the two-week period will have an opportunity to win a prize of a weekend for two at one of the country's luxury hotels.

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Photo Essay





Drake says he would “have been arrested” if the allegations were true.

Drake denies allegations of underage relationships in Kendrick Lamar song

By Mark Savage

Drake has denied allegations of having relationships with underage women, and of harbouring a secret love child, which were raised in a diss track by his rival Kendrick Lamar.

It comes amid an increasingly bitter war of words between the two stars, who have released a flurry of songs attacking each other over the weekend.

In Drake’s latest offering, *The Heart Part 6*, he says he “feels disgusted” by Lamar’s claims, and suggests he deliberately fed the star incorrect information in the hope he’d use it.

Lamar’s accusations came in his third attack song of the weekend, called *Not Like Us*.

“Say, Drake, I hear you like ‘em young,” he raps. “Tryna strike a chord

and it’s probably A minor.”

He had previously alluded to the allegation on a separate track, *Meet The Grahams*, in a verse addressed to Drake’s mother, Sandra.

“We gotta raise our daughters knowing there’s predators like him lurking... I’m looking to shoot through any pervert that lives, keep the family safe.”

Lamar also claimed that Drake had a daughter who he had been keeping secret from the public.

In his response, Drake laughed off the accusation, saying it had been deliberately planted, and that his rival unknowingly took the bait.

“The ones that you’re getting your stories from, they’re all clowns,” Drake rapped. “We plotted for a week and then we fed you the information/A

daughter that’s 11 years old, I bet he takes it.”

And he angrily denied the allegations of underage sex, saying: “Drake is not a name that you gonn’ see on no sex offender list, easy does it / You mentioning A minor ... B sharp and tell the fans: Who was it?”

He continued: “I never been with no-one underage ... Just for clarity, I feel disgusted, I’m too respected.”

If the allegations were true, he added, “I promise I’d have been arrested”.

The rappers’ months-long feud started last year with the Drake song *First Person Shooter*, where fellow rapper J Cole boasted that he, Drake and Lamar were the “big three” of hip-hop.

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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 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.



Varying levels of Saharan dust expected across Caribbean region

It would appear the Saharan dust will be sticking around a bit longer this week in the Caribbean as another surge is affecting some islands.

The Meteorological Department of Sint Maarten has advised the public that varying concentrations of Saharan dust are expected across the region today. As such, persons with allergies and or respiratory illnesses should be vigilant.

Dominica in its weather forecast today says a rel-

atively high concentration of Saharan dust is expected to linger across the region throughout the week resulting in low visibility and poor air quality. The met office says people with respiratory sensitivities should take all the necessary precautions to avoid complications. Small craft operators venturing out to sea should take along the necessary equipment for safe navigation.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Met Service says an episode of high concentra-

tions of Saharan dust in the atmosphere began this past weekend from May 4, 2024. Concentration of the Saharan dust increased to moderate to mostly high, at times reducing visibility to 4 to 5 km.

The present concentration is high. A short respite can be expected between Wednesday 8 to Thursday 9, when the dust is likely to be moderate to mild. It adds that subsequently the Saharan dust concentration is expected to again rise to moderate

to high from May 10, 2024, until at least early next week.

The Barbados Meteorological Services in its forecast for this afternoon says a layer of moderate dust haze will reduce visibility across the marine area and to a lesser extent across the island.

The St Vincent and the Grenadines Meteorological Service in its 72 hour weather outlook published on May 5 said Saharan dust haze concentrations will be present during the next three days, significantly reducing visibility and air quality across the islands.

It said residents should be aware of reduced air quality.

The Met Service added that the presence of Saharan dust intrusion many not only suppress significant shower activity, but it could exacerbate warm conditions over the next coming days.

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Lamar responded with a verse on the song Like That, boasting of his superiority and declaring there was no big three, "it's just big me". After the song reached number one in America, Drake responded with two diss tracks, Push Ups and Taylor Made Freestyle, the latter of which featured AI versions of Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg taunting Lamar.

That song was later taken down after

a threat of legal action by Tupac's estate.

Lamar then began his latest volley of songs, beginning with Euphoria, in which he invoked the Drake's earlier feud with Pusha T, who revealed Drake had a son, unbeknownst to the public at the time.

That song is currently the third most-streamed track on Spotify, with its partner song Meet The Grahams at number two.

Drake's diss tracks Family Matters and Push Ups are at 13 and 33 respectively.

Suriname to send troops to Haiti

CMC - Suriname has become the latest Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country to indicate a willingness to send troops to Haiti as part of a United Nations sanctioned Multi-national Security Support (MSS) Mission to be led by Kenya.

“We will support our CARICOM sister state. We will provide support through, among other things, a police mission that will be led by Kenya,” said President Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

He told the online Su-



riname-based publication, Starnieus that many more people die every day in Haiti than in the war between Russia and Ukraine and that little help is being received from the various countries

for the French-speaking CARICOM country.

“Do you know how many people die every day in Haiti because of the eruptions that have occurred?” Santokhi asked in a rhetor-

ical question.

He said that support for Haiti should take place at three levels, namely at the international, regional and bilateral.

He said internationally, the United Nations Security Council late last year approved a resolution to support Haiti with the physical presence of an international police mission. Santokhi said the Ministers of Justice, Police and Defense are already working with the Suriname Police Corps and the National Army to put together a team to send to Port au Prince.

“The people who are delegated must first be properly trained. We are not going to just send our people,” he said, adding that the situation goes far beyond national boundaries.

“One day you may also need Haiti or another friendly nation,” he told the online publication.

Haiti has been steeped in political turmoil and social unrest following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise on July 7, 2021.

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Regional News



Bomb threats temporarily disrupted some Caribbean airports

The tranquility of several airports in the Caribbean was temporarily disrupted following bomb scares that were made between last week and today. The airports which received potential bomb threats but have since given the 'all clear' are located in Bermuda, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In the latest incident, the Government of Anguilla said a bomb threat was received via the Royal Anguilla Police Force this morning, which led to the temporary suspension of operations at the Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport.

Following a thorough search of the Terminal Building and an extensive sweep of the Security Restricted Area, police gave the 'all-clear' around 1:20 pm.

Meanwhile, on Sunday in Bermuda, police were notified around 9:30 pm by staff at the LF Wade International Airport of a bomb threat that was received via e-mail threatening the terminal and British Airways flight 158, which was due to depart for London Heathrow.



LF Wade International Airport (Photo credit: Bermuda Police Force)

The airport building and its environs were searched by airport security with the all clear later being given.

Then in the British Virgin Islands, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force said on Sunday, May 5 it was alerted to a potential bomb threat after 4 pm, which was communicated via email to Advance Marketing & Professional Services, claiming the presence of a bomb on an aircraft and at the Terminal Building at the Terrence B. International Airport.

In response, RVIPF and Airport Security promptly evacuated the premises and conducted a thorough search of all areas. Despite an extensive search, no devices were discovered, indicating the messages were likely intended to create chaos and disrupt airport operations, inconveniencing passengers and staff.

After two and a half hours, the all-clear was issued, and normal operations resumed.

The Police Force notes

similar threats targeting the International Airports of Turks and Caicos and Bermuda have also been reported. The RVIPF says it is collaborating with these jurisdictions to identify the offenders behind these threats.

And in the Turks and Caicos, between April 26 and April 29, a combined four bomb threats were issued to the JAGS McCartney International Airport and Howard Hamilton International Airport.

Operations at the facilities were suspended as police searched for explosives after the Turks and Caicos Islands Civil Aviation Authority received emails about a bomb on the compound.

After hours of searching, no explosives were found leading police to label the incident as a hoax.

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Rival gangs have over-run the poverty-stricken French-speaking country, plunging citizens into further despair and forcing several foreign agencies to remove non-essential staff from their offices in Haiti.

More than 2,500 people were killed or injured across Haiti from January to

March, according to the United Nations. Nearly 95,000 people have fled Port-au-Prince. People are struggling to find food and access healthcare with Haiti's ports and airport closed.

A nine-member transitional council, (CPT), which has been sworn into office, is tasked with setting the stage for free and general elections in Haiti by 2025.

Al Jazeera office raided as Israel takes channel off air

By Vicky Wong

Israel's government has moved to shut down the operations of the Al Jazeera television network in the country, branding it a mouthpiece for Hamas.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the cabinet agreed to the closure while the war in Gaza is ongoing.

Police raided the Qatari broadcaster's office at the Ambassador hotel in Jerusalem on Sunday.

Al Jazeera called claims it was a threat to Israeli security a "dangerous and ridiculous lie".

The channel said it reserved the right to "pursue every legal step".

Israel's Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi said equipment had been taken in the raid.

A video posted by the minister on X shows police officers and inspectors from the ministry entering a hotel room.

A BBC team visited the scene, but was prevented from filming or going into the hotel by police.

According to Reuters news agency, the Israeli satellite service Yes displayed a message that read: "In accordance with the government decision, the Al Jazeera station's broadcasts have been stopped in Israel."

The blockage is effec-



Media equipment was seen being taken out of the Ambassador Hotel, where Al Jazeera's Jerusalem office is based.

tively only partial, however, as the channel is still accessible through Facebook in Israel.

The shut down of Al Jazeera in Israel has been criticised by a number of human rights and press groups.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) said they had filed a request to the country's Supreme Court to issue an interim order to overturn the ban.

The group said that claims that the broadcaster was a propaganda tool for Hamas were "unfounded", and that Sunday's ban was less about security concerns and more to "serve a more politically motivated agenda, aimed at silencing critical voices and targeting Arab media".

The Foreign Press Association (FPA) urged the

Israeli government to reconsider its decision, saying the shut down of Al Jazeera in the country should be "a cause for concern for all supporters of a free press".

The FPA said in a statement that Israel now joins "a dubious club of authoritarian governments to ban the station", and warned that Mr Netanyahu has the authority to target other foreign outlets that he considers to be "acting against the state".

The Committee to Protect Journalists' (CPJ) Program Director Carlos Martinez de la Serna echoed the same concerns, saying: "The Israeli cabinet must allow Al Jazeera and all international media outlets to operate freely in Israel, especially during wartime."

The UN's Human Rights

office also called the Israeli government to reverse the ban, posting on X: "A free & independent media is essential to ensuring transparency & accountability. Now, even more so given tight restrictions on reporting from Gaza."

Foreign journalists are banned from entering Gaza, and Al Jazeera staff there have been some of the only reporters on the ground.

For years, Israeli officials have accused the network of anti-Israeli bias.

Their criticisms of the broadcaster have intensified since the 7 October Hamas attacks on southern Israel, in which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 were taken hostage. Some 128 of those hostages are still unaccounted for,

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Bushmills: Man nailed to fence in 'sinister attack'

A man has been taken to hospital following a serious assault in a car park in Bushmills, County Antrim in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The man in his 20s was found nailed to a fence, with a nail through each hand, shortly after midnight.

Two vans, one belonging to the injured man, were found on fire in the car park near Dundarave Park.

Police said paramilitary involvement was one key line of inquiry.

Graffiti on nearby public toilets has been linked to the assault and arson.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) said the man was left with potentially life-changing but not life-threatening injuries. Police said it was a "sinister attack."

"We live in a democratic society where there is no justification for this. Those



The PSNI said a man has been left with potentially life-changing injuries after he was nailed to a fence.

responsible brutalise their own communities and control others through intimidation and violence."

Crews from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) also attended the scene and extensive damage was caused to both vehicles.

It is understood the man was taken to hospital in a fire engine.

Speaking to BBC News NI on Sunday afternoon, Assistant Chief Constable Bobby Singleton said it was a "really shocking incident with levels of, almost, ultra violence".

"We thought these kind of incidents were firmly in our past," he said.

"It's early days and we are keeping an open mind, but this incident bears all the

hallmarks of what we would see as paramilitary-style attacks, so that will be one key line of inquiry," he said.

He added that, while the incident happened in a residential area, there are also holiday lets and that it was a busy bank holiday weekend.

Causeway Alliance councillor Alderman Richard Stewart said it was a "horrific attack."

"This is not wanted in Bushmills, it's not wanted in Northern Ireland. This is a thing of the past", he said."The local community is in deep shock at the nature and brutality of this attack."

TUV leader Jim Allister expressed his "dismay at the gruesome and cruel attack carried out in the village".

The PSNI is appealing for any witnesses or those who may have dashcam footage to contact them.

cont'd from pg 15

with at least 34 presumed dead.

At least 34,683 Palestinians have been killed and 78,018 injured in Israel's subsequent military campaign in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Last month, the Israeli parliament passed a law giving the government power to temporarily close foreign broadcasters considered a threat to national security during the war against Hamas.

Qatar, where Al Jazeera is headquartered, is mediating talks between Israel and Hamas over the now almost seven-month-long conflict.

Previous negotiations mediated by Qatar led to a temporary ceasefire and the release of 105 Israeli hostages in November.

Al Jazeera has accused Israel of deliberately targeting its staff.

Journalists including Hamza al-Dahdouh, the son of Al Jazeera Gaza bureau chief Wael al-Dahdouh, have been killed by Israeli strikes. Israel denies targeting journalists.

"Israel's suppression of free press to cover up its crimes by killing and arresting journalists has not deterred us from performing our duty," the network said in its response to Sunday's ban.

Lead selector Haynes confident in Windies T20 World Cup squad

Cricket West Indies (CWI) lead selector, Dr. Desmond Haynes, believes the squad that has been selected to represent the West Indies at the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup set for June 1-29 in the Caribbean and the USA can replicate the performances of the region's title-winning squads in 2012 and 2016.

"This is a very good time in West Indies cricket. I believe that we've got a team that can win this World Cup and I feel damn good about this," Haynes said in a Friday press conference announcing the squad.

"We've had preparations for the last year. The majority of the players, we had them involved and they were very successful. This is a very exciting time for us and I would hope that everyone in the Caribbean and all the West Indies fans support us because this is our best chance," he added.

Also on hand at Friday's press conference was West Indies Men's ODI and T20I head coach Daren Sammy, who also expressed confidence in the squad ahead of the tournament.

"We've known how to select winning teams. We've done it before and I think, as a selection group, we're really excited about it," Sammy said.

"It's an exciting time and this preparation did not start now. It started from the last World Cup in Australia. What we've been able to do throughout the last year as a T20 group, the players we've exposed, have brought us to this moment and I think we're about to knock it out of this world," he added.

Two of the standout names in the 15-man squad were pacer Shamar Joseph and Shimron Hetmyer.

Joseph made his Test debut during the recent tour to Australia and be-



Cricket West Indies' Lead Selector Dr. Desmond Haynes at Friday's press conference announcing the West Indies squad for the T20 World Cup in June.

came a worldwide phenomenon when he took a seven-wicket haul in the final innings despite an injured foot to give West Indies a dramatic eight-run win at the Gabba in the second Test. It was West Indies' first Test win in Australia since 1997.

This will be his first opportunity to represent the West Indies in the T20I format. He's currently getting his first crack at franchise T20 cricket as he is a member of the Lucknow Super Giants in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL).

"You really can't question Shamar Joseph's skills. We saw him in Australia. We were looking at someone up front to bowl in the first powerplay and we think he ticks that box for us," Haynes said.

Hetmyer is making his return to the squad after being left out for the tour of Australia. Haynes said it was a tough time deciding whether to pick Hetmyer or Kyle Mayers.

"It was a very close decision between Kyle and Hettie but we look

at it from the point of view that we wanted the extra batsman to be one batting down the order," he said.

Since the start of Daren Sammy's tenure as head coach, he has always placed an emphasis on the importance of roles in a successful T20 outfit. He believes that this 15-man group has covered all the necessary bases.

"We are ready. When you look at role definition from the group we've selected, I think we've come up with the best combination to help us win this World Cup.

The West Indies will open their campaign against Papua New Guinea at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on June 2.

Full squad: Rovman Powell (captain), Alzarri Joseph (vice-captain), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, and Romario Shepherd.



The EZ Fit Flyers basketball team

Flyers advance to ABBA's Division 1 playoff finals

Top-seed and defending champions EZ Fit Flyers have advanced to the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division playoff championships.

The Flyers booked their spot in the finals after wrapping up their best-of-three semi-final series 2-0 against the fourth-seed Spanish Heat on Sunday night. The Flyers wrapped up the series by coasting to a 68-65 victory in Game 2 at the JSC Sports Complex.

Selassie Brathwaite converted 19 points and snatched 11 rebounds; Xavier Meade sank 18 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; and Kwame Brathwaite scored 10 points and claimed seven rebounds for the Flyers.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 28 points and claimed seven rebounds;

Damian Floyd converted 13 points and snatched six rebounds; Sean Nicholas sank 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Kelvyn Pimental scored 10 points and secured six rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

The Flyers soared to an emphatic 88-59 victory against the Spanish Heat in Game 1. Adonis Humphreys sank 28 points and grabbed 19 rebounds; Selassie Brathwaite converted 19 points; and Alexis Jackson scored 12 points and claimed 10 rebounds for the Flyers.

Coy Quinland converted 20 points, Damian Floyd sank 11 points, and Steven Matthew scored 10 points for the Spanish Heat.

The Flyers are awaiting the winner of the other best-of-three semi-fi-

nal series between the second-seed Northside Stingerz and the third-seed Potters Steelers.

The Northside Stingerz leveled their semi-final series 1-1 by securing an 86-58 victory against the Potters Steelers in Game 2 on Sunday night.

Joshua Minner produced 24 points, 12 rebounds, eight steals, and seven assists; Keroi Lee achieved a triple-double with 20 points, 16 rebounds, and 10 assists; and Jayzee Saltibus scored 14 points for the Northside Stingerz.

Cohen Desouza sank 16 points and claimed nine rebounds, and Marlon Charles converted 11 points and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Potters Steelers.

The Potters Steelers prevailed by
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The Jennings United football team

Wins for Jennings United and Young Lions in First Division League

Jennings United and the Young Lions of Old Road have recorded wins in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Jennings United remained in fifth place after securing a 3-0 victory against the Liberta Blackhawks at the Jennings playing field.

The goals were scored

by Daryl Massicot in the 33rd minute, Rasheed Lambert in the 57th minute, and Jean-Pierre Williams in the 83rd minute.

Their ninth win in 16 matches carries Jennings United to 31 points, and the Liberta Blackhawks will remain in eighth place with 13 points after suffering their 13th defeat in 18 matches.

Following a goalless first

half, Marcus Joseph scored the only goal of the match in the 77th minute to allow the Young Lions to snatch a one-nil victory against Lion Hill at the Golden Grove playing field.

Their fourth win in 18 matches allows the Young Lions to move out of the cellar and move to second from the bottom of the standings in the 11-team round-robin

competition on goal difference.

The Young Lions advanced to join Bendals with 12 points.

However, Bendals will remain third from the bottom of the standings due to a superior goal difference.

Fort Road dropped into the cellar with 10 points, having lost 13 of their 17 matches.

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11 points against the Northside Stingerz in Game 1 of their semi-final series.

Cohen Desouza produced 18 points, 18 rebounds, seven blocks, and five assists to lead the Potters Steelers to their 81-70 victory against the Northside Stingerz.

In support, Marlon Charles contributed 18 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds; Russell Daley converted 12 points; and Lindsay McDonald scored 10 points for the Steelers.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 21 points and snatched nine rebounds; Joshua Minner had 13 points, seven rebounds, and six assists; and Jayzee Saltibus chipped in with nine points and eight rebounds for the Stingerz.

The Stingerz and Steelers will clash in the deciding Game 3 at the JSC Sports Complex today. The winner will advance to face the Flyers in Game 1 of the best-of-five finals at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors and Spanish

Heat II recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Saturday night.

The Lower Ottos Warriors claimed their 10th win in 12 games with an 88-75 victory against the Rebels, which lost for the fifth time in 10 encounters.

The Spanish Heat II ended the unbeaten run of the EZ Fit Flyers. The Spanish Heat II secured their eighth win in 11 games with a 95-82 victory against the EZ Fit Flyers, which lost for the first time in nine games.



Lingies CPTSA Wings football team

Four teams claim wins in Second Division League

Lingies CPTSA Wings, Bethesda, Golden Grove, and Soccer Academy have all recorded wins in their opening encounters of the second phase group stage of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

Wings pulled off a 4-2 victory against English Harbour at the English Harbour playing field. Jakeem Miller (8th minute), Karanja Mack (40th minute), Peter Jacobs (59th minute), and Akeem Wilburg (68th minute) each converted once for the CPTSA Wings.

Karanja Mack also scored an own goal in the 49th minute, and Nigel Graham had a 70th-minute conversion for English Harbour.

Their 11th win in 20 matches allows the CPTSA Wings to join English Harbour with 36 points. However, English Harbour, who lost for the seventh

time in 20 matches, remains in ninth place, one spot above CPTSA Wings, due to a superior goal difference.

O'Shale Simon's 16th-minute conversion gave Bethesda a one-nil victory against Belmont FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

Their 11th win in 20 matches allows Bethesda to move into eighth place by advancing to 37 points. Belmont FC remains in 12th place with 30 points after losing for the eighth time in 20 matches.

Golden Grove prevailed 4-1 against Real Blizzard at the Golden Grove playing field. Tyler Anthony (19th minute), Justin Pereira (41st minute), Tylor Isaac (67th minute), and Nyique Baptiste (79th minute) each converted once for Golden Grove.

Millique London scored a consolation goal in the 84th minute for Real

Blizzard, which dropped into 12th place with 31 points after losing for the seventh time in 20 matches.

Their 12th win in 20 matches puts Golden Grove in seventh place with 38 points.

Soccer Academy moved above Urlings into fourth place on goal difference by snatching a one-nil victory against Blackburn Palace at the ABFA Technical Center. Michael Peters scored the only goal of the match in the 25th minute.

Their 12th win in 20 matches allows Soccer Academy to join Urlings with 41 points. However, Soccer Academy advanced to fifth place, one spot above Urlings, due to a superior goal difference.

Blackburn Palace will drop to 11th place with 34 points after losing for the sixth time in 20 matches.

PMS captures schools' cricket Under-15 title



Coordinator of Schools Cricket Ridley Jacobs, right, presents the Under-15 championship trophy to J'Quan Athanaze, who is the captain of the Princess Margaret School team at the Rising Sun playing field. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Sports)

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) has captured the Under-15 Boys Division title of the Ministry of Sports Schools' Cricket Championship.

Princess Margaret School secured the title in the 30-over one-day competition with a 57-run victory against Antigua Grammar School in the final at the Rising Sun playing field.

Captain J'Quan Athanaze, who was named man of the match, slammed an unbeaten century to lift Princess Margaret School to 184 for six off their allotted 30 overs. Athanaze hammered 136 not out, and Hosea Roberts captured three for 54.

In reply, Antigua Grammar School was restricted to 127 for seven off their 30 overs. Hosea Roberts struck 59, and Rolando Fields chipped in with 26.

Nazair Williams claimed two for 19, and Tyrann Francis picked up two for 31.

Jennings Secondary beat Pares Secondary in the final to capture the Under-19 Boy Division title in a two-day competition.

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lier, Parham escaped relegation with victory, along with Old Road and Empire, who also recorded wins in their final encounters.

Parham prevailed 3-1 against John Hughes in their final game in Saturday's second encounter at the ABFA Technical Center.

Their third win in 18 matches allows Parham to finish in 11th place with 15 points, while John Hughes ended their campaign in eighth place with 23 points after suffering their ninth defeat in 18 matches.

Old Road captured third place in the Premier League as they ended their campaign with a 2-0 win against Green City in the last game on Saturday.

Their 12th win in 18 matches allows Old Road to finish with 38 points, while Green City ended their campaign in ninth place with 22 points

after losing for the eighth time in 18 matches.

Empire, who became the first team to be relegated, ended their Premier League campaign by snatching a 3-2 victory against Willikies in Saturday's opening game.

Empire finished in the cellar of the 15-team competition with 11 points from their quota of 18 matches. Willikies finished in 10th place with 18 points after suffering their eighth defeat in 18 matches.

Old Road's Raheem Deterville captured the Most Valuable Player and Golden Boot (most goals) awards. All Saints United's Jayden Martin won the Golden Glove or Best Goalkeeper Award, while his teammate Blake Thompson captured the Best Defender Award.

Villa Lions' Tyrik "Castro" Hughes won the award for Best Young Player.



All Saints United's Head Coach Schyan Jeffers, right, holds the Premier Division League trophy with club member and support staffer Corey Shirville Jarvis. (Photos courtesy of All Saints United)

Sports

TUESDAY 7TH MAY 2024



All Saints United snatch Premier League title

Special Security and Bitar Pizza All Saints United have dethroned Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades as champions of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

All Saints United snatched the Premier Division League from the grasp of Jennings Grenades by virtue of a superior goal difference after both teams finished their campaigns tied on 49 points from their quota of 18 matches.

Jennings Grenades failed to retain their Premier League crown when they were held to a 1-1 draw by the Ottos Rangers in the final game of the competition in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday night.

Josue Arias put Rangers ahead in the 23rd minute, and Jordan Britto scored in the 31st minute to equalize for the Grenades. However, the Grenades squandered a great opportunity to take the lead in the 40th minute when Kurt Fredericks failed to convert a penalty kick.

Despite the draw, it was insufficient for the Ottos



All Saints United celebrate after winning the Premier Division League title at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

Rangers to avoid relegation and compete in the First Division next season. The Rangers were relegated after finishing second from the bottom of the standings in 14th place with 13 points from their quota of 18 matches.

Malcolm Stewart scored twice as All Saints United came from behind to beat Garden Stars 3-1 in the preceding encounter in the second game on Sunday.

Nazir McBurnette scored the other goal for All Saints United. Dylan Martin scored in the 26th minute to give the Garden Stars a one-nil lead at halftime.

Garden Stars finished their campaign in seventh place with 25 points from their quota of 18 matches.

Shafeeq Joseph and Shalon Knight each scored twice as Swetes avoided relegation by trouncing SAP 5-1 in Sunday's opening

game. Their fourth win in 18 matches allows Swetes to finish one spot above the relegation zone in 12th place on goal difference with 14 points.

However, SAP was relegated after suffering their 10th defeat in 18 matches to finish their campaign in 13th place with 14 points and an inferior goal difference to that of Swetes.

Twenty-four hours ear-

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