

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Panorama 2024 hangs in the balance



Director of Festivals Petley O'Keiffe, Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, Chairperson of the Festivals Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul and Director of Culture, Khan Cordice

Local News



Deadline extended!

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is throwing the weight of his office into efforts to resolve the impasse between the National Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Steelbands Association.

He is giving the association until midday today (Friday June 28) to sign the agreement with the Commission thus paving the way for Panorama to remain as part of the 2024 Carnival Programme.

This, as the fate of the 2024 Panorama Competition, a mainstay of the Antigua Carnival programme hangs in the balance as the Association has refused the offer from the Festivals Commission for their involvement in Carnival 2024.

In addressing a press conference on Thursday, Creative Industries Minister, Daryll Matthew said the Commission has made every effort to reach a compromise with the association, but that it had refused to budge so far. That was mid-morning Thursday. Matthew said he would give the association until the

end of business day on Thursday for the association to communicate its stance regarding the latest offer.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet agreed to increase the package offered to the association from \$300-thousand to a ten percent increase making it \$330-thousand. In addition, the association was offered 3,500 tickets, (each valuing \$40.00) for it to distribute amongst its members for sale and the proceeds from which will stay with the association and its member bands.

But that too has been rejected.

Minister Matthew reported that when Cabinet discussed the matter on Wednesday, that Prime Minister Gaston Browne, picked up the phone and tried to reach president of the association, Patrick 'Stone' Johnson, but to no avail.

The minister confirmed that he too, has tried to reach the president, but he has not been taking phone calls from anyone associated with Carnival administration.

The minister indicated that it was

'very important' for the association to communicate with the Festivals Commission as a title-sponsor has been secured for Panorama and a signing ceremony has been slated for Friday with the sponsor, the State Insurance Company.

"We can't have a signing with the company if we don't have a signed agreement with the association," Minister Matthew declared.

In an effort to reach out to the association, the deadline was extended into Thursday night after words reached the Commission that perhaps there was some 'movement' on the part of the association. However, as the 9:30 pm cut-off point passed, and after discussions with the prime minister, he recommended an extension of the deadline to midday today.

If the association remains non-cooperative, then the Panorama competition may not be held this year. Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth 'Lisa' Makhoul said this would be a setback for steelbands.

Big changes are coming to two of the major shows of Carnival

There are major changes coming to two of the major shows on the annual Carnival Schedule of Events; the Calypso Monarch competition and the Party Monarch competition are seeing changes 'to make them more competitive'.

Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth 'Lisa' Makhoul said the Calypso Monarch will be a single song competition with an increase in the number of finalists while the Party Monarch competitions have been fused into a single competition.

Speaking at a press conference on Thursday to update the public on issues surrounding the 2024 Carnival activ-



Ambassador Elizabeth 'Lisa' Makhoulities, Amb. Makhoul said the decision came with the endorsement of both calypsonians and soca artists.

"Regarding the Party Monarch, we decided to return to original format where there was a single song competi-

tion. What we have had are two competitions in one; a groovy competition and a jumpy competition. We just wanted the competition to be competitive again as we felt that people had become too comfortable and we felt that we should bring back that competitiveness as that is what makes the competition exciting," she observed. Similar reasons were advanced for the changes to the Calypso Monarch competition.

The chairperson said the Antigua Carnival has reached a point where it needed to do a reset. "This was a reset moment; we notice that only islands are having their own reset and some have eliminated the show altogether. We
cont'd on pg 4

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Local News



cont'd from pg 3

didn't want to go that route as we wanted to maintain the show" she added.

Director of Festivals, Petley O'Kieffe said the decisions regarding the Calypso Monarch and Party Monarch competitions were not made in a vacuum, but with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders. "The

decisions that we made were not made in a box; we have had consultations with all the stakeholders to include, calypsonians, soca artists, the pan association and with mas troupes. We made these decisions collectively and in the best interest of Carnival with the aim of putting on a successful event," she reported.

She also explained that

the judging of the Road March will also change as rather than being judged on a single day, Jouvert Morning, the competition will be judged based on how a song is played on T-shirt Mas, Jouvert Morning and Carnival Tuesday. All songs must however be registered and an artist may register up to five songs. "We are also intro-

ducing a new prize for Best Jouvert Band of the Year to be judged on Jouvert Morning. This came on the recommendation from the mas builders," O'Kieffe revealed.

Confirmed changes:

The Calypso competition will feature one song with 13 contestants plus the reigning King.

Prize Package: Monarch \$20,000, 1st \$14,000, 2nd \$10,000, and \$5,000 for unplaced.

Party Monarch competition will feature one song with 12 contestants plus the two reigning Monarchs from the previous year.

Prize Package: Monarch \$50,000, 1st \$40,000, 2nd \$30,000, and \$8,000 for unplaced.

Criteria for Party Monarch has seen some changes with the elimination of the number of beats. Previously, less than 139 beats per minute were considered groovy with those above 139 were considered jumpy.

All songs will be judged on the same criteria regardless of the number of beats per minute.

Next week is Quarter-Finals Week:

Soca – Wednesday, 3rd July, one night at Rum Runners

Calypso – two nights:

Friday, 5th July at Julees Kaiso Korner Calypso Tent

Saturday, 6th July at Tent City at Rum Runners (former Coast Nightclub)

Meanwhile, Carnival tickets will be available for purchase starting Friday, 5th July.

Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
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JUL 20	APUA INET PARTY MONARCH SEMI FINALS COOLER FETE ARG ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM	JUL 31	JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM
JUL 21	NATIONAL HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT QUEEN OF CARNIVAL ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM	AUG 01	EMANCIPATION WATCH NIGHT OPTICAL GARDENS	8PM
JUL 25	OPENING OF CARNIVAL PARADE ST. JOHN'S	3PM	AUG 02	MELTING POT ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM
JUL 26	ACB CARIBBEAN JR. PARTY MONARCH ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	7PM	AUG 03	CAVALIER RUM CALYPSO MONARCH ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM
JUL 27	FACE OFF ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM	AUG 04	STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. PANORAMA ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM
JUL 28	OASIS T-SHIRT MAS ST. JOHN'S	3PM	AUG 05	APUA INET PARTY MONARCH ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM
JUL 29	WEST INDIES OIL COMPANY JR. CARNIVAL ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	2:30PM	AUG 06	J'OUVERT ST. JOHN'S ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	3AM-10AM
JUL 30	JR. CALYPSO MONARCH ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	7PM		CARNIVAL MONDAY ST. JOHN'S	2PM
	ECAB MR & MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	7PM		PARADE OF THE BANDS ST. JOHN'S	12AM
	DRUESDAY ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUND	8PM		LAST LAP ST. JOHN'S	7PM-10PM

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PNO to remain on Midwifery Board

There has been a resolution in the matter that led to scores of nurses demonstrating publicly for two consecutive days this week.

The nurses took to the streets to protest the removal of the current Principal Nursing Officer (PNO), Margaret Smith, from the Midwifery Board, a post they say the person holding the position should be among its members.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne convened a meeting Thursday with the key parties involved; the PNO Smith, who requested the meeting along with a representative of the Nurses Association, Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, Cabinet Secretary, Konata Lee, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Ena Dalso-Henry.

During the discussion, PM Browne made a number of recommendations, including having the PNO remaining on the board, which were all accepted by the parties involved.

According to the AG, Sir Steadroy, it was felt that by virtue of her position as PNO, which is a key post in dealing with all matters related to nurses in Antigua and Barbuda, she 'ought to, and shall be a member of the Midwifery Board'.

The meeting also looked at some of the is-

sues surrounding the recent unrest by the nurses will be the subject of another meeting slated for two weeks from now.

"The PNO gave a commitment that she will work in the interest of nurses in every aspect. Conversely, the minister (Sir Molwyn Joseph) will work with all parties concerned for there to be a smooth relationship going forward," Sir Steadroy stated.

According to the Attorney General, there may have been some misunderstanding about the po-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne
situation of an ex-officio officer.

"It was felt that an ex-officio officer is someone without voting rights. That is not so, an ex-officio member of a board

participates fully in all discussions of the board," he explained.

Additionally, there was discussions around the need to update the Midwifery Board, which was last updated in 1989.

"That act is so archaic, that it still refers to the Holberton Hospital, which no longer exists; we need to bring the act into the 21st century. A draft legislation has been submitted to the Legal Department for review. We will take the new act to parliament shortly," the AG promised.


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Local News



Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) issues statement on LIAT (1974) Ltd. aircraft sale

Earlier this year, LIAT (1974) Limited ceased operating after entering administration in 2020. The company's shareholders – the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – agreed to the sale of LIAT's three aircraft to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

An Aircraft Sale Agreement, for the sale of the three aircraft over which the Caribbean Development Bank



(CDB) holds mortgages, has been executed between the Administrator for LIAT (1974) (as the seller) and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda (as the buyer).

CDB is not a party to the

sale agreement. CDB's only role is to provide the necessary consent for the sale, which it has done.

Under the sale arrangement agreed to by the shareholder Governments, the Governments approved that money from the sale should be proportionately allocated towards paying outstanding balances on the CDB loans that were initially made to the shareholder Governments to support LIAT (1974) Limited's op-

erations. The decision about the use of the sale proceeds rests with the shareholder Governments.

CDB is not involved in the financing or any aspect of the operations of LIAT 2020.

The Bank continues to take a strong interest in the development of regional transportation and remains a strong advocate for the development of the Caribbean's transportation networks and infrastructure.

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Local News

Showcase 2024: A major success

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) are reporting that the 9th annual Showcase Antigua Barbuda, held from June 23 - 26, 2024, was a major success. This dedicated travel trade business-to-business event aims to boost business from the destination's primary source markets, including the US, Canada, UK, Europe, and the Caribbean.

The event commenced with a grand hosted welcome cocktail presented at the Verandah Antigua with the theme 'Hello Summer 2024,' featuring vibrant cultural presentations of food, dance and entertainment.

Over forty (40) travel partners



from around the world engaged in pre-scheduled appointments with local suppliers in the tourism industry at

Royalton Antigua. Travel partners also enjoyed visiting on-island properties with a full day of familiarization trips, followed by a relaxing sunset cocktail event hosted by the Rocks Groups, at Sheer Rocks Antigua. Visiting travel partners also experienced a full-day tour of Barbuda hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. The tour included visits to attractions such as the Frigate Bird Sanctuary, The Pink Sand Beach, Martello Towers,

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and Princess Diana Beach. The event concluded with a vibrant 'Nautical Chic' themed party at the new adults-only property, Royalton Chic.

Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, remarked, "The 9th edition of Showcase Antigua Barbuda has been a remarkable event for collaboration and

cementing business opportunities for all our travel partners. This positions the destination to fully capitalize on the increase in airlift from all source markets for the upcoming winter season. As a result, barring any unforeseen circumstances, Antigua and Barbuda should see a record year in visitor arrivals."

Craig Marshall, Chairman of the Antigua & Bar-

buda Hotels and Tourism Association, expressed his elation at the event's success, stating, "Having an avenue for our members to present their businesses to international travel partners is an exceptional opportunity for increasing occupancy, bookings, and overall growth for travel to our destination. We look forward to the continued support of our travel partners for our twin islands."

The ABHTA extends its gratitude to the new strategic partner of Showcase Antigua Barbuda 2024, Courts Business Solutions (CBS). CBS is renowned for delivering exceptional B2B customer experiences by sourcing and delivering best-in-class commercial-grade furniture, ap-



pliances, and electronics. Thanks, are also extended to hospitality partner, Humble and Free Wadadli, for offering vibrant and authentic eco-tours in Antigua that highlight the island's beauty and vibrant Rastafari culture.

Showcase Antigua Barbuda could not have been possible without sponsorship from local hospitality partners: Elite Island Resorts, Blue Waters Resort & Spa, The Inn at English Harbour, Hodges Bay Resort & Spa, and Royalton Chic.



Feature

Jumby Bay Island plans for Maiden Island “Little Jumby”: Conservation Preserve, Beach Club Restaurant

While more details will be forthcoming shortly, the following is an update from Jumby Bay regarding Maiden Island (now known as “Little Jumby”):

Jumby Bay has owned twenty-acre Little Jumby located on the North Sound for some time. After a number of years considering the most sustainable use of the island it was determined that rather than developing it, approximately fifteen acres (75%) of the island would be preserved as a conservation zone, with five acres set aside for a publicly accessible restaurant and beach club.

Originally created from dredged material from the

adjacent channel, Little Jumby was a scrub island. It was initially intended to be developed by its previous owner. Their departure left abandoned structures and materials and over the years, trash, debris and remnants of camps and fires have littered the island.

Jumby Bay has addressed these issues by cleaning up the island and has begun protecting sensitive conservation areas and plant species. Environmental reviews of the area have also been conducted, including Coastal Baseline and Benthic studies, to form conservation plans. Furthermore, as work has commenced on the construction of the Little



JUMBY BAY ISLAND
ANTIGUA - WEST INDIES

Jumby restaurant and beach club, special care has been taken to ensure that mangroves and other plant species are not being harmed.

This initiative is aligned with Jumby Bay’s sustainability philosophy. Jumby Bay is already a regional leader in responsible tourism and conservation initiatives. The Jumby Bay sea-turtle nesting monitoring program is one of the oldest in the Caribbean. Our solar energy plant provides Jumby Bay with around 30% of our power on sunny days, water flask filling stations and a small-bottle drinking water plant are eliminating single-use plastic water bottles at Jumby Bay Resort and a new hydroponic farm facility is providing sustainable greens. Environmental responsibility is critical to Jumby Bay’s operations.

Little Jumby will serve as a base for a full-time conservation ranger, who will conduct ongoing research and conservation efforts both on Little Jumby and Jumby Bay island as well as in the

ocean surrounding both islands. Natural habitats on the island will be protected and enhanced and conservation areas will be accessible via hiking trails and scenic overlooks. Education programs in the natural environment will be developed for local students.

A shuttle will be launched to transport visitors to and from Antigua and Little Jumby (by reservation). Visitors will have the opportunity to explore new nature trails, meet with the conservation team, and enjoy a remarkable lunch or dinner. The new restaurant and beach club is expected to open in December of 2024, with the offering designed to provide a top-quality casual dining experience. The restaurant and beach club operation has a purpose. It will directly fund habitat restoration and conservation projects both on Little Jumby and in the surrounding sea.

**Issued by;
The Jumby Bay Island
Company**

NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

TO: HIS WORSHIP
The Licensing Magistrate
District “A”
Perry Bay
St. John’s
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
Antigua

We, **Aden’s Enterprise**, with the place of business Cassada Gardens, in the Parish of St. John’s in Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next special sitting of the liquor licensing court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Perry Bay, St. John’s, Antigua on 4th July 2024 for a tavern license pursuant to sections 11 (5) of the licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap 249, Laws of Antigua and Barbuda in respect of the premises known as “**Aden’s Enterprise**” situated at Cassada Gardens, in the parish of St. John’s in Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 17th of June, 2024

Culture as Currency: Island nations find sustainability in creativity

By Chaneil C. Imhoff

In an era of climate change and economic uncertainty, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are turning to an unexpected source for sustainable growth: the orange economy. Also known as the creative economy, this sector is proving to be a powerful tool for economic diversification and resilience for island nations.

The orange economy encompasses industries that rely on creativity, intellectual property, and cultural heritage. These include visual and performing arts, film and television, music, publishing, design, digital media, and cultural tourism. According to the Inter-American Development Bank, this sector contributed approximately 6.1% of global GDP in 2015, equivalent to US\$4.3 trillion.

For SIDS, which face unique challenges such as limited natural resources and vulnerability to climate change, the orange economy offers several advantages. Creative industries generally have a smaller ecological footprint compared to traditional sectors which aligns perfectly with the environmental sustainability goals of island nations.

Antigua and Barbuda has taken center stage in charting a new course for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), with creative industries playing a pivotal role in the nation's vision for sustainable development.

As host of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS, our twin-island state has not only showcased its diplomatic prowess but also its commitment to innovative economic strategies.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the "Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity," a 10-year plan that Prime Minister Gaston Browne hails as "a new beginning" for SIDS.

Antigua and Barbuda's leadership in this arena builds on successful examples from other SIDS.

Jamaica's reggae industry, for instance, has significantly boosted its economy and cultural tourism since UNESCO recognized reggae as Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2018. Fiji has also become a popular location for international film productions, creating jobs and promoting tourism.

As we implement these initiatives, Antigua and Barbuda is poised to become a hub for creative industries in the Caribbean.

The government is exploring



Chaneil C. Imhoff

ways to incentivize local artists, filmmakers, and cultural entrepreneurs to participate in this growing sector.

By leveraging our unique cultural assets and fostering creativity, we can diversify our economy, create jobs, and promote sustainable growth, highlighting the potential impact on our island's youth employment and cultural preservation.



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Job aspirants speak to a hiring agent outside the Foxconn factory near Chennai.

India reviews iPhone factory for 'not hiring married women'

The Indian government has sought a detailed report from Tamil Nadu state following media reports that Apple supplier Foxconn was allegedly rejecting married women for iPhone assembly jobs.

A Reuters investigation alleged that Foxconn had excluded married women from jobs at its main India iPhone plant near Chennai, citing their greater family responsibilities compared to unmarried women.

The federal labour ministry says the law "clearly stipulates that no discrimination [is] to be made while recruiting men and women workers".

Foxconn said in a statement it "vigorously refutes allegations of employment discrimination based on marital status".

Neither Apple nor the Tamil Nadu state government responded to requests

for comment from Reuters.

The BBC has also reached out to the Tamil Nadu labour department for a response.

Foxconn, the largest supplier of Apple iPhones, set up its first factory in Tamil Nadu in 2017 but has since been aggressively expanding its operations in India.

In 2023, it began assembling the iPhone 15 in the state and earlier this year, Foxconn tied up with Google to make Pixel smartphones in Tamil Nadu.

The company said it does not stand for discrimination in hiring or recruitment.

In a recent round of recruitment, 25% of women hired were married, according to the company.

It did acknowledge that 20 job ads posted by hiring agencies were re-

moved in 2022 because they "did not meet our standards".

The discriminatory practices detailed in the Reuters investigation allegedly took place in 2023 and 2024.

"When we see an issue we act, including corrective action up to and including termination of the hiring agency," Foxconn added.

Rights activists say the reports about the firm's hiring practices in India are concerning, given that thousands look to its factories for employment opportunities.

Reuters said it spoke to numerous employees and Foxconn hiring agencies for the story.

The report said that hiring agents and Foxconn HR sources "cited family duties, pregnancy and higher absenteeism as reasons why Foxconn did not

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Spikes in Dengue fever cases in US Virgin Islands

Visitors and residents of the US Virgin Islands have been advised to take precautions and remain vigilant as new data has shown an increase in cases of dengue fever.

Health Commissioner Justa Encarnacion said data collected by the Epidemiology Division up to June 24 showed there were eight dengue cases on St Thomas and one each on St John and St Croix.

Encarnacion noted that health officials know there are more cases across the territory than was reported in the last Epidemiological Update.

“We’re experiencing warmer and warmer temperatures as well as heavy downpours which are ideal conditions for mosquito breeding; I am encouraging everyone to take the precautions necessary to prevent widespread transmission,” said Encarnacion. “While the increase is small, we know how easily dengue can spread and we know how dangerous it can be.”

Islanders and visitors have been urged



to use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone to keep mosquitoes away.

They have also been advised clean around their homes to reduce mosquito breeding sites.

Dengue is a mosqui-

to-borne virus that spreads via the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and can cause mild to severe and life-threatening symptoms.

The VI Health Department noted the most common symptom of dengue is fever with aches and pains (eye pain, typically behind the eyes, muscle, joint, or bone pain), nausea, vomiting and/or rash.

Dr Tai Hunte-Cesar, Chief Medical Officer

of the VI Department of Health, has encouraged anyone experiencing signs of dengue to get treatment as soon as possible.

“If you are experiencing symptoms, it is very important to go to your doctor and get tested to confirm if you truly have dengue or another illness. This is the only way we will get a correct understanding of rates of dengue in the community,” said Hunte-Cesar.

Dengue virus cases across the Americas region have been increasing in recent months.

Over 5.2 million cases have been recorded in the region since January.

cont'd from pg 12

hire married women at the plant”.

This is not the first time the firm has come under scrutiny for its labour practices.

In 2018, a US-based rights group had accused the firm of overworking and

underpaying temporary workers at its factory in China that manufactured products for Amazon.

In 2022, its iPhone factory in China saw protests by workers who claimed that they had not been paid certain dues.

Regional News



Belize: Suspect held after gunshots fired at the home of top cop

CMC - Police Commissioner Chester Williams has confirmed that one person is in custody in relation to gunshots fired at his home on Tuesday night

"If they think I am going to be intimidated, then they have the wrong man," the top cop told reporters.

Williams was not at his residence when the incident occurred at around 9:19 pm (local time), but his 20-year-old son was home and unharmed.

Williams informed reporters that the suspect was identified after investigators reviewed security footage. The shooter reportedly rode a motorcycle, passing by the house and firing at it from a distance with a .45 calibre firearm.

Authorities have identified the suspect as a 21-year-old male from Cama-



lote Village, Cayo District, affiliated with one of the gangs in Roaring Creek Village. The weapon and motorcycle used in the crime were recovered.

Williams, currently attending the UN Chiefs of Police conference in the

United States, described the suspect as a "coward" and reiterated, "If they think I am going to be intimidated, then they have the wrong man."

Over the weekend, a gunman tar-
cont'd on pg 15



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Bahamas: Interpol notice issued for former legislator

CMC - An Interpol red notice has been issued for a legislator who is wanted on two charges of stealing by reason of service and two charges of proceeds of criminal conduct.

If convicted, the former Exuma legislator Elliot Lockhart, KC, could be slapped with charges that carry a maximum penalty of 34 years.

The notice, published last month, came after two people complained to police about Lockhart in separate matters.

According to the notice, the first complainant, Daniel Clay Smith, Jr, reported to the Financial Crimes Investigation branch that he paid US\$3.2 million to Lockhart, 65, for legal work concerning Crown land, between May 2002 and November 2022, and the funds were also to help him and his family apply for citizenship.

However, the notice claimed that Smith requested his money back when nothing materialised by November 2022.

"Mr Smith requested a

2023 BYE-ELECTION CANDIDATES		
Last Name	First Name	
Grant	Ricardo	

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL		
Last Name	First Name	Island
Bethel	Carl	New Providence
Cash	Darron	New Providence
Collie	Sidney	New Providence
Foulkes	Dion	New Providence
Ingraham	Rt. Hon. Hubert	New Providence
Lockhart	Elliot	New Providence
Turnquest	Orville	New Providence
Turnquest	Tommy	New Providence
Watson	Frank	New Providence
Bannister	Desmond	New Providence
Symonette	Brent	New Providence
Culmer Sr.	Carl	New Providence
Turnquest	Kevin Peter	New Providence



Former legislator Elliot Lockhart, KC. Photo: CMC

wire transfer and Elliot Lockhart sent a document that appeared to be transfer details from CIBC First Caribbean International Bank to Cross Creek Group LLC dated 22nd December 2022," the notice said. "However, the document was fraudulent, and the funds have not been received to date." Detectives said CIBC First Caribbean International Bank confirmed that \$3.1m was deposited to Mr Lockhart's account on March 6, 2023, but the transaction was reversed moments later.

"It is suspected that the

receipt generated from the transaction was given to Mr Smith to deceive him into thinking that the funds were on the account to cover the wire transfer," the notice said.

In the second complainant, Dr Paul Fuchs, reported that he retained legal services from Lockhart's law firm in May 2023 to buy several properties in Exuma and Paradise Island.

Subsequently, over several months, he transferred \$3m to Lockhart's firm's CIBC First Caribbean International bank account.

"The law firm failed to

provide any documentation of the properties and produced several other inconsistencies. As a result, Dr Fuchs requested that the funds be returned on the 27th April 2023," the notice said.

Lockhart allegedly sent a copy of an alleged fraudulent wire transfer to Fuchs for \$3m, but the monies were never sent and Fuchs received no funds. Although demand letters were sent to Lockhart, they produced no results and Fuchs took legal action against Lockhart last year.

In addition to his legal and political career, Lockhart is a former chairman of Nassau Flight Services, the Gaming Board of The Bahamas and the Police Inspectorate.

An Interpol red notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender or similar legal action.

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geted the Roaring Creek police station in the Cayo District of Belize, just northwest of the capital. Williams stated that law enforcement officials are actively searching for the individual.

Belize has imposed a state of emergency (SOE) for the second time within a six-month period in neighbourhoods on the

north and south sides of Belize City, aimed at addressing a spike in violent crimes by rival gangs.

Williams suggested a potential link between the increase in gang-related shootings and murders to a recent concert. He noted that police have seized numerous firearms and ammunition within the Belize District and the Cayo area.

French court confirms Bashar al-Assad arrest warrant over Syria chemical attack

By David Gritten

France's top appeals court has ruled that an arrest warrant for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad issued for alleged complicity in crimes and humanity and war crimes is valid, lawyers say.

Last year, investigative judges sought the arrest of Mr Assad and three others over a deadly chemical weapons attack in Syria in 2013, in which he denied any involvement.

Anti-terrorism prosecutors challenged the French warrant's validity, saying he had immunity as a sitting foreign head of state.

The lawyers for the plaintiffs in the initial complaint hailed as "historic" the Paris Court of Appeal's decision rejecting that argument.

"It's the first time a national court has recognised that a sitting head of state does not have total personal immunity," Clemence Bectarte, Jeanne Sulzer and Clemence said.

France is among the countries that allows the filing of crimes-against-humanity cases in its courts.

Syria has been devastated by a civil war that erupted after Mr Assad's government responded with deadly force to peaceful pro-democracy protests in 2011.

The conflict has left half a million people dead and caused half the population to flee their homes, including almost six million refugees



President Bashar al-Assad has denied Syrian government forces were involved in the 2013 chemical attack.

abroad.

In August 2013, there was a chemical weapons attack in the then-opposition-held Ghouta region on the outskirts of Damascus.

UN experts confirmed that rockets containing the nerve agent sarin were used, but they were not asked to ascribe any blame.

Sarin, like other nerve agents, interferes with an enzyme that stops muscles from contracting. When the enzyme is stopped or is not working correctly, muscles are constantly being stimulated. If muscles are constantly contracting people may not be able to breathe.

Western powers said only Syrian government forces could have carried out the attacks. Mr Assad denied the allegation and blamed rebel fighters.

The president did subsequently ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention and agree to destroy Syria's declared chemical arsenal. But investigators from the

UN and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) have blamed government forces for a number of deadly chemical attacks which have taken place since then.

Three years ago, survivors and the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression (SMC) filed a complaint to French investigative judges in Paris over the 2013 attack.

They alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes were committed and that a French court could therefore prosecute individuals under the legal concept of universal jurisdiction.

Last November, the judges agreed and issued arrest warrants for Mr Assad; his brother Maher, who leads the Syrian army's fourth armoured division; General Ghassan Abbas, director of the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC); and General Bassam al-Hasan, a presidential adviser and liaison officer with the

SSRC.

The appeal by anti-terrorism prosecutors did not question the evidence but sought to annul the warrant for the president. They argued that immunity for sitting foreign heads of state should only be lifted for international tribunals like the International Criminal Court (ICC).

On Wednesday, the Paris Court of Appeal said it had confirmed the validity of the warrant.

"Prohibiting the use of chemical weapons is part of customary international law as a mandatory rule, and the international crimes that the judges are looking at cannot be considered as being part of the official duties of a head of state. They can thus be separated from the sovereignty naturally attached to these duties," a statement said.

Although Mr Assad is unlikely to face trial in France, SMC director Mazen Darwish said it marked a "a crucial step towards justice for the victims of chemical attacks".

"It sends a clear message that impunity for serious crimes will not be tolerated, and the era when immunity could serve as a shield for impunity has come to an end," he added.

Syria is not a party to the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC, and does not recognise its jurisdiction.

At least six dead after train and bus collide at Slovakia level-crossing

By Rob Cameron

At least six people have been killed after an international express train collided with a bus on a level crossing in southern Slovakia, emergency workers say.

The accident happened near the town of Nove Zamky, about 80km east of the capital Bratislava, according to an emergency services Facebook post.

News agencies are reporting that at least five others were injured in the incident, which happened at around 17:00 local time (16:00 BST).

The drivers of both the bus and the train were among those hurt and have been taken to hospital, the former in a critical condition.

All of the fatalities are thought to be people who were on the Arriva bus, which officials said was sliced in two by the impact.

Photos showed the locomotive on fire and passengers walking to safety along the tracks.

"I am afraid the number of people killed in this accident might grow," Petra Klimesova, a spokeswoman of the rescue services, told AFP.

About 200 people were on the train and nine on the bus at the time of the collision, officials said at a press conference.

The train was the reg-



The bus was sliced in half by the impact of the collision.

ular EuroCity 279 service travelling from Prague to Budapest via Bratislava.

It was operated by a Czech Railways locomotive pulling Slovak Railways carriages.

Czech Railways praised the actions of its driver, who it said had prevented injuries to train passengers by taking prompt action to avoid derailment.

He is understood to have jumped into the control room seconds before impact, and suffered burns in the subsequent fire.

According to an Arriva spokeswoman quoted in the Slovak media, the bus driver had over thirty years experience.

Local media published video footage of passen-

gers carrying luggage alongside a train partially in flames, as thick grey smoke rose to the sky.

According to unconfirmed Slovak media reports, the level crossing had lights and barriers but these had been left out of action by a recent storm.

It is unclear whether they were working properly at the time of the collision.

Slovak Railways has not commented on the claims.

Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok, who attended the scene, wrote on social media that "a little inattention is enough and life can change in a hundredth of a second - forever".

"Let this sad event be

a reminder for all of us to pay attention to safety on the roads and at railroad crossings."

Passenger Katarina Molnarova told AFP that just as she left Nove Zamky station she felt and heard a crash and bang.

"After a couple of minutes we were able to get off," the 43-year-old cosmetician said.

"We saw that the frontal part of the train was on fire".

She added that there was "no screaming or panicking" and that passengers took their luggage and walked to the road.

Five ambulances and three air ambulances were dispatched to the scene, emergency services said.

Sports News



Defending volleyball champs take leads in President's Cup finals

Both top seeds and defending champions have taken one-nil leads in their best-of-three finals in their respective divisions of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) President's Cup Championships.

Defending female President's Cup champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad defeated second-seeded Paragons 3-0 in Game 1 of the finals in the opening match of a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

Da Squad took an hour and 20 minutes to beat the

Paragons 25-22, 25-14, and 25-15 and remained on course to capture their second successive President's Cup title after winning the title in last year's inaugural championship.

Defending male President's Cup champions Stoneville defeated second-seed Pytonz 3-1 in Game 1 of the finals in the second match of Wednesday night's double header.

Stoneville took an hour and one minute to prevail 25-23, 25-22, 17-25, and 25-15 to also remain on course to make a successful defense of the title, which they also won at last year's inaugural championship.



The CAI Da Squad female volleyball team

The teams were slated to meet in Game 2 of their respective series on Thursday and are slated to clash in their third and final encounters at the same venue

on Saturday. The President's Cup will conclude with a presentation and awards ceremony following Saturday's matches.

CWI announces updated West Indies squad for England tour

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced an updated 15-member squad for the three-Test Richards Botham series in England, starting on July 10 at Lord's in London.

The squad features one significant change: Barbadian pacer Kemar Roach has been replaced by Leeward Islands Hurricanes and St. Kitts & Nevis' fast bowler, Jeremiah Louis.

Roach is undergoing rehabilitation from a knee injury sustained during this year's English County Championship in England.

Lead Selector Dr. Desmond Haynes remarked, "Kemar's skill and experience in English conditions will be missed however, this opportunity has been long in the making for Jeremiah Louis. He certainly has the skill



Leeward Islands Hurricanes fast bowler Jeremiah Louis

and experience to make an impact in England."

The Richards Botham series, named after West Indies legend Sir Vivian Richards and England great Lord Ian Botham, is a historic rivalry

dating back to 1928 when the West Indies first toured England.

Nineteen-year-old fast bowler Isai Thorne will join the squad as a development player.

The squad has been taking part in a training camp at Tonbridge School and will play a three-day warm-up match against the England Lions at Beckenham, starting on July 4.

The first Test will take place at Lord's from July 10-14, the second Test will be held at Trent Bridge from July 18-22, and the third and final Test will be played at Edgbaston from July 26-30.

Full West Indies Test Squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (captain), Alick Athanaze, Joshua Da Silva, Jason

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The Jamaican team poses for a group photo prior to a Copa America Group B soccer match against Ecuador in Las Vegas, Wednesday, June 26, 2024. (AP)

Ecuador beat Jamaica to eliminate the Reggae Boyz from Copa America

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Seventeen-year-old Kendry Páez scored in first-half stoppage time, Alan Minda added another goal late in the second half and Ecuador beat winless Jamaica 3-1 on Wednesday night in the Copa America.

Ecuador, who rebounded from a 2-1 loss to Venezuela, won their first Copa America game since a 4-0 victory over Haiti in 2016, stopping an eight-game winless streak.

Jamaica became the first team eliminated from the 16-nation tournament when Venezuela beat Mexico 1-0

later on Wednesday.

Kasey Palmer's 13th-minute own goal put Ecuador ahead and Páez made it 2-0 with a penalty kick in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time.

Michail Antonio scored Jamaica's first Copa America goal in the 54th, and Minda got the final goal in the first minute of second-half stoppage time.

Venezuela has six points and clinched a quarterfinal berth, while Mexico and Ecuador have three points each. Ecuador closes the Group B against Mexico at Glendale,

Arizona, on Sunday, when Jamaica will face Venezuela.

Ecuador went ahead when Piero Hincapié centered the ball from near the corner flag and it deflected off a sliding defender Palmer and over the backpedaling goalkeeper Jahmali Waite.

Páez, the youngest player in the tournament at 17 years, 1 1/2 months, scored his second international goal after Chilean referee Cristián Garay called a hand ball on Reggae Boyz defender Greg Leigh following a video review.

Antonio scored af-

ter Palmer's corner kick bounced to Ethan Pinnock. His shot hit the back of defender William Pachó, ricocheted off Hincapié and bounced toward Antonio.

He swiveled, turned his torso and volleyed the ball in off goalkeeper Alexander Domínguez's right post for Antonio's fourth goal in 16 appearances.

Garay decided not to award a penalty kick after another video review in the 75th. Michael Hector toepoked the ball and it appeared to hit an arm and the head of Ecuador's Alan Franco.

Minda broke in alone on White in a counterattack following a Jamaica corner kick and slotted a shot past Waite for his first goal in six appearances, fed by a Carlos Gruezo pass.

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Holder, Kavem Hodge, Tevin Imlach, Alzarri Joseph (vice-captain), Shamar Joseph, Mikyle Louis, Zachary McCaskie, Kirk McKenzie, Gudakesh Motie, Jeremiah Louis, Jayden Seales, and Kevin Sinclair.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach:

Andre Coley; Team Manager: Rawl Lewis; Assistant Coaches: Jimmy Adams, Rayon Griffith, Shaun Tait; Physiotherapist: Dr. Denis Byam; Strength & Conditioning Coach: Ronald Rogers; Team Masseuse: Fitzbert Alleyne; and Team Analyst: Avenesh Seetram.

Dominant India through to ICC T20 World Cup final

England's ICC Men's T20 World Cup defence is over - and India are through to the final against South Africa in Barbados on Saturday morning.

Indian maintained their unbeaten run as they crushed England by 68 runs in the second semi-final encounter at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Thursday.

After some less-than-convincing performances, Jos Buttler's side had got the job done in style to make it out of the Super Eights, with the captain himself putting on an unbeaten 83 against the USA, to add to a fine bowling performance - including a hat-trick from Chris Jordan.

But they could not find a route past India, who have looked inexorable thus far this tournament and have gone unbeaten since they began their campaign.

India made 171 for seven off their 20 overs and England mustered only 103 all out in 16.4 overs in response.

Captain Rohit Sharma led the way for India, pulling the innings together after the early losses of Virat Kohli - bowled by Reece Topley for nine - and then Rishabh Pant, caught by Jonny Bairstow off the bowling of Sam Curran for four.

Joined by Suryajumar Yadav at the crease, the two put on a fine partnership - not disrupted by the rain that paused play for a little more than an hour after eight overs. They racked up 73 runs between them before Sharma fell to a beautiful piece of googly bowling from Adil Rashid for 57 off 39 balls.

Suryakumar followed in the next over for 47, sending Jofra Archer's slower ball high into the air and finding the ever-reliable hands of Chris Jordan.

Jordan then took the ball himself to make his contribution towards



India's players celebrate their entry into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final after beating England in the semifinal cricket match at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, Thursday, June 27, 2024. (AP)

a dramatic few closing overs - which left him with figures of three for 37, and even gave him the opportunity of a second hat-trick of the tournament after removing both Hardik Pandya (caught by Curran for 23 off 13 balls) and Shivam Dube (caught by Buttler for a first-ball duck).

He did, however, get a third wicket in the final over, with Axar Patel edging to Phil Salt for a valuable 10.

Openers Buttler and Phil Salt made a solid start, but the combination of Axar Patel and Jasprit Bumrah took the top order apart. Buttler toe-ended Patel behind into the gloves of Pant for 23 off 15 balls, followed quickly by Salt, bowled by Bumrah for five.

New batsman Bairstow did not trouble the scorers with his three deliveries before he was bowled by Patel. And Moeen Ali was out for eight in ignominious fashion, crawling back to his ground while Pant removed the bails - leaving England struggling on 46 for four before the end of the eighth over.

Curran was next to fall, Kuldeep Yadav trapping him lbw as he tried to play across the line. Harry Brook was valiant in his effort to salvage something from the innings, hitting an admirable 25 off 19 balls before joining the list of Kuldeep's victims.

And he was joined by Jordan two overs later, lbw for a single. At that point England were 72 for seven - meaning they required 100 runs off their remaining 46 balls. And although Liam Livingstone was still at the crease, he was run out in the next over for 11.

Adil Rashid followed by the same method two balls later for two, leaving it to Archer and Topley to try and reclaim some dignity, which they did as they ushered England past the 100 mark.

But it was all over when Archer was given out lbw to Bumrah, having made an excellent 21 off 15 balls. Saturday's T20 World Cup final between India and South Africa at the Kensington Oval in Barbados will commence at 10:30 am.

South Africa reach first ICC T20 World Cup final

South Africa will play in their first ever ICC Men's T20 World Cup final at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday.

A belligerent bowling performance and calm from the top-order has secured South Africa's ticket for the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup final, defeating Afghanistan by nine wickets in the first semi-final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Wednesday night.

Bowling Afghanistan out for just 56 in 11.5 overs, South Africa hit their straps early by claiming eight wickets inside the first 10 overs of the innings.

Player of the Match Marco Jansen (three for 16 from three overs), Kagiso Rabada (two for 14 from three), and Anrich Nortje (two for seven off three) barely putting a foot wrong, before leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi cleaned up the tail with figures of three for 16 in just 11 balls.

It's the first time a team has bowled out their opposition for under 100 runs in a Men's T20 World Cup semi-final.

Chasing just 57, calm from the South Africa's top order forced Afghanistan's hand in deploying captain and spinner Rashid Khan inside the Power-



Leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi, left, welcomed South Africa's captain Aiden Markram after their dominating win against Afghanistan in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, June 26, 2024. (ICC/Getty Images)

play, moving to 34 for one after six overs.

Despite the early wicket of opener Quinton de Kock (5), claimed by pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, who finished with one for 11, Reeza Hendricks 29 not out and captain Aiden Markram's unbeaten 23 extinguished any Afghan threat to claim victory at 60 for one in 8.5 overs.

Earlier, Jansen claimed Rahmanullah Gurbaz with an outside edge to Reeza Hendricks with the last ball of the first over to begin proceedings, before

beating the defences of Gulbadin Naib (9) in his second.

At the other end, Rabada made a mess of both Ibrahim Zadran and Mohammad Nabi's stumps in the space of four balls, completing a double-wicket maiden to begin his night with two dot balls to Nangeyalia Kharote.

Coming back for a third over, Jansen strangled Kharote, gloving a pull shot to Quinton de Kock down the leg-side, before Nortje joined in with the wicket of Azmat-

ullah Omarzai for 10.

Leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi took the wickets of Karim Janat (8), Noor Ahmad (0) and Naveen-ul-haq lbw to complete the job.

De Kock was well beaten by Fazalhaq, who found early movement, though Hendricks and Markram saw off Afghanistan's late punches, trying a total of five bowlers in the 8.5 overs.

South Africa will face India, winner of the second semi-final, in Saturday's final in Barbados.

Antiguan swimmers win four medals in Mexico

Antigua and Barbuda captured four medals at the recent Central American and Caribbean Amateur Swimming Confederation (CCCAN) Aquatic Championships in Mexico.

Ellie Shaw and Jadon Wuilliez distinguished themselves as the sole athletes from Antigua and Barbuda's nine-member team to earn medals at the swimming championships, which were held in Monterrey, Mexico, from June 17 to 22.

Ellie Shaw claimed bronze in both the 50-meter and 100-meter women's

breaststroke events, while Jadon Wuilliez excelled with a gold medal in the 50-meter men's breaststroke and a bronze in the 100-meter event.

Despite challenging conditions that affected the swimmers, the national team achieved a total of 16 finalist slots: five in the A finals (the top eight fastest) and 11 in the B finals (the second tier).

Although they were unable to win a medal, several Antiguan swimmers achieved personal best times at the event.

Keziah Joseph achieved personal best times in the female 50-meter and 100-meter butterfly, and Mila Festini Coromer did so in the female 100-meter freestyle.

Alessandro Bazzoni achieved personal best times in the male 100-meter and 200-meter freestyle and the 200-meter individual medley (200IM), and Jamie Tranter did so in the male 50-meter backstroke and 200-meter freestyle.

Jadon Wuilliez also set a personal best time in the 50-meter freestyle event.

According to a media release, "The Antigua and



Swimmer Ellie Shaw, right, poses with National Coach Nelson Molina Fojos. (Photos courtesy of the ABSF)

Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) extends its heartfelt congratulations to the team that participated in the recently concluded CCCAN Championships in Mexico over the period June 17 to 23.

"The ABSF celebrates the accomplishments of those who achieved personal best times, made it to the finals, and especially commends those who secured medals."

The ABSF's media release also stated that the passage of tropical storm Alberto disrupted the flow of the CCCAN Championships in Mexico, leading to changes in the format during the final two days to timed finals and the cancellation of the open water competition.

Antiguan swimmer Yacine Williams was slated to compete in the men's open-water competition.



Swimmer Jadon Wuilliez