

# PM BROWNE WANTS 'CRIMINAL ELEMENTS' IN THE COUNTRY DEFEATED

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In his meeting Monday morning with law enforcement officials of the country's national security forces, the prime minister said those who have entered Antigua and Barbuda and have committed themselves to a life of crime must be dealt with.

# Local News

## PM Browne wants 'criminal elements' in the country defeated

Prime Minister Gaston Browne Monday underscored the importance of dealing effectively with the upsurge in criminal activities, saying Antigua and Barbuda "is emerging as one of the most significant tourism destinations" in the region.

PM Browne, meeting with senior law enforcement officials said it is important that the island remains secured 'in order to protect lives and livelihoods'.

"We cannot allow these criminal elements within the society to continue to terrorise our people. In fact, our people are now living in fear thinking that the criminals are getting the better of us. But I am convinced that we have the resources, we have the expertise, we have



the equipment.

"We have the superior intelligence to develop the strategies and programmes to defeat these criminal elements and my remit to law enforcement agencies and all the supporting agencies, is for us to literally lift our

game," PM Browne told the meeting that was also attended by the National Security Council, including the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Sir Steadroy Benjamin.

The meeting comes in the wake of murders on the

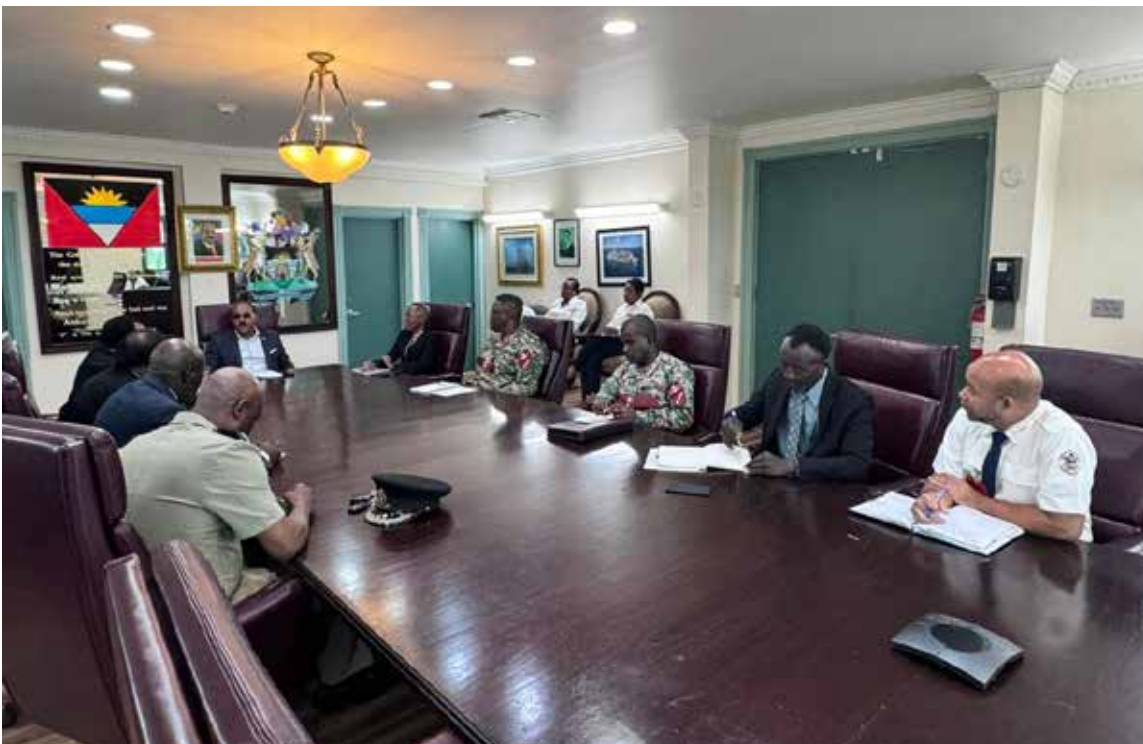
island including a recent incident in which a man was killed and two others left injured, one of them critically, following a shootout between police and alleged armed robbers.

According to the prime minister the gains that the country has achieved in recent years are now being threatened by the activities of criminal elements and he wants the law enforcement apparatus to 'take the fight to the criminals'.

The prime minister said that the authorities will be utilising "all of our resources to ensure that these criminal elements are defeated in the interest of the stability of the country".

He reiterated that the criminal elements were undermining the country's future "and it is important now for us to double our

*cont'd on pg 3*





## Foreign criminals involved in crime to be deported from Antigua and Barbuda

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has acknowledged that foreign criminal elements are operating within the country, but he is determined that they will be found and removed.

Reports are one of the three men who robbed a supereette in Parham last week was a Jamaican national, though there has been no confirmation from the police.

Said to be a Tik Tok influencer, the alleged Jamaican robber and his accomplices were confronted by police in Ebenezer last Thursday and all three were

shot, the alleged Jamaican bandit fatally.

In his meeting Monday morning with law enforcement officials of the country's national security forces, the prime minister said those who have entered Antigua and Barbuda and have committed themselves to a life of crime must be dealt with.

"Even those criminal elements who travel to our shores, they must be dealt with accordingly. Obviously, even at the level of Immigration, we expect that department to be part of this fight and to ensure that



we do not have criminal loiterers in our society. We welcome immigrants to our country to help build our country but where they are not making productive contributions to advancing our country and they become a security threat, they ought to be deported. I am told that some of them may be operating within the 'darkened shadows' who may not have their time up-to-date in our country and if that is the case we expect the Immigration Department to round them up and deport them," he stated.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne declared that he is unphased by the reaction his statements will likely attract. He said he is aware that some may wish to extract from his statements for political gains but for him, the issue of the security of the citizenry is of utmost importance and which goes beyond political preservation.

"I am not worried about the political consequences of taking these tough measures against criminal elements including criminals who come to our shores to commit criminal acts. They must be deported.

"My administration has determined that Antigua and Barbuda must be a safe haven for all, both residents and tourists alike," he declared.

He added that today's leaders should ensure future generations inherit a country that is safe and secure.



*cont'd from pg 2*

efforts and to make sure we do all in our power to make sure that these elements are put behind bars".

PM Browne said he recognises that there is need for an all-society approach to the situation "and even though we gathered here as national security personnel ...we have to recognise we have to have strategies to engage the public".

He reiterated that the authorities have also strengthened surveillance, added new cameras "but in essence we want all law enforcement officers to understand that they have the full backing of the Cabinet.

"So, no one should feel timid about exercising their duties and we are standing full square with law enforcement to defeat these criminal elements using all of the available resources to us."

# Local News



## MP Greene joins in speaking out over the brutal killing of Achazia James

Member of Parliament for St. Paul constituency and the Cabinet Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, E.P. Chet Greene is speaking out over the killing of teenager, Achazia James, his God-daughter.

“In life, we are all faced with unimaginable challenges, but how we choose to deal with them is what truly defines us as human beings.

“On Sunday morning, we all woke up to the most gruesome, heart-breaking news of the tragic death of Achazia James. This news has sent shockwaves of utter devastation through every corner of our nation. As Achazia’s godfather, I find myself utterly struggling to accept the cruel reality of this news. The thoughts of her final moments will forever haunt me.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, E. P. Chet Greene

“As a parent myself, the unanswerable questions, the overwhelming rage, the searing anger of how we can be so painfully uncaring towards one another replay merciless-

ly in my mind. It is a heartbreak that is impossible to fathom.

“As a lawmaker in our country, I will recommit myself, with the full weight of my being, to ensuring that our laws are strengthened to deal with this careless, callous disrespect for that which is most precious to all of us – life itself.

“To Asabi and the family of Achazia, there are no words that can bring you any comfort in this unfathomable time of grief. Know that as a community, we are all here to support you and your family in these unimaginably trying times.

“From a grieving nation to you, please accept our most heartfelt condolences. May Achazia’s soul rest in eternal peace,” MP Greene wrote in a Facebook post.

## A grieving family makes passionate plea over sharing of crime scene photos

On Sunday, August 18, we received the grim news of the brutal murder of our beloved Achazia James.

Words cannot explain the pain and loss we continue to feel about the untimely and horrific loss of our loved one, who was just 15 years old.

We are gutted and in shock. Actions of the public to share the horrific photograph of the crime scene have added to the trauma we have been feeling. We urge everyone to kindly desist from sharing these images.

Doing so is insensitive, macabre and multiplies the harrowing memories which

have been seared into our memories of Achazia’s murder. We call for empathy and the responsible use of social media in this extremely difficult time.

Instead of sharing these images, we urge members of the public to share information with the police to assist in their investigations.

We call for swift justice for the person or persons who robbed us of our precious Achazia, who brought such light to our lives.

We thank those who have reached out to us to offer words of comfort and support, and ask that you keep our family in your prayers.



Achazia James



## Christian Council addresses rise in violent crimes

**By Bonnie E. B. W. Smith (Rev. Dr) President, Antigua Christian Council**

The increase in crime and violence in Antigua and Barbuda has become a pressing concern for both residents and authorities. Over recent years, the community has witnessed a disturbing rise in incidents ranging from theft and gang-related activities to more serious violent crimes. This trend has not only affected public safety but has also impacted the overall sense of security among families and businesses.

Several factors may have contributed to this rise. Economic challenges, limited job opportunities, and social issues often play a significant role in fostering an environment where crime can thrive. Additionally, the influence of gangs and drug-related activities has exacerbated the situation, leading to conflicts and a cycle of violence.

In response to this crisis, the government has announced initiatives aimed at enhancing law enforcement capabilities, including increased funding and personnel resources. However, many community leaders emphasise the importance of a holistic approach that includes social programs, educational opportunities, and community engagement to address the root causes of crime.

We urge all Christian

denominations and churches to come together in earnest prayer, seeking God's intervention. Let us collectively repent and intercede for His divine mercy over our nation.

As a church, we are called to be the prophetic voice amidst the rising tide of violence in our community. In times of despair, it is our duty to preach messages of hope, help, and healing.

We must remind our congregations and the wider community that there is always hope, even in the dark-

est moments. Through our faith and collective efforts, we can inspire change and encourage a spirit of resilience.

In addition to sharing hope, we need to offer tangible help. This includes supporting local initiatives, providing resources for those in need, and engaging in outreach programs that address the root causes of violence.

Finally, we must focus on healing—both for individuals affected by violence and for our community as a whole. Through prayer,

counselling, and community support, we can facilitate emotional and spiritual healing.

Together, let us stand firm as agents of change, advocating for peace and unity while fostering a culture of love and compassion. Let our voices be a beacon of light in these challenging times. Remember, "do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



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# Local News



Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney is present when the Amalgamated Security GM presents Supt. Quashie with an award.



Shawn Dunbreaker, General Manager of Amalgamated Security Services, and Supt. Luisa Quashie.

## Superintendent Quashie excels at the regional level

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is celebrating the achievements of one of the highest ranked female officers, Superintendent Luisa Quashie.

Supt. Quashie has been recognized for her remarkable achievement in securing the 2nd runner-up position in the esteemed Top Caribbean Career Move

awards. Her exceptional leadership and vision within the force have been instrumental in earning this well-deserved recognition.

The Top Caribbean Career Move awards, presented by Amalgamated Security Services Limited in collaboration with the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police, aim

to celebrate the outstanding contributions of Caribbean police officers across various categories, including the Top Caribbean Crime Fighter, Top Caribbean Career Move, and Top Caribbean Community Policing Officer.

Superintendent Quashie's accomplishments not only highlight her personal

success but also underscores her unwavering commitment to her profession and her ability to make influential decisions that positively impact both her career and the communities she serves.

Her strategic career progression is a testament to her exemplary leadership, forward-thinking approach, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

It symbolizes the positive changes that can be instigated within an organization and the broader community.

Currently, Supt. Quashie serves as the Commandant of the Sir Wright George Police Training Academy at Longford's.

### Two men in police custody for illegal firearm and ammunition

Two men are in police custody for an unlicensed firearm and ammunition.

Around 4:00 pm on Monday, August 19, the police intercepted a vehicle while they were on mobile patrol in Bendals and found a firearm and a magazine with sev-

eral rounds of ammunition.

The driver and the occupant were taken into custody, and the vehicle was impounded and taken to the police station. The police are carrying out further investigations into the matter.

## ABAA executive member, Cleofoster Harris calls for immediate resignation of president and executive

In the wake of a severe oversight that has left four of Antigua and Barbuda's most promising young track and field athletes unable to compete in the upcoming World Athletics Under-20 Championships, Cleofoster Harris, a concerned member of the Antigua Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA), has called for the immediate resignation of the ABAA President, Everton Cornelius, and the entire executive committee.

The failure to register these athletes, who had all qualified at the National Track & Field Championships in July, has been described by Harris as a "national disgrace" and an "embarrassment" to the country. The athletes, representing the Power Speed Endurance (PSE) Track Club, were set to compete on the world stage in Lima, Peru, later this month. However, due to what has been cited as "poor communication, poor management, and lacklustre organizing" by the ABAA, their dreams have been dashed.

Harris did not mince words in his statement, expressing profound disappointment with the current leadership and calling for urgent change. "The offices of the ABAA should be regarded as the premier insti-

tution for the development of athletes throughout Antigua and Barbuda, and what has transpired with this year's registration for the World Athletics Championship only echoes the need for drastic change," he said.

In addition to calling for the immediate resignation of President Cornelius and the entire executive committee, Harris also announced his candidacy for the presidency of the ABAA. He emphasized his commitment to restoring trust, improving the association's management, and ensuring that such oversights never occur again.

"I am running for the



Cleofoster Harris

presidency of the ABAA because I believe that our athletes deserve better. They deserve a leadership that is accountable, efficient, and fully dedicated to their de-

velopment and success on the world stage. I look forward to the full support of the general body in this endeavor, as we work together to build a brighter future for our nation's athletes," Harris stated.

The incident has sparked widespread outrage within the athletic community and the entire country at large, with many echoing Harris's call for accountability and reform. As the situation unfolds, all eyes are on the ABAA's next move, with the hope that swift action will be taken to rectify the grave disservice done to the country's young athletes.

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- Have excellent planning, execution, monitoring, and resource balancing skills
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- Possess a minimum three (3) years' experience in a similar role
- Exhibit a pleasant disposition with a flexible attitude

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The Human Resource Manager

St John's, Antigua

email: humanresources.ntw@gmail.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those short-listed will be contacted.



# Local News



## Sharing new opportunities to promote development through cooperation

By Zhang Yanling

Faced with the challenges of counter-current to economic globalization and insufficient driving force for international development cooperation, the international community urgently needs to build a broad consensus on development.

Last month, when the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China was held in Beijing from July 15 to 18, China conveyed a clear signal to the world that it is committed to further opening up at a high



PRC Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, HE Zhang Yanling level, promoting high-quality development, and taking the path of peaceful development. By summarising China's experiences in deepening reform over the

past ten years, the session adopted the resolution that devised a sound plan for further comprehensively deepening reform and promoting Chinese modernization and

put forward more than 300 major reform measures to be completed in the next five years.

Opening up is a defining feature of Chinese modernization. It is stressed that China will remain committed to the basic state policy of opening to the outside world. Leveraging the strengths of its enormous market, China will develop new institutions for a higher-standard open economy while expanding international cooperation. China will steadily expand institu-

*cont'd on pg 9*

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tional opening up, safeguard the WTO-centered multilateral trading system, deepen the foreign trade structural reform, further reform the management systems for inward and outward investment, optimize the layout for regional opening up, improve the mechanisms for high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and develop multilateral platforms for cooperation in green development, the digital economy, artificial intelligence, disaster mitigation, and other areas.

High-quality development is the primary task in advancing Chinese modernization. It was stated that China will foster new quality productive forces in line with local conditions, encourage enterprises to apply digital, intelligent, and green technologies to transform and upgrade traditional industries, promote full integration between the real economy and the digital economy, refine and develop the service sector, improve modern infrastructure, and enhance the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains.

Chinese modernization is the modernization of peaceful development. It was reiterated that China remains firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and stays committed to the common values of all humanity. China firmly pursues the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the

Global Civilization Initiative, and calls for an equal and orderly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization.

We will get involved in leading the reform and development of the global governance system, and promote a human community with a shared future.

History has repeatedly proved that protectionism

and unilateralism can protect no one but only bring catastrophic consequences. China stays committed to promoting an open world economy, advocating the international community to refocus on development issues, providing new opportunities for global development through new achievements in Chinese modernization, and injecting more stability into the glob-

al economy. China stands ready to join efforts with Antigua and Barbuda and all other countries to work for a worldwide modernization featuring peaceful development, mutually beneficial cooperation, and prosperity for all. It is believed that China and Antigua and Barbuda will have more opportunities to cooperate in various areas and bring more tangible benefits to the two peoples.

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# Education



## UWI to launch new online global SDG graduate school

CMC - The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Monday announced that it will launch the first-of-its-kind global online graduate business school focused on leadership within the context of supporting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The region's premier financial institution said that the launch on Wednesday, comes after almost two years of finalising its operational procedures and negotiations.

It said the launch event will be hosted as a hybrid ceremony at the headquarters of The UWI's Global Campus in Barbados at 10:00 am (local time).

Trinidad and Tobago's Education Minister, Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, will deliver the feature address at the ceremony that will also be addressed by Barbados Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, and UWI Vice Chancellor, Professor Hilary Beckles.

Funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and endorsed by the United Nations (UN), The UWI's new International School for Development Justice (ISDJ) was established to respond to the need to educate and empower current and future activists and leaders within the frame-



# UWI

work of the 17 United Nations SDGs.

Beckles describes the Institute as "the largest and most transformative global project" ever undertaken by the regional university.

"We have the keen support of the United Nations and its many relevant departments, including the United Nations University headquartered in Tokyo. The IDB, our financial partner, has been particu-

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"We have the keen support of the United Nations and its many relevant departments, including the United Nations University headquartered in Tokyo. The IDB, our financial partner, has been particularly supportive.

"Many other universities, such as SUNY, Glasgow, Johannesburg, and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, located at Columbia University and led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, are engaged allies," he added.

The UWI said it is now the only university with such an enterprise and that the idea of establishing a global online business school for the SDGs was birthed to leverage the university's two decades of experience and excellence in online education through its Global Campus, its strategic focus on

*cont'd on pg 11*



# Libya central bank reopens after kidnapped official freed

Libya's central bank (CBL) says it has resumed operations following the release of a bank official who had been abducted from his home.

CBL confirmed the release of Musaab Muslamm, head of the bank's information technology department, who was taken on Sunday by an "unidentified party."

It said Mr Msallem had been taken from the capital, Tripoli, and that other bank employees had been threatened with kidnapping too.

CBL had halted all work, refusing to reopen until Mr Msallem was freed.

In a brief statement on Monday afternoon, the bank said it was back running as normal as Mr Msallem had returned and was "safe".

The central bank, which is independent but owned by the Libyan state, is the only international-



ly recognised depository for Libyan oil revenues - a vital economic income for a country torn for years between two rival governments in Tripoli and Benghazi.

Mr Msallem's abduction comes a week after the central bank suffered a siege by armed men, according to AFP news agency.

According to local media cited by AFP, the armed

men did so to force the resignation of the bank's governor Seddik al-Kabir.

In office since 2012, Mr Kabir has faced criticism over the management of oil resources and the state budget.

On Monday, Mr Kabir discussed "the increasing threats to the security and safety of the central bank, its employees and its systems" with British ambassador to Libya Martin

Longden, CBL said in a statement on Monday.

Since the ousting and killing of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, the country has suffered from chronic insecurity.

The country has been divided by power struggles and currently has two governments - a UN-recognised one based in Tripoli, and another in the country's east backed by warlord Gen Khalifa Haftar.

*cont'd from pg 10*

the SDGs, and its global recognition as a leading producer of knowledge on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

"Significantly, The UWI earned a perfect score of 100% for its relationships to support the goals in pursuit of SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals in the recently announced Times Higher Education Impact Rankings."

The university said that it is

currently accepting applications for January 2025 admissions, and among the ISDJ offerings include Master's degrees in Climate Studies, Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Public Health and Informatics, Sustainability and Data Analytics, Sustainability Management and more.

As part of its introductory courses, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, UN advisor and global leader in sustainable development, will lead a masterclass

on the Sustainable Development Goals. ISDJ has named Sachs among its Honorary Distinguished Fellows from around the world, who will contribute to the Institute's scholarship and teaching.

From January 2025 onwards, the complete suite will comprise over a dozen laddered asynchronous online graduate programmes, ranging from one-year Master's degrees to shorter micro-credentials at the Certificate and Diploma levels.

# Regional News



## CXC developing regional policy on Artificial Intelligence

CMC - The Barbados-based Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Monday said it has embraced artificial intelligence (AI) and is now creating the environment for academic integrity and safeguarding against “intellectual laziness”.

CXC’s Registrar and chief executive officer, Dr Wayne Wesley, said AI is something of interest to the region’s premier examination body, adding “in fact we have embraced artificial intelligence.”

“We believe...what we need to do is to create the environment with the requisite safeguards, academic integrity, safeguarding against what I call intellectual laziness. In other words, you want persons to develop cognitively,” he said in an interview on the state-owned DBS Radio.

“We want to also ensure that the information being created by AI is verifiable and accurate, so to prevent the hallucination that it tends to do,” said Wesley, who is leading a CXC delegation ahead of the release of CXC examination results on Tuesday.

“What we are currently doing for the region is creating a generative regional AI policy for the secondary education system. Some work has been done in Guyana at the tertiary level and some work has also been done at the University of the West Indies for how AI should be governed and we are now doing it for the regional secondary education system that will provide the kind of guidance and framework within which teaching, learning and assessment could be properly governed and utilised within the education system,” he added.

CXC was established in 1972 under Agreement by the participating governments in the Caribbean Communi-

ty (CARICOM) and provides regional and internationally recognised secondary school leaving examinations relevant to the needs of the region; assist in Common Entrance and other types of examinations.

CXC has a comprehensive suite of qualifications to meet the needs of the region namely CSEC, Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC), Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ), Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) and the CXC Associate Degree (CXC-AD).

CXC director of Operations, Examination Services, Dr Nicole Manning told radio listeners on the issue of AI, that regional examination body is developing candidates not only academically “but, collaboratively, with the Ministry of Education, we are looking for candidates to ensure that integrity and ethics is a part of the vein of the candidate and how they oper-

ate”.

She said CXC also wants to encourage students to think critically rather than regurgitating information.

“So the use of AI is not the issue, it is the facilitation of the assessment. We already have in some of our subjects where in terms of the presentation a candidate has to literally provide the information and they are questioned by a panel or otherwise.

“That’s where we are seeing to go. In other words, we are not asking them to just present information, we are trying to help them in the learning process through various assessment strategies utilise those skills ...”

She said because of the ethical and integrity components “we have our systems and so plagiarism is still a big thing for us, we want to encourage the candidates to be honest in terms of the reporting of the source of work because you want to give credit where

*cont’d on pg 13*





## Guyanese music legend Dave Martins has died, aged 90

Guyanese music icon Dave Martins has died. He was 90 years old.

Martins' death was announced yesterday by his wife, Annette Arjoon-Martins, on social media.

"Eternally grateful to have shared fifteen years of unconditional love, support and especially shared passions for everything Guyanese with my soulmate," Arjoon-Martins wrote on Facebook.

News of the calypsonian's death sparked a wave of condolence messages and emotions from Guyanese, who thanked him for his years of service and entertainment.

He is best known for his nation building song 'Not a blade of grass', which encouraged Guyanese to stand against threats to their country's control of disputed territory.

In a condolence mes-



Dave Martins.

sage, Guyanese President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali said: "I am deeply saddened to learn of the passing of a true Caribbean icon, Dave Martins, whose music was the heartbeat of our region.

"As the leader of the Tradewinds band, Dave captured the essence of the Caribbean spirit and its identity, blending upbeat rhythms with biting satire

that spoke to our hearts and minds. His music not only invited us to laugh at ourselves but also encouraged us to stand tall and be proud of our Guyanese and Caribbean heritage."

"Dave Martins was more than just a musician; he was a true Caribbean person whose influence extended beyond borders, touching the lives of count-

less individuals across the region. His loss is deeply felt, not only in Guyana but throughout the entire Caribbean and in our diaspora."

Opposition Leader, Aubrey Norton hailed Martins as a "musical genius, cultural icon and true Guyanese patriot."

Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo said: "I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dave Martins. His contributions to music, culture, and the community have left an indelible mark.

"Dave's talent, passion, dedication and patriotism were truly inspiring, and his legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched.

"During this difficult time, my thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him."

### *cont'd from pg 12*

credit is due.

"But at the same time, what CXC wants to do is to create those policies to facilitate the learning and assessment that happens within the environment, as well as concomitantly with that you have the actual creation of the candidate who are now operating as innovative being.

"So it is a combination of things that we want to achieve," Manning said, adding "it will be a learning process for the candidate, how they manage themselves and how they manage the whole process of

the utilisation of AI and what we currently have in terms of the not ...plagiarising and how we help them to do that".

Manning acknowledged that "you do have checkers, but we do not want to restrict them (students). What we want to say is be honest .... because when you get into the world of work, when you are doing your entrepreneurial activities, you are going to use information of this nature.

"It is something we are looking at in terms of policy to lead the region in this area, something futuristically we are going in that direction," Manning added.



## Iran hacked Trump campaign, US intelligence confirms

**By Ana Faquy**

Iran was behind the recent hack of Donald Trump's presidential campaign, US intelligence officials have confirmed.

The FBI and other federal agencies said in a joint statement that Iran had chosen to interfere in the US election "to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions".

The Trump campaign pointed the finger at Iran on 10 August for hacking its internal messages. Iranian officials denied it.

Sources familiar with the investigation told the BBC's US partner, CBS News, that they suspect Iranian hackers also targeted the campaign of Democratic presidential contender Kamala Harris.

"The [intelligence community] is confident that the Iranians have through social engineering and other

efforts sought access to individuals with direct access to the Presidential campaigns of both political parties," US intelligence officials said in the statement.

"Such activity, including thefts and disclosures, are intended to influence the US election process."

The Trump campaign was reportedly sent a spear-phishing email – a message designed to look trustworthy in order to get the target to click on a malicious link.

The Harris campaign said last week it had also been the target of a spear-phishing attack, though it was unsuccessful.

The agencies that released Monday's statement, including the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said the tactics were "not new" and noted

that Russia and Iran had employed such methods during previous US elections.

It remains unclear what information, if any, was stolen during the hack. Trump said the hackers were only able to obtain publicly available information.

The New York Times, Politico and The Washington Post said they were leaked confidential information from inside the Trump campaign, including on its vetting of his running mate, JD Vance. The outlets have so far declined to offer specifics.

US officials said it was clear Iran wanted to shape the outcome of elections it believes are "particularly consequential in terms of the impact they could have on its national security interests".

The American intelligence agen-  
*cont'd on pg 15*



## Israel accepts 'bridging proposal' for ceasefire deal - Blinken

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to an American "bridging proposal" for a ceasefire deal in Gaza.

It is now up to Hamas to agree, Mr Blinken added.

The pair met in Tel Aviv for talks that Mr Netanyahu has described as "positive", with his office adding that he had reiterated his commitment to an American proposal on the release of the hostages still held by Hamas, which took into account Israel's security needs.

Mr Blinken had earlier warned this was "maybe the last opportunity" to secure a ceasefire agreement, as the US hopes to push a deal over the finish line.

The Americans hope that could happen perhaps as soon as this time next week, but that level of optimism is not shared by the Israeli leadership or Hamas.

Each accuses the other of obstinate cynicism, and blocking a deal.



US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken met with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday.

Speaking in Tel Aviv after the talks, Mr Blinken described "the fierce urgency" of progressing towards a truce and hostage release deal.

"We're never giving up", he added, saying more delays could mean more hostages could die and further obstacles could hamper any agreement.

The US secretary of state will now travel on to

Egypt and then Qatar, to try and drive forward progress on a deal.

Mr Netanyahu reportedly told Mr Blinken that he planned to send a negotiating team to Cairo later this week for a new round of talks with Egyptian, Qatari and US mediators.

Meanwhile, reports from Gaza speak of a worsening humanitarian situation amid continuing

Israeli military activity.

Israel said its aircraft and troops had killed "eliminated dozens of terrorists" over the past day and destroyed Hamas compounds and a tunnel network where rockets and missiles were found.

Palestinian media reported that six people had been killed in an Israeli air strike near an internet access point near the southern city of Khan Younis on Monday, and that another four were killed in a strike on a car in Gaza City, in the north.

The Israeli military launched a campaign in

*cont'd on pg 16*

### *cont'd from pg 14*

cies added that they had "observed increasingly aggressive Iranian activity during this election cycle".

There has been growing concern about potential Iranian hackers.

Recently, Microsoft said it had seen

"the emergence of significant influence activity" by groups linked to Iran.

Before he dropped out of the White House race last month, President Joe Biden's campaign was targeted by Iranian hackers, as was Trump's, according to Google.

# International

AROUND THE WORLD



*cont'd from pg 15*

Gaza to destroy Hamas in response to an unprecedented attack on southern Israel on 7 October, during which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken hostage.

More than 40,130 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

A deal agreed in November saw Hamas release 105 of the hostages during a week-long ceasefire in return for some 240 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Israel says 111 hostages are still being held, 39 of whom are presumed dead.

Mr Blinken was in Israel on Monday for a series of talks with key Israeli leaders.

After one meeting - with Defence Minister Yoav Gallant - a large crowd of protesters outside could be heard chanting "SOS USA, hostage deal now" and "Blinken we trust you, bring them home". Some were holding pictures of hostages.

That sense of urgency was in Mr Blinken's messages was clear.

"This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a ceasefire and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," he said before talks with President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv.

"I'm here as part of an intensive diplomatic effort on President Biden's instructions to try to get this agreement to the line and ultimately over the line," he added.

"It is time for everyone to get to 'yes' and to not look for any excuses to say 'no'."

Speaking alongside him, President Herzog blamed what he called "the refusal of Hamas to move forward" with a deal.

Mr Blinken then had a three-hour meeting in Jerusalem with Mr Net-

anyahu, whose office said was "positive and was held in a good atmosphere".

"The prime minister reiterated Israel's commitment to the current American proposal on the release of our hostages, which takes into account Israel's security needs, which he strongly insists on," a brief statement added.

On Sunday, the prime minister accused Hamas of being "completely obstinate" and insisted that "pressure needs to be directed" at the group - which Israel, the US and other countries proscribe as a terrorist organisation.

A Qatar-based member of Hamas's political bureau told the BBC on Monday that it was "still interested" in reaching a deal, although he said it would not be participating in the Cairo meetings.

"We agreed a deal [through mediators] on 2 July... and therefore we don't need a new round of negotiations or to discuss the new demands of Benjamin Netanyahu," Basem Naim said.

"We have shown maximum flexibility and positivity and the other party has understood this as a weakness and met it with more force - he is not interested in reaching a ceasefire, only in flaring up the region... and serving his own personal political interests."

The US is holding out hope that in the coming days, it can bridge the gaps on a ceasefire deal.

However, that deadline is being imposed by Washington, rather than the warring parties. And the Israeli prime minister and the leaders of Hamas do not seem to feel that same sense of urgency.

Their statements last night were very defiant, sticking to their positions and digging in.

On Tuesday, Mr Blinken will fly from Israel to Egypt, which has been

an important mediator along with Qatar and is able to pass messages directly to Hamas.

The mediators announced last Friday that they had presented "a proposal that narrows the gaps between the parties" and was consistent with the principles set out by President Joe Biden on 31 May, which would run in three phases:

- The first would include a "full and complete ceasefire" lasting six weeks, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza, and the exchange of some of the hostages - including women, the elderly and the sick or wounded - for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel

- The second phase would involve the release of all other living hostages and a "permanent end to hostilities"

- The third would see the start of a major reconstruction plan for Gaza and the return of dead hostages' remains

The Americans have not provided details about bridging proposal, but major differences are said to remain on issues including Israel's continuing military presence in Gaza, the rights of displaced Palestinians to move freely from north to south and the number and identity of Palestinian prisoners who'd be released from Israeli jails in exchange for Israeli hostages.

Brett McGurk, one of the Biden administration's key envoys in the region, has been working with the Egyptians over the past couple of weeks to address the sticking point of the Philadelphi corridor, a strip of land that runs along Gaza's border with Egypt.

Mr Netanyahu says he insists that Israel will remain present there to stop smuggling and Hamas re-arming. Hamas says it simply means continued Israeli occupation and therefore not a stop to the war.



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# Sports News



## Leewards lose second match in regional Under-17 men's two-day championship

The Leeward Islands lost their second match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-17 Men's Two-Day Championship in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

After tumbling to a 71-run defeat against the Windward Islands in their opening affair, the Leeward Islands crashed to a 10-wicket loss against Guyana in their second encounter at the National Cricket Center (NCC).

Set 96 to win, Guyana achieved their victory target without losing a wicket in just 7.1 overs. Captain Jonathan van Lange slammed an unbeaten 65 off 31 balls, and Rampersaud Ramnauth hit 19 not out off 15 balls.

The Leeward Islands were dismissed for 144 in 51.5 overs in their first innings after winning the toss and opting to bat. De-Antre Drew made 26. Medium pacer Golcharan Chulai grabbed four for 34.

In reply, Guyana made 176 off 65.2 overs in their first innings. Romesh Bharrat struck 33, and Emmanuel Lewis hit 28. Isra-el Morton captured five for 44, and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie claimed three for 50.

Trailing by 32 runs, the Leeward Islands were bundled out for 127 in 46.4 overs in their second innings. De-Antre Drew hit 40, and Eirette Richards made 32. Golcharan Chulai snapped up six for 28, and Romario Ramdeholl captured three for 31.

In the other second round two-day matches, defending champions Barbados made it two wins in two games with an eight-wicket victory against Trinidad and Tobago at Inshan Ali Park, and the Windward Islands and Jamaica played to a draw at Gilbert Park.

Scores: Trinidad and Tobago Under-17s 121 and 106; Barbados Un-



### UNDER 19s CHAMPIONSHIP

der-17s 96 and 134 for two; and the Windward Islands Under-17s 92 and 159 for nine declared; Jamaica Under-17s 48 and 177 for nine.

## Bajan Ballers dominate invitational basketball tournament

The visiting Bajan Ballers of Barbados have won the Under-15 Youth Summer Basketball Splash Invitational, which was hosted by the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) over the weekend.

The Bajan Ballers lifted the title after playing unbeaten in the four-team round-robin tournament at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

The Bajan Ballers won the competition by pulling off a 43-39 victory against

the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy Shooters in the final.

Jerome Arthur converted 10 points, Isaac Griffith scored nine points and grabbed four steals, and Rhys Cozier snatched 10 rebounds for the Bajan Ballers.

Eli Harris produced a game-high 16 points, five steals, and four rebounds, and Najee Simons had 12 points, seven steals, six blocks, and six rebounds for the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy

Shooters.

The Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy's second team and the Guy Yearwood Ballers were the other two teams from Antigua which participated in their three-day competition for under-15 basketball players.

Isaac Griffith of the Bajan Ballers captured the tournament's Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award.

Griffith also won the individual awards for the most points and assists. He scored

a total of 44 points and had 13 assists in four games.

Fellow Bajan Baller Rhys Cozier won the award for the most rebounds with a total of 51.

Elliot Samuel of the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy's second team won the award for the most steals with a total of 19.

Najee Simons of the Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy Shooters captured the award for the most blocks with a total of 11.





Players of the West Indies Under-19 women's team

## CWI names West Indies U-19 Women's squad for UK tour

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the West Indies Under-19 women's squad selected for the upcoming tour of the United Kingdom.

The tour is a crucial part of the team's preparation for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Under-19 Cricket World Cup, set to take place in Malaysia in January 2025.

The tour will see the team participate in a series of highly competitive matches, including an England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) development tournament.

This tournament will feature teams from Scotland and Ireland, with the West Indies Under-19 Women's team guaranteed three T20 matches.

In addition, three fixtures have been scheduled against an ECB Southern Under-19 Women's Re-

gional Team, comprising two days of T20 doubleheaders and a 30-over match on the third day.

The squad, led by co-captains Asabi Callender and Erin Deane, represents the best of emerging talent in West Indies women's cricket. The players have shown great promise and are expected to gain invaluable experience on this tour as they prepare for the world stage.

CWI's Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe expressed his confidence in the squad, stating, "This tour is a critical stepping stone in our preparation for the ICC Women's Under-19 Cricket World Cup. The matches against strong international teams will test our players and help us fine-tune our strategies ahead of the global tournament."

Supporting the players is a sea-

soned team management unit committed to guiding their development and success. The squad arrived in the United Kingdom on Monday, August 19.

The WI U-19 Women's Squad: Asabi Callender (co-captain), Erin Deane (co-captain), Elecia Bowman, Abigail Bryce, Kenika Cassar, Dicoreya Collymore, Trisha Hardat, Theanny Herbert-Mayers, Brianna Harricharan, Danellie Manns, Aneisha Miller, Amrita Ramtahal, Selena Ross, Kristen Sutherland, and Aaliyah Weekes.

Team Management Unit: Head Coach: Steve Liburd; Assistant Coach: Shane Brooks; Physiotherapist: Ashley Stephens; Strength and Conditioning Coach: Yvonne Arthur; and Team Manager: Merissa Aguiliera.

## Benna Boys lose to SVG in CFU Challenge Series

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys suffered their first loss in their second game in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Boys Challenge Series in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

The young Benna Boys were beaten 1-0 by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their Tier II, Group A match at the Larry Gomes Stadium.

Following a goalless first half, captain Beau Hoyte scored the winner for St. Vincent and the Grenadines with a 46th-minute conversion.

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys created several chances for an equalizer but squandered their opportunities as St. Vincent and the Grenadines held on to the victory after some stellar defensive play.

The win was the second consecutive for the Vincentians in three matches, while Antigua and Barbuda remained with one win in two matches after beating Guyana 2-1 in their opening encounter.

Barbados notched up their third win in as many games to remain at the top of Tier II, Group A, with a 4-1 victory against winless Cayman Islands at the Larry Gomes Stadium.

Barbados will face Antigua and Barbuda's young Benna Boys at the same venue on Tuesday (today).

Anguilla enjoyed a good win over the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), defeating them 5-0 in their Tier II, Group B match at the Hasely Crawford Stadium.

The Turks and Caicos Islands overcame stern competition before prevailing 3-0 against Dominica in their Tier II, Group B match at the Larry Gomes Stadium on Sunday.

Grenada came from behind to claim a 4-1 victory against Bonaire in



Antigua and Barbuda's Luke Harney-Rogerson, right, evades the challenges of two St. Vincent and the Grenadines' players during their Tier II, Group A match at the Larry Gomes Stadium in Trinidad on Sunday, August 18, 2024. (CFU Media)

their Tier II, Group C match at the Ato Boldon Stadium.

Zydon Lightbourne Furbert and Jean Wolfe both scored hat-tricks in Bermuda's 10-1 win over Dutch St. Maarten in a Tier II, Group C match at the Larry Gomes Stadium.

Curaçao recorded their first win in Tier I, Group B, after securing a 2-0 victory over French St. Martin at the Ato Boldon Stadium.

Puerto Rico and French Guiana shared the spoils in a gripping 1-1 draw

in their Tier I, Group B match at the Ato Boldon Stadium.

Kelvin Browne scored a hat-trick to lead Jamaica's young Reggae Boyz to an emphatic 6-0 drubbing of Aruba in their Tier I, Group A encounter at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago on Sunday.

Host Trinidad and Tobago continued their impressive form in Tier I, Group A, with a commanding 5-0 victory over St. Kitts and Nevis at the Dwight Yorke Stadium.



## Windies captain excited about prospects despite series defeat

GEORGETOWN (Reuters) - West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite is excited about the prospects of a young test bowling attack and batting line-up but said more mental fortitude was needed after their test series defeat to South Africa.

The West Indians were beaten by 40 runs on Saturday at the Providence Stadium in Georgetown to lose the two-match series after the first Test in Trinidad & Tobago ended in a draw.

It was a 10th successive series loss to South Africa for the Windies, who have won three of 34 Tests between the two teams, but Brathwaite insisted there were positives to be drawn from the two matches.

He pointed to the performances of quick bowlers Shamar Joseph, 24, and



Kraigg Brathwaite

Jayden Seales, 22, as well as the spin duo of Gudakesh Motie and Jomel Warrican.

Joseph took five wickets in the first innings and Seales returned his best Test figures of six for 61 in the second innings to ensure an exciting contest.

"The guys have a lot of potential and talent, and they just come out and do it, they have a lot of skill,"

Brathwaite told reporters.

But the home batting line-up fell short of a 263-run target South Africa set them to win on Saturday, bundled out at crucial junctures despite showing determination.

"It's important to continue to keep learning as batters. We just got to keep thinking about our game, finding ways to improve.

It is for us to aim to do it more consistently and I think mentally, find ways to be better," added the Windies captain.

The West Indies' loss to South Africa followed a 3-0 series defeat in England last month. They do not play another Test until November when they host Bangladesh in a two-match series.

"I'd say the future is very bright, especially with our fast-bowling unit. But I must say, I'm very excited about the batting unit too," added Brathwaite.

"I really think the line-up that we have can do the job. Obviously being mentally tough is most important in playing Test matches. We've been asking for more Test matches to play," he said.



Players of the Cyclone International Domino Club of Antigua and Barbuda. (ABNDA)

*cont'd from pg 22*

Cyclones also took the second test with a score of 79 points, beating In-Time Domino Club with 73 points and the BUT Travellers with 66 points.

In-Time Domino Club rebounded to win the third test with a score of 84 points, beating the BUT Travellers with 73 points and the Cyclones International Domino Club with 64 points.

Zenus Williams of Cyclones International won the overall Most Valuable Players Award during the tri-series.

The BUT Travellers hosted the triangular series in 2023, and In-Time will host the event in Guyana next year.

## Cyclone International win domino tri-series

Host Cyclone International Domino Club of Antigua and Barbuda has won this year's annual triangular series with the visiting Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) Travellers and the In-Time Domino Club of Guyana.

Cyclone International Domino Club won the competition after winning three of the five matches in the test series to finish with an overall total of 386 points in the tournament, which was held from August 10 to 16.

The BUT Travellers finished second with a total of 369 points, and the In-Time Domino Club recorded a total of 355 points.

After winning two of the first three tests, which was followed by a one-day break, the Cyclones returned to claim the title by winning one of the other two matches at the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) headquarters in Ottos.

The BUT Travellers won the fourth test by scoring 81 points to beat Cyclones International with 78 points and In-Time Domino Club with 63 points.

The Cyclones won the final test with a score of 78 points to prevail against In-Time Domino Club with 70 points and the BUT Travellers with 64 points.

The Cyclones won the opening test by scoring 87 points to prevail against BUT Travellers with 85 points and In-Time Domino Club with 65 points.

*cont'd on pg 21*



Zenus Williams of Cyclones International, right, accepts the overall MVP Award of the tri-series from newly elected president of the ABNDA Carol-Faye Bynoe.