

A&B REMAINS FIRM ON 'ONE CHINA' POLICY

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From left: Lady Williams, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene, and Ambassador Zhang Yanling in attendance at a ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of founding of the PRC.

Local News

Antigua and Barbuda remains fully committed to the 'One-China' policy

Senior government officials have reassured the People's Republic of China that its position on the 'One China' policy remains unshaken.

The assurance came during separate addresses made at the ceremony held Monday at the Chinese Embassy in St. John's to celebrate China's 75th anniversary of National Day delivered by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Prime Minister Gaston

Browne.

Head of Government Prime Minister Gaston Browne told the audience that Antigua and Barbuda's position in supporting the One China Policy was the correct one as this was the position adopted by most countries around the world.

He noted that China has a 'non-aggression' and this is demonstrated by China's decision not to invade Taiwan, although, according to PM Browne, it has the right



to do so.

"You can see this policy of non-aggression with regard to its policy towards Taiwan, which is a province of China. You may ask if Antigua and Barbuda's position of supporting the One China policy is correct and I will say 'yes' because we are standing on the principle of what is right as Taiwan

has always been a part of China. That has not changed even though it's a break-away province of China," he explained.

PM Browne likened the situation with Taiwan as what would happen should Barbuda break away from Antigua. "For those of you here who do not quite un-

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derstand the One China Principle, it would be the same should Barbuda breakaway from Antigua and declare its independent; we would say this is a unitary state, one Antigua and Barbuda. There's no difference in terms of the relationship between the PRC and Taiwan. That is why we continue to support the sustaining principle of One China Policy," he stated.

The prime minister also noted that Taiwan is not represented at the United Nations as it does not have a seat there.

In supporting the view articulated by the prime minister, Sir Rodney said Antigua and Barbuda has consistently upheld the One China Policy recognizing the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China. "This alignment in our diplomatic val-



ues, has only strengthened the ties between our two countries, allowing our collaboration to deepen and produce tangible benefits for both nations.

"China's modernization over recent decades has not only transformed

its own society but has also brought immense benefits to Antigua and Barbuda," he recalled as he listed several of the projects financed through assistance from the PRC.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, who focused on China's remarkable economic growth over the last several decades and how China not only lifted much of its people out of poverty, but also it allowed it to share its wealth with developing states such as Antigua and Barbuda.

"As a growing influence on global economies both in developed and developing countries, in trade, investment, and ideas, China is well placed to help the world deal with issues such as trade and investment, rapid aging, building cost-effective health systems, and promoting a lower-carbon energy path," he remarked.

Greene noted that to date the bilateral and multilateral cooperation engagements have been mutually beneficial for both countries.

"So, as you continue the wonderful celebrations of the People's Republic of China National Day, 2024, I would like to remind you that your country's cultural heritage, remarkable progress, and contributions to the world are truly impressive," the Foreign Affairs Minister added.



Local News



Materials for Booby Alley Project 'on the way' to St. John's

There are further developments taking place with one of the major projects that the People's Republic of China will fund here in Antigua and Barbuda, the Booby Alley Housing Development Project.

Speaking on Monday at a ceremony to mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the PRC, Ambassador Zhang Yanling announced that the materials for the project are on the way to Antigua and Barbuda. The Booby Alley project is one of several

that the ambassador highlighted in her address.

"So in 2024, we are very encouraged to see many new signs of progress and highlights of our cooperation. The equipment for the anti-narcotics laboratory has arrived here and finished installation; the feasibility study for the water pipe renewal project is in full swing; while the abattoir renovation project is completed and put into use.

"Construction materi-

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Ambassador Zhang Yanling

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A&B to participate in regional conference on sargassum

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Walter Christopher, is in Grenada for the 2nd EU-Caribbean Global Gateway Conference on Sargassum opening in St. George's today.

The two-day conference is an initiative aimed at addressing the growing environmental and socio-economic impact of sargassum seaweed across the Caribbean Basin. It also seeks to build regional capacity, attract investment, and promote innovation to transform this environmental challenge into sustainable economic opportunities.

The Conference is being held as the Caribbean region continues to grapple with unprecedented amounts of sargassum washing ashore, impacting beaches, disrupting marine ecosystems, and threatening key economic sectors, particularly tourism and fisheries. Sargassum influxes have far-reaching



consequences for the region's coastal economies and communities. It will offer an exceptional platform for fostering dialogue, mobilizing action, and securing investment in sustainable solutions.

The conference will generate a comprehensive conversation to understand the building blocks of a sustainable value chain: Research and Innovation, Enabling Environment and Transformation. The event will explore the latest on research,

monitoring and forecasting, prevention and containment, collection and harvesting, treatment, valorization and/or use, and disposal of sargassum biomass.

The event is set to attract over 250 regional and international stakeholders, including the Prime Minister and Ministers of the Government of Grenada, policymakers, scientists, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector participants, to address one of the most press-

ing environmental challenges facing the Caribbean and Latin America – the recurring influxes of sargassum.

Facing a similar challenge with invasive seaweed species in Europe, the European Union, together with its Member States recognise the importance of local, regional and international partnerships in the fight against the overgrowth of Sargassum. Through its Global Gateway Investment Agenda (GGIA), the EU, a partner in the Sargassum Conference, seeks to enhance investment in the Caribbean, with sargassum as one of the priorities.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), an event partner, welcomes this initiative with the EU, a long-standing and committed international partner to continue the drive towards finding solutions to this ever-increasing problem and to implement joint strategies.

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als for the 150-unit housing project are already on their way to Antigua and Barbuda, and preparation for another 100-unit housing is in the pipeline," she revealed.

She reported that two weeks ago, during the fourth China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Forum, attended by Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, China and Antigua and Barbuda reached an agreement on further enhancing trade and investment facilitation.

"Together with the functioning of the Embassy of Antigua and

Barbuda in China from January, the entry into force of the Mutual Visa Exemption and the Maritime Transport Agreement in May, it is hoped that more high-quality products of Antigua and Barbuda will enter China's market, and China's new energy vehicles will bring a special driving experience to the people of Antigua and Barbuda," she emphasized.

She also drew attention to the assistance that China is offering Antigua and Barbuda in the area of agriculture. "For food security and sustainable development, this year, 30 groups of 175 people from Anti-

gua and Barbuda have been invited to China for exchanges on key areas such as agriculture, fisheries, trade, blue economy, green transformation, new infrastructure, as well as emerging areas like big data, artificial intelligence, etc.," she revealed.

According to Ambassador Zhang with the best season for broccoli approaching, technicians of the China-Aid Agro-Tech Project have prepared for its growth on a wider scale. Another Chinese team is coming to Antigua and Barbuda next month to share the Techniques for Hybrid Pepper Breeding and Cultivation.



REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING FOR OUR FORTY-THIRD INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS.

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The Ministry of Creative Industries, in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, wishes to update the public on the status of registrations.

Registration for food vendors for the National Youth Rally, Independence Street Fair, and National Schools' Panorama has closed. However, registration for the Independence Food Fair will close on Thursday, 3rd October 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Businesses interested in the Independence Business Decoration Competition should note that registration ends on Friday, 18th October 2024. The winner will be announced at the Independence Street Fair and Dandan Show on Friday, 25th October 2024.

Registration forms can be obtained at the following Ministry locations:

- The Ministry of Creative Industries Office on Old Parham Road located upstairs the KFC and INET Building – 562 9605/06. Forms are available from Monday to Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- The National Festivals Office on Redcliffe Street - 462 4707. Forms are available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Monday to Friday.

Additionally, registered food vendors should take note of the following important meet/s and should make every effort to attend or send a representative:

- **ACB National Schools' Panorama** – Monday, 14th October at 5:00 p.m., Antigua Port Authority Parking Lot.
- **Independence Food Fair** – Wednesday, 16th October at 5:30 p.m., Multipurpose Cultural Center.
- **National Youth Rally** - Monday, 21st October at 5:30 p.m., Sir Vivian Richard Cricket Stadium.

For further inquiries, please use the contact numbers provided above.

-END-

Liberta man pleads guilty to firearms charges

Jeson Cedeno, 28, of Liberta is to reappear in the Magistrate Court (District B) on Thursday for possible sentencing after he pleaded guilty to firearms related charges on Monday.

Cedeno faced multiple charges of possession of cannabis and possession with intent to sell along with the possession of one 9mm Glock pistol and four rounds of ammunition.

He was jointly charged with a female companion, Kamyilah Daniel of Villa.

Both appeared before

Senior Magistrate, Ngaio Emanuel on Monday where Daniel, 24, pleaded not guilty. She was represented by attorney, Sherfield Bowen.

Following Daniel's not-guilty plea, the prosecution decided to withdraw all the charges against her.

Cedeno plead guilty to the firearms charges but not to the charges related to possession of cannabis. Those were also withdrawn by the prosecution.

Magistrate Emanuel adjourned the matter until Thursday when the prosecution will present the fact

of the case followed by a submission for leniency by Cedeno's attorney, Andrew O'Kola.

The magistrate may render her sentence then or adjourn this aspect of the case until another date. Cedeno was remanded to HM Prison until Thursday.

In another case, two people from Clark's Hill – 41-year old Jowato Geno Athill and 33-year old Adiva Collins – have been remanded in prison when they appeared before Magistrate Emanuel on charges

of possession of ammunition.

They were charged with possessing multiple caliber rounds of ammunition when not being the holders of a firearms license.

Both pleaded not guilty to the charges. The court made an order for disclosure of 21 days and set the trial date for December 10 and 11.

The prosecution is expected to call five witnesses while the defense has indicated that it will call four witnesses.



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Local News



HR Professionals Day a success despite inclement weather

The Human Resources Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) says HR Professionals Day, held on September 26th, 2024, was a success.

In a statement, HRPAB said despite some rainy weather, approximately 55 HR/Management professionals from a wide range of industries gathered for an engaging afternoon of learning and networking.

This year's event featured two prominent speakers: Dr. Curtis Charles, Dean of Academic Affairs at UWIFIC, provided insightful commentary on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the HR landscape. Following Dr. Charles, Dr. Monica



Osborne-Stevens offered valuable insights on Employee Wellness, a topic of increasing importance in today's work environment.

The diverse audience included representatives from government, hotels, statutory organizations, banks, consulting firms, security firms, unions, insur-



ance companies, and many others. The lively discussions and exchange of ideas demonstrated the strong commitment to professional development within our HR community.

HRPAB remains dedicated to advocating for the advancement of HR professionals within Antigua and Barbuda, as well as on a wider regional and international scale.

We are committed to providing ongoing educational opportunities and fostering a strong network of support for our members.

Interested in Engaging with HRPAB?

We encourage all HR professionals in Antigua and Barbuda to get involved with our organization. Stay updated on



upcoming events, connect with colleagues, and access valuable resources by contacting us at hrpro.ab@gmail.com.

You can also reach us by phone at 779-8289 or 728-8990.

We look forward to connecting with you and continuing to advocate for a thriving HR community in Antigua and Barbuda



More fraud charges for Keithesha Edwards

Police have served 21-year-old Keithesha Edwards of Belmont with five additional charges of fraud.

Edwards is accused of defrauding several persons on different occasions of large sums of money, spanning from

October, 2023 to June and July of this year. She is due in court this week.

15-year old charged with firearm-related offence

Police have arrested and charged a 15-year-old boy of Potters for Being in

Possession of a Firearm in the Furtherance of Committing an Offence. The charge stem from an alleged incident at Clare Hall School, last Friday. Further investigations are still ongoing in the matter.

Antigua and Barbuda's vibrant artisans at Nelson's Dockyard: A testament to local craftsmanship

The launch of Season 2 of the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association's (ABHTA) Unveiling Hospitality Professional series, kicks off with a heartwarming spotlight on the remarkable local artisans at the Nelson's Dockyard National Park. These vendors not only enrich the visitor experience but are integral to the cultural and economic fabric of Antigua and Barbuda.

"As we journeyed through the historic Nelson's Dockyard, we were captivated by the remarkable vendors who add a distinctive touch of local art and craft to Antigua and Barbuda's vibrant tourism landscape. These artisans not only provide visitors with unique mementos but also embody the spirit of entrepreneurship, creativity, and cultural preservation," according to a release from the ABHTA.

Three such artisans have been identified by the ABHTA for special recognition during the Unveiling series. One artisan is Esther Louise Edwards, affectionately known as "Sexy Sue." For over 50 years, Louise has been creating jewelry from wild tamarind seeds, earn-



Esther Louise Edwards

ing her reputation as an artist, teacher, and lifelong advocate for the tourism sector. Recently, her talents were showcased internationally when she traveled to the UK, demonstrating the intricate art of crafting jewelry, mats, and coasters from wild tamarind seeds. Esther describes the process as a labor of love—from foraging for wild tamarind seeds with her family to drying them and meticulously crafting her pieces. She has also generously shared her knowledge by training other vendors, such as Nellie Howell and Angella Jackson, passing on her legacy to ensure the art continues to thrive.

Nellie Howell, herself a vendor for over 50 years, has mastered the same craft with the same attention to detail and passion as Esther. Together, they have worked to introduce the younger generation to this art form, even collaborating with local secondary schools to foster a love for using natural, local products.

Angella "Nikki" Jackson, a relative newcomer to the world of vending, has been in the business for just four years,



Angella Jackson

but her impact is already significant. Nikki's booth, "Nikki's Collection," was inspired by her experience working alongside another vendor. She has embraced the opportunity to become an entrepreneur, meeting countless visitors who are drawn not only to her products but also to her warm personality. Nikki's career as a vendor has provided her the flexibility to support her family and build a foundation for her future ambitions, which include opening a cook shop while continuing to operate her vendor business. Proudly calling herself "the number one hustler," Nikki looks forward to expanding her entrepreneurial journey.

The ABHTA invites the public to follow the series as it unfolds over the next 11 weeks, celebrating the dedication and excellence of those who are the backbone of our hospitality industry. Viewers can watch each released video starting September 30, 2024 and every Wednesday thereafter on our YouTube channel @antiguabarbudahotels and on our social media pages @antiguahotels and @antiguahoteljobs.



Nellie Howell

Opinion



How good is touching wood?

By Tony Deyal

Because my columns have been running for more than 32 years in the Barbados Nation and other newspapers, especially the *The Gleaner*, I try to read all of them. What I never miss is *The Gleaner's* Thursday column, 'Stranger Than Fiction'.

They always have some interesting stuff like "Tooth fairy gets a raw deal after Guinness world record"; "Message in a bottle travels across Europe"; and "Boy makes history after being born with three penises". Tooth fairies and raw deals are tough enough, but adding Guinness to the stew is enough to make beef jerky.

Messages in bottles, even in Europe, are no big thing, but a one-man threesome is really what should be in the Guinness world records. For older folks like me, it can start a renaissance revival.

Last week, among the new 'strangers' in *The Gleaner*, I found out that "Coffee is good for the heart and brain".

That immediately caused my cup to "runneth over" but I was so happy that I read the rest of the fiction with so much *dolce gusto* that it was good to the last drop. Next was "Dog and human brains are in sync when they make eye contact".

I suppose it was a case of sync or swim, and they

do both. After all, every dog should have its day, night or boat.

The next would have been considered "A right rum do" or what the British call a strange situation or event. The word "rum", in this context, is used as an adjective to mean "odd" or "strange".

What *The Gleaner* made many people become worried was, "Drinking water won't cure a hangover". Then I went to one that was so much stranger than fiction that it almost blew my mind.

"Touching wood can alleviate stress". Given how most Caribbean people use the word "wood", I had to stop right there.

We all know that touching anything without permission can put us in deep trouble. One man asked a lady if he could touch her hair.

She said "Yes", so he ran his fingers across her lip. That's how the fight started. Another advised me, "Touch it softly. Put two fingers inside. Put three fingers if it is wide. Rub up and down when it is wet." Luckily for me, he added, "This is how you wash a cup."

While the scientists say that placing your hands on a wooden surface can have the same calming effect as petting an animal, what I know is that it is bad enough with humans



Tony Deyal

who want more than your hands on their surfaces, far less animals whose bite is worse than their barks, sides or behinds.

Imagine you are put into a room completely naked, full of weird creatures that look nothing like you, and all they want to do is touch you.

That is a no-no. If you're into that stuff, the only way you can get away when the boss touches you at work is if you're self-employed. If you think "touch" is bad, wait until you "touch wood".

It means that you hope a situation will continue to be good and you will not have any bad luck. Fortunately, in some countries, wood has no other meaning, so that you get board rather quickly.

One old man built a car entirely out of wood. It had wooden seats, doors, steer-

ing wheel, floors and even a wooden engine. When he tried to start it, the car wooden start and worse, wooden work.

I went back to the article and found that Professor Baroness Kathy Wills of the University of Oxford still believed that "If you stroke wood, it is still like stroking a dog."

I don't see that as a stroke of luck. One of my good friends recently had a stroke. He said he lost functionality of the left side of his body. When I asked him how he was doing, he replied, "I guess that I am all right now."

The professor then left the dog for the wood stroking. She was sure that stroking wood can lower your blood pressure, especially if you compared it to stroking marble or steel, even if they had the same tempera-

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ture. I'm not sure of that. Two nuns were sitting on a park bench when a guy came running through and flashed them. One of the nuns had a stroke. The other one couldn't reach.

I then went back to see how the baroness dealt with that. But she changed the subject again.

"If you ever go to a home store," she said, "and you look at people at the kitchens, they always stroke the bench. We subconsciously do it to see how it feels." If she were in my presence, I would have told her, "Speak for yourself."

However, she went for another topic, "People who worked on a test in a concrete room versus a test in a pine room had really quite a significant difference in scores. They suggest it could do with the scent."

I added that scent was not as important as consent, especially if you were in the pine room and you were pinning for one of the ladies in it.

The perfume people say there are four main types of scents – warm, woody, oriental and fresh – and six basic ones – fruity, flowery, resinous, spicy, foul and burned. We who grew up in the Caribbean know about 'foul' and 'woody'.

Worse, if we said anything, we would be considered 'fresh'. One thing I learnt was that buying a perfume for my wife that was not very fragrant made no scents at all.

Thinking about foul, fresh and woody, my mind strayed to the US with its 'politics'. It reminded me of the song by one of my favourite Calypsonians, the Mighty Zandree, who was named after a fast-moving ground lizard.

The chorus of the piece, called The Stickman, was "Wood make you bawl, wood make you crawl, and wood will make you get up."

I feel all three woods were designed for Trump. First, in the hands

of British doctors, Trump had once ended being delusional, combative and argumentative. Instead, he had returned to what, for him, was reality.

The Brits believed it was nice to see that Trump was feeling like his old self. They then contacted the US and made it clear, "We Brits have your president! If you do not send us 50 million pounds by Sunday morning ... we'll return him back to you."

When they heard this, all the major US groups got together and responded, "We, the taxpayers of the United States, keep trying to send Trump on very expensive trips overseas, like Britain. It might be worth it, too, except he keeps coming back."

This was then. What is now? Donald Trump just turned 73. This makes him the first president whose age surpassed his IQ.

Tony Deyal believes that Trump will play golf right after the election because that's where the winner has the lowest score.



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Business

US ports brace for shut down as dockworkers strike

By Natalie Sherman

A dockworkers' strike is set to shut down ports across much of the US indefinitely, threatening significant trade and economic disruption ahead of the presidential election and the busy holiday shopping season.

Tens of thousands of members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) are preparing to walk out on Tuesday at 14 major ports along the east and gulf coasts, halting container traffic from Maine to Texas.

Barring a last-minute intervention, the action will mark the first shutdown in almost 50 years.

President Joe Biden has the power to suspend the strike for 80 days for further negotiations, but the White House has said he is not planning to act.

The two sides are fighting over a six-year master contract that covers about 25,000 port workers employed in container and roll-on/roll-off operations, according to the US Maritime Alliance, known as USMX, which represents shipping firms, port associations and marine terminal operators.

Talks have been stalled for months and the current contract between parties expires on Monday.



Union boss Harold Daggett has called for significant pay increases for his members, while voicing concerns about threats from automation.

USMX has accused the union of refusing to bargain, filing a complaint with labour regulators that asked them to order the union back to the table.

Under the previous contract, starting wages ranged from \$20 to \$39 per hour, depending on a worker's experience. Workers also receive other benefits, such as bonuses connected to container trade.

Mr Daggett has indicated the union wants to see per-hour pay increase by five dollars per year over the life of the six-year deal, which he estimated amounted to about 10% per year.

The ILA said workers are owed after shipping firm profits soared during the Covid pandemic, while inflation hit salaries. It has warned to expect a wider strike of its members, including those not directly involved in this dispute, though the exact numbers are unclear.

The union has said it represents more than 85,000 people; it claimed about 47,000 active members in its annual report to the Labor Department.

Time-sensitive imports, such as food, are likely to be among the goods first impacted.

The ports involved handle about 14% of agricultural exports shipped by sea and more than half of imports, including a significant share of trade in bananas and chocolate,

according to the Farm Bureau.

Other sectors exposed to disruption include tin, tobacco and nicotine, Oxford Economics said. Clothing and footwear firms, and European carmakers, which route many of their shipments through the Port of Baltimore, will also take a hit.

Imports in the US surged over the summer, as many businesses took steps to rush shipments ahead of the strike.

"I don't think we will see immediate, significant economic impacts...but over the course of weeks, if the strike lasts that long, we can begin to see prices rise and for there to be some shortages in goods," said Seth Harris, a professor at Northeastern University

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and a former White House adviser on labour issues.

More than a third of exports and imports could be affected by the strike, hitting US economic growth to the tune of at least \$4.5bn each week of the strike, according to Grace Zemmer, an associate US economist at Oxford Economics, though others have estimated the economic hit could be higher.

She said more than 100,000 people could find themselves temporarily out of work as the impact of the stoppage spreads.

"This is really a trigger event, one that will see dominoes fall over the coming months," said Peter Sand, chief analyst at ocean freight analytics firm Xeneta, warning that the stand-off also has the potential push up wider shipping costs.

That would hit consumers and businesses which tend to rely on so-called "just-in-time" supply chains for goods, he added.

The stand-off injects uncertainty into the US economy at a delicate time.

The economy has been slower and the unemployment rate is ticking higher as the US election approaches in six weeks.

The strike risks putting President Biden in a tricky spot.

US presidents can intervene in labour disputes that threaten national security or safety by imposing an 80-day cooling-off period, forcing workers back on the job while negotiations continue.

In 2002, Republican President George W Bush intervened to open ports after 11 days of a strike action by dockworkers on the west coast.

The US Chamber of Commerce business group has called on President Biden to take action.

"Americans experienced the pain of delays and shortages of goods

during the pandemic-era supply chain backlogs in 2021. It would be unconscionable to allow a contract dispute to inflict such a shock to our economy," said Suzanne P. Clark, president and chief executive of the business group.

The ILA's Mr Daggett endorsed Democrat Biden in 2020, but has been critical of the president more recently, citing pressure on west coast dockworkers to reach a deal a year ago. He met with Donald Trump in July.

Although any strike chaos is likely to hurt Democrats, the cost of alienating allies in the labour movement just weeks before the election would be greater, said William Brucher, a professor of labor studies and employment relations at Rutgers University.

But public support of strikes could be tested by the dispute, which

has been championed by Mr Daggett, who was acquitted of having links to organised crime in a 2004 case by federal prosecutors. A related civil suit remains unresolved.

Films such as the 1954 classic *On the Waterfront* once defined the dockworkers union's image, but Prof Brucher said he thought that historical memory had largely faded and many people shared the dockworkers' concerns about cost-of living and automation.

"As much as it could sway public opinion against the ILA, a strike by ILA members is their decision and I don't think they will be swayed by public opinion in any meaningful way," he said.

"What is more likely to happen is the pressure of a strike will likely force the employers back to the table with a much more substantial offer."



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Regional News

Grenada: Dr Keith Mitchell says no one will hijack the NNP party

CMC - Under pressure to relinquish the leadership position of the New National Party (NNP) that he has held for several decades, Opposition Leader, Dr Keith Mitchell, has warned aspirants to the post that the party will not be hijacked by anyone.

Addressing the public session of the NNP's general council meeting on Sunday, Mitchell, 77, a former prime minister, said also that he wanted supporters to stay focused, be more inquiring and to question the motive of those who continually attack and push propaganda about the party's leadership.

"This party will not be destroyed by a few persons who do not truly care about the NNP and Grenada. Get it right, our party has had hostile attacks before both from inside and outside, we had the A-team before who wanted to take over the NNP and they were soundly beaten.

"NNP convention will come and anyone who tries to do anything against the best interest of the party will be soundly beaten once again," he told the supporters who gathered at the Trade Centre on the outskirts of the capital.

The general council was the first since the party lost the June 2022 general elections to the now-ruling



Grenada's Opposition leader, Dr Keith Mitchell.

National Democratic Congress (NDC) after it had controlled all 15 seats in the Parliament.

"I want to sound an alarm that the NNP will not be hijacked by anyone whatsoever...I have been around this party for 40 years, and convention coming, people coming and telling me how people coming to them and telling them they will pay them money to vote for them at the convention.

"We never had that before where this thing come from, paying people to come and vote in a convention," Mitchell said without identifying anyone or group.

Mitchell, who has been at the helm of the party since

1989, said that the NNP has provided a training ground for aspiring politicians particularly women and youth.

"I came through the NNP and I as part of that training ground gained a lot of knowledge from those who were there before, and I learnt a lot. I am confident sisters and brothers that we have talent abound in this party.

"And that in the right time to come, sooner rather than later, without fear, a child from this noble political training school, a child from the noble NNP political training school who has been in the belly of the NNP, who knows and experience the highs and lows of

this party.

"Someone who has the leadership skills, someone who has genuine love for people, someone who is selfless in service, someone who comes from the belly and bowels of the New National Party will lead this party while I can relax at home and watch in peace, I deserve that, I want to sit in my rocking chair and watch the NNP flourish," he told the supporters who rebutted with loud applause.

"It's only a child of the house can truly appreciate and represent what it means to be a true NNP because they know no other way but the NNP way. Despite the

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Dominica: PM calls United Airline direct flight 'huge step forward'

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit has called United Airlines' new direct flight to Dominica "a huge step forward" for the country.

Last week, the island's tourism minister announced the once-weekly flights that will connect Newark, New Jersey, to Dominica's Douglas Charles Airport come 2025.

At a press conference this morning, Skerrit said: "This is a huge step forward and a demonstration of confidence that there is a growing appetite and a growing interest in people wanting to visit Dominica to work, as tourists and also to live and no doubt this is going to enhance the opportunities for all of us in the country especially those in the hotel and hospitality industry."

The Dominica prime minister hopes that this new move will augment the consumption of goods and services on the island and in turn increase the coffers of



the island's treasury.

The announcement of new flights with the new airline follows major improvements to the runway of the Douglas-Charles airport.

The upgrade works include a 6,351-foot runway extension as well as runway grooving. These improvements are meant to allow for the accommodation of larger aircraft and to reduce cancellation of flights, particularly during inclement

weather.

Skerrit said while he had concerns about the cost implications of making these improvements, it's an important investment for Dominica.

He stated: "It took me some time to eventually approve the funds because we are building an international airport. I was doubtful about spending in excess of \$30m to extend the runway and do grooving.

"Ultimately we rec-

ognised that it was an important investment; one, to sustain the flights that are coming in that would have eliminated the cancellations because of rain but also there was a very strong indication that we run the benefit of having additional flights to Dominica from new airlines and the moment we completed the extension of the runway; the moment we grooved the entire runway, United said 'we'll come'."

Skerrit called this new development "a very important precursor to the international airport" adding that the country would now need to boost its marketing efforts as it is expected more airlines will be interested in providing direct flights to Dominica.

"Air access is better now in Dominica, and we will continue to work towards having more options," Skerrit said.

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efforts of some, we remain a party united for the purpose of the people of Grenada in good times and bad times".

Mitchell told supporters that "we are building a stronger more resilient party, a perfect blend of youth".

He said the decades of "solid experiences that we have within who have walked this road for many years and are here to provide mentorship for the younger generation of leaders, I should be part of that mentorship team".

Among those vying for the leadership of the party is Peter David, the former foreign affairs minister, who was expelled from the NDC more than a decade ago.

Speaking on a television programme earlier this year, David told viewers that Mitchell had made it "pellucidly clear, both in the campaign and after the election that this is his last election run and ... at the swearing ceremony for the Leader of the Opposition he did say he was not going to be participating or putting himself up for leadership at the next convention".

UK charts flight for British nationals to leave Lebanon

By Ruth Comerford

The UK government has chartered a commercial flight out of Lebanon to assist British nationals wanting to leave, the foreign secretary has said.

“The situation in Lebanon is volatile and has potential to deteriorate quickly,” David Lammy said, referring to recent escalating violence in the region.

British nationals and their spouse or partner, and children under the age of 18 are eligible, with vulnerable people being given priority.

The flight is scheduled to leave Beirut on Wednesday.

The UK government will pay to charter the flight, which will depart from Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport, but British nationals will be expected to pay a fee of £350 per seat.

British nationals and dependants will be eligible to request a space on the flight. Any non-British dependants boarding the flight will require a visa, granted for at least six months, to enter the UK.

Any further flights in the coming days will depend on demand and the security situation on the ground, the Foreign Office said.

“The safety of British nationals in Lebanon continues to be our utmost priority,” Lammy said.

Speaking to reporters,



he added: “I urge them to leave because the situation on the ground is fast-moving and of course whilst we will do everything we can to protect British nationals, and those plans are in place to do so, we cannot anticipate the circumstances and the speed with we can do that if things escalate in a major way over the coming hours and days.”

Lammy and his US counterpart Antony Blinken spoke by phone on Monday. He said they had seen the media reports and were both urging “de-escalation”.

He added the UK would be keeping in touch with Iran, and reiterated the call for a 21-day ceasefire to enhance the prospect of a political solution.

Last week Sir Keir Starmer told British nationals in Lebanon to «leave

immediately» after fighting intensified between Israel and Hezbollah, the Iran-backed armed group which dominates the country.

Britons had previously been advised to book flights out of the country - but there were limited options available, with most airlines except the national carrier having cancelled flights.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has sent nearly 700 troops to nearby Cyprus to prepare for the possible evacuation of British nationals from Lebanon and the government “continues to advise against all travel to Lebanon”.

In Lebanon, officials say more than 1,000 have been killed in the past two weeks, while up to a million people may now be displaced.

Tensions have been growing across the Middle

East since Hamas gunmen attacked Israel on 7 October last year, killing about 1,200 people and taking 251 others as hostages.

The Israel military campaign in Gaza in response to the Hamas attack has killed more than 41,000 people, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Previously sporadic fighting between Israel and Hezbollah escalated on 8 October - the day after Hamas’s unprecedented attack. Hezbollah fired at Israeli positions, in solidarity with Hamas.

Hezbollah has launched more than 8,000 rockets at northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. It has also fired anti-tank missiles at armoured vehicles and attacked military targets with explosive drones.



Many families had to seek safety in shelters after their homes were flooded.

Mexico counting dead from 'zombie storm' John

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

At least 15 people have died in Mexico as a result of Hurricane John, the country's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has confirmed.

The storm first made landfall a week ago as a category three hurricane on Mexico's Pacific coast, south-east of the resort of Acapulco.

It then weakened and dissipated over the mountains of Guerrero state before regaining strength over the waters of the Pacific and hitting the Mexican coast a second time, prompting meteorologists to describe it as a "zombie storm".

Its heavy rains triggered landslides and flooding, cutting off many residents and killing more than a dozen.

The term "zombie storm" was first used by meteorologists from the US National Weather Service in 2020

to describe a storm which dissipates only to regenerate again.

On Sunday, President López Obrador said the number of dead in Guerrero had reached at least 15, but local media have put the total death toll across the three worst-hit states at more than 20, with some saying it is as high as 29.

Meteorologists said that while Hurricane John blew over trees and damaged buildings, the days of torrential rains it caused proved more deadly.

Some places had almost a year's worth of rainfall over a matter of days.

In Oaxaca state, there were at least 80 landslides, some of which buried homes and their occupants. In some areas, entire communities were cut off as roads became impassable.

The resort of Acapulco, which is

still struggling to recover from the impact of Hurricane Otis last year, was severely flooded.

City officials asked anyone who owned a boat to help rescue people trapped in flooded neighbourhoods.

Residents posted videos on social media of themselves wading through waters which reached their shoulders.

Some families climbed onto the roofs of their homes as the waters rose.

Officials said more than 5,000 people had to be evacuated and 3,800 had been sleeping in shelters.

Claudia Sheinbaum, who is due to be sworn in as Mexico's new president on Tuesday, said she would visit Guerrero state with her ministers on Wednesday to ensure that those affected received "all the necessary assistance".

Sports News

Antiguans secure fourth place at International Netball Series

Antigua and Barbuda's senior female team finished fourth at the Fourth Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series, which was won by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in St. Lucia on Sunday.

Antigua and Barbuda ended their campaign on a disappointing note, narrowly losing 51-53 against Dominica in their final match in the eight-team round-robin tournament at the Beausejour Indoor Facility in Gros Islet.

Antigua and Barbuda's Most Valuable Player, goal shooter Reyana Regis, sank 48 of her 59 attempts, and goal attack Amey Lake converted all three of her shots for the Antiguan team, which finished their campaign with three wins and four losses.

Goal shooter Ann-Maria Panthier converted 29 of her 33 shots, and goal attack Gailene Gordan-Seraphine scored 21 of her 28 attempts for Dominica, which finished in fifth place with a record of three wins and four losses.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines played unbeaten to lift the title and wrapped up their perfect campaign with a 59-50 victory against defending champions Grenada to finish with seven wins in as many games.

Goal shooter Mary-Ann Fredericks converted 54 of



Team Antigua and Barbuda

her 60 shots, and goal attack Kristiana Christopher scored five of her seven attempts for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Goal shooter Carlene Alexander scored 36 of her 39 shots, and goal attack Celina Brown converted 14 of her 22 shots for Grenada, which captured the runners-up spot after finishing with a record of five wins and two losses.

Hosts St. Lucia claimed third place after prevailing 56-42 against guest team the Cayman Islands in their final

encounter to finish with a record of five wins and two losses.

Goal shooter Merlessa Alfred converted 36 of her 42 attempts, veteran Shem Maxwell sank 14 of her 21 shots, and goal attack Deaha Eugene scored six of her eight attempts for St. Lucia.

Goal shooter Kay Copeland converted 35 of her 37 attempts, and goal attack Rose Wilson scored seven of her nine shots for the Cayman Islands, which finished with a record of four wins

and three losses.

Montserrat snatched their only win of the tournament by prevailing 33-23 against Anguilla in a bottom-of-the-table clash.

Goal shooter Juana Osborne sank 21 of her 38 shots, and goal attack Twila Fenton converted 12 of her 21 attempts for Montserrat, which finished second from the bottom of the standings with a record of one win and six losses.

Goal shooter Tishan
cont'd on pg 19

Sandals and Anjo Wholesale still unbeaten in Business Basketball League

Sandals and Anjo Wholesale maintained their unbeaten runs in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League on Sunday evening.

Sandals maintained their perfect record by recording their seventh win with a 77-39 victory against the Fearless Crew during a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex.

T-Shawn Lewis had 20 points and five steals; Keroi Lee produced 17 points, 13 rebounds, and eight assists; and Keaddy Martin chipped in with 10 points and 10 re-

bounds for Sandals.

Takeem Martin converted 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Fearless Crew, who suffered their fourth loss in five matches.

Anjo Wholesale secured their fifth win in as many games after snatching a one-point 76-75 victory against Eye Mobile Vision Care.

Steven Matthew scored 18 points and claimed four steals; Ismael Palemo sank 18 points and snatched nine rebounds; and Damion Floyd converted 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Anjo Wholesale.

Tajahron Davis produced 20 points and six

steals; Orion Seraphine converted 20 points; and Tehran Zachariah had 18 points and seven steals for Eye Mobile Vision Care, which suffered their fifth loss in six matches.

H. Wright Promotions rebounded from their first loss in the competition by snatching a narrow 62-60 victory against the Board of Education.

Donte Trimingham sank 16 points; Ironie Joseph scored 11 points and snatched 11 rebounds; Humroy Wright converted 10 points; and Jevonte Valerie had 10 points and four steals for H. Wright Promotions,

which claimed their sixth win in seven games.

Xavier Meade scored 21 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Board of Education, which lost for the second time in five encounters.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday (today).

The Board of Education will oppose Anjo Wholesale at 6:30 pm, Sledge O'Ballers will challenge the Antigua Power Company at 7:30 pm, and Eye Mobile Vision Care will meet the Fearless Crew at 8:30 pm.

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Depass-Smith converted 10 of her 15 shots, goal attack Desiree Antoine sank seven of her 10 attempts, and goal attack Lakisha Hughes scored five of her 10 shots for Anguilla, which finished in the cellar after losing all seven matches.

Anguilla was adjudged the most improved team; Montserrat was named the most disciplined team; Grenada claimed the awards for the best team spirit and best defensive team; St. Vincent and the Grenadines captured the best shooting team award; and St. Lucia won the award for the best team on parade.

St. Lucia's Jermia Martial claimed the Most Valuable Player of the Tournament and Best Defensive Player awards.

Mary-Ann Fredericks of St. Vincent and the Grenadines won the most accurate shooter award, and Katherine Gow of the Cayman Islands claimed the award for the best center court player.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines, champions of the Fourth Eastern Caribbean Central Bank International Netball Series, which was held in St. Lucia from September 22 to 29.



The Antigua and Barbuda team at the 2024 Leeward Islands Cricket Board's Senior Men's 50-Over Championship in St. Kitts (ABCA)

Winning start for Antigua and Anguilla in LICA one-day contest

Antigua and Barbuda and Anguilla launched their campaigns in the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICA) Senior Men's 50-Over Championship in St. Kitts on Sunday.

The Antiguan romped to a five-wicket victory against the Combined Islands at Warner Park. The Combined Islands were dismissed for 173 in 39.3 overs after being sent in to bat.

Avishkar Sewkarran slammed 96 off 109 balls, including seven sixes and five fours. Captain and left-arm spinner Karima Gore grabbed four for 34, Kofi James claimed two for 30, and fast

bowler Jawakie Joseph captured two for 40.

In reply, Antigua and Barbuda achieved victory at 174 for five in 18.2 overs. Jewel Andrew slammed 49 not out off 28 balls, including four sixes and four fours.

Opener Kadeem Henry struck 30 off 29 balls, and Deran Benta hit 24 not out off 20 balls. There was also a contribution of 38 extras. Roniel Jeffrey captured two for 18, and Samuel Jones took two for 40.

Anguilla prevailed by 35 runs against Nevis in their opening affair at the Conaree Cricket Center. Anguilla

was dismissed for 173 in 41.3 overs after being sent in to bat.

Captain Dimitri Adams hit 49, opener Asharn Hodge got 29, and Andros Bowens made 21. Akadianito Willett captured three for 28, Kimani Nisbett picked up two for 14, and Jaden Carmichael claimed two for 52.

In reply, Nevis were dismissed for 138 in 33 overs. Carmichael struck 43 off 33 balls, including four sixes; Willett made 36; and Carlon Tuckett scored 27. Adams captured three for 25, Chamiqueko Landerfort claimed two for 16, and Mark Gokarran picked up two for 36.




CPL

2024

MATCH SCHEDULE

TUE 1 OCT
ELIMINATOR - 3rd v 4th
7:00 PM GUYANA

CWI appoints Inverary as Chief Operating Officer and acting CEO

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the appointment of Lynford Inverary as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

This decision was made by the Board of Directors during a meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on September 28, 2024.

With over a decade of experience at CWI in various roles, Inverary, an Antiguan national, born in Guyana, has played a pivotal role in driving the organization's strategic and operational initiatives.

Most recently, he spearheaded the formation of CWI's 2024-27 Strategic Plan, titled "The Long Run", which outlines a comprehensive roadmap focused on improving governance, enhancing cricket development, optimizing operational efficiency, and ensuring long-term growth and sustainability for the organization.

A graduate of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Inverary holds a First-Class Hon-

ours Bachelor of Science in Management with a major in International Business. He also earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of South Wales.

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of CWI, remarked on the appointment noting, "Lynford brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and a deep understanding of CWI's strategic goals, paired with an operational capacity to execute with precision.

"Over his decade-long tenure, he has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, guiding critical projects to successful completion while steering key initiatives with purpose and vision.

"His unyielding commitment and expertise leave us confident in his ability to lead CWI through this pivotal phase of growth and transformation."

Reflecting on his appointment, Lynford Inverary stated, "I am honoured and grateful to the CWI Board of Directors for their vote of confidence in my



Lynford Inverary
ability to lead.

"I embrace this new challenge as a platform to continue contributing to the development of the sport that means so much to me and the people of the West Indies. I look forward to working with the board, management, and staff to implement our four-year strategic plan, improve operational efficiency, and shape a strong future for West Indies cricket."

During his career at CWI, Lynford Inverary has

led multiple high-impact projects, including contributions to the Wehby Report on Governance Reform, the 2018 -2023 Strategic Plan, and the development of the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) Business Plan and Master Plan.

As Business Planning Manager, he has overseen the organization's strategic planning process since 2018 and has contributed to critical business decisions, establishing himself as a leader within the organization.

Inverary, has also previously served as Acting Corporate Secretary. Lynford Inverary's appointment as COO will be effective from October 1, 2024, and his role as Acting CEO will commence on November 1, 2024, following the departure of Johnny Grave.

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claimed two wickets for eight runs.

The Buckley's 3J's recorded a 62-run victory against Pelican Safari/The Nest Beach Bar and Restaurant VIP.

Buckley's 3J's made 187 for eight off their 20 overs. Steve Martin struck 62 not out, Uri Smith hit 31, Kemar Christian got 21, and player of the match Demari Benta

scored 20. Conroy Semple picked up three for 33, and Akeem Blackman claimed two for 13. In response, the VIP were dismissed for 125 in 14.1 overs. Michael Dover slammed 55, Amhal Nathaniel hit 25, and Demetri Lucas made 24. Demari Benta snapped up five wickets for eight runs, and Rodney Williams grabbed three wickets for six runs.

Higgins hits century in Tape Ball Classic

All-rounder Mervin Higgins slammed a century to lead the Dredgers to a crushing 258-run victory against Mix Up Stars in the latest round of matches in the LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Sports Club



Shane Burton

(IBSC) 20-Over Tape Ball Classic.

The Dredgers made 324 for two off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and batting in the T20 encounter at the Powells playing field on Sunday.

Higgins, who captured the player of the match award, hammered 147 not out, including 18 sixes and six fours; Jedidiah Martin Jr. struck 54 not out; Tanez Francis cracked 41; and J'Quan Athanaze hit 36.

In reply, the Mix Up Stars were dismissed for 66 in 14.1 overs. Javaughn James snapped up three wickets for four runs, Loy Weste took two wickets for eight runs, and Mike France captured two for 12.

Gladys Potter (GP) Eagles defeated Pete Landscaping 300 by six wickets. 300 were dismissed for 121 after winning the toss and opting to bat. Zach Thomas hit 51, and Damon Valentine made 28.

Player of the match Kerry Mentore grabbed three wickets for 10 runs, Hughon Tonge picked up three for 26, and T'Ron Payne captured two for 15.

In reply, GP Eagles achieved victory at 122 for four in 9.5 overs. Melvin Charles cracked 46, T'Ron Payne got 25, and Kerry Mentore hit 21 not out. Lynton Africa captured two for 40.

Success as well for PMS as they romped to a 105-run victory against PEL Desi Boys in a match reduced to 12 overs aside after a late start due to



Mervin Higgins

rain at the Potters playing field.

PMS made 167 for five off their 12 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Player of the match Shane Burton hammered 81 not out, including eight sixes and four fours; Vishual Gobin struck 32; and Malinga Bruney hit 31 not out. Elroy Francis Sr. captured two for 48.

In reply, PEL Desi Boys were restricted to 62 for five off their allotted 12 overs. Clarence Francis made 20. Kenny Benjamin took two wickets for six runs, and Charnlall RamJohn

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