

CHAPA SHOWCASES NEW HOUSE MODELS

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Local News



CHAPA showcases new house models in 'open-house' event

The Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) held an open-house on Tuesday to showcase a new model of houses that it plans to construct in large numbers over the coming weeks and months.

The project is being mounted on lands north of Radio Lighthouse near Bolans and is called the Bolans Lighthouse Development.

Housing Executive Officer, Mark Richards said the event specifically targeted banks, financial institutions and

insurance companies whose representatives CHAPA invited to take a closer look at the houses and to allow them to ask questions about costs, designs etc.

"We have a joint partnership with a company out of Florida called, Innova International. CHAPA has decided to go the route of pursuing public/private partnerships to push innovations in housing design and construction as well as to mitigate some of the risks involved in housing. We see the private sector as the way to go as these companies must take their costs and profits into consideration more than the government. In doing so, we realised that we are getting a better product with a better timeline," Richards remarked.

The HEO said CHAPA is looking at new technologies in house construction to speed up delivery time. He said the houses are being built with what he described as a hybrid system that utilizes



Innova CEO Orville Roberts (left) greets HEO for CHAPA Mark Richards at open-house at the Bolans Lighthouse Development.

re-enforced concrete and steel frame. This utilizes the same technologies that were introduced into the market decades ago with the Antec houses, which according to Richards, have stood up quite well in the local environment.

"When we heard the proposal to mix the two technologies and the ad-

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vantages that these have; being a lighter weight structure that is termite resistant, hurricane resistant and fire resistant, they checked off all the boxes for us especially at the price point.

"This structure is coming in approximately twenty-five to thirty percent less than the traditional masonry homes," he reported.

Richards described the response from those attending the 'open-house' as excellent with much interest from the banks to establish partnerships to fund the houses. "The preliminary feedback has been quite good especially from the point of view of the prices," he added.

According to Richards, CHAPA has approximately 75 lots of land in the area and it plans to construct houses on about sixty with the remainder going to private individuals to do their own designs and projects.

He disclosed that CHAPA is currently in partnerships with several other

developers to bring more houses to the market. He revealed that the development near Glanvilles is coming on

soon. Two show houses are to be constructed for that development using alternative technology. Other develop-

ers working with different technologies will be developing other model houses as well.



Local News



I never wavered...I always knew that I would deliver

The proposal to replace the dilapidated houses at Booby Alley has been a 25-year commitment by Prime Minister Gaston Browne. It was one of the key pillars in a set of proposals he articulated for the constituency back to when he first entered politics as a representative in 1999.

On Monday, MP and PM Browne, along with senior members of the Cabinet, representatives from the Chinese government and the Chinese firms involved in the construction as well as members of the community, gathered at Booby Alley to mark the official start of the development of a project that will provide 150 condominium-type homes for the people of Booby Alley.

"I was always optimistic and hopeful as an individual and someone who is unrelenting to deliver whenever I promise to do anything for the people of Antigua and Barbuda. I always had this positive sense that it would materialize. In fact, when I first conceptualized the re-devel-



opment of this area and approached R. Allen Stanford at the time, he agreed to put in a few million dollars, but we lost government in 2004 and the project never materialised," he recalled.

After the ABLP returned to office in 2014, PM Browne was the leader of government and the opportunity arose where the People's Republic of China and the government agreed on the redevelopment of the Booby Alley area.

"First of all there was a vision; that vision was clearly established, in writing, 25 years ago and tonight you heard

Maurice Merchant (the master of ceremonies) reading from the document that I had prepared and where I promised to redevelop this area. So, this is not a political stunt; this is a deep commitment to the people," he reiterated.

According to PM Browne, his history as someone who grew up in abject poverty, gives him a strong dislike for poverty. "Even at this point, the most troubling thing for me in politics, despite all the ridicule and lies, is when I see these pockets of poverty within the country. No matter where it is, I find it troubling," he observed.

The prime minister said he wished the government had the resources to eliminate all the poverty that exists in the country. PM Browne however remains hopeful that poverty will one day be eliminated, even if it does not happen under his administration. "We will however set the standard by which poverty is eliminated in Antigua and Barbuda," he declared.

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COUNTRY	Freedom of Movement	Standard of Living	Investment Options and Threshold	Mandatory Travel/ Residence	Citizenship Timeline	Ease of Processing	Due Diligence	Family	Certainty of Product	Total Points (90)	Percentage %
Antigua and Barbuda	7	7	9	6	6	8	7	10	7	67	74
Austria	10	8	3	8	2	6	5	4	4	49	55
Cambodia	2	5	6	8	8	6	3	2	4	44	49
Dominica	6	7	6	10	9	10	9	8	8	72	80
Egypt	1	5	9	8	8	8	4	5	6	53	59
Grenada	7	7	6	10	4	10	9	10	7	70	77
Jordan	1	5	5	10	9	6	2	4	4	45	50
Malta	10	9	4	2	3	10	7	9	5	58	65
St. Kitts and Nevis	7	7	8	10	7	10	10	7	10	78	84
Saint Lucia	7	5	9	10	6	8	7	9	6	67	74
Türkiye	3	7	7	8	8	8	3	5	7	57	63
Vanuatu	2	6	7	8	9	8	4	7	4	54	61

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

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Antigua and Barbuda’s passport ranks in the top five

Antigua and Barbuda has achieved a fourth-place ranking in the 2024 Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Index, tying with Saint Lucia among Caribbean nations.

The recently released report, authored by global research consultant James McKay and published in September 2024 by McKay Research, evaluated the performance of CBI programs worldwide.

The index ranks programs based on nine pillars, including living standards, freedom of movement, investment thresholds, and due diligence—factors deemed essential for individuals seeking alternative citizenship.

This year’s CBI Index included 12 countries with active programs: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Austria, Malta, Türkiye, Egypt, Cambodia, Vanuatu, and Jordan. St. Kitts and Nevis topped the list, followed by Dominica and Grenada.

Antigua and Barbuda’s fourth-place finish reflects its robust program

that emphasizes transparency, adaptability, and inclusivity, particularly in its family-friendly policies and rigorous compliance practices.

A highlight of Antigua and Barbuda’s success has been its commitment to regional cooperation through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed with other Caribbean nations. Effective June 2024, this MoA established a minimum investment threshold of \$200,000 and created standardized information-sharing protocols across the region to enhance due diligence measures.

Antigua and Barbuda’s adherence to these standards, including mandatory applicant interviews, has contributed to its strong ranking in the CBI Index, underscoring its role as a leader in the Caribbean for program integrity.

Antigua and Barbuda’s program is also distinguished by its flexibility for families, allowing dependents up to age 30, along with parents, grandparents, and siblings, to be included in applications.

This policy, combined with a min-

imal residency requirement of five days within five years, makes the country particularly attractive for investors seeking second citizenship that benefits the entire family.

“With a highly accommodating application structure that allows for siblings, parents, and grandparents of both the main applicant or their spouse, Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada again have the most family-friendly programmes for the 2024 CBI Index. In addition to increasing the age limit for main applicant dependents from under 18 years to up to 30 years, Antigua and Barbuda has now also removed age restrictions for physically or mentally incapacitated dependents as of August 2024.”

With the global demand for secure and stable citizenship options on the rise, Antigua and Barbuda’s ranking in the 2024 CBI Index highlights the country’s commitment to regulatory excellence, family inclusivity, and international cooperation, positioning it as a top choice for high-net-worth individuals worldwide.



Making sweet potato production a viable commercial venture

A project to increase sweet potato production as a commercially viable venture for farmers in Antigua and Barbuda is now underway.

On Tuesday, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and the Ministry of Agriculture convened a workshop with farmers, representatives from non-governmental organisations and technicians in the ministry to discuss the project going forward.

National Specialist for IICA, Craig Thomas, provided details of the aim of the project.



“This project entails how can we improve our sweet potato production. We are going to improve our sweet potato production through quality planting materials; by developing our value chain; by building capacity for our sweet potato



to producers as well as our technicians.

“It encompasses, mostly genetic work to improve our sweet potato stock in Antigua and Barbuda,” he explained.

He further explained that there are some 67 varieties of sweet potato that are



found in Antigua and Barbuda, but of that amount, only thirteen varieties are preferred by residents based on surveys.

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From that thirteen, the project will identify six varieties, based on consumers and farmers' requests.

These will be sent overseas to be improved using tissue culture before returning to the country to be propagated at CARDI and the Cades Bay Station before being distributed among

farmers.

"The goal is for our farmers to see sweet potato, which is a priority crop for the Ministry of Agriculture, as a viable crop.

"We know this from our research so farmers can now increase their production; farmers can now select certain varieties; they can sell certain varieties to agro-pro-



cessors who can now take those varieties and develop them into another by-product, whether fries, mash, wedges, or sweet potato flour etc.," he noted.

According to Thomas the department conducted research with the sale of bread using sweet potato flour which were sold at a local supermarket.

He noted that even though the selling price was

higher than other loaves, the bread sold out quickly and the next day, customers returned to the supermarket asking for more.

"It's all about developing the value-chain for sweet potato; we know the market exists, we just have to be intentional in our approach as we seek to improve the varieties and the returns from engaging in its production," he stated.



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Local News



GARD Centre slowly rebounding from major theft

Operations at Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development (GARD) Centre are slowly returning to some sense of normality following the major theft over the Father's Day weekend when most of their equipment were taken.

Executive Director, June Jackson, said the recovery has been slow although the centre was able to get some help from donors both locally and from overseas. Despite the help, Jackson said the removal of the equipment that were vital to the operations at the centre, was a major setback.

"We are still not at the level we were prior to the break-in; it's a work in progress. It has dampened the atmosphere in terms of the training because we were recruiting for different courses prior to the incident and I guess some people

were hesitant after the break-in. However, for us, we have always been resilient so we are using this year, our 35th anniversary to reach out to more persons," she remarked.

In terms of security, Jackson said the plan is to 'build back better' as there are plans to clear much of the bushes near the centre and to extend their security perimeter.

In addition, she hinted at forging partnerships with neighbouring farmers so that they too may become the 'eyes and ears' of the centre and a human element to the security apparatus.

During the break-in the centre's, computers, stoves, freezers, A/C units, security system and a host of other equipment were removed by the intruders. For Jackson and her team, the sight



June Jackson

of broken doors and a building with all its key assets gone was both a psychological as well as a physical loss. One of the training programmes completed since the break-in was one for inmates of HMP as well as vulnerable youth of the society.

This course was in baking and at the end the participants staged a display that was described as 'outstanding'.

On the issue of replacing the stolen equipment, Jackson said they are 'quite expensive' and it will take time to replace some of those, however, the team has been creative in making do...with what's available.

So far, there has been no indication from the police on the issue of locating the stolen equipment or who the culprits are. Jackson remains hopeful that someone will recognize the value of the equipment in terms of costs and to the operations of the centre and that they may be returned.

"These stoves and freezers are not light, they are not small, they are out there somewhere and we want people to understand that the work we are doing is hard work; the equipment was donated from international sources as well as from local ones; we want people to understand that this was a hard hit for us and if you guilty of taking it, just be nice enough to bring it back," she declared.





Soca Artist Tian Winter among regional stars performing at Dominica's Creole Festival



Antigua and Barbuda's soca star – Tian Winter – was among headline acts performing at the 24th annual World Creole Music Festival this past weekend in neighbouring Dominica.

Tian Winter was among regional and International headlining acts such as Kasav, Damian and Stephen Marley, WizKid and regional top acts such as, Luciano, Gramps Morgan, Voice and Skinny Fabulous. Also headlining the three-night event was Asa Banton and Triple K from Dominica.

Reports from Roseau state that very night from 5:00 pm to 5:00 am Windsor Park Stadium was sold out.

The reports also indicate that scores of visitors from across the French and English speaking Caribbean Islands traveled to Dominica for the festival.

Among them were quite a few Antiguan who flew over to take in the festival and who also waved their flag to support their fellow Antiguan artist Tian Winter and his band Iconic. Iconic also backed Skinny Fabulous.

This was seen as Tian Winter extending a helping hand to a young and upcoming local artist. Skinny Fabulous was the second runner-up in the 2024 Party Monarch competition and he was the first runner-up in the Jouvert competition.



Photo Essay





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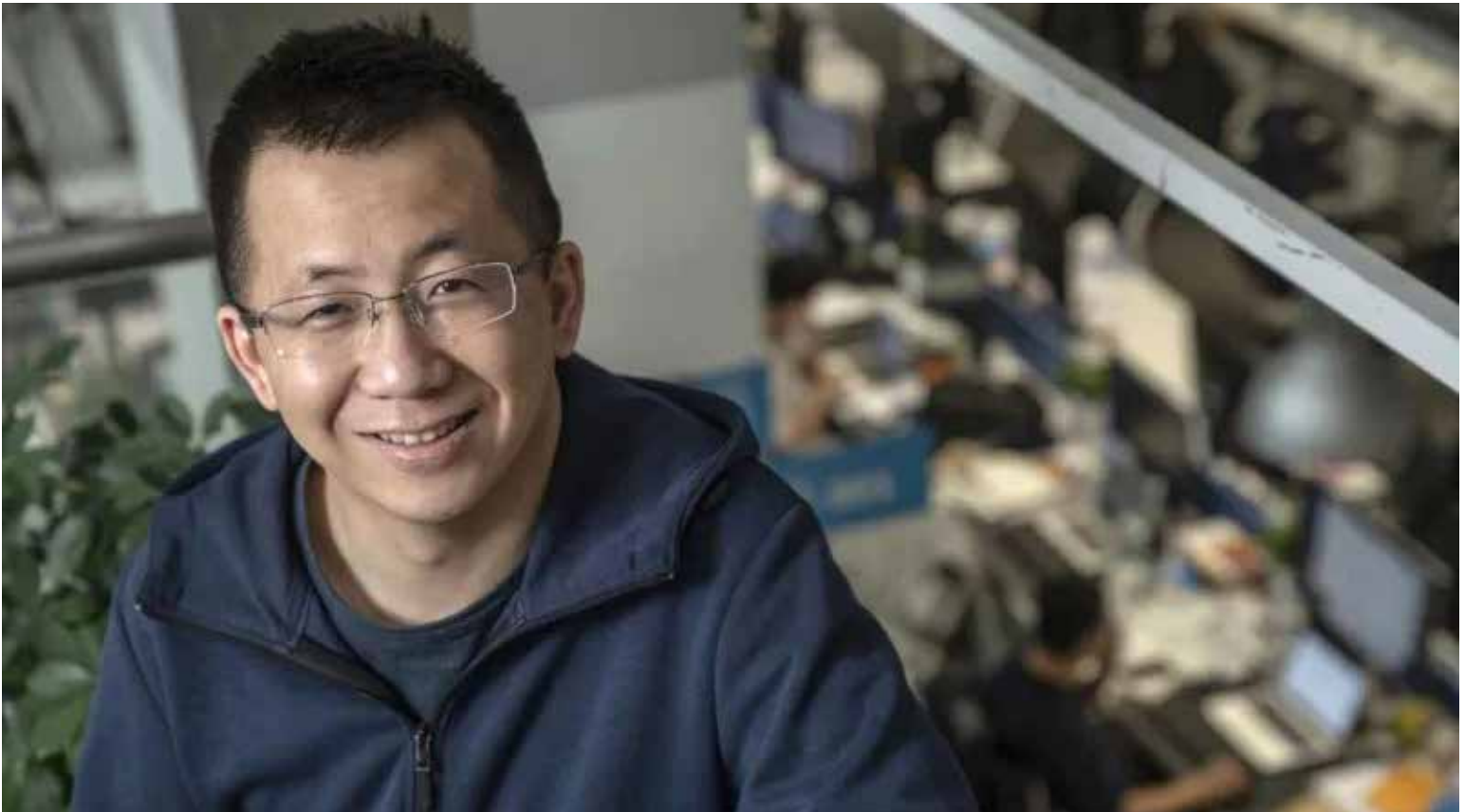
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TikTok founder becomes China's richest man

By Tom Gerken

The surging global popularity of TikTok has seen the co-founder of its parent company, ByteDance, become China's richest person.

According to a rich list produced by the Hurun Research Institute, Zhang Yiming is now worth \$49.3bn (£38bn) - 43% more than in 2023.

The 41-year-old stepped down from his role in charge of the company in 2021, but is understood to own around 20% of the firm.

TikTok has become one of the most popular social media apps in the world, despite deep concerns in some countries about its ties to the Chinese state.

While both companies insist they are independent of the Chinese government, the US intends to ban TikTok in January 2025 unless ByteDance

sells it.

Despite facing that intense pressure in the US, ByteDance's global profit increased by 60% last year, driving up Zhang Yiming's personal fortune.

"Zhang Yiming is the 18th new Number One we have had in China in just 26 years," said head of Hurun Rupert Hoogewerf.

"The US, by comparison, has only four Number Ones: Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk.

"This gives an indication of some of the dynamism in the Chinese economy."

Mr Zhang is not the only representative of China's huge tech sector on the list.

Pony Ma, boss of the tech conglomerate, Tencent, is third on the list with an estimated personal wealth

amounting to £44.4bn.

But their fortunes are not just explained by their companies successes - their rivals have made less in a year in which China's economy has sputtered.

In fact, only approximately 30% of the people on the list had an increase in their net worth - the rest saw a decline.

"The Hurun China Rich List has shrunk for an unprecedented third year running, as China's economy and stock markets had a difficult year," said Mr Hoogewerf.

"The number of individuals on the list was down by 12% in the past year to just under 1100 individuals and 25% from the high point of 2021."

He said the data showed it had been a good year for smartphone

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Adidas ends 'fight' with Kanye West over antisemitism

By Faareea Masud

Adidas has ended its "fight" with Kanye West over antisemitic comments he made in 2022, which scuppered the sports brand and US rapper's "Yeezy" collaboration.

Adidas discontinued the collection at the time and started selling off Yeezy stock at wholesale prices.

However, on Tuesday, the firm said it had reached a settlement with Mr West to end all legal proceedings between them.

"There [aren't] any more open issues and there is no... money going either way," Adidas chief executive Bjorn Gulden said on a conference call.

"There were tensions on many issues [but]... both parties said we don't need to fight any more," Gulden said on the call about the firm's latest financial results.

The drama with West "belongs to the past", he added.

"When you have conflicts like this, you take provisions and you have legal opinions and there are negotiations and there are settlements being done, and this



is the end to it.

"No-one owes anything to anybody anymore. Whatever was is history", he said.

Ending the partnership has left Adidas with Yeezy stock worth around €1.2bn (£840m), with the sports brand selling product in batches and donating the proceeds to NGOs, including its own recently launched anti-discrimination foundation.

The final Yeezy stocks will be sold by the end of 2024, the company said.

The decision to move on from the "fight" marks a stark contrast to 2022. At

the time, Adidas said it does "not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech".

It added: "Ye's recent comments and actions have been unacceptable, hateful and dangerous, and they violate the company's values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and fairness."

Adidas and Mr West began collaborating in 2014, which led to a hugely successful sportswear brand.

Demand for Yeezy products did not let up even after the furore, with many Yeezy trainers doing well in the re-

sale market and selling for hundreds - and sometimes thousands - of pounds.

West had his accounts suspended on Instagram and X (then known as Twitter) when he made a series of antisemitic comments in October 2022.

He repeated the claims in a number of interviews and podcasts, not all of which were aired, over the next two months.

In December that year, Mr West appeared on conspiracy theorist Alex Jones' show InfoWars where he spoke of his admiration for Adolf Hitler.

The rapper, now separated from celebrity Kim Kardashian, was diagnosed with bipolar disorder years ago and has publicly spoken about his challenges with his mental health.

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manufacturers such as Xiaomi, while the green energy market had stumbled.

"Solar panel, lithium battery and EV makers have had a challenging year, as competition intensified, leading to a glut,

and the threat of tariffs added to uncertainties," he said.

"Solar panel makers saw their wealth down as much as 80% from the 2021 peak, whilst battery and EV makers were down by half and a quarter respectively."

Regional News



Bahamas PM wants greater collaboration in aviation sector

CMC - Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis is calling for new partnerships for the future of aviation in Latin America and the Caribbean saying together “we have the opportunity to make a real difference in how our region meets the demands of a complex, interconnected world”.

Addressing the opening of the Latin American & Caribbean Air Transport Association (ALTA) Forum, Prime Minister Davis said the event provides an “invaluable opportunity for us to share ideas, address our common challenges, and collaborate on ways to strengthen the aviation network across Latin America and the Caribbean.

“This gathering is especially meaningful as it aligns with our Bahamas Aviation Week, a time we use to recognize the progress and dedication that drive our aviation sector,” he remarked.

Davis said recently the country launched the National Aviation Strategic Plan, which he described as “a clear framework designed to build a sustainable, efficient, and high-standard aviation sector that continues to meet the evolving needs of our people and our region”.

He told the delegates that in a country like The Bahamas, with nearly 700



Prime Minister Phillip Davis.

islands and cays spread across vast stretches of ocean, the ability to connect these islands relies on a robust aviation network.

“With 20 international airports, each serving as a critical gateway, The Bahamas depends on aviation not only to support tourism and trade but also to provide essential links for our people to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. This network is more than infrastructure; it is essential to our way of life.”

However, he acknowledged that the challenges of maintaining this network are substantial and that keeping each airport up to international standards requires extensive planning, investment, and commitment.

Prime Minister Davis said that as a result, infrastructure is not just a convenience; it’s essential.

“Our 20 international airports serve as lifelines, providing critical connections across our islands

and beyond. Every airport, from Nassau’s busy hub to smaller terminals on remote islands, must meet international standards while catering to the needs of its community.”

Davis said that the National Aviation Strategic Plan reinforces the commitment to maintaining these standards, ensuring that Bahamian aviation serves as a trusted and effective gateway for the nation.

However, he said infrastructure alone is not enough and that it takes strong partnerships to sustain and improve the aviation sector.

“Collaborating with airlines, airport operators, and international aviation bodies allows us to stay aligned with industry changes and create policies that support our goals. This forum reflects the importance of those partnerships, bringing together leaders to forge a connected, resilient aviation network that serves us all.”

Prime Minister Davis

said that connectivity is the backbone of the economy and essential to daily life in The Bahamas.

“Our air routes don’t only bring tourists to our islands, they ensure Bahamians can access healthcare, education, and opportunities. By enhancing connectivity within The Bahamas and increasing routes to international markets, particularly in Latin America, we strengthen our economy, support our communities, and open doors for new opportunities.”

He said the aviation network relies on skilled professionals to keep it running smoothly, reminding the delegates that safety and security are at the core of everything they do and that this commitment to safety strengthens the trust that visitors and residents alike place in aviation.

“In today’s fast-evolving aviation landscape, innovation is essential. We’re integrating advanced technologies to enhance security, streamline operations, and improve the passenger experience. These innovations aren’t simply about staying current; they’re about positioning The Bahamas as a leader in regional aviation.”

Prime Minister Davis said that The Bahamas is heavily impacted by climate

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Bermuda: Premier stunned at the death of government legislator

CMC - Premier David Burt has described as an “unimaginable tragedy” the death on Tuesday of his Junior Minister of Economy and Labour and Public Work, Leslie Robinson.

Burt said Bermuda “has lost an eminently qualified professional woman who had chosen public service in addition to a busy career in the private sector.

“This is an unimaginable tragedy which has shocked so many of us to the very core,” he said as he led the tributes for the 57-year-old legislator, adding “Leslie answered the call to serve without hesitation, and this exemplified her selfless nature and commitment to this community.

“It is heartbreaking to now mourn her loss, and I express sincere condolences to her family at this truly difficult time,” he added.

The cause of the death of Robinson, who was appointed to the Senate in November 2022 and given the role as the Junior Minister of Economy and Labour and Public Works, has not been disclosed.

She was also the senior vice-president, head of Underwriting and Claims at Willis Towers Watson, with more than 33 years of experience in the financial services sector in Bermuda.

She earned a Bachelor’s in Economics from Emory University and was also an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London. Robinson was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Bermuda in 2008.

Opposition Leader, Jarion Richardson said that before becoming involved in politics, he had worked alongside Robinson at the Bermuda Monetary Author-



Leslie Robinson.

ity.

“She was clear, audacious and bold. She led her team with a professionalism that made her incredibly admirable. She often asked me deep, perceptive questions.

“I was encouraged when Senator Robinson joined the Senate. Although

we would have differing perspectives, her keen insight and intellectual rigour would enhance the work of the Senate for the betterment of all Bermuda,” Richardson said, extending his “deepest sympathies and condolences” to her friends and family.

The leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Robin Tucker, said that despite being on opposite sides of the floor, she and Robinson shared a camaraderie outside politics.

“It was a privilege to have known and worked with her in the Senate. Although we did not always agree, once business was done for the day, we often chatted about everything from politics to fashion. She will be a tremendous miss to all who were blessed to know her.”

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change and that the airports are incorporating renewable energy sources, adopting sustainable practices, and aligning with international emissions targets.

“Today, each of you brings valuable knowledge and experience to help us build a stronger, more connected aviation network. Together, we have the opportunity to make a real difference in how our region meets the demands of a complex, interconnected world,” he said, adding that he hopes “this forum offers meaningful insights and inspires new partnerships for the future of aviation in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

ALTA chief executive officer, José Ricardo Botelho, said the forum is being attended by more than 400 industry leaders.

“We are proud, we are in a strategic region. This is what ALTA does in the region: foster discussions. There is a strategic agenda, not only private, that must address connectivity, but also the future,” Botelho said.

“The region has to change; we are the safest operational region in the world, but we need to advance in updating economic regulations. What the sector generates are direct and indirect jobs, there is no place in the world where aviation exists and there is no development.”

France backs Morocco in dispute over Western Sahara

By Natasha Booty

France's President Emmanuel Macron has told Morocco's parliament that he believes Western Sahara should be under Moroccan sovereignty, and has pledged to invest French money there.

Western Sahara is a territory on the north-western coast of Africa that has been the subject of a decades-long dispute.

It was once a Spanish colony, and is now mostly controlled by Morocco and partly by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front - which says it represents the indigenous Sahrawi people and wants an independent state.

France was the former colonial power in both Morocco and Algeria. It joins other nations including Spain, the US and Israel in backing Morocco's plan.

Lawmakers rose to their feet and applauded Macron on Tuesday when he said, "for France, this territory's present and future fall under Morocco's sovereignty".

His comments on Tuesday in Rabat echo surprise remarks he first made in July.

Signalling a change in France's long-held stance on Morocco's plan to grant Western Sahara autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty, the French president said it was the "only basis" for a just and lasting political settlement.

France's backing of Morocco's territorial claim angered Algeria, which responded to the news by withdrawing its ambassador to Paris.

Algiers regards Morocco's presence there as an illegal occupation.

Analysts say France's decision to back Morocco's claim is an attempt to repair relations between the two nations, which had soured after Rabat



Thousands of Sahrawi people are living in refugee camps in Algeria.

was accused of attempting to spy on President Macron and France tightened visa restrictions for visiting Moroccan nationals.

Relations between Morocco and Algeria have become especially tense in recent years, with Algiers announcing in 2021 that it had severed diplomatic ties with its neighbour to the west.

On Tuesday, Macron also addressed colonialism but stopped short of an apology.

"Our common history also has dark parts. The time came for unequal treaties, when hubris and the mechanical force of European countries imposed themselves around the world, and when, even disguised as a protectorate, Morocco did not escape the ambitions and the violence of colonial history," he said.

In a sign of closing ties, France and Morocco are reported to have struck deals on energy and infrastructure among other things.

The AFP news agency says they have a total value of "up to €10bn", equivalent to \$10.8bn or £8.3bn.

On Tuesday, Macron also pledged

an unspecified sum of "investments and sustainable support initiatives to benefit local populations" in Western Sahara.

Macron's invitation to Morocco came from King Mohammed VI, two months after his royal court hailed France's change of heart on Western Sahara as a "significant" development.

But Algeria has expressed its deep disapproval, saying France is denying Sahrawi people their right to self-determination.

The Polisario Front, meanwhile, has hit out at France for supporting what it says is a "violent and illegal occupation" by Morocco.

Western Sahara was annexed by Morocco in 1975.

A 16-year-long insurgency ended with a UN-brokered truce in 1991 and the promise of a referendum on independence, which has yet to take place because of disagreements over how it should be conducted and who should be eligible to take part.

Today, the African Union is the only international organisation to recognise Western Sahara as a state in its own right.

US calls deadly Israeli air strike in northern Gaza 'horrificing'

By Gabriela Pomeroy

At least 93 people are dead or missing after an Israeli air strike on the town of Beit Lahia in northern Gaza, the Hamas-run health ministry says, in an attack that the United States called "horrificing".

Rescuers said a five-storey residential building was hit, and videos on social media showed bodies covered in blankets on the floor.

The Israeli military said it was "aware of reports that civilians were harmed today [Tuesday] in the Beit Lahia area". It added that the details of the incident were being looked into.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have been operating in northern Gaza during the past two weeks, particularly in the areas of Jabalia, Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun.

The director of the nearby Kamal Adwan hospital in Jabalia, Hussam Abu Safia, told the AFP news agency that children were being treated at the hospital, which is struggling to treat patients due to a lack of staff and medicines.

"There is nothing left in the Kamal Adwan Hospital except first aid materials after the army arrested our medical team and workers," Abu Safia said.

The IDF raided the hos-



pital last week, saying it was being used by Hamas fighters.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said the US was "deeply concerned by the loss of civilian life in this incident. This was a horrificing incident with a horrificing result".

He pointed to "reports of two dozen children killed" in the attack.

The "tragic cost to civilians" in the latest strike "is another reminder of why we need to see an end to this war", Miller said.

Israel says its operations in northern Gaza are designed to prevent Hamas from regrouping and accuses them of embedding among the civilian population, which Hamas denies.

In a statement on Tuesday, it said it killed 40 "terrorists" in Jabalia, and

in central Gaza it said it "eliminated many terrorists" over the past 24 hours including some who "attempted to plant explosives near the troops".

The northern Gaza Strip faces a deepening humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people living in desperate conditions.

UN human rights chief Volker Türk said on Friday that "the Israeli military is subjecting an entire population to bombing, siege and risk of starvation".

He also said it was unacceptable that Palestinian armed groups were reportedly operating among civilians, including inside shelters for the displaced, and putting them in harm's way.

On Monday, Israel's parliament voted through legislation to ban the UN's

Palestinian refugee agency, Unrwa, from operating in the country, sparking warnings the delivery of aid to Gaza could be severely impacted..

Israel launched a campaign to destroy Hamas in response to the group's unprecedented attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage.

More than 42,924 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the health ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and fighters in its figures.

Israel is not allowing international journalists from media organisations, including the BBC, independent access to Gaza, making it hard to verify facts on the ground.

Sports News



Three teams remain unbeaten in U-16 Boys schools' league

Defending champions Princess Margaret School, Ottos Comprehensive School, and Clare Hall Secondary have maintained their perfect records at the start of the Under-16 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, Joma, and Patrick C. Whyte Cup.

All three teams are leading the standings with nine points apiece after notching up their third win in as many games in the latest round of matches in the secondary schools' football competition on Monday.

Shamar Walters and Roshan Samuel both scored twice to lead Princess Margaret School to a 4-0 victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Potters playing field.

Walters had conversions in the third and 26th minutes, and Samuel scored in the 38th and 55th minutes.

Demarre Swift struck a hat trick, and Tafari Looby and Shamoy Chiddick both scored twice to propel Ottos Comprehensive School to an 8-0 drubbing of Jennings Secondary School at the Golden Grove playing field.

Swift had conversions in the 16th, 45th, and 58th minutes; Looby scored in the 10th and 24th minutes; and Chiddick converted his goals in the 11th and 19th minutes. The other goal for Ottos Comprehen-



The goal scorers for Ottos Comprehensive School against Jennings Secondary School. From left to right: Tafari Looby, D'Hari Barthley, Demarre Swift, and Shamoy Chiddick.

sive School was scored by D'Hari Barthley in the 57th minute.

Clare Hall Secondary won by default against Glanvilles Secondary, which failed to show up for their encounter at the Potters playing field.

Glanvilles Secondary remain in the cellar of the 11-team round-robin contest without a point after suffering their third loss in as many encounters.

The match between Antigua Grammar School and St. Mary's Secondary School at the Golden Grove playing field was not played and will be rescheduled for a later date.

After losing all three previous matches, Najae Morton scored a hat trick as Irene B. Williams Secondary picked up their first

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Goal scorers for Princess Margaret School against Sir Novelle Richards Academy. Shamar Walters, left, and Roshan Samuel.

UEFA gives player union an executive committee seat

PARIS (AP) — UEFA is giving the professional footballer's union a seat on its executive committee in a move meant to give players more input on issues such as the congested match calendar.

UEFA and FIFPRO Europe announced a working agreement Tuesday that the union said will "increase the voice of players in European football governance."

It comes during a season when stars like Ballon d'Or winner Rodri have warned they could strike to protest the number of games in an overloaded calendar of competitions.

The three-year deal was announced in the same month the FIFPRO Europe union helped file a formal complaint at the European Commission in Brussels that targeted world soccer body FIFA but not UEFA.

That legal filing between the European groups of player unions and domestic leagues claimed FIFA breaches EU competition law in the way the men's World Cup and Club World Cup were expanded without proper consultation.



Manchester City's Spanish player Rodri delivers his speech as he receives the 2024 Men's Ballon d'Or award during the 68th Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) award ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024. (AP)

"UEFA has committed to involving FIFPRO Europe in any decision that could affect players' employment conditions, or any potential competition reform that could impact players' workload," the union said in a statement from Paris where the accord was signed.

UEFA already added games this season to its top club competitions, the Champions League and Europa League, after decisions

were taken in 2021 and 2022 under pressure from elite clubs who had plotted a breakaway Super League. That project failed after a fan-led backlash.

Some teams will now play 10 games instead of six to reach the round of 16 in the Champions League and Europa League.

UEFA also pledged to involve "active players and player representatives" in a Professional Players' Advi-

sory Forum that will meet for the first time in December.

The union delegate to the UEFA executive committee will take their seat in May, FIFPRO Europe said. Clubs already have a quota of two seats on the committee and the European Leagues group has one.

UEFA and FIFA have moved in recent weeks toward involving stakeholders more in decision-making after their authority to run soccer has been challenged by legal rulings, primarily from the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg including in the Super League case brought by Real Madrid and Barcelona.

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point by salvaging a 3-3 draw against All Saints Secondary School at the Swetes playing field.

Morton scored all three goals for Irene B. Williams Secondary in the seventh, 31st, and 46th minutes.

Naheem Carbon scored in the 21st minute, Kamine Brodie had a 54th-minute conversion, and Kymani Francis scored in the 55th minute for All Saints Secondary, which advanced into fourth place with seven points after drawing for the first time in four matches.

Sports News



Dredgers and VIP clinch semi-final spots in IBSC Tape Ball Classic

The two semi-finalists were decided after the final round of preliminary round matches in the LL Supply Limited and Total Imports Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) 20-Over Tape Ball Classic on Sunday.

Dredgers and Pelican Safari, The Nest Beach Bar and Restaurant VIP both won their last match to clinch the two spots in the only semi-final of the T20 competition.

The winner of the only semi-final will advance to the final to face Buckey's 3J's, who got a bye into the championship decider by virtue of finishing as the winner of the preliminary round of matches.

Dredgers, VIP, Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets, and Gladys Potters (GP) Eagles all entered the final preliminary round of matches tied on 50 points.

But only the teams that finished in second and third places at the end of the preliminary round qualified for the only semi-final. Therefore, Bryson's Bullets missed out by virtue of finishing in fourth place.

Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed a century as the Dredgers crushed the PEL Desi Boys by 180 runs in their encounter at the Potters playing field.

Dredgers made 290 for four off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss

and electing to bat. Williams smashed 120 not out, including 11 sixes and five fours.

J'Quan Athanaze hammered 95, including six sixes and four fours, and his father Justin Athanaze hit 40.

In reply, Desi Boys were dismissed for 110 in 19.4 overs. Elroy Francis Sr. and Prassana Honnavar each made 19, and Frederick Floyd scored 18.

Mike France grabbed four for 19, Kirk Douglas bagged three for 22, and J'Quan Athanaze captured two for 16.

VIP snatched a 12-run victory against Gladys Potters (GP) Eagles at the same venue.

VIP were dismissed for 124 in 13.1 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Conroy Semple hit 19 not out, Michael Dover also scored 19, and Peter Bellanfanti got 18.

Kerry Mentore picked up three for 15, and Keif Baltimore captured two for 29.

In reply, GP Eagles were dismissed for 112 in 15.4 overs. Kerrique Mentore hit 23, his father Kerry Mentore got 22, and Melvin Charles scored 17.

Dimitri Lucas bagged three for 19, Conroy Semple claimed two wickets for eight runs, and Elroy Francis Jr. captured two for 24.



Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed a century for the Dredgers against PEL Desi Boys at the Potters playing field. (File photo)

The Bullets defeated Petes Landscaping 300 by eight wickets at Powells.

The 300 tumbled to 51 all out in 11.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Zach Thomas top scored with 26. Kimani George grabbed four wickets for four runs, and Andra Samuel captured three for 28.

The Bullets then achieved victory by scoring 57 for two in 2.3 overs. Essan Warner slammed 36 not out, and Tassilo Allen made 20. Vernel Isidore claimed two for 21.

PMS wrapped up their campaign with a sev-

en-wicket victory against Mix Up Stars at the same venue.

The Mix Up Stars were dismissed for 143 in 19.4 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Jared JnoBaptiste struck 29, Gaster Destauche scored 20, and Karl Simon hit 16 not out. Kenny Benjamin took three for 22, and Ashfield Weatherhead picked up two for 27.

In reply, PMS secured victory by scoring 148 for three in 13.5 overs. Malinga Bruney and Ashfield Weatherhead each made 38, and Michael Harilall hit 20 not out.

South Africa dominate Bangladesh on first day of final Test

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh (AP) — Opener Tony de Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs hit maiden centuries to help South Africa dominate Bangladesh on the opening day of the second and final cricket Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Tuesday.

The South Africans reached 307 for two before bad light forced an early stumps, with Zorzi batting on 141. David Bedingham was not out on 18.

Stubbs scored 106 from 198 balls with the help of six fours and three sixes before being out. Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took both of the wickets for 110 after bowling 30 overs.

Zorzi was instrumental in putting South Africa on the front foot after stand-in captain Aiden Markram won the toss and opted to bat first.

“My plan was to sweep before the game, but then I struggled with the actual sweep,” Stubbs said.

“So it was more the reverse sweep today. Tony was sweeping very well today. Sometimes when it is working on that day, you commit with it. He did it really well.”

Zorzi and Markram put on 69 runs for the opening stand, scoring at a run rate of nearly four until left-arm spinner Taijul intervened.

Taijul broke through



South Africa's opener Tony de Zorzi bats on the opening day of the second and final Test against Bangladesh at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram, Bangladesh, on Tuesday, October 29, 2024. (Getty Images)

with the wicket of Markram, who chipped a tossed-up delivery straight to mid-on after scoring 33 off 52 with two fours.

Zorzi edged a delivery of pacer Hasan Mahmud

behind when on six, but debutant Mahidul Islam failed to hold on to the catch. Zorzi made Bangladesh pay heavily for the missed chance.

Taijul, who took eight

wickets in the first Test that Bangladesh lost by seven wickets, was largely ineffective as Zorzi attacked him as a strategy to put pressure on the hosts' bowling lineup.

Stubbs was also similarly comfortable in his stay in the crease and used his feet properly against the spinners.

Zorzi raised his maiden test century from 146 balls, employing a sweep shot to precision for a boundary against off-spinner Mehidy Hasan through deep square-leg.

Stubbs hit Mehidy for three sixes in quick succession before he cut a delivery of occasional bowler Mominul Haque to sweep cover for a single to complete his first test century from 194 balls.

Soon after, Taijul dismissed Stubbs with a low delivery, ending 201-run partnership between him and Zorzi.

Bangladesh's bowlers however failed to conquer Zorzi, who struck 10 fours and three sixes in 211 balls and kept attacking relentlessly to help South Africa go past 300.

“Right now the team talk is we need to come tomorrow morning and try to get early wickets to put ourselves in a position to bowl them out,” Bangladesh coach Phil Simmons said.

Potters Tigers get first win in Premier League

The newly promoted Potters Tigers recorded their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday.

After suffering a 4-0 defeat against Old Road in their opening match, the Potters Tigers rebounded to claim a 4-2 victory against fellow promoted side and Premier League debutant, Attacking Saints in their second encounter at the ABFA Technical Center.

Keon Greene put the Potters Tigers ahead with a conversion in the third minute, but the Attacking Saints drew level via Malone Joseph's 35th-minute equalizer.

Kelvin Carr restored his team's lead just before the interval with a 43rd-minute conversion to give the Potters Tigers a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Second-half goals by Ordel Samuel in the 50th minute and Jay-Zeba James in the 88th minute ensured victory for the Potters Tigers.

Ellsworth Mack scored a second goal in the sixth minute of added time for



The starting XI for Potters Tigers against Attacking Saints FC in their match in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Premier Division League at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, October 28, 2024. (ABFA Media)

the Attacking Saints, who slumped to their second defeat in as many games.

Meanwhile, the Cedar Grove Bluejays got off to a successful start in their campaign in the ABFA's Second Division on Monday.

Ja-Rohn Thomas scored twice to lead the Bluejays to a 4-0 victory against the Young Warriors FC at Buckley's playing field.

Thomas had conver-

sions in the 9th and 63rd minutes, while the other two goals were scored by Lenny Hendricks in the 22nd minute and Kishorn Hamilton in the 59th minute.

It was the second defeat in as many games for the Young Warriors. Monday's other scheduled Second Division match between hosts Sea View Farm and Glanvilles was cancelled.

The ABFA's First Di-

vision will continue on Wednesday (today) with four matches, all starting at 4:30 pm.

Guydadli FC will tackle Earthquake FC at St. Johnstone's Village Stadium, Bethesda SC and TAMO FC will clash at Bethesda, Golden Grove FC will host Belmont FC at Golden Grove, and English Harbour FC will take on Real Blizard FC at English Harbour.