

CHINA'S ASSISTANCE TO A&B UNMATCHED



Story on Page 2

From left: Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene, Ambassador Zhang Yanling, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister of Works Maria Browne attending China Day festivities at the Chinese Embassy.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

China's assistance to Antigua and Barbuda is 'unmatched'

China's level of assistance to Antigua and Barbuda over the past four years has been unmatched by any other developing partner during that period.

That is the view of Prime

Minister Gaston Browne who was speaking on Tuesday afternoon at the China Day celebrations, held at the People's Republic of China's Embassy in St. John's.

"I believe that the rela-

tionship between Antigua and Barbuda and the PRC has been an excellent one that has redounded to the benefit of both countries as we continue to work with the PRC in many areas.

In fact, we have enjoyed a relationship that has been based on complementarity, mutual respect, and cooperation. When you look at the level of cooperation that China has extended to Antigua and Barbuda, I would go as far as to state that it has been unmatched within the last forty years. In the last forty years, China has done more to assist the people of Antigua and Barbuda to build capacity than any other country," PM Browne declared.

He identified the projects with which China has assisted Antigua and Barbuda over the last decades. These include the new VC Bird International Airport terminal building, the expansion and upgrade of the

cont'd on pg 3



cont'd from pg 2

Deep Water Harbour, and the facility that the country used to secure its bid for the establishment of the UWI Five Island Campus.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said Antigua and Barbuda is unwavering in its support for the PRC and the One China policy. He reminded the audience that Antigua and Barbuda has remained resolute in its support for China and never once entertained any ideas to act differently. He noted that the presence of Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle, former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, and other senior members of the UPP was a testament that both major political parties supported the policy.

Also speaking at the function was Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams who has a unique vantage point, as he was present when former Prime Minister, Sir Vere C. Bird, made his first official visit to China. He said China's commitment to the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence has been the cornerstone of the diplomatic journey together.

"As we celebrate this special day, let us reflect on the remarkable journey of friendship and cooperation that we have undertaken with China. Let us also look forward to a future filled with new opportunities for collaboration and growth. Our shared history and shared aspirations bind us together as true friends, and together, we can achieve great things," he remarked.

In his remarks, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene was highly complementary of China's achievements in the 74 years of the founding of the PRC. "As a Nation of hard-working and disciplined people, China has consistently achieved high economic growth rates, averaging around 10% per year for several decades. This growth has lifted hundreds of millions

of people out of poverty.

Having the world's second-largest economy, China has excelled in manufacturing, technology, agriculture, and services.


"Reducing the poverty rate from over 88% in 1981 to less than 1% in recent years is nothing short of extraordinary, highlighting the effectiveness of your country's political and governance system," Greene told Ambassador Zhang Yanling and the other Chinese officials gathered.

Ambassador Zhang highlighted the great economic and social strides that the PRC has made in its 74-year

history from a poor impoverished nation to now the second largest economy in the world.

"When pursuing its development, China has taken a constructive part in international affairs, actively cooperated with Antigua and Barbuda and other countries, focused on promoting world peace and achieving common prosperity, and advocated resolving differences through consultation," she explained.

The event featured cultural displays with performances involving locals, taking part in dance, singing, and playing musical instruments.



SJDC

ST JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

VACANCY

ACCOUNTS CLERK

SJDC invites applications for the position of Accounts Clerk.

JOB SUMMARY

An Accounting Clerk is a professional who is responsible for maintaining financial records, running reports, and recording a wide range of transactions. Their duties include providing administrative assistance to the accounts department as well performing basic office tasks, assist with bookkeeping, research and resolve discrepancies.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collect and sort invoices and checks.
- Supporting supervisory and executive staff by performing any assigned accounting and clerical tasks and keep sensitive information confidential.
- Assist senior accounting personnel with tasks conducted within the accounting department.
- Input or type documents or items that the accounting department is responsible for, including checks, invoices, vouchers, accounting statements, other reports and records.
- Reconcile various expenditure reports to source documents; distribute and file financial documents and reports.
- Prepare routine entries and post financial transactions, reconcile entries and internal ledgers to financial reporting system reports.
- Handle cash and cash related transactions, issue receipts, record and type money listing, and balance cash fund.
- Enter cash transactions in ledgers and reconcile cash reports and prepare bank deposits.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A diploma in Business or Accounting.
- Minimum of three (3) years' experience in an accounting or finance field.
- Ability to operate as an effective tactical and strategic thinker.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office and QuickBooks.
- Exceptional written, oral, and interpretation skills.
- High degree of attention to detail and multi-tasking.

Applications may be submitted via email : hr@sjdcanu.com
Deadline for Applications : September 28th 2023

Sir Molwyn wants more funding to combat non-communicable diseases

Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph pleaded the case for increased investment in new and innovative programmes to manage the escalating spread of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Sir Molwyn was at the time addressing a high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage, which was held on the margins of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Sir Molwyn has been a strong and forceful advocate for the spread of NCDs, a worrying health concern that has taken lives and heaped a burdensome cost, resulting from the care of patients on the country's health system.

He addressed the issue against the backdrop of the severe challenges that small states like Antigua and Barbuda

experienced at the very height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The disease only served to expose and exacerbate the particular vulnerabilities of those persons living with NCDs.

“Of course, we have other challenges in meeting our obligations and there are none more critical than the financing of a modern healthcare system and the prevention and reduction of the incidents of NCDs among our population,” Sir Molwyn told the meeting.

“During COVID, it was clear that individuals suffering from NCDs were more vulnerable to the virus and so we must improve and develop new programmes to prevent the high incidents of NCDs,” he stressed.

The UN meeting, which was convened to review the progress and chal-



Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph

lenges of achieving universal health coverage by 2030, was held under the theme “Universal Health Coverage: expanding our Ambition for Health and Well-being in a post-COVID World.”

Noting that there is a need to have a global system that can meet the requirements of all countries during a pandemic, the Minister told the high-level UN meeting that he urged delegates to take all possible measures in preparing for any possible pandemics in the future.

“This system must be scalable and flexible to meet the varied supplies, medications, and analysis that will be required to effectively manage any future global pandemics,” he stressed.

In this connection, the Minister was forceful in his suggestion that the region, specifically Latin America and the Caribbean, should seek to build the capacity to undertake the manufacturing of vaccines to ensure an adequate and effective response to the health needs of our people.

He disclosed that Antigua and Barbuda had a target to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030.

STATE INSURANCE
LIVE IN A BETTER STATE OF MIND

Live in a better State of mind

MEET & GREET

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

STARTING 11 AM

1ST CHOICE SUPERMARKET

LIFE & MEDICAL MOTOR PROPERTY STUDENT SAFETY

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 info@sicfinancial.com www.sicfinancial.com

AT&LU outgoing president Wigley George: I made an impact!

The outgoing president of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU), Wigley George, is stepping down from the post after serving for 28 years. He held this position longer than anyone else, including Father of the Nation, National Hero, V.C. Bird.

George announced his departure on Sunday when the AT&LU gathered at the 84th annual delegates' conference.

The oldest trade union in Antigua and Barbuda has elected six presidents in its long and storied history. V.C. Bird served for twenty-five years, while George served for 28.

In his announcement, George stated that despite numerous calls for him to stay on longer in the post, he felt that it was time to relinquish the presidency in favour of someone

else.

"I feel comfortable about my contributions to the union where I first served as a field officer, then general secretary and later as president.

"I helped the union negotiate many increases for workers in the public sector, including once getting a 100 per cent increase for some categories of wage earners.

"I have had many 'battles' with the government of the day, but all in favour of better wages and conditions for wages," George recalled.

The AT&LU has had a symbiotic relationship with the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, however, even when the ABLP formed the government there has been friction between the party and the AT&LU.

George said despite these frictions over the years, he has helped to

maintain the bonds of unity between union and party.

"I have been able to keep the union strong while at the same time perfecting the relationship between the two organisations', Labour Movement," he declared.

George said he feels that the union is in capable hands with Alick Daniel as General Secretary and Bernard DeNully, the newly elected President.

"Even as I am leaving, the union is in a good place as we have agreed to a 14 per cent increase for non-established workers.

"The workers have already received a five per cent increase and there is a nine per cent increase outstanding. This is backdated for several years which means that there will be back-pay pending," he observed.

NEW **KFC** **Nuggets**

6 PIECES \$12⁷⁵

10 PIECES \$19⁷⁵

6 PIECES FRIES BISCUIT MEDIUM DRINK \$24⁷⁵

100% WHITE MEAT

ORIGINAL RECIPE

HAND MADE

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: KFC, Uber Eats, Deliveroo, Just Eat Takeaway.com

Available on the App Store

KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN

Maria Blackman...in focus

Maria Blackman, Marketing Communications Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, is this week's focus, in the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association's (ABHTA) "Unveiling Hospitality Professionals" Series.

Maria Blackman, a graduate of the University of the West Indies with a BSc. in Tourism Management, brings a wealth of experience to her role as Marketing Communications Manager. She holds ACIM qualifications from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in the United Kingdom and is a certified event planner with a Certificate in

Events Management from The George Washington University.

With over fifteen years of experience, Maria is a seasoned tourism and marketing communications expert. Her expertise spans both the private and public sectors within Antigua and Barbuda, as well as across regional and international tourism stakeholders.

Maria takes great pride in her role as a Marketing Communications Specialist, having spearheaded numerous high-profile initiatives. These include the creation of award-winning campaigns, coordination of large-scale international film productions, events, and brand



partnerships for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. Her campaigns have successfully reached key markets across the globe.

Maria's passion lies in telling the captivating story of Antigua and Barbuda. Every day, she explores the diverse media landscape, seeking fresh opportunities to promote this enchanting

destination. The ABHTA is dedicated to focusing the light on the diverse roles within the hospitality industry. Through its "Unveiling Hospitality Professionals" series, the association aims to inspire the next generation of professionals aspiring to assume pivotal positions in the industry.

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

STORM READY

2023 HURRICANE SEASON
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

COVERAGE FOR
HOME | BUSINESS | FAMILY | MOTOR

www.sicfinancial.com

Nearly two hundred students participate in Germ Buster campaign

More than two hundred students from four primary schools participated in Day 1 of the infection prevention campaign dubbed ‘Germ Buster’ launched by the Central Board of Health, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.

The campaign is focused on educating children and teachers on ways to prevent infection such as how to ef-

ficiently wash hands with soap and water, how to sanitize properly in cases where water may not be available, how to cover your cough and sneeze, in the elbow or a tissue, how to dispose of tissue after usage, not touching eyes, nose, ears and mouths and the importance of remaining up to date on vaccinations.

Public Health Inspectors



and Environmental Health Aids attached to the Central Board of Health are carrying out the exercises at thirty schools across Antigua and Barbuda over the next few weeks.

In addition, the children were also taught a hand-washing jingle.

Jennings Primary, S.R Olivia David Primary School in Bolans, Golden Grove

Primary, and Old Road Primary Schools were the first to benefit from the initiative.

The schools were also provided with posters which were created specifically with this programme in mind with superheroes fighting Germs and being dubbed GERM BUSTERS!

Masks and Sanitizers were also donated to the schools.



ONPASSIVE

TIME: 2:15 WED 27TH SEP

ALBERT REID
ONPASSIVE AMBASSADOR

POINTE ON DE STREETZ
HOSTED BY VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
POINTE BROADCASTING NETWORK

TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

f POINT FM99.1

Local News



Free health checks provided for over 100 children

More than one hundred children received free health checks as part of the annual Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown Paediatric Village. This initiative is the brainchild of Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown's, Director of Service Projects, Dr. Jenelle Allen.

The Metropolitan University College of Medicine in St. John's offered its

air-conditioned premises to facilitate the day's activities. The classrooms were turned into examination rooms and provided comfort and easy access for the attendees, including children, guardians, sponsors, and medical professionals. Doctors, dentists, optometrists, and nurses volunteered their time to attend to over 100 children between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. The children received full physical health checks. Eye and dental examinations and nutritional advice were provided for them and their guardians.

According to the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown (RCAS), several corporate entities also played their part and contributed immensely to the event's

success. Leading the way, educating the public and sampling their goods and services were ACB Caribbean, A.S. Bryden, Frank B. Armstrong, Courts Optical, Car Zone, Anjo Wholesale, Subway Antigua, Paradise Vision Centre, and Happy Teeth.

Dr. Allen remarked at the end of the busy day, "We had a great turnout, and we will ride the momentum and successes achieved to expand the event next year. We plan to invite more partners to join us with this initiative. It is time for us to actively invest in the care of our youth and work together as a community to ensure they are in good health."

Dr. Allen thanked all stakeholders who contrib-



uted to making the 2023 edition of the Paediatric Village a successful event.

RCAS plans to introduce an additional annual Paediatric Village in March 2024 for older youth, ranging between 13-17 years and will share details with the public and corporate Antigua & Barbuda on how they can lend support in the coming months.



The New Suzuki S.Presso

Bring your postcard to life

\$58,535



Accident victim gets help from Calvin Ayre Foundation

Another accident survivor, Andy Edwards, who was involved in a near-fatal vehicular accident some four months ago, is the latest recipient of the generosity of the Calvin Ayre Foundation

According to media reports, a truck was heading west on the highway and attempted to overtake, but lost control and collided with Edwards' vehicle, which was traveling in the opposite direction.

The reports say the 48-year-old self-employed bus driver's legs were pinned under the dashboard, resulting in severe injuries to both his legs. Due to the severity of his injuries, he



was advised by doctors at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center to seek orthopedic surgery overseas.

According to CAF's Media Relations Specialist, Jammilla Kirwan, in addition to education, sports, and social development, one of CAF's giving pillars is emergency response. She added that

the cost of a medical air ambulance always poses an extreme challenge for most people who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances such as this.

"Andy's flight was a little over US\$40,000," she explained. "I can just imagine how daunting it must have been to be under such

intense pain and still have to consider where the money for airlift would come from."

According to Kirwan, Andy was accepted by a medical facility in the Cayman Islands, where he will undergo orthopedic surgery.

"We are pleased to have assisted Andy with this gift of restoring his mobility," Kirwan said. "In fact, he was airlifted right in time for the September 25th acceptance deadline."

On behalf of the Calvin Ayre Foundation and Ambassador Calvin Ayre, Kirwan extends continued prayers to Andy Edwards during this challenging time.

MP Greene mourns with community over the passing of another centenarian

'When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot....it is well with my soul.'

"My flight back home from representing our fair land at the United Nations had not yet landed when via WhatsApp, messages kept coming in to advise that my/our second community matriarch had passed. Why me/us I ask?

Wiping the tears I summoned the courage to say farewell and thanks at the same time. Farewell to an illustrious life of love and service and thanks to God for having given us Comrade Veda Joseph for 104 years.

To the family, friends, and loved ones, I extend condolences and prayers on behalf of an entire community who will mourn while celebrating a life well lived.

R.I.P Comrade Veda Joseph."

E.P Chet Greene,
MP for St. Paul



Shakira accused of tax crimes for the second time

By Antoinette Radford

Colombian pop star Shakira has been charged with tax evasion for the second time by the Spanish government.

Prosecutors in Spain allege the singer defrauded the state of €6.7m (\$7.1m, £5.8m) in 2018.

They say this happened when she failed to declare millions in advance payments for her El Dorado World Tour, among other payments.

Spanish prosecutors opened the second investigation in July 2023, but released the details on Tuesday.

Spanish network RTVE says the 46-year-old singer is aware of the new charges, but news agency Reuters reports that Shakira's legal team in Miami - where she now lives - has not yet been told about them.



Shakira won the lifetime achievement award at the MTV Video Music Awards earlier this month.

Instead, they were “focused on preparing for the trial for the 2012-14 fiscal years, which will begin on Nov 20,” they told Reuters in a statement.

The new charges hinge on the fact that in 2018, Shakira was living in Barcelona with football star Gerard Pique and was therefore required to

cont'd on pg 11

KFC **BACK 2 SCHOOL** **STARTER PACK** Monday Tuesday Wednesday

Leg and Thigh, Biscuit, Medium Drink **\$16.99**

CLEAN KEEP ANTIGUA

f @kfcanu

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: KFC, AllMart

Available on Google Play, App Store

Disinformation most active on X, formerly known as Twitter, EU says

By Chris Vallance

X, formerly Twitter, has the biggest proportion of disinformation of six big social networks, a European Commission study has suggested.

It examined over 6,000 unique social media posts across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, X, and YouTube.

The study analysed content in three countries deemed particularly at risk to disinformation - Spain, Poland and Slovakia.

The BBC has approached X for comment.

“My message for [X] is: you have to comply with the hard law. We’ll be watching what you’re doing,” the EU’s Values and Transparency Commissioner Vera Jourova warned

The disinformation study which prompted Ms Jourova’s comments covered Spain, Poland and Slovakia, countries at risk of being targeted by disinformation due to elections or proximity to the war in Ukraine.

The platform with the largest “ratio of discover-



ability” of disinformation - meaning the proportion of sensitive content made up of disinformation - was Twitter. YouTube had the lowest, the study suggested.

The study was carried out by TrustLab, a disinformation monitoring start-up, as part of work to support the EU’s code of practice on disinformation.

X, then called Twitter, along with many other social networks, signed up to the voluntary code in 2018.

But the company withdrew from the code while under Mr Musk’s leadership.

X will however be subject to the EU’s Digital

Services Act (DSA) which regulates the conduct of the large tech platforms - the EU intends to turn the voluntary code into a code of conduct under the act.

“Mr Musk knows that he is not off the hook by leaving the code of practice, because now we have the Digital Services Act fully enforced,” Ms Jourova said.

Companies that fail to comply with the act could face fines of up to six per cent of global turnover.

In September the EU accused social media companies of failing to stop “large-scale” Russian disinformation campaigns since the invasion of Ukraine.

It said the “reach and influence of Kremlin-backed accounts” had grown further in 2023.

On Tuesday Ms Jourova said: “The Russian state has engaged in the war of ideas to pollute our information space with half-truth and lies to create a false image that democracy is no better than autocracy.”

Russia was aiming a “a multi-million euro weapon of mass manipulation” at Europeans and the large social media platforms had to address this risk, she added.

The threat was particularly serious because of the war in Ukraine and upcoming European elections, Ms Jourova went on.

The commissioner also noted that work was underway on tackling AI generated disinformation ahead of the elections.

She said she would be meeting representatives of OpenAI on Tuesday to talk about it.

cont’d from pg 10

tax all her international revenue there.

They argue that she instead diverted her money to “companies domiciled in countries with low taxation and high opacity”.

Shakira faces trial over six separate alleged tax crimes in Barcelona this November - charges she has denied.

In that case, she has been accused of failing to pay €14.5m (\$15.3m, £12.6m) in tax between 2012 and 2014, but has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

“I am confident that I have enough proof to support my case and that justice will prevail in my favour”, she said in September, in an interview with the Spanish edition of Elle magazine.

Manhunt for gang boss who controlled luxury jail in Venezuela

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Police across South America are searching for the leader of a Venezuelan gang who escaped from the luxurious prison which he controlled, shortly before it was raided.

When 11,000 soldiers and police entered the inmate-run Tocorón jail in Venezuela on Wednesday, Héctor Guerrero Flores was nowhere to be found.

Under Guerrero Flores's rule, Tocorón came to resemble a luxury resort.

The jail boasted a small zoo, a nightclub and a swimming pool.

The 39-year-old from Aragua state in Venezuela has been in and out of Tocorón prison for more than a decade.

In 2012, the leader of the Tren de Aragua transnational crime gang managed to escape from the jail by bribing the guards.

After his re-arrest in 2013, he was returned to the same prison, but it appears his power inside the jail - and over those tasked with guarding him - only grew.

Not only did he turn Tocorón into the nerve centre of the Tren de Aragua criminal enterprise, but under his rule, the jail was equipped with all the trappings of a luxury hotel.

Families of inmates moved into the compound. Inmates had access to a



The Venezuelan authorities have issued a wanted poster for the fugitive.

makeshift bank, a betting shop, a restaurant and a baseball diamond, while their children could marvel at flamingos and ostriches in the animal enclosure.

Guerrero Flores reportedly could come and go as he pleased. Venezuelan author Ronna Rísquez, who has written a book about the Tren de Aragua, recounts how police came across him once at a party on a yacht in 2016.

According to Rísquez, the convict calmly showed officers a safe conduct issued by Venezuela's prison service allowing him to travel freely through the country.

Humberto Prado, the director of the Venezuelan Prison Observatory NGO, told BBC Mundo that Guerrero Flores lived "like a king" inside the jail and

probably returned to it because of the security it offered.

"He had an entire floor to himself, with all the luxuries... double beds, plasma screens, sound systems. He even had his own bodyguards and no one could enter the floor without his permission."

According to Mr Prado and others familiar with the conditions inside the prison, Guerrero Flores had no rivals inside the prison and could therefore rule safely over his ever-expanding criminal network.

The Tren de Aragua has under his leadership expanded into Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile and diversified from extorting migrants into sex-trafficking, contract killing and kidnapping.

The gang's reach is such

that the Chilean President, Gabriel Boric, referred to it directly, saying that "we are going to hunt them down, jail them, and in cases where it is necessary, expel them".

Pressure from Latin American leaders is thought to have led to the massive security operation launched by the Venezuelan authorities last week at the Tocorón prison.

Officials said 11,000 soldiers and police were deployed to regain control of the jail from the inmates.

It was during the raid that the absence of Héctor Guerrero Flores was first noted, but Venezuelan officials did not make his escape public at the time.

It was not until Saturday, three days after the security operation, that Venezuela's interior ministry offered a reward for information

cont'd on pg 13

JPMorgan agrees to settle Jeffrey Epstein case with USVI

By Dillon De Shong

The US Virgin Islands Department of Justice has reached a historic \$75 million settlement with JPMorgan Chase to resolve a lawsuit, which claimed the bank facilitated and profited from human trafficking.

USVI's Attorney General Ariel Smith announced the settlement in a video message yesterday.

"As part of the settlement, JPMorgan has agreed to implement and maintain meaningful anti-trafficking measures, which will help prevent human trafficking in the future. This settlement is a historic victory for survivors and for state enforcement, and it should sound the alarm on Wall Street about banks' responsibilities under the law to detect and prevent human trafficking," said Smith.

"Our Department of Justice tirelessly pursued this enforcement action to make it substantially harder for traffickers to finance their crimes in the future, and we are confident this settlement will help achieve that goal. We are proud to have stood alongside the

survivors throughout this litigation, and this settlement reflects our continued commitment to them. With this constructive resolution of this ground breaking litigation, we look forward to helping our community move forward and to building a new relationship with JPMorgan."

The settlement stops a trial that had been set to start next month.

This was the first time that a state attorney general has used authority provided by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to hold a bank accountable for its role in human trafficking.

The US Virgin Islands was seeking at least \$190 million in penalties from the bank.

Ariel explained that a large portion of the settlement funds would be used to support victims of human trafficking and other crimes in vulnerable communities, strengthen USVI Department of Justice initiatives to combat crime, and create a \$10 million fund to provide mental health services for Jeffrey Epstein's survivors.

Apart from the financial



Attorney General Ariel Smith.

payment, JPMorgan Chase committed to identifying, reporting, and cutting off support for potential human trafficking.

The case against JPMorgan was triggered after US Virgin Islands prosecutors found the financial services giant enabled and profited from the sex and human trafficking operations of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Epstein owned an estate

on the USVI where much of his illegal activities occurred.

In June 2023, JPMorgan agreed to pay \$290 million in a class-action lawsuit that involved victims of Epstein's trafficking crimes.

The Associated Press also reported that JPMorgan had reached a confidential legal settlement with James "Jes" Staley, the former top JPMorgan executive who managed the Epstein account before leaving the the bank. JPMorgan sued Staley earlier this year, alleging that he covered up or minimised Epstein's wrongdoing in order to maintain the lucrative account.

cont'd from pg 12

leading to the capture of Guerrero Flores.

Despite the escape of its most powerful inmate, President Nicolás Maduro said the raid had been carried out "impeccably".

He did concede that "some inmates had escaped due to the corruption of offi-

cials, who had alerted the prisoners to the impending security operation".

The president said those responsible would be "severely punished".

Meanwhile, police in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Venezuela are searching for Héctor Guerrero Flores.

Robert Menendez: US senator vows he will be cleared in bribery case

By Holly Honderich

A US senator charged in a bribery case has said his stashing of nearly half a million dollars cash at home stemmed from his Cuban parents' fear that their savings might be seized by authorities.

Robert Menendez of New Jersey predicted he would be exonerated as he vowed to run for re-election next year.

Prosecutors say he and his wife accepted money, gold bars and a luxury car in exchange for political favours.

The senator has so far rejected calls from fellow Democrats to resign.

"When all the facts are presented, not only will I be exonerated, but I still will be New Jersey's senior senator," a defiant Mr Menendez told a news conference on Monday.

It was his first public appearance since he was indicted on Friday.

Speaking in Union City, New Jersey, he added: "Those who rushed to judgment, you have done so based on a limited set of facts framed by the prosecution to be as salacious as possible."

Federal agents who searched his New Jersey home last year found more than \$480,000 in cash (£393,000) stuffed into envelopes and hidden in jackets, closets and a safe, along with 13 bars of gold bullion. Another \$70,000 was discovered inside his wife's safety deposit box at a bank.

According to the indictment, Mr Menendez had searched online for "how much is one kilo of gold worth".

But in Monday's news conference he said: "I have withdrawn thousands of dollars in cash from my personal savings account, which I have kept for emergencies and because of the history of my family facing confiscation in Cuba.



Senator Bob Menendez and his wife Nadine Arslanian each face three charges.

"Now this may seem old-fashioned, but these were monies drawn from my personal savings account based on the income that I have lawfully derived over those 30 years."

Mr Menendez, the son of Cuban immigrants, suggested last week that the indictment - and calls for his resignation - came from those "rushing to judge a Latino and push him out of his seat".

The 39-page federal indictment accuses Mr Menendez and his wife, Nadine Menendez, of accepting bribes in exchange for the senator's political influence at home and abroad on behalf of both the government of Egypt and business associates in New Jersey.

Investigators also said they found a luxury Mercedes-Benz paid for by a businessman parked in the Menendezes' garage.

The charge-sheet said that after the couple received the car, Mrs Menendez texted her husband to say: "Congratulations mon amour de la vie, we are the proud owners of a 2019 Mercedes."

In his remarks on Monday, Mr Menendez addressed his senatorial

work related to Egypt, saying his record was clear in holding Cairo accountable on human rights.

Over the weekend, Democratic New Jersey Congressman Andy Kim announced he would run to replace Mr Menendez, writing on social media that the state "deserves better".

Mr Kim's announcement was made amid a growing chorus of Democratic lawmakers who are calling on Mr Menendez to resign immediately.

In other developments, the Manhattan US Attorney's office confirmed on Monday that Mr Menendez has hired defence lawyer Abbe Lowell, who is also representing President Joe Biden's son, Hunter, in an unrelated gun case.

This is not the first time that Mr Menendez - who has served in Congress since 2006 - has faced bribery charges.

In 2015 he was indicted in New Jersey on charges he had accepted bribes from a Florida eye doctor.

That case ended in a mistrial after jurors were unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

Mr Lowell represented Mr Menendez in that case.

Canada's Speaker Anthony Rota resigns after Nazi in parliament row

The Speaker of Canada's House of Commons has resigned after unwittingly praising a Ukrainian man who fought for a Nazi unit and inviting him to parliament.

After first resisting calls to step down, Anthony Rota quit on Tuesday after meeting party leaders in Ottawa.

"I must step down as your Speaker," he said in parliament. "I reiterate my profound regret."

The incident last Friday drew global condemnation.

Yaroslav Hunka, 98, got a standing ovation after Mr Rota called him a "hero" during a Friday visit by Ukraine's president.

Mr Rota has said he did not know of Mr Hunka's Nazi ties and made a mistake in inviting him to attend the event.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin



Speaker of the House of Commons Anthony Rota said he did not know of the 98-year-old's previous Nazi ties.

Trudeau said on Monday it was "extremely upsetting that this happened".

"This is something that is deeply embarrassing to the parliament of Canada and by extension to all Canadians," he told reporters.

During World War Two, Mr Hunka served in the 14th Waffen-SS Gren-

adier Division, a voluntary unit made up mostly of ethnic Ukrainians under Nazi command. Division members are accused of killing Polish and Jewish civilians, although the unit has not been found guilty of any war crimes by a tribunal.

Earlier on Tuesday, Poland's Education Minister Przemysław Czarnek said he had "taken steps" towards extraditing Mr Hunka.

Members of Mr Trudeau's cabinet had joined cross-party calls for Mr Rota to step down.

Hours before the Speaker announced his resignation, Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly called the mistake "completely unacceptable".

"I think the Speaker should listen to members of the house and step down," she said. "I don't think there's any alternative."

Mr Rota's resignation has not slowed criticism from Canada's opposition leader, the Conservative Party's Pierre Poilievre.

Addressing parliament, Mr Poilievre said the responsibility fell to Prime Minister Trudeau "to reverse the massive damage down to our international reputation".

"Will he rise in this place and apologise for this massive and shameful failure?" he said.

D
E
W
S

SIGN UP
WITH
US!



- ✦
NAME, CONTACT NUMBER, ADDRESS
- ✦
GOV'T ISSUED I.D
- ✦
OPEN AN ACCOUNT TO SAVE FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT
- ✦
PURCHASE TRACKING
- ✦
ORDER AHEAD, PAY AND COLLECT AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

PMS and PEL Desi Boys fail to reach KO phase in Tape Ball Classic

PMS and PEL Desi Boys were eliminated from reaching the quarterfinals of the LL Supply Limited Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) T20 Tape Ball Classic result on Sunday.

Both teams failed to advance to the knock-out phase of the competition after losing their last round-robin encounters to finish winless and at the bottom of their respective zones.

PMS finished at the bottom of Zone B without a point after losing all four

round-robin matches in the five-team group. PMS bowed out of the competition with a five-wicket loss against Sisserou at the Antigua Grammar School playing field.

PMS crashed to 74 all-out in 12 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Kenny Benjamin made a top score of 26. Justin Perriera bagged three for 29, and player of the game Isaiah Viville snapped up two for 13.

Sisserou achieved victory at 76 for five in



Essan Warner of Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets was the player of the game against PEL Desi Boys.



Isiah Viville of Sisserou was the player of the game against PMS. (Photos courtesy ABSCA)

13.3 overs to claim their only win in the preliminary round to sneak into the quarterfinals, which will comprise the top four teams in each five-team group.

Viville slammed 41 not out, including five fours, while Terrence Thompson took two wickets for 18 runs.

PEL Desi Boys also missed out on the quarter-finals by finishing at the bottom of Zone A without a point after losing all four matches in the preliminary rounds.

PEL Desi Boys crashed out of the competition with an 18-run loss to

& Insurance Bullets in a match that was reduced to 15 overs due to a late start caused by a wet pitch at Powells.

Bullets, who were sent in to bat after losing the toss, made 139 for five off their allotted 15 overs.

Player of the game Essan Warner hammered 80, including 10 sixes and three fours, and Morrison Browne chipped in with 23. Bijay Kumar picked up two wickets for 22 runs.

In reply, the Desi Boys were restricted to 121 for eight off their 15 overs. Kumar got 23, and Samuel Joshua made 22. Kimani George and

Bryson's Shipping

cont'd on pg 17

cont'd from pg 16

Andra Samuel each claimed two wickets for 27 runs.

Buckleys 3J's and the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) Warriors recorded wins in the other two matches in their final round of the preliminary encounters.

Buckleys 3J's defeated TG's Welding & Fabrication Underdogs by 30 runs in a match that was reduced to 10 overs due to a delayed start caused by the wet pitch at the Antigua Grammar School playing field.

Buckleys 3J's made 119 for seven off their allotted 10 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Kadeem Henry hit 31, and Kemar Christian made 19 not out. Hughon Tonge grabbed three wickets for nine runs.

In reply, the Underdogs were restricted to 89 for three off their 10 overs. Player of the game Vishual Gobin hammered 69 not out, including five sixes and six fours, while Egbert Phillip picked up a wicket at the cost of nine runs.

The ABDF Warriors claimed an eight-wicket victory against Rackaman Construction Strictly Business at Powells.

Strictly Business tumbled to 131 all out in 17.2 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Malique Jacobs struck 36, and Adrian Abbott scored 26. Quincy France took three for 20, Vaughn Charles had

three for 21, and Almoiyie Webster claimed two for 16.

The ABDF Warriors achieved victory by scoring 134 for two in 11 overs. Shaquille Richards cracked 35 runs, T'Ron Payne struck 34 not out,

and Webster made 31.

The four quarterfinal matches will be contested on Sunday, October 1. At Powells, the Buckleys 3J's will take on Rackaman Construction Strictly Business at 10 am, and TG's Welding & Fabrication

Underdogs will tackle the ABDF Warriors at 2 pm.

At the Antigua Grammar School playing field, Dredgers will meet Sisserou at 10 am, and VIP will clash with Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets at 2 pm.

9 Teams

ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES

Antigua and Barbuda

Sep 29 - Oct 7
2023

The Netball action will take center stage at the YMCA Sports Complex.



Ahjanya King



Jonathan Aubrey

Success for Antiguan bodybuilders at CAC championships

A number of Antigua and Barbuda's bodybuilders achieved success at the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation's (IFBB) 50th Central American and Caribbean

(CAC) Championships in Aruba from September 21-25.

Among them were Ahjanya King and Jonathan Aubrey, who achieved their IFBB Elite Pro Cards.

King and Aubrey claimed the overall titles in the Women's Wellness and Men's Classic Physique categories, respectively, to earn their

cont'd on pg 19

Anjo Wholesale and Sandals get wins in business league

Anjo Wholesale and Sandals recorded wins in the Cool & Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition on Monday night.

Anjo Wholesale snatched a 52-43 victory against the Sledge'O Ballers in the opening game of a double-header at the JSC

Sports Complex.

Jaheem Francis scored 18 points, and Felix Hamilton sank 16 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Sheldon Abrams converted nine points, and Coy Quinland had eight points for the Sledge'O Ballers.

Sandals romped to an emphatic 81-51 victory against the Board of Edu-

cation in the second game on Monday night.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 25 points, and Adissa "Ras I" Harris scored 11 points for the Sandals.

Kelvin Pimental sank 14 points, and Xavier "X-Man" Meade had 13 points for the Board of Education.

The business basket-

ball league will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Wednesday).

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew will oppose H. Wright Promotions at 6:45 pm, and the Board of Education will meet Eye Mobile Vision Care at 7:45 pm.

cont'd from pg 18

IFBB Elite Pro Cards.

King also took top honours in the Women's Wellness Master and Women's Wellness Senior up to 168 cm, in which fellow Antiguan Kala Francis captured second place. Kayla Joseph won the Women's Wellness Senior up to 163 cm category.

Aubrey also captured the Men's Classic Physique senior up to and including 175 cm category, with fellow Antiguan Shaquelle Thomas finishing second.

Naricca Ballantyne claimed top honours in the Women's Bikini Senior over 169 cm category, with fellow Antiguan Yvette Butler securing fourth place.

Ballantyne also came in fourth place in the Women's Bikini Master Class, but Butler failed in her bid to qualify for the finals.

Veteran Steve Williams won the Men's Bodybuilding Senior over 90 Kg competition, with fellow Antiguan Tony Philip finishing in fourth place.

Rodney George finished in fifth place in the Men's Bodybuilding Senior up to 75 Kg category, while Philip also claimed fifth place in the Men's Bodybuilding Master 40-49 years division.

Franklin Carbon finished in fourth place in the Men's Classic Bodybuilding Master 40 years and over division and came in sixth place in the Men's Classic Bodybuilding over

175 cm category.

But Carbon failed in his bid to reach the finals of the Men's Bodybuilding Master over 50 years category.

Tenneson Cornelius came in third in the Junior Men's Physique 16 to 23 Years Inclusive division and finished in fourth place in the Men's Physique Se-

nior up to 173 cm category. But Larenze Benjamin failed in his bid to reach the finals of the Men's Physique Senior over 179 cm competition.

ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES						
September 29 – October 8, 2023 St. John's, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA						
EVENT SCHEDULE <i>2 netball courts for simultaneous matches</i>						
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES						
1. Antigua and Barbuda		4. Dominica		7. St. Kitts and Nevis		
2. Barbados		5. Grenada		8. St. Lucia		
3. Cayman Islands		6. Montserrat		9. St. Vincent & the Grenadines		
Match #	DATE	TIME	TOURNAMENT FIXTURES		VENUE	
	Thursday, September 28	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of CNA Officials, UAPs & UMPIRES		VC Bird International	
		6:00pm	CNA & ABNA/LOC Meeting		Jolly Beach Resort	
	Friday, September 29	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of COUNTRY DELEGATIONS		VC Bird International	
		9:00am	Umpires' Seminar		Jolly Beach Resort	
		7:30pm	WELCOME RECEPTION			
		8:30am	TECHNICAL MEETING			
		3:30pm	OPENING CEREMONY		YMCA	
1	Saturday, September 30	5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
2		5:45pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 2
3		7:30pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 1
4		7:45pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	GRENADA	Court 2
5	Sunday, October 1	5:30pm	MONTERRAT	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
6		5:45pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
7		7:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
8		7:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	BARBADOS	Court 2
9	Monday, October 2	7:00am	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
10		5:30pm	DOMINICA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
11		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
12		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	MONTERRAT	Court 1
13		7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 2
14	Tuesday, October 3	7:00am	DOMINICA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 1
15		5:30pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
16		5:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	MONTERRAT	Court 2
17		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 1
18		7:45pm	DOMINICA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 2
19	Wednesday, October 4	8:30 – 11:30am	ECCB Personal Development Session		Jolly Beach Resort	
20		5:30pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
21		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
22		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
23	Thursday, October 5	7:45pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 2
24		7:00am	BARBADOS	vs	GRENADA	Court 1
25		5:30pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 1
26		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 2
27		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
28	Friday, October 6	7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
29		7:00am	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
30		5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
31		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
32		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	BARBADOS	Court 1
		7:45pm	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 2
33	Saturday, October 7	4:00pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
34		4:15pm	MONTERRAT	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
35		6:00pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
36		6:15pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
		8:30pm	CLOSING CEREMONY		YMCA	






FLU

INFLUENZA

**GET A FLU SHOT
TO PROTECT YOUR HEART**

COVID-19 and the FLU SEASON are a double threat to anyone with heart disease.

IF YOU HAVE HEART DISEASE, you are more likely to have serious complications from the flu:

-  **PNEUMONIA**
-  **HOSPITALIZATION**
-  **HEART ATTACK**
-  **STROKE**
-  **OR EVEN DEATH!**



**ADD A YEARLY
FLU SHOT**
TO THE STEPS YOU TAKE TO
KEEP YOUR HEART HEALTHY



**HEALTHY FOODS,
FRUITS & VEGETABLES**



**VITAMINS AND
MEDICATION**



EXERCISE



DON'T SMOKE



GOOD HYGINE



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS
& THE ENVIRONMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

For more information
or assistance:
Call (268) 462-5522
or visit us on Lower High Street,
St. Johns, Antigua.

unicef 
for every child

CWI President congratulates CPL champions

The President of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Dr. Kishore Shallow, has extended his warmest congratulations to the triumphant champions of the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2023, the Guyana Amazon Warriors, following an exhilarating tournament and final held in Guyana on Sunday night.

The CPL is seen as a celebration of talent, sportsmanship, and the unifying power of cricket within our region. This year's tournament showcased exceptional skills, dedication, and teamwork, capturing the hearts and imaginations of fans across the Caribbean and beyond.

In his congratulatory message, President Dr. Kishore Shallow remarked, "I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Imran Tahir and Guyana Amazon Warriors, who emerged as the champions of CPL 2023.

"Their consistency throughout the



The Guyana Amazon Warriors celebrating their historic first-ever CPL title following an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Trinbago Knight Riders at Providence in Guyana on Sunday, September 24, 2023. (CWI Media)

tournament demonstrated the spirit of cricket and the depth of talent that exists within the Caribbean with contributions from youngsters like Kevlon Anderson

and Matthew Nandu when they got their opportunities.

"It was heartening to also witness the responsibility accepted by some of the senior players, including Player of the Tournament, Shai Hope, along with Romario Shepherd and Gudakesh Motie."

The final match, held in Guyana showcased the unwavering passion that fans have for the sport. The skill and dedication of all participating teams and players throughout the tournament were on full display, making the summer-culminating event a resounding success.

Dr. Shallow also acknowledged the strength of the eleven-year partnership with CPL, saying, "The relationship between the CPL and CWI has been nothing short of extraordinary.

"Together, we continue to elevate Caribbean cricket, showcasing our region's best talent to global markets, honing the skills of emerging talents, while invigorating the spirit of the game among fans.

"The Government of Guyana and other host countries should also be credited for their continued commitment and support of this amazing product."



PLATINUM FM
97.9

EPIBUS **KEVIN**

TOUCHLINE
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7AM-9AM

All the best in sports
and more

Antiguan basketballer off to play professionally in Spain

Centre/forward for the senior national basketball team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, Alexis Jackson, has embarked on his first international professional stint.

The tall seven-footer athlete left his native Antigua and Barbuda for Spain on Sunday to begin his professional career in Europe.

The Cuties Ovals Ojays player will be launching his professional career at To-barra CB in Spain.

Jackson's first professional contract materialized through the work of the Wadadli Elite Academy and



Alexis Jackson playing for the Antigua and Barbuda senior national team against Cuba at the FIBA Americup 2025 Pre-Qualifies in Managua, Nicaragua, on June 24, 2023. (FIVB)

its Chief Executive Officer, Byron Andrew, and Johna-

than Weekes of Caribbean Hoops.

The Wadadli Elite Academy and Caribbean Hoops have forged a partnership to expose the top young basketball players in the region to international opportunities.

According to a media release from Wadadli Elite, "This opportunity given to Jackson will only vote well for the future of basketball in Antigua and Barbuda.

"We at Wadadli Elite congratulate Jackson for being prepared for this opportunity. We are confident that he will continue to develop into a top professional basketball player.

"We continue to look

for and promote other local basketball players for opportunities, just like Alexis Jackson."

Several individuals who played instrumental roles in Jackson's development, along with family, friends, and basketball supporters, gathered at the V.C. Bird International Airport to express their best wishes to the young basketballer prior to his departure to Spain.

Among them were the President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Michael Freeland, the Head Coach of the senior national team George Hughes, and the Head Coach of Cuties Ovals Ojays Bradbury Browne.



Alexis Jackson is flanked by Wadadli Elite Academy and its Chief Executive Officer, Byron Andrew, left, and President of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Michael Freeland. (Photo courtesy Wadadli Elite Academy)