

# BARBADOS WANTS TO BE PART OF 'AIR BRIDGE' TO AFRICA

*Story on Page 2*



The governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China have signed an agreement to extend the Confucius Institute of Antigua and Barbuda for a further five years. From left: Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Senator Shenella Govia and Professor Cao Renging of the Confucius Institute at the Zhejiang International Studies University. *Story on page 4.*

## Barbados wants to be part of 'air bridge' to Africa

The government of Barbados has signaled an interest in joining Antigua and Barbuda in establishing an air bridge linking the Caribbean with the African continent, most notably the country of Nigeria, its most populous nation.

This has emerged from discussions taking place at the level of the Cabinet where Prime Minister Gaston Browne reported that he has held discussions with the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, who assured him that Barbados will collaborate with Antigua and Barbuda to support the air bridge between Africa and the Caribbean.

The Cabinet spokesman, Ambassador Lionel Hurst told media representatives that not only is Barbados indicating an interest in being part of the air bridge arrangement, but it also appears willing to join Antigua and Barbuda in some way to get LIAT 2020 up and running.

Asked why the change of heart by Barbados, Hurst suggested that the difficulties that Caribbean travelers face trying to get to other destinations within the region may have caused leaders to have a new fresher look at the possibilities of helping to establish LIAT 2020.

Antigua and Barbuda

has been vigorously pursuing this objective for more than one year. The Development Commissioner, Ambassador Daven Joseph, the Solicitor General, Martin Camacho, and a member of the LIAT 2020 board, Captain Arthur Senhouse brought to Cabinet an agreement with Air Peace which the Prime Minister signed.

Air Peace will become the funding source for LIAT (2020) and now owns 70% of the shares, while 30% will go towards Antigua and Barbuda at this time.

A team from Antigua and Barbuda has traveled to Barbados to commence

consultations on making a LIAT (2020) viable. The Cabinet was informed that support is also likely forthcoming from Dominica and St. Vincent.

Meanwhile, all flights by LIAT have been halted due to a lack of adequate equipment. According to Hurst, the airline has been operating a single aircraft for some time and the engines have reached the flying hours that require immediate service. Arrangements are currently being put in place to ensure that the lone aircraft which, until the maintenance is complete, the service offered by LIAT is suspended.

**NOTICE**


**TO: HIS WORSHIP**  
The Licensing Magistrate  
Magistrate's Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. John's  
Antigua

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

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS**  
**REGISTERED AS**  
**JLS RESTAURANT**

I, **Georg Nadour**, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 next ensuing for a Bottle license in respect of premises known as "JLS Restaurant" situated Liberta Village in the Parish of St. Paul's Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2023

  
Georg Nadour  
268-771-3844

To: Your Worship  
St. Johns Magistrate Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

Dear Sir/ Madame.

Re: Notice- Application for Tavern Licence

I, **Dahlana Feliz Tertero** of #2 Hawkins Dr. St John's Antigua and Barbuda with registered business situate at #2 Hawkins Dr, in St Johns Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 next ensuing for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "La Cinco Gota" situated at #2 Hawkins Dr. in the parish of St John, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023

Tel # 785 -1159

# Martin is out

The General Manager of Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) Esworth Martin is leaving the post earlier than previously announced.

Cabinet spokesman Ambassador Lionel Hurst revealed that Cabinet has now asked Martin to take pre-retirement leave and to proceed immediately.

Last Saturday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, announced that Martin was leaving at the end of the year on retirement. He explained that the general manager was leaving voluntarily on December 31.

However, Hurst reported that at its weekly meeting on Wednesday, the Cabinet decided that Martin should leave immediately on pre-retirement leave, but he should also make himself available ‘should the need arise.’

“We have been having great dif-

ficulty in providing sufficient water to consumers. The Cabinet is of the view that the same high standards to which elected members are held, and to which the Cabinet is also held, ought to apply to the managers at APUA. Therefore, the Cabinet has instructed the Cabinet Secretary to write to the general manager instructing him to take pre-retirement leave immediately, while making himself available should the need arise,” Hurst explained.

He further explained that the same high standards to which the politicians are held now must apply to senior public servants, such as managers and permanent secretaries. “The prime minister and the Cabinet will not relent on this matter,” Hurst declared.

As frustration mounts regarding



Esworth Martin

the absence of water in the homes of some consumers for up to two weeks, even PM Browne has publicly expressed his frustration with APUA, especially against the backdrop that the government has spent over US\$100 million in acquiring reverse osmosis plants to boost water availability to consumers.

Hurst said an executive search is now taking place to find a replacement for Martin.

**Digital Pop-Up**

Come speak with a Digital Champion to begin your Online Banking or Mobile App experience or learn how to do even more.

Friday, 17 November, 2023, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Old Parham Road, St. John’s Branch.

Visit [cibcfib.com](http://cibcfib.com) for more information about our products and services.

The CIBC logo is a trademark of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, used by FirstCaribbean International Bank under license.

**OFFICE COMPLEX FOR RENT**

**APPROXIMATELY 3000 SQUARE FEET  
TWO FLOORS  
PLUS A BOARDROOM**

**LOCATED ON  
POWELLS MAIN ROAD  
CALL: 784-7853**

## Teaching of Mandarin programme in schools extended for five years

The governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the People’s Republic of China have signed an agreement to extend the Confucius Institute of Antigua and Barbuda for a further five years.

The Institute has facilitated the teaching of the main Chinese language, Mandarin, in two secondary schools in Antigua and Barbuda and elsewhere. So far, Mandarin is being taught in two secondary schools, the Sir Novel-le Richards Academy (SNRA), where it started, and the Glanvilles Second-ary.

Principal of the SNRA, Listine Bradshaw, said the programme is being extended in the school to include the teaching of Kung Fu, the Chinese martial arts, which she said is aimed at helping both the body and mind of practitioners.

Resident Ambassador to St. John’s, Zhang Yanling, said Antigua and Bar-buda has been a pioneer with respect



*Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling*

to its relationship with the People’s Republic of China.

“Antigua and Barbuda is not only the first Eastern Caribbean country to establish diplomatic ties with China, the first country in this region to join the Belt and Road Initiative, but also the first to set up a Confucius Institute in the region.

“As we keep on promoting high-quality Belt and Road progress,



the political and economic cooperation between our two sides has been further strengthened, and people-to-people exchanges expanded,” she observed.

Ambassador Zhang said along the *cont’d on pg 5*

**NEW Suzuki SUV’s Fronx and 4-Door Jimny coming soon.....just in time for Christmas.....**

Starting at \$78,000

Starting at \$95,500

for more details give us a call at 481-2500



*cont'd from pg 4*

way the CIAB has been focusing on enhancing communication and understanding between friends through the Chinese language of Mandarin and made continuous contributions to the successful arrangements of the “Chinese Bridge” Mandarin proficiency competition for three consecutive years, as well as to the other friendly bilateral activities.

Speaking at the signing ceremony at the SNRA, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Senator Shenella Govia, expressed gratitude to the ambassador from the government and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for helping to establish a branch of the Confucius Institute in the country.

“We recognize that language is an important aspect of our development and I am happy to see that our students now have an opportunity to go beyond the traditional foreign languages of Spanish or French to be able to learn Mandarin. I am especially pleased that it’s the SNRA and Glanvilles where the programme started, as this serves to give a boost to the relatively new educational institutions.

The signing of the agreement was done by Senator Govia, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Head of the CIAB, Gayle Greene-Phillip, Director of the Harrison Centre,

Antigua and Barbuda Institution of Continuing Education, Arlene Weste, along with Professor Cao Renging of the Confucius Institute at the Zhejiang International Studies University.

During the presentation, two students who are part of the Mandarin programme – Joanna Humphreys and Olia Cambell – sang a song in Mandarin. There was also a special Kung Fu demonstration by Dr. Wu Wei.




CARIBBEAN  
ALLIANCE  
INSURANCE

**We are thrilled to announce the reaffirmation of our “A” (Excellent) Financial Rating from AM Best.**

AM Best has affirmed the Financial Strength Rating of A (Excellent) and the Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating of “A” (Excellent) of Caribbean Alliance Insurance Company Limited (CAIC) (Antigua and Barbuda). The outlook of these Credit Ratings (ratings) is stable.

The ratings reflect CAIC’s balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as strongest, as well as its strong operating performance, neutral business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management (ERM).



A.M. Best “A” (Excellent)

## Antigua and Barbuda signs on to the establishment of the Caribbean Customs Organisation

Caribbean countries are setting up a new organization, the Caribbean Customs Organisation, to be better able to serve the needs of the region on matters related to customs administration and enforcement.

Permanent Secretary of the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC), Claude Paul, announced this at a CCLEC executive meeting held in Antigua this week.

Paul shared that Anti-

gua and Barbuda has been one of the first countries in the region to sign on to the CCO and to ratify its treaty.

He said the 38 members of CCLEC cooperate on matters of mutual assistance, look at capacity building, and share information.

The organization also has an interest in supporting the customs departments of the region in fulfilling their mandates in terms of revenue collection, trade facilitation, enforcement, and

compliance.

“We have been in existence since the early 1970s, and we are now on the cusp of becoming a treaty organization which will change our name from the CCLEC to the CCO, which we believe will position us to be even more effective as an organization because the treaty status gives us international recognition, as well as allows us to do certain things that our previous arrangement of the MOU did not allow us to

do, in terms of our relationship with the international donor community and general cooperation with law enforcement efforts in the region and beyond,” he indicated.

Paul said the two countries have not yet signed on to the CCO treaty making the organization fully come into being, but he hopes this will be done before the end of the year.

Establishing the CCO will also give the organization UN recognition.



ANTIGUA

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165

## Local banks ‘give back’ to society for Financial Month

The annual observance of Financial Information Month was marked with events that included several local banks making charitable donations to worthy causes in the society. The Eastern Caribbean Currency Union’s Financial month of October has been described as a great success.

President of the Antigua & Barbuda and Montserrat Bankers Association and Country Head of CIBC FirstCaribbean Ltd., Ladesa James-Williams, said this year’s events were a great success.

“All of the banks worked together collaboratively, and this year we focused on fi-



CIBC FirstCaribbean Presentation: Bank officials - Abdul Browne, Platinum Associate, Michella Benjamin, Assistant Customer Manager, Dawn Soleyn, Branch Manager, Lades James- Williams, Country Head; Matron Clarissa Christopher (second from right) and officials of the Fiennes Institute.

nancial literacy with presentations to students at Ottos Comprehensive, Clare Hall Secondary, Glanvilles Secondary, Sir Novelle Richards

*cont'd on pg 8*

**STUDENT SAFETY POLICY**



**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com  
info@sicantigua.com  
1 (268) 481-7800/04

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons



# Local News



CUB Presentation: Paula St. Juste, the Sunshine Home Coordinator, and Esron Gittens, Business Development Associate at CUB.

cont'd from pg 7  
Academy, and All Saints Secondary.”

However, Mrs. James-Williams said that this year the banks decided to do even more.

“This year, we wanted to make tangible donations to various service groups, and we look forward to engaging further with our clients and communities over the next

few months. As our final activity for Financial Information Month, members of the Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat Bankers Association collaborated on a social responsibility activity where each institution adopted a deserving recipient,” she explained.

The Caribbean Union Bank made a presentation of essential food items and toi-



ACB Presentation: From left: Ms. Sarah Stuart – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment, (centre) Senator Samantha Marshall - Acting Minister of Health Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment; Mrs. Efiah Charlemagne Norbert – Senior Manager, Banking – ACB Caribbean

leties to the Sunshine Home for Girls; Antigua Commercial Bank donated two Hampers assembled with items procured based on consultation with The Gender Affairs Division – they contained personal care items and non-perishable food stuff and

it was donated to two families in need, who are housed in shelters due to gender-based violence. Lastly, CIBC FCIB selected Fiennes Institute and donated \$5,000 worth of goods based on a list of needed items presented to the institution.

**NEW**

# KFC Nuggets

6 PIECES

**\$12<sup>75</sup>**

10 PIECES

**\$19<sup>75</sup>**

100% WHITE MEAT

ORIGINAL RECIPE

**HAND MADE**

6 PIECES FRIES BISCUIT MEDIUM DRINK

**\$24<sup>75</sup>**

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY:

Available on the App Store



## Soup Kitchen attracts more corporate sponsorship

The Soup Kitchen, the facility that serves hot meals to the less fortunate of society, has received a donation from a business entity to help it carry out its mandate.

The presentation of a cheque for \$4,000.00 was made to the founder of the Soup Kitchen, Inspector Veldon Raggette, by the management and staff of Sky Tiger, an Internet Gaming company that operates out of Canada Place on Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

“Every day in the land of the living is a blessing, but some days stand out as  
*cont'd on pg 10*



**POINTE ON DE STREETZ**  
HOSTED BY  
**VERNON A. SPRINGER**

**PBN**  
POINT BROADCASTING NETWORK

**TUE - FRI**  
**2PM - 3PM**

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

**f POINT FM99.1**

# Local News



*cont'd from pg 9*

truly exceptional. Today is one of those days, thanks to the incredible management and staff at Sky Tiger.

“A heartfelt thank you for their generous donation, sponsorship, and for facilitating the sharing of today’s meal,” Raggette remarked.

Raggette also expressed appreciation, on behalf of his team, to the talented chefs at Green Apple Cafe in Five Islands as well as the in-house chef, Sasha James.

The menu for the special meal served on Thursday at the Soup Kitchen was ham, turkey, chicken, fish, rice, pasta, fried dumplings, bread pudding, steamed vegetables, and green salad.



**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED

**STORM  
READY**  
2023 HURRICANE SEASON  
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

**COVERAGE FOR**  
HOME | BUSINESS | FAMILY | MOTOR

[www.sicfinancial.com](http://www.sicfinancial.com)

BECOME A

# GERM BUSTER

GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE!  
WASH YOUR  
HANDS  
REGULARLY  
WITH SOAP.



GRAFINKZ



**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

## Lightning fires threaten planet-cooling forests

Climate change could bring more lightning to forests in northern reaches of the globe, increasing the risk of wildfires, a new study shows.

Researchers found that lightning is the main cause of fires similar to those seen in parts of Canada this summer.

These forests limit climate change by trapping planet-heating carbon.

More lightning could spark a vicious cycle, as trees and soil set ablaze release warming CO<sub>2</sub> - creating more storms and potentially more lightning.

While the overall number of fires has decreased around the world over the last two decades, they have increased markedly in heavily forested areas outside the tropics.

This year Canada experienced a fire season like no other - over 6,500 fires blazed, burning around 18 million hectares (45 million acres) of forest and land.

Smoke from those fires drifted into major cities in Canada and the US, even crossing the Atlantic to Spain and Portugal.

Unlike other years which saw fires confined to the western part of the country, 2023 was marked by conflagrations across the entire territory including in eastern regions like Quebec.

The majority of these fires in northern parts were started by lightning strikes according to experts.

This new study used



machine learning tools to develop a new global map showing forest fires by their ignition sources.

The authors found that 77% of burned areas in these forests are related to lightning ignitions. This is very different from tropical regions where humans are the main cause.

In the remote forests where lightning is the main fire starter, these conflagrations can rapidly turn into mega-fires.

“When a thunderstorm passes through this landscape, there are thousands of lightning strikes, and some hundreds of them start little fires,” said Prof Sander Veraverbeke from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, one of the authors on the research paper.

“And these can grow together into mega-fire complexes that become the size of small countries. Once these fires are so big, it becomes very difficult to do anything about them.”

Using climate models, the authors also found that lightning frequency over intact northern forests would increase by 11-31% for every degree of global warming.

This poses a threat of increased emissions as the trees contain large amounts of carbon, as do the soils in which they grow.

These “extratropical forests” are often in regions of permafrost and fire may also amplify the emissions of greenhouse gases as the icy ground melts, by up to 30% by the end of this century under moderate levels of warming.

“Our research highlights that extratropical forests are vulnerable to the combined effects of a warmer, drier climate and a heightened likelihood of ignitions by lightning strikes,” said Dr Matthew Jones from the University of East Anglia.

“Future increases in lightning ignitions threaten to destabilise vast carbon

stores in extratropical forests, particularly as weather conditions become warmer, drier, and overall more fire-prone in these regions.”

While fires in tropical forests can be limited by education and intervention programmes to prevent people burning these areas, stemming fires from lightning is far more difficult.

The researchers believe the most effective step would be major cuts in emissions of warming gases which might in turn limit the rise in lightning strikes. The possibility of more fires as large as the ones seen in Canada this year should be a wake-up call, experts say.

“The fire season was unprecedented and hard for a lot of people to ignore,” said Dr Katrina Moser from the University of Western Ontario, who wasn’t involved in the study. But my take-home message is it’s not too late to make a change. Take forest fires as a warning but not as reason to do nothing.”

## Stop suggesting children as friends, social media firms told

By Chris Vallance

Social media platforms should fight online grooming by not suggesting children as “friends” by default, the communications watchdog says.

The warning is contained in Ofcom’s first guidance for tech platforms on complying with the Online Safety Act.

This covers how they should tackle illegal content, including child abuse online.

Ofcom revealed figures suggesting that over one in ten 11-18 year olds have been sent naked or semi-naked images.

This first draft code of practice published by Ofcom in its role enforcing the Online Safety Act covers activity such as child sexual abuse material (CSAM), grooming and fraud.

It wants to hear what tech platforms think of its plans.

Much of the guidance targets grooming. The largest platforms are expected to change default settings so children aren’t added to suggested friends lists, something that can be exploited by groomers.

They should also ensure children’s location information cannot be revealed in their profile or posts and prevent them receiving messages from people not in their contacts list.

Ofcom will also require some platforms to use a technology called hash-matching to detect CSAM.



This converts an image into numbers called a “hash”, and compares that with a database of numbers generated by known CSAM images. If there is a match, then it means a known CSAM image has been found.

The method is already widely used by social media and search engines, according to Professor Alan Woodward of Surrey University.

“I fear Ofcom are simply codifying mechanisms that are already in use. It’s not surprising as research to date has found nothing more effective than what is in use already”, he told the BBC.

But this hashing will not apply to private or encrypted messages. Ofcom stresses it is not - in this guidance - making any proposals that would break encryption.

Powers in the bill that could, if certain conditions are met, be used to force pri-

vate messaging apps such as iMessage, WhatsApp and Signal to scan messages for CSAM have been deeply controversial.

These apps use end-to-end-encryption, which means even the tech firm cannot read the contents of the message.

Some major apps have said they will not comply if asked to scan encrypted messages - arguing it would require them to weaken the privacy of their systems globally, and weaken the security of systems that protect users including children.

Ofcom says those powers will not be consulted on until 2024 and are unlikely to come into force until around 2025.

Some question whether it will ever be possible to enforce these powers in a way that preserves the privacy of encrypted communications.

Asked in a BBC inter-

view if those powers would ever be used, Ofcom’s chief executive Dame Melanie Dawes said, “it’s hard to say right now, but there isn’t a solution yet, a technology solution, that allows scanning to take place in encrypted environments without breaking the encryption.”

But she encouraged encrypted messaging companies to find ways to combat child abuse on their platforms.

The challenge facing Ofcom is significant. This first guidance is over 1,500 pages long. Over 100,000 services, many based outside the UK, may be subject to regulation.

And government figures have suggested that 20,000 small business could need to comply.

Asked if Ofcom had the resources it needed, Dame Melanie admitted it was a “really big job” but added

*cont’d on pg 14*

## Guyana: Public servants, pensioners to receive one-off bonus

By Dillon De Shong

Guyanese President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali has announced that public servants and recipients of old age pension and disability grants will receive a one-off bonus payment next month.

In a national address today, Ali said GYD\$25,000 will be given to public servants, including those employed in semi-autonomous enterprises, and pensioners.

Approximately 67,000 public servants will receive bonuses, costing the state GYD\$1.7 billion.

A total of 72,000 pensioners are expected to re-

ceive a bonus, which will cost taxpayers GYD\$1.8 billion.

Persons on disability assistance will be given GYD\$35,000.

Approximately 19,000 people are expected to benefit from the bonus payment.

Ali said the government will also allocate GYD\$850 million to purchase fertiliser for farmers.

About 35,000 farmers are expected to benefit from the initiative.

Meanwhile, the salaries of Community Infrastructure Improvement Project (CIIP) Community En-



President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

hancement workers will be adjusted to \$40,000.

Over 2,000 workers will benefit from the increase, which takes effect on 1st December 2023.

“The above interventions amount to over \$7 billion in additional disposable income and represent a further instalment of my Government’s unwavering commitment to continue to

improve the working conditions of our employees in the public sector, support to the vulnerable segment of our population and assistance to our farmers,” Ali stated. “I will also very shortly be making an announcement on an across-the-board salary increase for the public servants, teachers and members of the disciplined services.”

*cont’d from pg 13*

“we’re absolutely up for the task. And we’re really excited that we’re launching today.”

It faces another challenge managing expectations from the public and from campaigners. Whatever Ofcom announces it may be criticised for being too hard on tech platforms or not hard enough, said Dame Melanie.

“It isn’t the job of a regulator to be loved by everybody. That’s impossible.

“And it’s not what we ever aim for, but it is our job to be proportionate. And to

make sure that what we require is evidenced and has been backed up by proper facts”, Dame Melanie added.

And one expectation Ofcom is keen to dismiss is that harmful content should be reported directly to it - instead its task is to make sure the tech-firms have good systems for users to report illegal or harmful content to them.

“So this isn’t like TV [complaints] where you can submit a complaint to Ofcom, and we will consider it as the regulator”, Dame Melanie said.



ProdCo

ticketing

FESTIVE EXPERIENCES LTD. PRESENTS

**Glow Up**

THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

December 23RD & 24TH 2023

AT ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

FEATURING

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • STREET PARADE • FOOD & DRINKS  
FAMILY & ADULT GAMES • CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING • FIREWORKS

## Puerto Rico declares influenza epidemic

Health officials in Puerto Rico have declared an influenza epidemic. This was announced during a news conference with the Secretary of the Department of Health, Carlos Mellado López, accompanied by the main health official epidemiology, Melissa Marzán, and the main medical officer, Iris Cardona.

The Secretary explained that this week fatalities increased to 42, with 903 hospitalisations recorded and 25,900 cases so far for this season of influenza, which started in July.

“This epidemic decla-

ration is to alert and inform citizens about the actions we must take. This is not the time to be alarmed, but to prepare to help prevent the increase in the spread of this virus. Already the health providers are working with measures to reduce the spread and prevent the virus. Fortunately, we have enough screening tests, vaccines and treatments required to deal with cases of influenza and “Everyone is accessible and distributed throughout the island,” said Mellado.

The pediatric population between 0 to 19 years old



has been the most affected this season with 13,666 cases reported, the group of adults between the ages of 20 to 59 years amounts to 9,656 cases, while 2,578 cases have been registered in adults greater. The sus-

tained rise in influenza cases has been reflected in the past 12 consecutive weeks.

Last season (2022 to 2023) closed with 31,710 cases, 1,224 hospitalisations and 15 fatalities.

“The current flu season began above the alert threshold early and, recently, it has already shown epidemic behaviour with 5.7 times more cases compared to last season to this moment” said Dr Melissa Marzán, Chief Epidemiology Officer.

Meanwhile, Dr Iris Cardona, Chief Medical Officer, highlighted that “the call is simple, get vaccinated. Vaccination is the main shield against some diseases and anyone over six months old is eligible to receive it. This is available around the island at vaccination providers, pharmacies community and chain and in vaccination activities organised in centres commercial.

“We are also vaccinating at school.”

The goal of the Department of Health is to vaccinate as many people as possible before the Christmas festivities.

**WE'RE ON WHATSAPP!  
CONTACT US!  
729-3397 / 729-1210**

**SEND US YOUR ESTIMATES!**





DEWS


dewspro


info@dewspro.com


729-3397/ 729-1210

# Suspects held over alleged Hezbollah plot in Brazil

An alleged plot to attack Jews in Brazil has been foiled following the arrest of two men suspected of being linked to the Islamist group Hezbollah.

The arrests were made in São Paulo on Wednesday during what police said was an operation to “disrupt the preparation of terrorist attacks”.

Brazilian authorities added other raids were carried out across the country.

The Israeli Prime Minister’s office said its spy agency Mossad worked with Brazilian law enforcement.

Brazil is home to Latin America’s second largest Jewish community.

In a statement, Brazil’s Federal Police said 11 search and seizure raids were executed in São Paulo, the capital Brasília and the state of Minas Gerais.

Recruiters face charges of involvement in a terrorist organisation and participating in preparations for terrorist acts - and could face maximum prison sentences of 15 and a half years if convicted.

Hezbollah is an Iranian-backed Shia Muslim organisation which exerts significant political influence in Lebanon and controls the country’s most powerful armed force.

Like Hamas in the Gaza Strip, it is considered a ter-



According to Brazilian authorities, two men were arrested in São Paulo who appear to have links to the Lebanon-based Islamist group Hezbollah.

rorist organisation by the UK, the US, Israel, Gulf Arab countries and other nations.

According to AFP news agency, Mossad said it had helped to “foil a terrorist attack in Brazil” which it added was “planned by the Hezbollah terrorist organisation, directed and financed by the Iranian regime”.

In a statement, Mossad said the planned attacks targeted “Israeli and Jewish targets in Brazil”.

“This was an extensive network that operated in additional countries,” Mossad added.

While Mossad did not name the other countries, security experts have long tracked alleged Hezbollah operations in South Amer-

ica’s “tri-border area” between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

“Given the backdrop of the war in Gaza... Hezbollah and the Iranian regime are continuing to operate around the world in order to attack Israeli, Jewish and Western targets,” Mossad’s statement added.

Although Brazil may seem a long way from the Middle East, the region’s conflicts have long cast a shadow over South America.

In neighbouring Argentina, which has one of the largest Jewish communities in the world, Hezbollah has been blamed for the country’s deadliest terror attack - the 1994 bombing of the Amia Jewish cultural centre

in Buenos Aires, in which 85 people died.

Hezbollah and Iran have both denied any involvement. No-one has ever been brought to trial in connection with the bombing.

Both Brazil and Argentina have many citizens of Syrian or Lebanese descent, although the majority of them are Christians.

More than 100,000 Jewish people live in Brazil, while twice that number live in Argentina.

Argentina designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation in 2019, making it the first country in Latin America to do so.

It was followed by Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay - but not, as yet, Brazil.



## Colorado funeral home owners arrested after 190 corpses found

By Brandon Drenon

The owners of a Colorado funeral home are accused of giving fake cremated remains to some bereaved families, among other allegations.

Jan and Carie Hallford were arrested by authorities in Oklahoma on Wednesday.

Authorities found 190 sets of decaying remains last month in the couple's funeral home in Penrose, some dating back to 2019.

They are facing charges of abuse of a corpse, theft, money laundering and forgery.

Authorities began investigating the Return to Nature Funeral Home on 4 October after neighbours reported a foul smell spreading from the facility.

Investigators entered to find "abhorrent" conditions with dozens of stacked bodies, some of which had been there for years.

At a press conference on Wednesday, District Attorney Michael Allen said authorities would not be releasing many details in order to protect the ongoing investigation. He described the details of the case as "absolutely shocking".

Some relatives are also believed to have received fake cremated remains of their deceased loved ones.



"Law enforcement now knows the cremains each family was given could not have been their loved one," according to court documents obtained by the Associated Press.

Families have been contacted by the FBI and asked to give samples of the ashes they received for investigators to analyse.

"We will never know what our families are actually carrying.

"Some of them may be concrete dust, some of them may be other things," said Chrystina Page, whose son's body was among those found inside the funeral home, told the BBC's US media partner CBS.

"We won't ever know so I can't even describe the

emotions our families are going through," Ms Page said.

Mr and Mrs Hallford are being held in jail on a \$2m (£1.6m) cash bond.

Their arrest warrant said they are facing about 190 counts of abuse of a corpse, five counts of theft, four counts of money laundering and over 50 counts of forgery, all felonies.

They are scheduled for an initial court appearance on 9 November on a federal fleeing charge.

All decedents located at the Colorado funeral home were removed on 13 October and transported to the El Paso County Coroner's Office.

Fremont County Coroner Randy Keller said 110 bodies have been positive-

ly identified but that work continues to identify the other 80.

Mr Keller said corpses are being identified through fingerprints, dental records, medical hardware, and DNA testing "if necessary".

Colorado Gov Jared Polis released a statement following the Hallford's arrest: "I am relieved that criminal charges have been brought against the funeral home owner and a criminal investigation is proceeding.

"I know this will not bring peace to the families impacted by this heart-wrenching incident but we hope the individuals responsible are held fully accountable in a court of law."

# Sports News



## Teams book spots in business league playoff semifinals

Three teams booked their spots in the semi-finals of the playoff competition in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Wednesday night.

Top seed and round-robin league winners Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, third-seeded and defending playoff champions Richie's Shooterz, and fourth-seeded Anjo Wholesale all advanced to the semi-finals by winning their second round encounters at the JSC Sports Com-

plex. The Transport Board rolled past the eighth-seeded Board of Education 71-55 in the last game of Wednesday night's triple header.

Marlon "Buju" Charles produced 26 points, Craig Massiah had 14 points, and Russell Daley chipped in with 12 points for the Transport Board.

David Hernandez sank 16 points, Kelvyn Pimental scored 15 points, and Jesus Emmanuel netted 12 points for the Board of Education.

Richie's Shooterz prevailed 51-48 against the

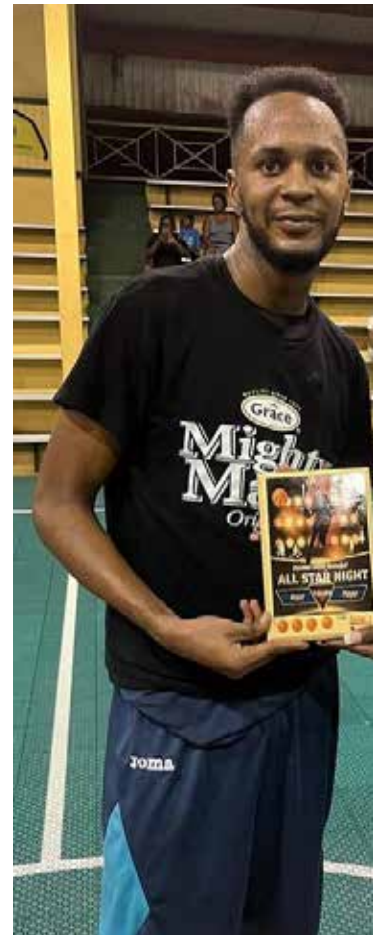
sixth-seeded Callan Shooters. Lincoln Weekes converted 12 points, Tavarus Benta sank 11 points, and Kwame Brathwaite contributed 10 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Leroy Percival produced 14 points, and Teon Joseph and Warren Bogle each contributed 11 points for the Callan Shooters.

Anjo Wholesale cruised past 12th-seeded Sledge O'Ballers 71-60 in Wednesday night's opening affair.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 20 points, Jaheem James sank 13 points, and Victor Osborne and Felix Hamilton each chipped in with 11 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Zuri Nesbitt converted 17 points, and Tristan Jacobs had 16 points for the Sledge O'Ballers.



Steven Matthew shot a game-high 20 points to lead Anjo Wholesale to victory against Sledge O'Ballers in the playoff competition of the Cool and Smooth ABBA Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. (File photo)

**WEST INDIES VS ENGLAND**  
**WI HOME**  
*For Christmas*  
**DECEMBER 3 & 6, 2023**  
**2 CG UNITED ODIs**  
**SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM**  
 Visit [windiescricket.com](http://windiescricket.com) for tickets and more

**PLATINUM FM 97.9**  
**TOUCHLINE**  
**MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7AM-9AM**  
 All the best in sports and more

## New Zealand crush Sri Lanka in Cricket World Cup

BENGALURU (Reuters) - New Zealand returned to winning ways at the World Cup following a four-match slump as they defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Thursday and all but secured their place in the semi-finals.

Opening batsmen Devon Conway (45) and Rachin Ravindra (42) got fourth-placed New Zealand's chase of 172 off to a fast start and Daryl Mitchell (43) took them close before they crossed the finish line in 23.2 overs.

Victory left New Zealand on 10 points - in pole position to claim the last semi-final spot and join India, South Africa and Australia.

Pakistan will now need to beat England by an almost impossible margin to leapfrog New Zealand on net run rate.

Afghanistan, who also had slim hopes of qualifying for the knockouts, find themselves in a similar position as their Asian neighbours before their clash with South Africa.

"Really good performance," said New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson. "The early wickets and spin was a challenge through those middle overs. The pitch really slowed down later.



New Zealand's Trent Boult reacts after a delivery during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Bengaluru, India, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023. (AP)

"The guys showed some good intent later with the chase, so great performance overall. We thought there was going to be some weather later but there wasn't any. Hard to read such things."

Earlier, seamer Trent Boult and off-spinner Mitchell Santner landed timely blows as Sri Lanka limped to 171 all out after an early blitz by Kusal Perera (51) and a defiant late effort by Maheesh Theekshana (38 not out).

"Nice to get a bit of success at the top. A must-win game, the pleasure is about getting the result,"

said man-of-the-match Boult, who went past 600 international wickets.

Williamson's decision to bowl after winning the toss paid off early, as Boult (three for 37) and Tim Southee (one for 52) tore through the Sri Lanka top order to leave them in some trouble at 32 for three inside five overs.

Perera, who was dropped on zero by Tom Latham in the second over, punished New Zealand with a 22-ball fifty, but lost another partner when Boult trapped Charith Asalanka lbw to turn up the heat on the 1996 champions.

A fit-again Lockie Ferguson (two for 35) struck in his second over to dismiss the aggressive Perera as Sri Lanka collapsed to 70 for five and eventually folded in the 47th over for a modest total after Santner (two for 22) and Ravindra (two for 21) joined the party.

Santner curtailed Sri Lanka during a crucial phase of the innings and removed Angelo Mathews (16) and Dhananjaya de Silva (19) before Theekshana and Dilshan Madushanka (19) frustrated New Zealand with a 10th-wicket stand of 43.



The players of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force celebrate after capturing a wicket during the CG United Super50 Cup semifinal against Guyana Harpy Eagles at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. (CWI Media)

## T&T Red Force march into Super50 Cup final

Last year's beaten finalist Trinidad and Tobago Red Force will take their unbeaten record into the CG United Super50 Cup final, following a convincing six-wicket victory over Guyana Harpy Eagles in a lopsided semi-final encounter at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Wednesday.

Darren Bravo won the toss and sent Harpy Eagles in to bat, a decision which proved fruitful, as Red Force dismissed the opponents for a paltry 105 in 34.3 overs.

The captain later added an unbeaten 53, which helped the T&T Red Force easily surpass the target and achieve victory at 107 for four in 27.4 overs. Bravo's patient 70-ball 53, included eight boundaries.

Despite the many talents in Har-

py Eagles's batting line up, they have really failed to spark throughout the campaign, and this crucial semi-final encounter again served up a dismal display.

With the exception of Sherfane Rutherford (30) and Tagenarine Chanderpaul (22), no other batsman got into double figures, as Terrance Hinds ran through the top order, and they never recovered.

The 31-year-old right-arm medium pacer snared four for 15 in a mere four overs, while leg-spinner Yannic Cariah had two for 14 in 2.3 overs.

With very little runs on the board, the Red Force's chase started steadily, but the Harpy Eagles sensed a glimmer of hope when Veerasammy Permaul had Tion Webster (10)

trapped in front with the score at 25 for one.

Kjorn Ottley and Bravo added 58 for the second wicket to balance things out, before the former went leg-before-wicket to Gudakesh Motie. Ottley's innings of 35 off 59 balls, included five boundaries.

The Red Force lost the wickets of Nicholas Pooran (three) and Jason Mohammed (zero) in quick succession to Motie, leaving the score at 89 for four.

But Bravo remained steady, and with Cariah, unbeaten on five, holding the other end, saw Red Force to a second-consecutive final. Motie ended with three for 20 in seven overs.

The final will be contested at the same venue on Saturday.

## PMS only unbeaten team left in U20 Girls division

Defending champion Princess Margaret School (PMS) is now the only unbeaten team in the Under-20 Girls Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

Princess Margaret School cruised to a comfortable 3-0 victory against Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) in a top-of-the-table clash at the PMS playing field on Wednesday.

Both teams entered the match with identical records of two wins from as many games, but goals by Irressia Allen in the 6th minute, Ajahna Martin in the 13th minute, and K'Neice Browne in the 36th minute ensured the PMS girls came out on top.

The girls of Ottos Comprehensive School claimed their first win in three matches by prevailing 2-0 against Jen-

nings Secondary School at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Latoya Williams and Abigail Donalds were the goal scorers for Ottos Comprehensive, which had drawn one and lost the other of their two previous encounters.

Clare Hall Secondary School, which was languishing in the cellar of the six-team round-robin competition after losing their previous two matches, recorded their first win by hammering host St. Anthony's Secondary School 6-2.

Azaria Cochrane scored four times for Clare Hall, with goals in the 18th, 26th, 39th and 40th minutes. Sanique Levy scored the other two goals for the winners in the 36th and 49th minutes.

Aisha Chanes scored in the 18th minute, and Kinaya Lewis had a

46th-minute conversion for St. Anthony's Secondary School, which lost for the first time in three matches.

Keivonte Lewis scored four goals, and Caleb Paul struck a hat-trick to propel Antigua Grammar School to an emphatic 11-0 drubbing of Jennings Secondary School in a rescheduled Under-14 Boys Division encounter at the PMS playing field.

Lewis had conversions in the 2nd minute, 24th, 30th, and 42nd minutes, while Paul scored in the 3rd minute, 10th, and 33rd minutes. Tafari Parker also scored twice with goals in the 21st and 40th minutes.

The other goals for Antigua Grammar School were scored by Kajahry Browne in the 28th minute and Aden Isaac in the 45th minute.

**Ticket outlets: Landing Strip, Roti King, Eighteen Plus 1 Restaurant**



# GOLD JACKET

## Award Ceremony 2023



MR. CHARLES "JIM" ALLEN MBE

*Awardees*

SIR VIVIAN A RICHARDS KNH OBE OOC

**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**7PM - 10PM**

**VENUE: COURTYARD**

**COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND, ANTIGUA**

**TICKETS \$100 US**

**COCKTAIL EVENT**





**PLATINUM** Fm  
We Entertain You **97.9**

**MON - FRI**  
**10AM - 12PM**

**HOSTED BY CARLENA KNIGHT**

**PLATINUM**  
**SPORTS CENTER**

**CALL: 562 - 9790**  
**FACEBOOK LIVE @ PLATINUM FM 97.9**

## Australia captain Lanning quits international women's cricket

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia captain Meg Lanning has announced her retirement from international cricket after winning seven World Cup titles during a 241-match career.

The 31-year-old Lanning, who played six Tests, 103 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 132 Twenty20 Internationals (T20I), will continue playing domestic cricket in Australia and possibly India.

“The decision to step away from international cricket was a difficult one to make, but I feel now is the right time for me,” Lanning said Thursday in a statement. “I’ve been incredibly fortunate to enjoy a 13-year international career.”

Speaking later outside the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of family and friends, Manning said she had tried to talk herself out of ending her international career.

“I’m sad that it’s finishing up, but I’m very much

ready for something new,” Lanning said. “I feel like now I’ve got nothing left to achieve on the international stage. For me, I can’t be half in or half out with anything, and I guess that’s where I’ve landed with this decision.”

Lanning broke down when thanking her father Wayne and mother Sue, who attended their daughter’s farewell press conference. Lanning was born in Singapore when her father was a banker there.

Lanning, who won two ODIs World Cups and five T20 World Cups, amassed 8,352 runs in international cricket after making her debut in 2010. That total included 17 centuries and 38 half-centuries.

In just her second ODI, Lanning became the youngest Australian to score an international century when she hit an unbeaten 104 against England at the age of 18. It’s a record she still holds.

Lanning was appointed



Australia's captain Meg Lanning with the trophy smiles after winning the final of Women's cricket T20 Triangular Series in Mumbai, India, Saturday, March. 31, 2018. Australia women's cricket captain Lanning has announced her international retirement on Thursday, November 9, 2023. (AP)

captain in 2014, becoming Australia’s youngest ever skipper at just 21. She led Australia in 182 matches, more than any other women’s player. She leaves behind one of Australia’s most successful international teams.

In what turned out to be her final international match, Lanning led Australia to the 2023 T20 World Cup title against South Africa in February.

“One of the finest cricketers Australia has produced, Meg’s supreme achievements with the bat have been matched by her inspiring leadership,” Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said.

“As one of the best players in the world over a long period of time, Meg has made an immeasurable impact and led a generation, which has helped revolutionize the game.”

### cont'd from pg 24

Zenus Williams of Dominatrixx won the King of Domino crown. Mervin LeFleur of Willikies Super Stars came in second, and Rohan Cordice of Dominatrixx finished in third place. Two founding members of Willikies Super Stars, Ed Carty and Reynold Isaac, who came out of retirement this year, combined their efforts to win the Male Pairs title.

Zenus Williams and McClean

Harve of Dominatrixx had to settle for the runners-up position, and Kenny Charles and Mervin LeFleur of Willikies Super Stars finished in third place.

The duo of Lorraine Richardson and Natasha Edwards of Willikies Super Stars captured the Female Pairs title.

Seymone Parks of Parham Strikers and Marilyn Gayle of A.S. Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers combined their efforts to claim second

place.

The team comprising Francine Hector of Everyday Service Station Double Six and Bernia Richards of Legacy beat the Moise Eagle Eyes duo of Natalie Heron and Amsha-Ann Eusebe to finish in third place.

Willikies Super Stars won the Team Three-Hand Competition. Rappers finished in second place, and Everyday Service Station Double Six came in third place.

## Several winners crowned in ABNDA's domestic contests

There were a number of title winners during the recent staging of several finals in the classics of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) domestic league competitions at its headquarters in Ototos.

Conrad Constant and Brittany Farrill of Willikies Super Stars won the Mixed Pairs title.

The combination of Zenus Williams of Dominatrixx and Shashanae Carter of Moise Eagle Eyes captured the runners-up position in the Mixed Pairs contest.

Devon Graham and Ariel Farrill of Willikies Super Stars finished in third place.

Zenus Williams and McClean Harve of Dominatrixx won the 500 Pairs contest. They beat Kenny Charles



Willikies Super Stars' Ed Carty and Reynold Isaac (in gray shirts) compete against Zenus Williams and McClean Harve of Dominatrixx in the Male Pairs final.

and Lorraine Richardson of Willikies Super Stars in the final.

Conrad Constant and Brittany Farrill of Willikies Super Stars captured third place by prevailing against Kaid Jarvis and Patricia Lewis of AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers.

Kenny Charles and Lorraine Richardson of Willikies Super Stars captured the title in the President's Pairs competition. They beat Rohan Cordice and Candia Stephens of Dominatrixx in the final.

Calvin Gordon and Ruth Ralph of Willikies Super Stars claimed third place.

Surleen Samuel of A.S. Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers won the Queen of Domino crown.

Her clubmate Desiree Parker took the runner-up spot, and Carolyn Joseph of Unstoppables finished in third place.

*cont'd on pg 23*



The team comprising Francine Hector of Everyday Service Station Double Six and Bernia Richards of Legacy beat the Moise Eagle Eyes duo of Natalie Heron (yellow shirt) and Amsha-Ann Eusebe (black shirt) to finish in third place. (Photos courtesy ABNDA)