



PM: DEAN IGNORED MY WARNINGS

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Liberta Primary School At 60 The Liberta Primary School is celebrating its 60th anniversary this month with a series of events. Parliamentary representative for St Paul, Hon. E.P Chet Greene joined staff and pupils in celebrating this milestone. Among the events was an Appreciation Dinner Sunday afternoon for past and current teachers of the educational institution and a church service among others.

WEATHER FORECAST

DAY 1/27	°F	NIGHT 1/27	°F
 82° Hi RealFeel® 90° RealFeel Shade™ 83°		 71° Lo RealFeel® 73°	
Mostly sunny with a brief shower		Clear	
Max UV Index: 6 High Wind: SE at 5 mph Wind Gusts: 10 mph Precipitation: 55% Thunderstorms: 20% Precipitation: 0.04 in Rain: 0.04 in Snow: 0.0 in Ice: 0.00 in		Wind: ESE at 1 mph Wind Gusts: 6 mph Precipitation: 5% Thunderstorms: 0% Precipitation: 0.00 in Rain: 0.00 in Snow: 0.0 in Ice: 0.00 in	

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Sunrise AST

6:40 AM

Sunset AST

6:00 PM

Duration

11:20 hr

MOONRISE/MOONSET

Moonrise AST

8:39 AM

Moonset AST

8:28 PM

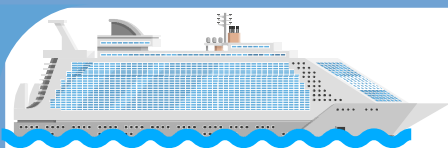
Duration

11:49 hr

POINTE FM RADIO

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Highlights

5AM - 6AM - TRUTH AND PRAISE GOSPEL**7AM - 9AM - TIME OUT****10AM - 1PM - REBROADCAST: BROWNE AND BROWNE SHOW****1PM - 4PM - DRIVE POINT****4PM - 6PM - PULL UP SHOW****6:30PM - NIGHTLY NEWS****8PM - 10PM - REAL TALK**

Cruise Ship Port Schedule 2019

Date Cruise Ship Arrive-Depart

27 January, 2020 Monday	Celebrity Summit	16:00
28 January, 2020 Tuesday	Viking Sea	
28 January, 2020 Tuesday	Britannia	07:00 18:00
28 January, 2020 Tuesday	Disney Wonder	08:00 16:00
29 January, 2020 Wednesday	Norwegian Bliss	09:00 17:00
29 January, 2020 Wednesday	Crown Princess	09:00 18:00
31 January, 2020 Friday	MSC Preziosa	08:00 18:00
1 February, 2020 Saturday	Anthem of the Seas	08:00 17:00
2 February, 2020 Sunday	Marella Celebration	08:00 18:00

The Living Word

Guiding Children to God

Read: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 (NIV)

An outspoken atheist believes it's immoral for parents to teach their children religion as though it were actually true. He even claims that parents who pass along their faith to their children are committing child abuse. Though these views are extreme, I do hear from parents who are hesitant to boldly encourage their children toward faith. While most of us readily hope to influence our children with our view of politics or nutrition or sports, for some reason some of us treat our convictions about God differently.

In contrast, Paul wrote of how Timothy had been taught "from infancy . . . the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Timothy didn't arrive at faith as an adult through the power of his own, unaided reason. Rather, his mother nurtured his heart toward God; then he continued in what he had learned (v. 14). If God is life, the source of true wisdom, then it's vital for us to tenderly cultivate a love for God in our families.

There are many belief systems that are influencing our children. TV shows, movies, music, teachers, friends, the media—each of these carry assumptions (either obvious or under the radar) about faith that exert real influence. May we choose not to be silent. The beauty and grace we've experienced compels us to guide our children toward God.

PM: Dean ignored my warnings



Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne has provided further details of the circumstances that led to the firing of then Agriculture Minister, Hon. Dean Jonas.

Jonas was relieved of the portfolio responsibility for Agriculture and Barbuda Affairs on January 20 and replaced by Hon. Samantha Marshall.

PM Browne said he had longstanding issues with Jonas over his failure to adhere to very strict government policies regarding the issuance of government contracts.

According to the Prime Minister, when the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party took office it sought the input of

technicians from the Ministry of Public Works and others on what would be an ideal figure for which approval of the Tender's Board would be required for awarding government contracts. The recommendation was to raise the figure from EC\$20,000.00 to EC\$100,00.00. However, the government also introduced a caveat where the Cabinet must first approve the contract before sending it to the Tender's Board for its consent.

"In the case of former minister, Jonas, there were many instances where he sought to enter into contracts without following the laid down policies and which could potentially have negative consequences for the government," Browne revealed.

He added that the violations involving the St. George's representative date back to even before he was a Cabinet minister, noting that he had intervened on numerous occasions to 'scuttle' contracts that Jonas attempted to enter 'to avoid embarrassment'.

The prime minister expressed frustration with the matter stating that Jonas was warned privately as well as

in front of his Cabinet colleagues 'to no avail'. He described the repeated encounters as similar to speaking to 'a brick wall'.

Matters came to a head when during the week prior to his ouster, Jonas, according to the prime minister, sought to enter into a contract that would have again violated clearly laid out policies and with that he felt that the former minister had crossed the proverbial Rubicon and therefore had to be fired.

Additionally, PM Browne said, it was clear that Jonas was under-performing as he lacked focus.

The attorney general has been asked to look into the matter involving Jonas to see whether any laws were violated. Browne warns that should that be the case, then Jonas would be on his own as the law would then intervene and he would not return to the government.

However, he said, if there are no violations, the former minister may return to the government if he shows clearly a desire to follow the policies of the government.

Shift System For SMSS Goes Into Effect

Students of the St. Mary's Secondary School will begin attending classes in a shift system being put into place by the Ministry of Education.

This comes as the school compound has become unusable due to heavy rains over the past several weeks and ongoing construction at the school. The 211 students will now attend classes in the afternoon at the Jennings Secondary School.

"Even with best efforts from the Ministry of Works team working against harsh realities of the weather, MoEST is unable to reopen SMSS for regular classes Monday 27th, January and it will proceed to a shift system for at least the upcoming week," Director of Education, Clare Browne, said in a statement over the weekend.

According to Browne a shift system in education presents its challenges, however, its necessity wards off the greater challenge on a pro-longed interruption of the education process



for students at SMSS.

"We will continue to monitor the necessary work being undertaken by the Ministry of Works and revise

MoEST's decision and resort to a shift system as the MW pushes to make the physical environment more conducive," he stated. *cont'd on page 4*

Banks playing hardball with gov't for loans – PM Browne

Local banks that have reportedly been tight-fisted in granting loans to government for development projects are being called out for their unfairness by the country's Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has even gone so far as to name one of the banks, whose hardball stance he believes is standing in the way of urgently needed upgrades to the public distribution of pipe-borne water by the state-owned utility provider APUA.

Speaking Saturday on his own radio program, The Browne and Browne Show, the Prime Minister said he was aware of complaints about dirty-looking water flowing from the APUA mains.

He said notwithstanding that the problem predated his government by a very long time, the administration was nonetheless committed to addressing and resolving the deterioration.

But he said in addition to the fiscal hurdles posed by people evading or avoiding their due payment of taxes, banks were making it difficult to access

required funding in a timely manner.

"Just today I saw someone posted something on Facebook about some water she got out of a particular pipeline, APUA pipe water, and it was extremely brown; and that's because of these old pipes that we've had existing for the last, maybe, 30 to 50 years. Now, it takes money to replace them, so we have asked APUA to borrow \$30 million in order to do the re-piping because we are determined that in this term these are issues we are going to resolve," he outlined.

According to the Prime Minister, "If people are going to be fair to my government, they will recognize that these are issues that existed for decades ... We are now at the stage where will have the resources. In fact, APUA itself has utilized cash generated from [its own] business to order pipes, and the re-piping will, in essence, start immediately ..."

The latter projection is based on a \$30 million dollar loan application that APUA has made to the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB), and it is that



transaction which the PM is not pleased about the pace at which it is moving.

"And by the way, ACB, you all are moving too slow; we need the money; you need to approve the loan," he said, as if addressing the financial institution directly.

He continued, "Sometime, these bankers have to understand that when you have these kinds of loans to do

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The director of education is adamant that whatever the means, the educative process must continue.

He said he is heartened as the efforts of the ministry of works are evident, and are dampened only by the exasperation of the relentless weather and serious flooding and their after effect in the area.

Browne thanked the principal, teachers and staff for their continued passion, the students for their understanding and parents and stakeholders for their continued support.

MoEST eagerly looks forward for the resumption of normal classes at SMSS and the Jennings Secondary School as the ministry of works push ahead to complete the task at hand.

On Sunday afternoon, both Minister of Education, Hon. Michael Browne and the director visited the SMSS to make a final determination of whether to proceed with the shift system.

Under the system, the students at JSS will attend classes from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, and the SMSS students will attend classes at JSS from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm



'Booby Alley' project gets boost



The project that will see the transformation of the area of The Point generally referred to as 'Booby Alley' is getting a jump-start with the arrival of the first pre-fabricated houses that are to be erected at Bay Street.

Speaking on the '*Browne and Browne*' radio programme on Saturday, parliamentary representative and Prime Minister, Hon. Gaston Browne, announced the arrival of several containers with the first 15 pre-fab houses. They will serve as temporary housing for the residents of Booby Alley who would transfer there to allow the redevelopment of the area.

Browne said the area will be transformed into one of the finest housing project ever erected into any low-income area in the Caribbean.

Viewers who follow the programme on Facebook LIVE saw containers being offloaded at the site at Bay Street in Villa.

Housing Minister, Hon. Maria Browne said the funding has been made available by the government to facilitate the erection of the temporary houses. "It's going to be close to where they are right now and then thereafter, we'll be able to commence construction of the actual Booby Alley facility

and making it an entirely new living arrangement more comfortable for the people of Booby Alley and Point area," Browne said.

The government intends to improve the housing stock in Booby Alley by replacing the "dilapidated homes" with condominium-styled properties as part of an Urban Renewal Programme.



Housing Minister, Hon. Maria Browne

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Please send applications to sendinfo1972@gmail.com

In October 2018, the government received a \$100 million grant from the People's Republic of China to go towards the construction of 250 homes and around that same time, it was also revealed that the project will be expanded to include squatters in the Perry Bay community.

The St. John's Rural East constituency said the overall proposal is for the construction of similar projects in other areas of the island.

"Of course, it will be something that will materialise. Obviously, Booby Alley is our pilot project but we intend on spreading that same urban renewal over in the Gray's Green community," she said.

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critical services, you have to go the extra mile to be responsive and to grant the loans. We have been talking about these for weeks now and up to now APUA has not heard from ACB."

PM Browne stressed that he was not trying to dictate policy to ACB, but the bank should take note of the fact that APUA is a profitable business and one of the largest in the country. "Government is going to back the loan, [so] it is a relatively easy loan to make. APUA does not have any significant amount of debts now. They have spent the last five years, under my administration, literally repaying a number of loans that they had; to the extent now that they can service the loan."

The Prime Minister alleged that, "There is a tendency ... an almost contemptuous type of behaviour among some bankers in this country that whenever my government approaches

them, they find all kinds of reasons to delay and to slow down the process; and when you had the former incompetent administration in place, they gave them hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Finance Minister noted that in the five-and-a-half years since his Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party took over the reins of government, its borrowing from local banks has remained under \$50 million for the entire period – while, at the same time, reducing the country's debt-to-GDP ratio from 104 percent to 69 percent.

"I find they were far more responsive with an irresponsible government than with a responsible one. I don't want to put them under any public pressure, but we have been talking about this, and every week I come telling the people of Antigua and Barbuda that APUA is considering a loan and up to now we can't get any word," the Prime Minister stated.

NOTICE

The official List of Registered Shareholders for The Antigua Printing & Publishing Limited shall be displayed on our website www.antiguaprintingpublishing.com. Shareholder Members in The Antigua Printing & Publishing Limited are invited to assist with updating our official Shareholders' Register by providing contact information to our Head Office on The Sir Sydney Walling Highway. Beneficiaries of deceased Shareholder Members are encouraged to contact our Head Office for instructions as to the process for transmissions of shares. Warm Regards.

The south to get another fire truck

Another fire tender will soon become a fixture in the South of Antigua. Cabinet was informed that four tenders, both new and used, will be shipped to Antigua shortly to meet the increasing demand of homeowners for the service.

The additional fire tenders are also needed for the international airport to retain its Tier One status. While the V.C.



Bird International Airport will benefit from the purchase, the communities on

the far south side of the island will now be able to have greater access, reducing the waiting time for the trucks' arrival when an emergency is announced.

Discussions are to be held with the two parliamentary representatives from the St. Mary's North and South constituencies to determine where the fire tender be placed.



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ECCO ANNOUNCES THE END OF ROYALTY AMNESTY

The July-December 2019 Royalty Amnesty for music users in Antigua and Barbuda has come to an end. Following a visit by an executive team from the Eastern Caribbean Collective Organization (ECCO) Inc. to Antigua & Barbuda from June 12th to 15th, 2019, ECCO announced a six-month Royalty Amnesty which came to an end as of 31st December, 2019.

The resumption of Licensing by ECCO's Agent for the use of copyright commenced as of January 1st, 2020. ECCO is encouraging music users (businesses, promoters, broadcasters etc.) to obtain the necessary copyright clearance for the commercial use of copyright music.

The amnesty was granted to provide music users with the opportunity to prepare for the royalty payments in the coming year as most, especially promoters indicated that royalty payments were not factored into their budget.

ECCO is mandated by its members, and its agreements with international copyright societies, to collect and distribute royalties to the rightsholders whose works are being used at business locations and events. It is understood that music will be used, and authors and music publishers must be paid. ECCO is therefore the internationally regulated, one-stop-shop for both music creatives and music users in Antigua and Barbuda.

It is important to note that ECCO does not only protect its membership but also the music users. ECCO protects music users by providing the license for the use of copyright music safe guarding them from infringing on the copyright of the owners and possible legal action for such infringement by the rights holders.

We want to take this opportunity to thank our many licensees who respect the rights of our members it is our hope for 2020 to see more support and compliance from music users across the region.

To obtain your license contact ECCO's resident Licensing Agent – Bernard "Bernie" DeNully at telephone number 1 (268) 779-2935 or email antiguaagent@eccorights.com.

The Eastern Caribbean Collective Organisation for Music Rights (ECCO) Inc. (formerly HMS) is a non-profit company incorporated under the Company laws of Saint Lucia duly registered as an external company in OECS territories of Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. We are responsible for the collection of royalties on behalf of our members and affiliates (the composers, authors, publishers of music).

The Eastern Caribbean Collective Organisation for Music Rights (ECCO) Inc.

Regional

Grammy for Koffee!

Best Reggae Album 2019 is Rapture



Just announced via the Grammy Awards Premiere Ceremony:

The Grammy Award winner in the category BEST REGGAE ALBUM 2019 is KOFFEE with her EP Rapture [Columbia Records]! Congratulations!

Koffee created already history by becoming the youngest (19, born February 16 2000) solo act to be nominated in the category Best Reggae Album, but it's the first time ever a female artist takes the Reggae Grammy! Only four female artists got nominated before: Judy Mowatt (1985), Rita Marley (1991), Sister Carol (1996) and Etana (2018).

A lot of people asked how Koffee's five track EP Rapture could get nominated in the album category. Here is the official info from the

Grammys: "To be considered an album, recordings must contain at least five different tracks and a total playing time of 15 minutes or a total playing time of at least 30 minutes with no minimum track requirement."

Also nominated in the BEST REGGAE ALBUM category were:

Julian Marley - As I Am [Ghetto Youth International]

Sly & Robbie & Roots Radics - The Final Battle [Serious Reggae]

Steel Pulse - Mass Manipulation [Rootfire Cooperative]

Third World - More Work To Be Done [Ghetto Youth International]

BEST REGGAE ALBUM 2019 GRAMMY FACTS:

Julian Marley was nominated only once before with his album

Awake (2009), but his brother Stephen Marley won the Grammy with Mind Control Acoustic.

Steel Pulse were nominated 9 times and won the Grammy 1986 for their album Babylon The Bandit. A total of 7 album nominations plus a nomination in the BEST REGGAE RECORDING category in 1984 for their single Steppin' Out plus a nomination in 1982 for their appearance on the live album Reggae Sunsplash '81, A Tribute To Bob Marley in the category BEST ETHNIC OR TRADITIONAL FOLK RECORDING.

Third World were nominated 8 times in the Best Reggae Album category, but never won. More Work To Be Done was produced by Damian Junior Gong Marley.



Manufacturers: Brace for job cuts if T&T's NGC hikes gas price

Thousands of jobs may be lost if the National Gas Company (NGC) goes ahead with its plan to significantly increase natural gas prices to manufacturers.

The State Enterprise is already demanding that the manufacturing sector pay 13 per cent more for natural gas this year, moving to as high as a 100 per cent increase by 2023.

The Sunday Guardian has learnt that at present manufacturers pay between US \$2 to US \$2.50 per million British Thermal Unit (mmbtu) and the NGC wants this price to escalate over time to US \$4 per mmbtu.

The NGC has been embroiled in difficult negotiations with all its customers as it tries to significantly increase prices because of its new deal with the oil and gas majors that have seen significant price increases for the aggregator.

The deal which was brokered by Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley means that the NGC has to pass on



*Conrad Enill
Executive Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer*

price hikes to its customers, many of whom say they cannot pay the new prices.

This has already led to the loss of scores of high-paying jobs and tens

of millions of dollars to the Treasury, the closure of an ammonia plant, and the planned shutdown of a methanol plant in a week.

Several manufacturers spoke to the Sunday Guardian on condition of anonymity for fear of being targeted. They insisted that the one competitive advantage they have is being taken away from them by the NGC and they will have no choice but to pack up and leave because they will not be able to compete.

They pointed to the fact that many companies have already moved to Jamaica and South America where labour laws are less restrictive, productivity higher and the ease of doing business better, as T&T becomes increasingly unattractive to do business.

Jobs have already been lost as a result of the challenges facing the sector.

Concerns mount about deportation of Caribbean nationals in the US

A coalition of 22 attorneys general in the United States have filed an amicus brief opposing what they describe as the Trump administration's "legally flawed attempts" to increase the risk of "erroneous deportation" of Caribbean and other immigrants.

On Friday, the attorneys general said that the administration wants to immediately expand the use of expedited removal of immigrants.

"Expedited removal is a fast-tracked process to deport immigrants that generally does not allow for access to legal representation, witnesses, or a meaningful opportunity to present evidence and defenses," they said. "Individuals are exempt from expedited removal if they have a credible or reasonable fear of persecution or torture in their country of origin."



In July 2019, the Trump administration announced that it was expanding expedited removal to cover more individuals than before.

In September 2019, a US federal district court issued a preliminary

injunction preventing this expansion from going into effect, which the administration then appealed.

In the amicus brief, filed on Friday, the coalition of attorneys general urged the US Court of Appeals for the

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Bahamas tops CARICOM countries in transparency index



Bahamas attorney general Carl Bethel

The Bahamas ranked first among CARICOM nations and 29th in the world on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019 report, which means that it is perceived as a notably transparent country, according to Transparency International.

Although The Bahamas improved in its rank among Caribbean countries, its global position on the index remained stagnant last year.

"The Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 reveals a staggering number of countries are showing little to no improvement in tackling corruption," Transparency International said in the report's executive summary.

"Our analysis also suggests that reducing big money in politics and promoting inclusive political decision-making are essential to curb

corruption."

In terms of its position in the Americas, The Bahamas ranks fifth out of 32 countries, with Canada, Uruguay and the United States in the top three spots and Nicaragua, Haiti and Venezuela in the bottom three spots.

For the fourth consecutive year, according to the report, the Americas region failed "to make significant progress in the fight against corruption".

"The region faces significant challenges from political leaders acting in their own self-interest at the expense of the citizens they serve," it noted. "Specifically, political party financing and electoral integrity are big challenges."

The report measures the perceived levels of corruption in the public sector

in 180 countries and territories around the world. It states that a country/territory's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0-10, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt and 10 means that a country is perceived as very clean.

When reached for a comment on the report yesterday, Attorney General Carl Bethel said, "Well, at least we didn't get worse."

He continued, "I think we improved last year and we didn't remain stagnant. We're just in a holding pattern, but we have some further transparency-based legislation on the table. "I'm sure that when we pass them our ranking will continue to improve."

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District of Columbia Circuit to uphold the injunction.

"Once again, the Trump administration is putting the lives of countless immigrants at risk simply to fulfil its xenophobic agenda," said New York Attorney General Letitia James, who

is leading the attorneys general on the issue.

"The expedited removal process denies basic and necessary legal protections to immigrants, which has resulted in wrongful deportations, unnecessary family separations, and

has had chilling effects on communities throughout the country," she added. "We will not allow this administration to continue to trample on our laws or our morals."

International

China virus deaths rise to 80 as Hong Kong bans visitors from worst-hit province



SHANGHAI (Reuters) - The death toll from China's new coronavirus grew to 80 on Monday as residents of Hubei province, where the disease originated, were banned from entering Hong Kong amid global efforts to halt the rapid spread of the outbreak.

The number of deaths from the flu-like virus in Hubei province climbed from 56 to 76 overnight, health commission officials said, with four deaths elsewhere. The total number of confirmed cases in China had risen about 30% to 2,744.

U.S. S&P500 e-mini futures fell more than 1% in Asian trade on Monday on mounting worries the outbreak of the virus could severely disrupt the Chinese economy, an engine of global

growth.

Kicking off the Asian trading day, New Zealand shares fell with travel and tourism-related stocks among the worst performers as the speed of the outbreak's spread raised alarm over its future impact on movement.

China's cabinet said it would extend the week-long Lunar New Year holiday by three days to Feb. 2 in a bid to slow the spread of the virus. The Hubei city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, is already under virtual lockdown, with severe restrictions on movement in place in several other Chinese cities.

Beijing has called for transparency in managing the crisis, after public trust was eroded by a cover-up of the spread of SARS, a coronavirus that originated in China and killed nearly 800 people

globally in 2002 and 2003.

The newly identified coronavirus has created alarm because much about it is still unknown, such as how dangerous it is and how easily it spreads between people. It can cause pneumonia, which has been deadly in some cases.

The virus, believed to have originated in a seafood market in Wuhan that was illegally selling wildlife, has already spread to cities including Beijing and Shanghai.

The World Health Organization (WHO) last week stopped short of calling the outbreak a global health emergency, but some health experts question whether China can contain the epidemic.

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Former NBA star Kobe Bryant and daughter among nine killed in helicopter crash near Los Angeles



FILE PHOTO: Jul 27, 2019; Las Vegas, NV, USA; Kobe Bryant is pictured with his daughter Gianna at the WNBA All Star Game at Mandalay Bay Events Center. Mandatory Credit: Stephen R. Sylvania-USA TODAY Sports/File Photo

Calif. (Reuters) - Kobe Bryant, one of the NBA's all-time greatest players whose international stardom transcended basketball, was killed at age 41 on Sunday in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles along with his 13-year-old daughter and seven others on board, officials said.

Bryant rocketed to fame as an 18-year-old rookie and played 20 years for the Los Angeles Lakers - 18 of them as an all-star - winning five NBA championships. His death sent shockwaves through the National Basketball Association, which he helped propel to international prominence, and around the world.

The cause of the crash was unknown, and an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board could take months.

Bryant was known to travel frequently by helicopter to avoid Los Angeles' infamous traffic, dating to his playing days.

His Sikorsky S-76 chopper went down in foggy weather around 10 a.m. (1.00 p.m. ET) in hilly terrain in Calabasas, California, about 40 miles (65 km) northwest of central Los Angeles, sparking a brush fire, officials said.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver confirmed Bryant and his daughter Gianna were among those killed, and

sent condolences to Bryant's wife, Vanessa.

Among the others on board, in addition to the pilot, were a teammate from Bryant's daughter's basketball team and a parent of the teammate, NBC News reported. Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli was also one of the victims, the Orange County Register reported, citing assistant coach Ron La Ruffa.

Among those internationally recognized athletes known simply by their first names, Bryant was an avid supporter of soccer and women's basketball and spoke Italian, having spent part of his youth in Italy, where his father, former NBA player Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, played several seasons professionally.

He also won an Oscar, along with Glen Keane, for the 2017 animated short film "Dear Basketball," and sometimes mingled with show-business stars in Los Angeles.

Bryant was accused of sexual assault in 2003 by an employee at a Colorado hotel, tarnishing his reputation and leading to a media storm to cover his trial. Bryant denied the allegations and charges eventually were dropped after the woman refused to testify.

Bryant and his wife filed for divorce in 2011 after 10 years of marriage, but the couple said in 2013

they had reconciled. Besides Gianna, they had three other daughters: Natalia, Bianca and Capri, who was born in June 2019.

Bryant played all 20 of his NBA seasons with the Lakers, winning five championships and being named an all-star 18 times. He also won two Olympic gold medals as a member of the U.S. men's basketball team in 2008 and 2012.

Nicknamed "The Black Mamba," he became eligible to enter the Hall of Fame this year and is certain to be selected when the 2020 class is enshrined.

Bryant demonstrated from an early age he would surpass the accomplishments of his father, who played eight seasons in the NBA.

The Philadelphia native went straight from high school to the NBA, skipping the college ranks. Since he was still only 17 years old, his parents needed to co-sign his first contract with the Lakers and he played his first game with the team shortly after turning 18 in 1996.

He was the third-leading scorer in league history with 33,643 points, until LeBron James passed him on Saturday. In his final tweet, Bryant saluted James' achievement, writing: "Continuing to move the game forward"

Britain unveils 50 pence coin minted to mark Brexit

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain unveiled on Sunday a new 50 pence coin minted to mark the country's departure from the European Union, which bears the inscription "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" and the Brexit date of 31 January 2020.

About three million of the coins will be distributed from banks, post offices and shops from Friday, the government said, with another seven million entering circulation later in the year.

Finance Minister Sajid Javid, who is also Master of the Mint, was presented with the first batch of coins.

"Leaving the European Union is a turning point in our history and this coin marks the beginning of this new chapter," he said.

The finance ministry had planned to mint a coin inscribed 29 March 2019, the original date of Brexit before Britain asked to extend its EU membership.

Javid later ordered production to commemorate a new deadline of Oct.



Brexit commemorative 50 pence coin that bears the words "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" is pictured in an unknown location and uploaded to social media on January 26, 2020. HM TREASURY/Handout via REUTERS

31, but another delay put paid to that launch and about one million coins had to be melted down.

The bill implementing Britain's exit from the European bloc officially became law on Thursday.

After more than three years of bitter wrangling over how, when and if Brexit should take place, Britain will leave the EU at 2300 GMT on Friday.

Dutch Prime Minister apologizes for country's role in Holocaust

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said on Sunday he was sorry for his country's role during the Holocaust and the lack of action against the persecution of Jews, becoming the first Dutch premier to make such an official apology.

"With the last remaining survivors among us, I apologize on behalf of the government for the actions of the government at the time", Rutte said at an event in Amsterdam to mark the 75th anniversary on Monday of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp.

"I do so, realizing that no word can describe something as enormous and awful as the Holocaust."

Earlier Dutch governments have made apologies for the way Jews who



survived World War Two atrocities were treated when they returned home from concentration camps, but have shied away from condemning the country's part in the persecution of Jews and other minorities during the German occupation.

Too many people in government institutions at the time simply followed German orders, without realizing the consequences of their actions for the

people concerned, Rutte said.

Around 102,000 of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust came from the Netherlands.

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3 MENTIONS DAILY	120.00	600.00	2,040.00
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CENTER SPREAD & 3 RADIO ADS OR 6 MENTIONS	1,900.00	3,200.00

Warner given official nod for UK Privy Council appeal

Former FIFA vice Jack Warner has officially been given final approval to appeal extradition proceedings filed against him to the UK Privy Council.

Warner, the disgraced former CONCACAF boss, has been battling to avoid extradition to the United States since 2015. The ex-football official faces charges of corruption stemming from alleged financial impropriety committed during a long tenure with world football's governing body.

Last year, Warner tried and failed to have the extradition appeal dismissed on procedural grounds. The three judges of Trinidad and Tobago's Court of Appeal opted to uphold the original decision to dismiss Warner's review, which was made in September 2017.

Warner, who was also been ordered to pay US\$79m in damages to CONCACAF by a federal judge in New York City last summer, is currently out



on \$TT 2.5m bail and banned for life by FIFA.

The authority to proceed (ATP) with Warner's extradition as part of the FIFA indictments, was signed in 2016 by

Trinidad and Tobago Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi. Warner is wanted on various counts of corruption, graft, bribery and money laundering.

CWI must stick to commitment of sharing Windies cricket around region – Grave



West Indies opening batsman Evin Lewis on the go against Ireland.

Cricket West Indies chief executive Johnny Grave has insisted the board will look to continue its objective of spreading the sport across regional venues.

Insularity and some amount of bias have often been charges leveled at

those who select which grounds will be picked to host international cricket on various West Indies tours. International grounds in bigger countries have often been given the nod but Graves insists it might not be the case in the future.

"The highest crowds we

experienced in this series was in Grenada. Grenada didn't have cricket between 2015 and 2019 and I think it is important we spread cricket around our international grounds," Graves said.

"I think we need to do far more as an organization to promote and market to make sure all the cricket fans and even the non-cricket fans know that the West Indies team is coming to their country to play," he added.

"I hope everyone understands that policy and we do our best to spread cricket around the region."

With the exception of Barbados the West Indies' first tour of the new year, against Ireland, was played in Grenada and St Kitts. The New Zealand tour in July will be hosted in Antigua, Dominica, and Guyana, with Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia and Jamaica.

Sudoku

	3	7	1					
4	1				9	2		
8							1	
		9			7	5		
			6		4			
		8	9			6		
	9							1
		6	4				3	5
					3	8	6	

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Answer to last Sudoku

1	4	9	6	3	8	7	2	5
6	7	8	9	2	5	4	3	1
5	2	3	1	7	4	6	9	8
9	3	4	2	5	6	8	1	7
8	6	5	3	1	7	9	4	2
7	1	2	8	4	9	5	6	3
2	5	7	4	9	1	3	8	6
3	9	6	5	8	2	1	7	4
4	8	1	7	6	3	2	5	9

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Your Stars Foretold



Aries

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

A lot of information needs to be communicated in a very short amount of time today, so you can't beat around the bush or be vague. Your new name is "frank," in that you need to be frank and open in everything you say and write today.



Libra

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The operative word of the day is "new." Keep your mind fresh with news that sparks your interest and gives you the inspiration you need to keep striving for the goals you have set for yourself.



Taurus

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

The new moon encourages you to examine your quality of life and lay the groundwork to enrich it. Plus, if there are routines you want to vary or systems you want to change, why wait?



Scorpio

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

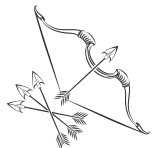
By the time the others are done arguing and vacillating about which direction to go, you will already have traveled miles and miles down the road. Your heart wants you to take a strong, independent stance.



Gemini

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)

Don't get upset at yourself because of things you can't change. Make sure to leave extra time to do the things you want, because the interruptions will continue throughout the day.



Sagittarius

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Don't let them talk you into believing that your thoughts and ideas are any less valid than theirs. At the same time, it's important for you to stay open-minded and accepting of other people's ideas.



Cancer

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)

Today is a day to be an individual in all aspects of the word. Prove that you are by doing something unexpected that shakes up the crowd. Make yourself stand out above the rest in whatever way feels most comfortable to you.



Capricorn

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

In a nutshell, think about ways in which you can be more efficient. Feel free to invest in those things that will help make your life easier and more comfortable. Most likely, the natural flow of the day will take you to exactly where you need to go.



Leo

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)

The people who criticize you the most are the ones who understand you the least. They are probably on a completely different wavelength than you, and it isn't your job to try to change them, nor is it your responsibility to change your ways because of them.



Aquarius

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)

You are highly sensitive today so taking care of yourself is the best thing you can do. Otherwise you might act emotional and too easily manipulated. Distance yourself from people who try to suck this life force from you.



Virgo

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)

Perhaps you're feeling too tied down emotionally or too restrained mentally. Perhaps you need to get out of your current situation entirely. Use this day to seek ways to feel more independence in your world.



Pisces

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

You may find that your mind is working so quickly that while someone is trying to make one point, you are already five steps ahead of where that person is trying to go. Put your gifts to good use.

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Five-wicket Wood thankful for Holding hint as England press home advantage



Sports agent Cubie Seegobin (left), Glen Mills, Jamaican Sports Minister Olivia Grange and Kingston Mayor Delroy Williams at Thursday's launch of the 2020 Racers Grand Prix which is set for Kingston on June 13.

England paceman Mark Wood sealed the second five-wicket haul of his Test career and then thanked West Indies great Michael Holding for a priceless piece of advice.

Wood's probing returned figures of 5-46 at The Wanderers as South Africa were all out for 183 on day three of the fourth Test, before England posted 248 in their second innings to set the hosts a world-record run chase.

South Africa will have two days to get the 466 runs they require to win the match and draw the series, but it is a tall order.

And with Wood showing sizzling form with the ball, South Africa may struggle to take the contest to a fifth day.

Asked about his bowling display,

Wood said: "I'm over the moon."

Returning from knee and side injuries to reclaim his England place, a conversation Wood had with Holding yielded a morsel of great wisdom from the man who took 249 wickets for West Indies in 60 Tests.

By lengthening his run-up, Wood has taken some of the explosive element out of his action, which should help on the fitness front, and the suggestion came from 65-year-old Holding.

Wood told Sky Sports: "I wish I'd changed my run-up sooner. Some guy did mention it to me..."

With a nod to Holding, who is working for the broadcaster, Wood explained: "He said, 'You're putting too much strain on your body, lengthen your run-up', and since I've done that

it's been a lot better.

"I've got a little bit more momentum. It takes a little bit more pressure off my body, whereas off my short run it felt like I had to force it. You're not going to have rhythm every day when you're running in.

"The days where I didn't quite feel it, I was still having to force it and I was putting that extra strain on my body, so it's been nice to take a load off and just feel my way in but still bowl quickly.

"I was stubborn to change it because it had worked for me up to a point. But if I was going to play more cricket or if I was going to improve, I was going to have to change something.

"I just felt it was the right time for me to change it. I wish I had done it earlier, but it's all in the past now."

TALKING POINT SHOW



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WITH COLIN BROWNE

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
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ABBA League 2020 opens at JSC yesterday

The 2020 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) League opened on Sunday 26 January at the Johnson's Sports Complex (JSC).

State Insurance Company (SIC) are the corporate sponsors and their representative was on hand to shoot

some hoops as part of the ceremonial opening.

The accompanying pictures show Association President Kebra Nanton (black dress), Dornalyn Beazer of State Insurance (green dress), and some of the participating teams.

Overall there are 30 teams in the competition and they are categorized into 3 divisions: the 1st Division has 9 teams; the 2nd Division has 8 teams; and the 3rd Division has 13 teams.



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