

SEAFORTH: LIAT DOOMED IF STAFF, CREDITORS ALLOWED TO SUE

Story on Page 2



Local News



Dark days ahead for LIAT if appeal is unsuccessful

The Court appointed administrator for LIAT 1974 Ltd. has cautioned that if the Appeals Court does not grant the airline a stay of execution later this month, then it could mean the end of the regional carrier.

The Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal will, on 28th June, hear an appeal from Cleveland Seaforth who will petition the judges for a stay of execution of an earlier High Court decision that ruled as unconstitutional an initial judgment that blocked anyone from suing LIAT for outstanding monies.

A group of pilots had challenged the constitutionality of Section 564 (1) (a) of the Companies Act 2020, which imposed an automatic stay on all matters against LIAT.

In her ruling in April, Justice Marissa Robertson sided with the pilots and declared that Section 564 (1)(a) of the Companies Act was unconstitutional, in that it is overly broad and not rationally connected with the objective of the amendment, which is to allow debtors, including LIAT, to pursue rehabilitation by affording it protection from enforcement by its creditors, and therefore cannot be justifiable.

Additionally, Justice Robertson ruled that the section infringed the principle of separation of powers, as the automatic stay of proceedings removed

new and current matters from the oversight of the court.

The passage of the Act meant that a 2020 trial was halted before it began, since there was an automatic stay of proceedings, but the court's ruling cleared the way for the pilots to take legal action against the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for severance and other emoluments owed to them.

"Without a stay of execution of judgment, the decision of the High Court will open up the floodgates for claims or litigation and undermine the attempt to reorganise the airline," Seaforth submitted in his affidavit, according to Barbados Today.

"This may or will lead to the complete collapse of the airline and the jobs currently in play," the administrator warned.

He argued that it will also have a serious negative impact on the government's efforts to save the company, jobs and generate revenue and ensure the continuation of its business.

"I will also have great difficulty in executing my duties under the Act, in that I will have to spend a great deal of time navigating claims or litigation, which may ultimately defeat the reorganisation objectives under the Act," Seaforth stated.

He has also told the Court of Appeal



Liat's court appointed administrator, Cleveland Seaforth

that LIAT is of great national and public importance to Antigua and Barbuda, as it contributes significantly to the economy.

"It is a matter of public interest that the stay should remain in place. If the stay is lifted and the several claimants are permitted to pursue their claims against LIAT (1974) Ltd and enforce a judgment, then this will result in numerous other creditors filing claims before the High Court of Justice and the Industrial Court," he declared.

"This will certainly affect the financial stability of LIAT (1974) Ltd., its ability to operate and to make payments to current employees, which will result in the ruin of the institution and lead to exponential litigation costs on the resources of LIAT (1974) Ltd.," Seaforth added.

Thu 09 Day		Thu 09 Night	
86°		78°	
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 67%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 77%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:33 am	Sunset 6:40 pm	Moonrise 1:58 pm	Moonset 1:31 am
		Waxing Gibbous	

Ministry of Tourism crafts 10-year plan: Vision 2032

The Ministry of Tourism is creating a 10-year development plan for Antigua and Barbuda dubbed *Vision 2032*.

Vision 2032 is centred on the goal of providing world class service across the industry.

During a special gathering of stakeholders on Wednesday titled *Destination Roundtable*, Tourism Minister Charles “Max” Fernandez said the move to develop the 10-year plan follows discussions with key tourism stakeholders.

“*Vision 2032* is a people-centred vision that has been crafted through investigation of the tourism product and in consultation with tourism stakeholders including industry leaders, trade unions, youth organisations, tourism operators and the general public,” Fernandez explained.

He said the meeting of hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, travel writers, and representatives from the country’s overseas tourism offices was aimed at “fine-tuning” the vision and plan for the future of Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism sector.

The tourism minister also highlighted the benefits the ministry has derived from listening to what people want for the industry.

“When we listened to our stakeholders and what



Minister of Tourism, Charles “Max” Fernandez

was important to them, it became quite clear that the vision for the tourism industry would need to be characterised by sustainability, authentic experiences, benefits for Antiguan and Barbudans, a strong legislative and policy framework and a highly trained or qualified labour force,” he stated.

After listening to the feedback, Fernandez said it became clear that *Vision 2032* translated to “envisioning Antigua and Barbuda as the preferred destination in the Caribbean all year round”.

It also meant delivering memorable and authentic experiences that celebrate the unique history, culture, diversity and beauty of both Antigua and sister isle, Barbuda.

The tourism minister noted that Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism industry was dealt a severe blow by the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted areas of vulnerability in the industry.

“In 2020, COVID caused unmatched destruction to our ‘bread and butter’ industry, tourism.

“Total visitor arrivals declined by 60 percent while hotels and restaurants saw declines of over 50 percent,” he revealed.

According to Minister Fernandez, while the road to recovery started in 2021 with arrivals increasing by

35 percent and visitor expenditure by 39 percent, these still fall below the 2019 figures.

Wednesday’s *Destination Roundtable* formed part of the ministry’s strategy to place Antigua and Barbuda on a sustainable, upward track.

The session was moderated by experienced tourist industry professional, Hugh Riley, who set the tone for the engagement by stressing the importance of delivering world-class service as the cornerstone for the success of tourism in Antigua and Barbuda.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7 Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate)

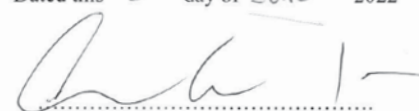
In the Estate of **WILBERT ROBERTS**, late of 13 Lushington Terrace
Hackney, London E8, United Kingdom, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST (SECOND) PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **PAUL TERRY ROBERTS** of Cedar Valley, St. John’s, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 6th day of April, 2020.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 2nd day of June 2022



Cosbert Cumberbatch
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

It's official: No Panorama for Carnival 2022

Representatives from the Steelband Association and officials from the Ministry of Creative Industries and Innovation (MCII) were present at Wednesday's weekly Cabinet meeting to determine the fate of Panorama 2022.

MCII has proposed that instead of panorama, a "pan show" will take place at Carnival City on the Sunday night before j'ouvert.

"In absence of a panorama competition, there

will be a pan show where all the steel bands will perform. There will be Pan D' Garden, Pan D' Culture, Pan D' Road, Pan D' Mix, and the school panorama," this week's Cabinet Notes revealed.

The pan fraternity is also planning a special fundraising event to honour two stalwarts of the movement - Victor 'Babu' Samuel and Devon Batchelor - who are facing health challenges.



The Halcyon Steel Orchestra

Meanwhile, the MCII has provided more information about this year's festival.

Events, including parades, t-shirt mass, calypso tents and the Jaycees Queen Show will be part of the normal fare of carnival festivities, however, several innovations were proposed and accepted by the Cabinet.

It is anticipated that the Monday and Tuesday parades will travel up Factory Road to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Additionally, the demolition of the double decker stand at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG) will commence next week. As a result, all vendors have been relocated opposite of ARG.

Other preparations for Carnival City at the ARG, including the construction of the stage, cleaning of the stands and grounds, lighting and security will begin

shortly.

During the meeting with Cabinet, MCII officials offered an overview of the more than 100 events scheduled between 24th July and 2nd August.

The MCII also committed to keep the public up-to-date on plans for Carnival as they take form in weekly press conferences.

Cabinet recognised the efforts of MCII and other stakeholders to ensure the spectacular return of Antigua's Carnival. "Failure is not an option," the Cabinet declared.

Meanwhile, Cabinet enquired about Caribana 2022 and learned from Barbudan senator, Knacyntar Need, that the week-long event enjoyed a favourable restart after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. Many Antiguan travelled to Barbuda to enjoy festivities which took place at Caribana City and other venues on the island.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

GET GYM FIT WITH STATE INSURANCE

Life | Medical

OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE PREFERRED GYM RATES

Buff up Gym
Stay Fit Gym
National Fitness Centre
Iron Basics Gym
Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym

Hugh Joseph joins ABWU as Industrial Relations Officer

On Wednesday, the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union announced that industrial relations professional, Hugh Joseph, has joined its team.

The former general secretary of Antigua Trades and Labour Union was voted out of his position during a special conference in February, 2022, resulting from deep divisions he revealed were existing within the organisation.

In a statement making the announcement yesterday, the ABWU described Hugh Joseph as the “consummate professional” with more than twenty years of experience in trade unionism.

“My intention is to support and advance in a meaningful way the efforts of the ABWU as we seek to improve lives and lend to the overall development



ABWU General Secretary, David Massiah (left) with Hugh Joseph

of the working populace of Antigua and Barbuda,” the union quoted Joseph as saying.

In welcoming Joseph, ABWU General Secretary, David Massiah, said his experience will make

a positive difference in the work of the union.

“The ABWU is an organisation that recognises and values talented individuals. We have no doubt that Bro. Hugh Joseph will enhance the pool of talent

that we have assembled at this organisation. We are proud to welcome him on our team of competent and capable officers.

“Our primary goal is to serve our membership, and we are willing to make the necessary investments to maintain the quality service that our members expect from us,” Massiah stated.

Joseph’s assignments will include handling grievances, responsibility for workplaces and undertaking negotiations.

Joseph received his education at the Caribbean Institute for Social Education Foundation, the Barbados Workers’ Union Labour College and the Barbados National Productivity Council. He also completed studies in Labour Relations and Law at Ruskin College in Oxford, England.

Virtual complainant takes stand in rape case

The virtual complainant in the rape and serious indecency case that is being heard in the High Court took the stand on Wednesday to give testimony before a jury of nine men and women.

Three men were charged and are being tried in the matter that commenced on Wednesday before Justice Colin Williams.

The virtual complainant, who was 17-years-old at the

time of the alleged incident, gave evidence and was cross examined by defense attorneys Wendel Robinson, Lawrence Daniels and Pete Mcknight.

Under cross examination by Robinson, the young woman admitted that she consented to one of the men performing oral sex, but not to the sexual intercourse.

The allegation is the young men had sexual inter-



course with her without her consent and indecently assaulted her on Boxing Day, 2018.

The next witness taking the stand was a sergeant of police. The trial continues today at 1:30 pm.

Choksi's wife charged with money laundering offences

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed its first charge sheet against fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi's wife Priti Choksi, alleging she was the ultimate beneficiary of certain off-shore companies used for routing and parking of funds obtained by the couple through cheating Punjab National Bank (PNB), people aware of the matter said.

Apart from Priti, the central agency has again named Mehul Choksi, their three companies – Gitanjali Gems, Gili India Ltd and Nakshatra Brand Ltd. and former PNB employee Gokulnath Shetty in the third charge sheet filed against them under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Officials who didn't want to be named said the fresh charge sheet was filed in a Mumbai court in March. But it was kept under wraps.

The two previous charge sheets were filed by ED in June 2018 and April 2020.

The fresh money laundering charges against Priti Choksi will allow agencies to pursue her extradition from Antigua, where she fled with her husband after acquiring citizenship in 2017. An Interpol red notice could also be issued against her.

Mehul Choksi went missing from Antigua on 23rd May 2021, only to be found in Dominica the next day, Priti claimed in an interview with HT that her husband was abducted and tortured by Indian agents. She has been vocal in targeting the Indian government, repeatedly claiming that her husband cannot go to India as he will be kept hostage there.

Dominica last month dropped "illegal entry" proceedings against Mehul Choksi based on a report by Royal

Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, which confirmed the businessman was indeed abducted from the country.

ED has been investigating Priti Choksi's role for a long time as she was allegedly involved in running some suspected shell companies in Dubai, Hong Kong and other countries and was aware of her husband's illegal activities, a person aware of the matter said.

According to ED's third charge sheet, Priti Choksi, also known as Priti Pradyotkumar Kothari, was the ultimate beneficial owner of three companies –including Hillingdon Holdings Ltd. and Charing Cross Holdings Ltd. in the UAE. Hillingdon was incorporated by Priti and one Dion Lillywhite (an employee of US-based Gitanjali Group company and dummy director in some of the group companies) and the sole shareholder of M/s Goldhawk DMCC (previously named Diminico DMCC), the document said.

HT has reviewed the charge sheet.

According to the charge sheet, the company owns three properties in the UAE with a total area of over 5,100 square feet worth over 22 crore.

"Priti Choksi was fully aware that the companies – Hillingdon Holdings Ltd, Goldhawk DMCC and Asian Diamond Jewellery UAE were beneficially owned and controlled by Mehul Choksi. She helped him in incorporating firms in UAE to acquire properties therein. During investigation, summons was issued to her but she didn't honour them," the ED charge sheet said.

"She has helped Mehul Choksi in layering proceeds of crime and was hand in glove with him getting incorporated companies for laundering and



Priti Choksi

syphoning of proceeds of crime," it added.

The charge sheet mentions proceeds of crime involving Choksis and their three parent companies – Gitanjali, Gili and Nakshatra – to be worth 6,097 crore (3,011 crore for Letters of Undertaking and 3,086 crore for Foreign Letters of Credit).

Referring to imports (32,266 crore) and exports (total 8,663 crore) by Mehul Choksi's Gitanjali group companies between 2014 and 2017, the charge sheet said companies in Hong Kong and UAE were used for rotation of goods and funds to project an inflated turnover. "The goods exported from India were of abysmally low quality but its value was highly inflated," ED said.

An independent valuation of a set of products by ED revealed that goods estimated to be valued worth 103 crore, were declared to be worth 3,840 crore.

The syphoned money was routed to dummy companies in Hong Kong and UAE, directly controlled by Me-

cont'd on pg 7

CariCOF predicts “wetter than normal” rainy season

The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) has offered the hope that countries across the Lesser Antilles could enjoy a wetter than normal rainy season.

This is good news for Antigua and Barbuda and neighbouring islands, which had hoped that June to September – generally the wettest of the season – would bring some relief from the ongoing drought.

“Normal to drier than normal seasonal rainfall is expected elsewhere, but an increase in very wet and extreme spells is expected predominantly along the Lesser Antilles,” said CariCOF in its latest “Caribbean Climate Outlook.”

Jamaica, down the islands to Puerto Rico, are also expected to see a wetter than normal season between June and August this year.

Earlier this year, climatologists, including acting head of the Antigua

and Barbuda Meteorological Service, Dale Destin, indicated that moderate, or worse shorter-term drought has developed in the northern Bahamas, western Cuba, and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while moderate longer-term drought has developed in Antigua, along the northern Bahamas, western Cuba, Dominica, southern coast of Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, eastern Jamaica, Martinique, St. Croix, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.

Short-term drought may possibly develop in Martinique, but there is

no concern for long-term drought as far down in 2022 as the end of November.

These patterns are being influenced by persisting, but weak La Niña weather conditions, which are expected to continue into the late summer. This will favour slightly above normal sea surface temperatures across the Caribbean.

“An increase in Atlantic tropical storm frequency may also be consistent with the presence of La Niña. Warmer sea surface temperatures across the region should provide

moderate seasonal forecast confidence.

“Rainfall patterns across the region are expected to be influenced by La Niña as well, with a drier than normal signal along the northwest section and wetter than normal patterns setting up elsewhere. A peak in humid heat typically occurs during the first two months of the season and will coincide with the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season,” CariCOF said.

Periods of Saharan Dust interference also remain likely into the summer.

cont'd from pg 6

hul Choksi, and the money was used to acquire properties in various countries including the US.

ED has listed a property in Manhattan, New York, purchased by Choksi in 2010 from one Robert Liubicic for consideration of USD\$8,95,000 (around 5.72 crore). This flat was transferred by Choksi to his daughter-in-law Snigdha Taneja.

ED has listed at least 20 offshore

companies controlled by Choksi, which were used for routing and parking funds.

“The huge economic scam brewing since 2013-14 came to the notice of the bank only when it did not issue fresh LOUs in the absence of the requisite documents and sanctions. By this time, open/unpaid LOUs/FLCs (issued by committing fraud) had mounted up to 6,097.63 crore. The modus operandi of issuance of LOUs/FLCs through

fraud was done with the criminal intent of illegally enjoying the credit facility without providing proper collateral and with nominal interest payable and rotating the money for their own end use, by circumventing the established banking procedures and checks,” the charge sheet says.

Choksi’s lawyer, Vijay Aggarwal, refused to comment on the charge sheet. (Hindustan Times)

(1 crore = USD\$250,000.00)

CARI COF

CARIBBEAN CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM

Opinion

The British Airways/LIAT connection

By Lesroy Browne

British Airways (BA) will be celebrating sixty (60) years of direct airline operation between the United Kingdom and Antigua later this month and it is indeed an opportune time to share some information on the British Airways/LIAT connection which started with British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC), the predecessor of British Airways.

In 1957, shortly after the incorporation of Leeward Islands Air Transport (LIAT) in 1956, British West Indian Airways (BWIA) purchased seventy-five percent of the LIAT (LI) issued and outstanding shares. At that time, it was mutually beneficial to BWIA and LIAT. BWIA had the franchise to operate flights between the islands; but the carrier was burdened with massive costs utilising the Vickers Viscount aircraft to operate the requisite inter-island services and there was a limitation on the number of landings the Pilots union allowed.

LIAT on the other hand was able to use smaller and more suitable aircraft for the inter-island service and would benefit from receiving financial and management assistance in the conduct and expansion of its network.

At that time also British Overseas Airways Corpo-



ration (BOAC), the British state-owned airline, was a shareholder of BWIA. BOAC had shareholdings in several airlines operating in various parts of the British Commonwealth through a subsidiary, BOAC Associated Companies.

In the late 1950's BOAC Associated Companies declared to have holdings in eighteen companies including another Caribbean airline – Bahamas Airways. Route rights with foreign countries for airlines in the British Commonwealth could only be negotiated by the UK Government so BWIA for example had to depend on the UK Government to negotiate route rights to points outside of the British Commonwealth. Given the fact that BOAC Associated Companies had shares in BWIA and BWIA acquired shares in LIAT in 1957 one can therefore say that an indirect BOAC/

LIAT relationship commenced in 1957.

On 1st November 1961, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago acquired ninety percent of the BWIA shares. On 31st August 1962, Trinidad and Tobago became an independent nation and by 1967 the Trinidad and Tobago Government achieved complete ownership of BWIA.

Becoming an independent nation meant that Trinidad and Tobago had also become responsible for negotiating its own route rights with all foreign territories; however, even with its seventy-five percent shareholding in LIAT, the Trinidad and Tobago Government could not negotiate route rights on behalf of LIAT which was registered in Antigua, still a British colony. That situation created an important level of concern for both LIAT and BWIA and was indeed one

of the considerations that resulted in BWIA ending its part ownership in LIAT in 1971.

In 1962, British Airways Overseas Corporation (BOAC) commenced operation to the Caribbean and South America. Flights were operating from the UK to Antigua, Barbados; Bermuda; Bogota, Columbia; British Guiana (now the Cooperative Republic of Guyana); Lima, Peru; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Caracas, Venezuela.

LIAT was contracted to provide the Ground Handling services for the BA flights in Antigua and thus commenced direct links with the British state-owned airline.

'Very strong' ties developed between the two airlines from the onset. The BOAC policy of assisting airlines in the British Commonwealth with manage-

cont'd on pg 10

ANDRE SIMON'S FUNDRAISING *Concert*

JUNE 11TH 2022

TIME: 11AM TO 6PM

DONT MISS:

- RAFFLES & AUCTIONS
- BOUNCE CASTLE & FACE PAINTING
- SHIVAS & ELITE DANCERS
- SWEET PAN MUSIC • FOOD & DRINK ON SALE
- MUSIC BY: DJ NEZ • DJ TREMOR • DJ RUTHLESS



DONATION
\$25
ADULTS
\$10
KIDS



TIAN WINTER



MENACE



RICHIE FRANCIS



QUEEN ALTHEA



DRASTIC



JASHAN



KELLY & VENISA



PEETRON



KNOW LABEL



LYRICS MAN

 **ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

Opinion

cont'd from pg 8

ment expertise was extended to LIAT, and in the 1960's and early 1970's the LIAT Traffic Manager was a seconded BOAC employee.

Other expatriate BOAC employees were also posted to Antigua to oversee the handling operations of the BA flights. Two expatriate BA personnel were usually on hand for the arrival/departure of every BA flight with one overseeing the traffic handling duties while the other was involved with the flight planning and slip crew management duties.

Mr. John Bustard, the LIAT Traffic Manager who issued my employment letter when I joined LIAT, was a seconded employee from BOAC.

The flight planning duties for the BOAC flights in those 'early years', when there was no computer to assist with certain calculations, involved the use of a circular slide rule to calculate flight times and fuel consumption



between way-points, and the planner also had to be able to 'interpret' the forecast weather conditions.

Flight planning for the 'long' trans-Atlantic flights involved very

precise calculations to ensure that flights operated within the aircraft structural limitations. The flight planning duties could only be performed

cont'd on pg 12



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

St. John's

Big Creek

Gas Station

SATELLITE BRANCH EBENEZER

**DO BUSINESS IN A
BETTER STATE OF MIND**

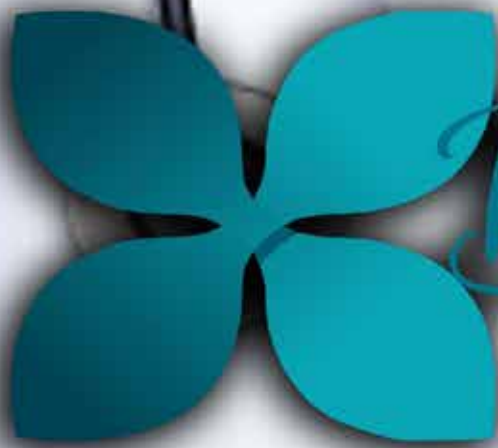
 **FULL SERVICE**
 **EASY PARKING**
 **HASSLE-FREE PAYMENTS**
 **GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE**

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



LET'S TALK HEALTH

**4:00pm - 6:00pm
EVERY MONDAY**



BLUE Haven
Medical Center

DR. HANYBAL YAZIGI
CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST

DR. ALBERT ROLLE.
GENERAL PRACTITIONER WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MENTAL HEALTH.

DR. DAMIAN GORDON
AESTHETIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND FAMILY
PHYSICIAN WITH POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN GENERAL AND SURGICAL
DERMATOLOGY.

SYDNEY RETEMYER
MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGISTS, CERTIFIED ADDICTION SPECIALIST AND THEOLOGIAN
AREAS OF THERAPY INCLUDE PSYCHOTHERAPY, PSYCHOEDUCATION,
LOGOTHERAPY, RELATIONSHIP COUNSELING, SPIRITUAL COUNSELING,
ADDICTION COUNSELING, AND MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY.

Opinion



cont'd from pg 10

by persons who received the requisite BOAC training and certification.

By 1970, BOAC extended overseas training in London to LIAT employees and after receiving extensive BOAC training, Mr. David Jardine became the first local to hold the position of Traffic Manager at LIAT

In the ensuing years, several LIAT employees from Antigua, St. Lucia and Grenada received training in London from BOAC, and its successor British Airways, which was founded in 1974 through a merger of BOAC and British European Airways (BEA).

I am one of a very few former LIAT employees who was fortunate to receive overseas training from both BOAC and British Airways.

The provision of ground handling services began in St. Lucia in 1972 and 1987 in Grenada when BA started serving those territories. By the mid-seventies, a few LIAT employees from Antigua and St. Lucia were able to perform all the required BA ground handling duties which required certification. The ground handling of British Airways by LIAT ended in Antigua when in the late 1970's British Airways introduced the Boeing 747 aircraft on

the flights between the UK and Antigua.

LIAT was, unfortunately, unable to acquire the requisite ground support equipment to handle that type of aircraft.

The handling relationship ended in St. Lucia in 1994 when the Government of St. Lucia gave an American Airlines subsidiary company, Caribbean Dispatch Services Ltd. (CDSL), exclusive rights to perform handling services at the Hewanorra International Airport in St. Lucia.

The Grenada ground handling relationship ended in 2002 after the Grenada Airports Authority set up a fully owned subsidiary

company to provide ground handling services.

The British Airways/LIAT connection was, however, more than the ground handling relationship in Antigua, St. Lucia, and Grenada, as there was an interline agreement to facilitate the 'exchange' of traffic and cargo documents and the 'smooth' transfer of passengers, baggage, and cargo between the two carriers.

In the early 2000, BA introduced a more liberal free baggage allowance which was incompatible with the LIAT free baggage allowance, and which was extremely burdensome (costly) for LIAT.

Also, when LIAT migrated from the Sabre Computerised Reservations System to a Web based computerised system in 2005, the interline agreement was no longer of mutual benefit to the two carriers.

The competitive environment in the region also contributed to a 'watered down' interline agreement which eventually ended due to LIAT's situation.

The airline industry has gone through significant changes and the 'strong' relationship forged over the years between BA and LI may be lost forever. The importance of LIAT as a 'feeder carrier' for British Airways has waned as there are now other carriers capable of providing the required connections to/from the British Airways flights.



Twist Fitness's Opening Hours

Monday- Friday
5:30AM-8:30PM

Saturday
9:00AM-5:00PM
5:00PM-7:00PM (WOMEN ONLY HOURS)

Sunday
10:00AM-3:00PM

CARICOM announces support for Saudi Arabia to host World Expo 2030

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping has announced its support for Saudi Arabia hosting World Expo 2030, saying it will expose CARICOM member states to significant technological innovation.

Saudi Arabia has launched a global campaign in its bid to host the World 2030 Expo in Riyadh from October 2030 and April 1, 2031, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The announcement was made following the closing ceremony of the Kingdom's award-winning pavilion at Dubai's EXPO 2020.

Russia, South Korea, Italy, and the Ukraine are the other countries that had submitted competing candidatures to organise World Expo 2030. Russia has since announced its

withdrawal from the race.

The World Expo is a gathering of nations from all over the world to showcase their products and craftsmanship, to share with pride information about their hometowns and motherlands. It is an epitome of the great achievements of human civilization, possessing unparalleled appeal.

The host country of World Expo 2030 will be elected by Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) member states, gathered in a general assembly set to take place in late 2023.

"The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is pleased to announce its support for the candidature of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host Expo 2030 in the City of Riyadh. The theme for the Expo will be "The

Era of Change: Leading the Planet to a Foresighted Tomorrow," the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat said in a statement.

It said World Expos focus on finding solutions to fundamental challenges that confront humanity and bring together countries, international organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to educate the public, share innovation, promote progress, and foster cooperation.

"EXPO 2030 will expose CARICOM member states to significant technological innovations while presenting opportunities to showcase challenges and prospects in the region."

World Expo 2025 will be held in Japan from April 13 to November 23, 2025. (CMC)



PLATINUM 97.9
 We Entertain You

STEELPAN MELEE

WITH **KHAN KC CORDICE**
5PM-6PM
TUESDAYS

LIVE

‘Only God can help’: Hundreds die as Somalia faces famine

By Omar Faruk And Cara Anna

No mother should have to lose her child. Owliyo Hassan Salaad has watched four die this year. A drought in the Horn of Africa has taken them, one by one.

Now she cradles her frail and squalling 3-year-old, Ali Osman, whom she carried on a 90-kilometre (55-mile) walk from her village to Somalia’s capital, desperate not to lose him too. Sitting on the floor of a malnutrition treatment centre filled with anxious mothers, she can barely speak about the small bodies buried back home in soil too dry for planting.

Deaths have begun in the region’s most parched drought in four decades. Previously unreported data shared with The Associated Press show at least 448 deaths this year at malnutrition treatment centres in Somalia alone. Authorities in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are now shifting to the grim task of trying to prevent famine.

Many more people are dying beyond the notice of authorities, like Salaad’s four children, all younger than 10. Some die in remote pastoral communities. Some die on treks in search of help. Some die even after reaching displacement camps, malnourished beyond aid.



Doctor Mustaf Yusuf treats Ali Osman, 3, who is showing symptoms of Kwashiorkor, a severe protein malnutrition causing swelling and skin lesions, as his mother Owliyo Hassan Salaad, 40, holds him at a malnutrition stabilisation centre run by Action against Hunger, in Mogadishu, Somalia Sunday, June 5, 2022. Deaths have begun in the region’s most parched drought in decades and previously unreported data show nearly 450 deaths this year at malnutrition treatment centres in Somalia alone. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

“Definitely thousands” have died, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula, told reporters on Tuesday, though the data to support that is yet to come.

Salaad left behind another four children with her husband. They were too weak to make the journey to Mogadishu, she said.

Drought comes and goes in the Horn of Africa, but this is one like no other. Humanitarian assistance has been sapped by global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and now Russia’s war in Ukraine. Prices for staples like wheat and cook-

ing oil are rising quickly, in some places by more than 100%. Millions of the livestock that provide families with milk, meat and wealth have died. Even the therapeutic food to treat hungry people like Salaad’s son is becoming more expensive and, in some places, might run out.

And for the first time, a fifth straight rainy season might fail.

An “explosion of child deaths” is coming to the Horn of Africa if the world focuses only on the war in Ukraine and doesn’t act now, UNICEF said Tuesday.

Famine even threatens

Somalia’s capital as displacement camps on Mogadishu’s outskirts swell with exhausted new arrivals. Salaad and her son were turned away from a crowded hospital after arriving a week ago.

They were sent instead to the treatment centre for the extremely malnourished where rooms are full, extra beds have been put out and yet some people must sleep on the floor. Mothers wince, and babies wail, as tiny bodies with sores and protruding ribs are gently checked for signs of recovery.

“The centre is overwhelmed,” said Dr. Mustaf
cont’d on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

Yusuf, a physician there. Admissions more than doubled in May to 122 patients.

At least 30 people have died this year through April at the centre and six other facilities run by Action Against Hunger, the humanitarian group said. It is seeing the highest admission rates to its hunger treatment centres since it began working in Somalia in 1992, with the number of severely malnourished children up 55% from last year.

More broadly, at least 448 people died this year at outpatient and in-patient malnutrition treatment centres across Somalia through April, according to data compiled by humanitarian groups and local authorities.

Aid workers warn the data is incomplete and the overall death toll from the drought remains elusive.

"We know from experience that mortality rises suddenly when all the conditions are in place — displacement, disease outbreaks, malnutrition — all of which we are currently seeing in Somalia," said Biram Ndiaye, UNICEF Somalia's chief of nutrition.

Mortality surveys conducted in parts of Somalia in December and again in April and May by the U.N.'s Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit showed a "severe and rapid deterioration within a very short time frame." Most alarming was the Bay region in the south, where adult mortality nearly tripled, child mortality more

than doubled and the rate of the most severe malnutrition tripled.

Deaths and acute malnutrition have reached "atypically high levels" in much of southern and central Somalia, and admissions of acutely malnourished children under 5 have risen by over 40% compared to the same period last year, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network.

One notable complication in counting deaths is the extremist group al-Shabab, whose control over large parts of southern and central Somalia is a barrier to aid. Its harsh response to Somalia's drought-driven famine from 2010-12 was a factor in more than a quarter-million deaths, half of them children.

Another factor was the international community's slow response. "A drama without witnesses," the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Somalia said at the time.

Now the alarms are sounding again.

More than 200,000 people in Somalia face "catastrophic hunger and starvation, a drastic increase from the 81,000 forecast in April," a joint statement by U.N. agencies said Monday, noting that a humanitarian response plan for this year is just 18% funded.

Somalia isn't alone. In Ethiopia's drought-affected regions, the number of children treated for the most severe malnutrition — "a tip of the crisis" — jumped 27%

in the first quarter of this year compared to last year, according to UNICEF. The increase was 71% in Kenya, where Doctors Without Borders reported at least 11 deaths in a single county's malnutrition treatment program earlier this year.

At one of the overflowing displacement camps on the outskirts of Mogadishu, recent arrivals were anguished as they described watching family members die.

"I left some of my children behind to care for those suffering," said Amina Abdi Hassan, who came from a village in southern Somalia with her malnourished baby. They're still hungry as aid runs dry, even in the capital.

"Many others are on the way," she said.

Hawa Abdi Osman said she lost children to the drought. Emaciated, and weakened by another preg-

nancy, she walked five days to Mogadishu.

"We had to leave some of our relatives behind, and others perished as we watched," said her cousin, Halima Ali Dhubow.

More people come to the camp every day, using the last wisps of energy to set up makeshift shelters in the dust, lashing together branches with fabric and plastic. Some walked up to 19 days to reach the capital, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council.

"Last night alone 120 families came in," camp manager Nadifa Hussein said. "We are giving them all the little supplies we have, like bread. The number of people is so overwhelming that helping them is beyond our capacity. In the past aid agencies helped, but now aid is very scarce.

"Only God can help them," she said.



HOSTED BY

AZIZA

KAMAULE

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

PERSPECTIVES

TIME : 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

ON SATURDAYS

f i y t s

Regional News



Barbados Appeal Court vacates death sentence of man convicted for fire that killed six women

CMC – The Court of Appeal in Barbados has ruled that Jamar Dwayne Bynoe, who was previously sentenced to death by hanging for his role in the 2010 fire at a store that resulted in the deaths of six women, return to the High Court for sentencing.

But the Appeal Court upheld his conviction even as it vacated “the sentence of death.”

Bynoe had appealed his 2016 conviction for murdering six women in the September 3, 2010, Campus Trendz fire. A jury had found him guilty of six counts of murder following the deaths of Shanna Griffith, Kelly-Ann Welch, Pearl Cornelius, Kellishaw Olivierre, Nikita Belgrave and Tiffany Harding.

However, the Trinidad-based Ca-

ribbean Court of Justice, (CCJ) the island’s highest court, had in another matter ruled that the mandatory death sentence in Barbados was unconstitutional.

“The conviction is upheld. The sentence of death is vacated. The appellant is returned to the trial court for re-sentencing pursuant to Section 2(a) (1) of the Offences Against the Persons Act and the Offences Against the Persons Amendment Act, at the earliest opportunity,” Appeal Court Judge Justice Margaret Reifer ruled on Tuesday.

Former Court of Appeal Chief Justice, Sir Marston Gibson, former Appeal judge, Madam Justice Kaye Godridge and Justice Reifer had heard

the appeal.

Six independent nations in the Eastern Caribbean – Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines, all members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) – and Barbados, retain the death penalty for murder. Most of these countries have not executed anyone sentenced to death for at least ten years with the vast majority not carrying out an execution for more than twenty years.

The Death Penalty Project has been challenging Barbados’ use of the mandatory death penalty on human rights grounds in legal appeals dating back to 2004.

Defective equipment delays installation of Doppler radar system in Jamaica

CMC – The Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation has told Jamaicans that they should continue to be in a state of preparedness for the 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season, which regional and international meteorological officials predict will be an above-normal season.

It said while it had been aiming to bring newly acquired radar into full operation in time for the season, there are, however, some recent developments with the equipment that meant that the commissioning will not be possible for this season.

“Jamaicans should, however, be assured that the



Doppler radar [File photo]

absence of a radar does not impair the ability to conduct forecasts for the island and would not affect our capacity to monitor tropical cyclone activity in the Caribbean or wider Atlantic

region during the Hurricane Season.”

The ministry said the Meteorological Service will continue to provide its full suite of services in collaboration with its international

partners and the opportunity is being taken to clarify the matter of the status of the replacement of the obsolete radar system.

It said under the Improving Climate Data and Information Management Project being implemented by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), funds were provided through a wider World Bank-aided program to replace the obsolete radar system installed in 1999.

The ministry said since December 2020, there has been progress but in March, a mechanical defect involving the antenna assembly

cont'd on pg 17

Belize submits counter-memorial to the ICJ

CMC – Belize has delivered its counter-memorial to the Registrar of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague with Prime Minister John Briceño indicating that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country will do everything possible to maintain its land that is being claimed by Guatemala.

“Belizeans can rest assured that a strong, clear, and powerful case has been made for our sovereignty over all...as well as the maritime areas as determined by international law,” he said. A government statement said the country’s counter-memorial “makes a robust defence of Belize’s sovereignty over its entire territory including islands and the pertaining maritime areas in accordance with international law.

“In accordance with the timetable announced by the Court, which was amended as a result of the pandemic, Guatemala submitted its memorial on December 8, 2020, and is due to submit its reply to Belize’s counter-memorial in December 2022. Belize will then have until June 2023 to submit its rejoinder, after which the Court will set a date for the oral hearings,” the statement said.

Briceño said the country’s counter-memorial provides for a ‘strong defence to Guatemala’s memorial...and resolutely defends the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Belize.’



Prime Minister John Briceño indicated that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country will do everything possible to maintain its land that is being claimed by Guatemala.

CARICOM leaders at their inter-sessional summit in March reiterated support for Belize’s position, reiterating “the importance of Belize, Guatemala, and the OAS (Organization of American States) continuing to fully implement the existing Confidence Building Measures.

“They also reiterated their call for both countries and the OAS to finally fulfil their commitment to design a mechanism of co-operation for the Sarstoon River,” and “expressed appreciation for the role of the OAS in accompanying the process and called on the international community to increase support for the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone.

“Heads of Government reaffirmed their steadfast support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security of Belize,” the communique added.

In a dispute stretching back to the dawn of the colonial era in the Americas, Guatemala recognized the independence of Belize at the beginning of the 1990s. But it never accepted the borders and continues to claim about 11,000 square km (4,250 square miles) of Belize, about half of its territory.

Guatemala and Belize have agreed to accept the court’s decision on any and all legal claims of Guatemala against Belize to land and insular territories. Belize became independent in 1981.

cont’d from pg 16

was detected by technical experts.

“The manufacturers in the United States were immediately notified and subsequently made arrangements to do a physical assessment, which was carried out in Jamaica on

March 16, 2022.”

The ministry said a situation report and the necessary corrective action plan have been made available indicating that the problem will be corrected within the next six months.

“This will include the replacement of the defective

antenna.

“All costs associated with the correction of the defect are being covered under the existing three-year warranty and there is no financial cost to Jamaica.

“This will, unfortunately, further delay the plans for commissioning the ra-

dar, which is expected to enhance the Meteorological Service’s ability to monitor rainfall activity over and within proximity to Jamaica for the purpose of reporting on existing occurrences and making short-term forecasts within a few hours of detection.”

US unveils new Latin America economic plan at reboot summit dogged by dissent

Reuters - The Biden administration unveiled a new proposed U.S. economic partnership with Latin America on Wednesday as regional leaders gathered for a summit in Los Angeles whose agenda has been undermined by discord over the guest list.

Seeking to counter China's growing clout in the region, a senior administration official said President Joe Biden is offering neighbours to the south an alternative that calls for increased U.S. engagement, including more investment, strengthening supply lines and building on existing trade deals.

However, Biden's "Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity," which still appears to be a work in progress, stops short of offering tariff relief and, according to the U.S. official, will initially focus on "like-minded partners" that already have U.S. trade accords. Negotiations are expected to begin in early fall, the official added.

Biden was due to outline his plan in a speech on Wednesday to open the summit, which was conceived as a platform to showcase U.S. leadership in reviving Latin American economies and tackling record levels of irregular migration at the U.S.-Mexico border.

But Biden's agenda has been marred by a partial boycott by leaders upset at Washington's decision to exclude Communist-run Cuba and the leftist governments of Venezuela and Nicaragua.

U.S. officials hope the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles and a parallel gathering of business executives can pave the way for great-



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, U.S. June 8, 2022. REUTERS/Lauren Justice

er cooperation as governments grappling with higher inflation work to bring supply chains stretched by the COVID-19 pandemic closer to home.

"It's much better for us ... to have a supply chain here in the Americas than it is for us to be dependent on a supply chain that comes from China," U.S. ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar told Reuters.

Even as Biden deals with major priorities such as mass shootings, high inflation and the Ukraine war, the U.S. official said the president is seeking to press the administration's competitive goals against China with the launch of the new partnership for the region.

Washington, which already has a combined trade pact with Canada and Mexico, a collective one with Central

America and a series of other agreements, will attempt to develop new customs, digital trade, labour, environmental and corporate accountability standards, according to the official.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told business leaders at the summit that there remain "huge challenges" to creating a positive environment for investment, citing "everything from regulatory frameworks to corruption."

Biden's plan would aim to mobilise corporate investments, revitalise the Inter-American Development Bank and create clean energy jobs.

Still, the administration appeared to be moving cautiously, mindful an initiative that promotes jobs abroad could face U.S. protectionist push-back.

Turkey struggles to push Russia, Ukraine into grain deal to avert food crisis

Reuters – Turkish efforts to ease a global food crisis by negotiating safe passage for grain stuck in Black Sea ports met resistance as Ukraine said Russia was imposing unreasonable conditions and the Kremlin said free shipment depended on an end to sanctions.

The war between Russia and Ukraine, the world's third and fourth largest grain exporters respectively, has added to food price inflation and put global food supplies at risk.

Russia has seized large parts of Ukraine's coast in nearly 15 weeks of war and its warships control the Black and Azov Seas, blocking Ukraine's farm exports and driving up the cost of grain.

Ukraine and the West accuse Moscow of weaponising food supplies.

Russia says Ukrainian mines laid at sea and international sanctions on Moscow are to blame.

Speaking alongside his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, Tur-

key's foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said talks on Wednesday in Ankara were fruitful and restarting Ukrainian grain exports along a sea corridor was reasonable. [read more](#)

Lavrov said the onus was on Ukraine to de-mine its ports as a precondition for safe shipment. [read more](#)

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Russian grain volumes could only be delivered to international markets if sanctions were lifted.

He said there were "no substantive talks about this yet".

The United Nations is working on plans to restart grain exports from Ukraine's Black Sea ports, with Turkey possibly providing naval escorts to ensure safe passage.

The United Nations last week described talks with Russia on grain exports as constructive.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday that senior U.N. officials held talks with



Sergei Yarosh, head of Mlybor (flour mill) enterprise, shows a handful of grains at the facility after it was shelled repeatedly, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in Chernihiv region, Ukraine May 24, 2022. REUTERS/Edgar Su

Ankara, Brussels, Kyiv, Moscow, and Washington in the past 10 days, but he did not want to "jeopardise the chances of success" by commenting further.

"This is one of those moments when silent diplomacy is necessary - and the welfare of millions of people around the world could depend on it," Guterres told reporters.

Iraq's parliament passes emergency food bill

Reuters – Iraqi lawmakers on Wednesday passed an emergency bill that will allow the government to transfer public funds to meet urgent needs for food security as months of political deadlock have left the country without a budget.

The Emergency Law for Food Security and Development is meant to allocate 25 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$17.14 billion) to the government to buy wheat, rice, gas and energy, pay salaries, among other things.



A farmer helps an excavator to unload wheat grain at a silo in Mosul, Iraq June 12, 2019. Picture taken June 12, 2019. REUTERS/Azad Lashkari

Political disagreement derailed the election of a president months after an

October general election from which cleric Moqtada al-Sadr emerged the biggest winner, with his Shi'ite, pro-Iran rivals receiving a hammering at the polls.

The failure to elect a president is seen as a setback to Sadr and his alliance, but the passing of the bill is considered a victory for Sadr who proposed the law.

The law will be immediately enforced and will be valid until a national budget is approved.

Sports News



Simone Biles, other women seek \$1B-plus from FBI over Nassar

AP – Olympic gold medallist Simone Biles and dozens of other women who say they were sexually assaulted by Larry Nassar are seeking more than \$1 billion from the FBI for failing to stop the sports doctor when the agency first received allegations against him, lawyers said Wednesday.

There's no dispute that FBI agents in 2015 knew that Nassar was accused of assaulting gymnasts, but they failed to act, leaving him free to continue to target young women and girls for more than a year. He pleaded guilty in 2017 and is serving decades in prison.

"It is time for the FBI to be held accountable," said Maggie Nichols, a national champion gymnast at Oklahoma in 2017-19.

Under federal law, a government agency has six months to respond to the tort claims filed Wednesday. Lawsuits could follow, depending on the FBI's response.

The approximately 90 claimants include Biles, Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney, all Olympic gold medallists, according to Manly, Stewart & Finaldi, a California law firm. Separately, 13 claims were filed by others in April.

"If the FBI had simply done its job, Nassar would have been stopped before he ever had the chance to abuse hundreds of girls, including me," said former University of Michigan gymnast Samantha Roy.

Indianapolis-based USA Gymnastics told local agents in 2015 that three gymnasts said they were assaulted by Nassar, a team doctor. But the FBI did not open a formal investigation or inform federal or state authorities in Michigan, according to the Justice Department's inspector general, an internal watchdog.

Los Angeles agents in 2016 began



United States gymnasts from left, Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman and Maggie Nichols, arrive to testify during a Senate Judiciary hearing about the Inspector General's report on the FBI's handling of the Larry Nassar investigation on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, in Washington. (Saul Loeb/Pool via AP, File)

a sexual tourism investigation against Nassar and interviewed several victims but also didn't alert Michigan authorities, the inspector general said.

Nassar wasn't arrested until the fall of 2016 during an investigation by police at Michigan State University, where he was a doctor.

The Michigan attorney general's office ultimately handled the assault charges against Nassar, while federal prosecutors in Grand Rapids, Michigan, filed a child pornography case.

The FBI declined to comment Wednesday on the former gymnasts' financial claims, referring instead to remarks last year by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who acknowledged major mistakes.

"I'm especially sorry that there were people at the FBI who had their own chance to stop this monster back in 2015 and failed. And that's inexcusable," Wray told victims at a Senate hearing.

At that same hearing, Biles, widely considered to be the greatest gymnast

of all time, said an "entire system" enabled the abuse. Maroney recalled "dead silence" when she talked to FBI agents about Nassar.

The Justice Department in May said that it would not pursue criminal charges against former agents who were accused of giving inaccurate or incomplete responses during the inspector general's investigation.

Failures by federal law enforcers have led to major settlements, including \$127.5 million for families of those killed or injured in 2018 at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The FBI received a tip about five weeks before 17 people were killed, but the tip was never forwarded to the South Florida office.

Michigan State University, which was also accused of missing chances over many years to stop Nassar, agreed to pay \$500 million to more than 300 women and girls who were assaulted by him. USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee made a \$380 million settlement.

Alexander Zverev has surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle after French Open fall

BBC - Alexander Zverev has had surgery on torn ligaments in his right ankle following his French Open semi-final retirement last week. The German world number three was taken off court in a wheelchair after a nasty fall in the match against Rafael Nadal.

On Instagram, Zverev said "surgery was the best choice" in order for him to return to action as soon as possible.

His brother Mischa told German newspaper Bild that Wimbledon is "out of the question" for the 25-year-

old.

Zverev was trailing 7-6 (10-8) 6-6 against Spaniard Nadal - who went onto win the men's singles tournament and claim a record-extending 22nd Grand Slam title - when he badly rolled his ankle and screamed out in agony.

He said all three of the lateral ligaments in his right ankle were damaged.

If he had reached the final at Roland Garros and succeeded in lifting his first major in Paris, Zverev would have taken over as world number one.

"We all have our own



Zverev cried out in pain following his fall in the semi-final of the French Open [Getty Images]

journey in life. This is part of mine," he posted.

"Next week I'll reach a career high ranking of number 2 in the world, but this morning I had to undergo surgery.

"My rehab starts now and I'll do everything to come back stronger than ever!"

This year's Wimbledon takes place from 27 June to 10 July.

Soccer great Pele urges Brazil authorities to ramp up search for British journalist

Reuters - Brazilian soccer legend Pele on Wednesday urged the country's authorities to intensify their search for a British journalist and an indigenous expert who went missing in the Amazon jungle on Sunday.

Pele said on Instagram that he was moved by the disappearance of Dom Phillips, a freelancer who has written for the Guardian, the Washington Post and other publications, and Bruno Pereira, a former senior official with federal indigenous agency Funai.

"The fight for the preservation of the Amazon Forest and the protection of indigenous groups belongs to all of us. ... Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira dedicate their lives to this cause," Pele said.

Phillips and Pereira had been on a reporting trip in the Javari Valley, a remote jungle area that is home to the world's largest number of uncon-



Legendary Brazilian soccer player Pele waves to the spectators before the start of the under-17 boys' final soccer match of Subroto Cup tournament at Ambedkar stadium in New Delhi, India, October 16, 2015. REUTERS/Anindito Mukherjee/File Photo

tacted indigenous people, as well as cocaine-smuggling gangs, and illegal hunters and fishermen.

Brazil's government dispatched navy, army and federal police personnel to join a search for the pair in a

vast indigenous reserve with an area larger than Austria, but local groups criticised the security forces for taking too long to deploy search teams.

"I join the many voices that make the appeal to intensify the search and to find them as soon as possible," Pele said while sharing a video of Phillips' wife, Alessandra Sampaio, making an emotional plea for authorities to intensify their search efforts.

Widely considered to be the best of all time, the 81-year-old former Brazil, Santos and New York Cosmos forward has reduced his public appearances recently as he receives treatment for a colon tumour, but remains active on social media.

Other sports personalities such as Everton and Brazil striker Richarlison and former Brazil international Walter Casagrande Junior have also urged authorities to step up their efforts to find Phillips and Pereira.

Sports News



Paragons say absence of Burke contributed to losing title

The absence of national utility player Vanessa Burke is being described as one of the main reasons for Paragons being dethroned as national women's volleyball champions.

Paragons, who won the title for 10 consecutive years, relinquished their crown to JanServeEvents Cool and Smooth Da Squad last Saturday.

Da squad beat Paragons 25-17, 22-25, 25-15, 25-17 in the final to capture their first national women's title as the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) Local League came to an end at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on 4th June.

Da Squad, who finished last in the 2019 tournament, the last time the event was staged before the 2020 and 2021 editions were cancelled due to the emergence of the Covid-19 Pandemic, rebounded to produce an unbeaten display by winning all their matches to claim their inaugural title.

Paragons' captain Naheema Wilson said her team did their best without the services of Burke who is off island.

"It's unfortunate that we were unable to come out as champions this year. However, I am happy with the players we had. We played our best, as good as we could play despite not having one of our key players who is not here with us. But in general, I am thankful to the coach and the players," she said.

Paragons coach Collin Thomas, also shared similar sentiments, but also said his team did not get adequate preparations due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

"I felt very proud of the ladies, despite of the fact, as the captain

said, we were missing not just one of the main players, she is the main player in terms of our offensive set. She couldn't be here because she had to be away with her family. But I am proud of them for what we did," Thomas said.

"We started the season slowly and they worked their way into the season, because due to Covid-19, we could not get adequate practice to prepare and stuff like that. So I am happy for what they have accomplished and we will be ready for next year."

The Da Squad team included several players from Cuba and the Dominican Republic who are now citizens of Antigua and Barbuda, via naturalization, and are residents with their families in the twin-island state.

Wilson said the addition of the players from the two Spanish speaking countries is having a positive influence on the other players.

"As you can see, they have some Cubans and some players from the Dominican Republic and what not. But overall it helps us to raise our game and help the other teams in the tournament to also raise their game. But we played our best and Paragons will be back next year," Wilson said.

Thomas also feels other teams can emulate Da Squad and Paragons.

"Da Squad is a good team. Kudos to them. They practice, they went out and got good sponsorship, they got players, whether it is from abroad or from here, it doesn't matter. They are still volleyball players," Thomas said.

"I hope that other teams can take a page out of their book and take a page out of Paragons book, because Paragons have been winning for



Paragons' captain Naheema Wilson, left, and coach Collin Thomas, right, said absence of a key player contributed to the team being dethroned by Da Squad as national women's volleyball champions. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

many years for a reason. So I hope other teams can follow suit and we can have a much better league next year.

"I actually think that Da Squad having new players, it is a very good thing for the sport in Antigua. I think that as athletes, we should be competitive and I am also happy for Da Squad because for the past 12 years, Da Squad have been losing.

"So I am very happy to see that they have done what's necessary to get their team on top and I just hope that other teams can do that as well. I am for what they (Da Squad) are doing."

Hurricane Power dominate Wings Sports Club Whit Monday Road Relay

Hurricane Power Athletic Club captured the overall title in both male and female divisions of the Concerned Parents Teachers Sports Associations (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club 29th Whit Monday 4 x 1.5 miles Road Relay on 6th June, 2022.

The Hurricane Power Club team of Tanika James, Hannah Charles, Abbe Davis and Anika James, claimed the overall female title after capturing first place in the Under-30 category, with a time of 42 minutes and 52 seconds.

Edu Sports captured second place in a time of

46 minutes and 26 seconds, while Roots Athletic Club finished third by clocking 49 minutes and 45 seconds.

The Hurricane Power Athletic Club A Team, comprising Kamar Thomas, Jermaine Brann, Anderson Rodriquez and Yannik Martin, won the male overall title after claiming first place in the Men's Over-30 category. Anu Champions captured the runners-up position.

A team of runners from the Roots Athletic Club joined forces to win the Under-15 female division

cont'd on pg 24



Judge Colin Williams, right, with members of The Hurricane Power Athletic Club A Team that captured the male overall title after claiming first place in the Men's Over-30 category. (Photos courtesy Wings Sports Club)

PHONEARAMA

SALE

"WE HAVE THE BEST PRICE"

DON OFFICIAL
ACCESSORIES
Tel: (268) 775-4488



\$349 & UP
7" AMAZON FIRE TABLET



\$299
UNIQ 7 INCHES TABLET WIFI



\$599 & UP
SAMSUNG PHONES



\$299 & UP
ZTE & HYUNDAI PHONES



\$99
BLU Z4 PHONE

STORE HOURS: 9AM TO 5PM

DON OFFICIAL STORE - UPPER NEVIS STREET

CALL: 775-4488 NOW | WHATSAPP: 720-4488

Sports News



cont'd from pg 23

of the 4x1.5 miles road relay, in a time of 48 minutes and 54 seconds.

The road relay was staged in conjunction with a 10K run & Fitness Walk. Members of Hurricane Power Athletic Club also captured both titles in the female and male categories of the 10K run.

Tanika James won the female 10K run in a time of 52 minutes and 58 seconds.

Yolanda Joseph took second place with a time of 56 minutes and 43 seconds, while Sophie Bowen came third in a time of 59 minutes and 26 seconds.

Kemar Thomas won the male 10K run in a time of 34 minutes and 04 seconds. Jason Askie took second place with a time

of 42 minutes and 42 seconds, while Ron Murraine claimed third place in a time of 53 minutes and 28 seconds.

Peter Adams of Hurricane Power won the male category of the fitness walk in a time of one hour and 05 minutes.

Harris Henry finished in second place by clocking one hour and 06 minutes, while Colin Williams came third in one hour and 24 minutes.

Mary Jervier won the female category of the fitness walk in a time of one hour and 19 minutes. Charlene Scott finished in second place in a time of one hour and 27 minutes, while Danish Casimir claimed third place in a time of one hour and 33 minutes.



Members of the Hurricane Power Athletic Club team that won the overall female 4x1.5 Miles relay title. Tanika James, second left, also won the female 10K run. Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Judge Colin Williams, right, presented the prizes to the winners.

Medals were presented to the winners by Secretary of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, Lynette Charles, and Judge Colin Williams, who was also one of the participants of the fitness walk.

Over 40 persons participated in the event, including 10 relay teams and 10 individual 10K runners.

The CPTSA Wings Sports Club said although the road relay, 10K and fitness walk were held without a main sponsor, it was one of its better organized Whit Monday events.

Wings Sports Club is also expressing its gratitude to Frank B Armstrong for providing Lucozade to the relay winners. Contributions also came from

Community First Co-operative Credit Union, Automotive Art, Charlie's Bottling and Little Canton Supermarket.

Contributing to the success of the road race event were the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force cadets, the Emergency Medical Services and officials of the Hurricane Power Athletic Club.

As promised, the Wings Club said 50 percent of the funds raised from the event will be presented to the Antigua & Barbuda Cycling Federation to assist the injured cyclists who were involved in a road accident with a vehicle on 8th May.

IT'S OUR GAME

WEST INDIES vs BANGLADESH

1ST TEST

Antigua

JUNE 16-20 | 10AM-5PM

SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS STADIUM

GET TICKETS!

FIBA resists Paris Olympics plan for remote basketball venue

AP - Most basketball games at the Paris Olympics could be played a three-hour journey outside the host city, a plan criticised Wednesday by the sport's governing body trying to get a better deal for players.

Paris organisers have struggled to find agreement on a suitable basketball venue for games before the medal rounds at the 2024 Summer Games, and the latest proposal is the soccer stadium in Lille — about 130 miles (210 kilometres) from Paris.

The previous plan was to use an arena in the capital, but that venue was dropped in March amid a backlash by NBA players from France who said the ceiling was too low for basketball.

"We don't feel that our athletes should be subject to the conditions we currently have on the table," Andreas Zagklis, secretary general of world basketball body FIBA, told Paris officials Wednesday stressing



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) loses the ball while being defended by Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (23) and guard Stephen Curry during the second half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in San Francisco, Sunday, June 5, 2022. (AP Photo/Jed Jacobsohn)

"serious concerns" and citing three changes of venue plans in five years.

If Lille is approved, the men's and women's basketball tournament would not come to Paris until the final few days of the July 26-Aug. 11 Olympics. The sport is expected to be among the biggest draws at the Paris Games to see

NBA and WNBA stars.

Playing in Lille, a north-east city close to the border with Belgium, would leave players unable to stay in the Athlete Village in Paris or facing three-hour transport times, Zagklis said at a meeting of the umbrella group of Summer Games sports in Lausanne.

At the Tokyo Olym-

pics last year, all basketball games were played at the Saitama Super Arena where both men's and women's gold medals were won by the United States, featuring NBA players such as Kevin Durant and Jayson Tatum and WNBA stars like Sue Bird and Brittney Griner.

Responding to the FIBA official, Paris organising committee president Tony Estanguet acknowledged "we haven't been in an easy situation with all the different crises" in the world.

"We have to find solutions to maintain the level of ambition as much as we can with our budgetary limits," said Estanguet, a three-time Olympic gold medallist in canoeing.

cont'd from pg 26

Meanwhile, the Antigua Commercial Bank(ACB) Caribbean Parish League will start its fourth competition of the season today (Thursday).

Six teams will commence battle in the Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League at three venues across the island today.

Police will face All Saints at the Police Recreation Grounds (PRG), Rising Sun will host Mahico at Rising Sun and New-

field will meet Pigotts at Pigotts.

Garfield Jacobs and Calvin Thomas will umpire at PRG, Nigel Browne and Llewellyn Simon will officiate at Rising Sun, while Condace Butler and Vaughn Connor will umpire at Pigotts.

The matches will be of 30 overs duration per innings and will commence at 2pm. The first innings will close at 4:10pm and the second innings will begin 10 minutes later and close at 6:30 pm.

Police continue winning form in Curtly Ambrose contest

Police have continued their unbeaten form in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League programme.

After going undefeated to win both the Dave Joseph and Sir Richie Richardson limited overs competitions, Police maintained their unblemished record this season, by winning their opening matches during the start of the Curtly Ambrose one-day championship over the weekend.

Police trounced Newfield by 84 runs at the Police Recreation Grounds (PRG). Jeron Jones cracked 78 not out, Malique Gerald struck 32 and Vincent Shadrach Sr made 31 before retiring hurt, to guide Police to 171 for four off 30 overs.

In reply, Newfield were dismissed for 87 in 21.4 overs, with Lashorn Barnarde grabbing five for 22, off-spinner James Cornelius picking up three for 34 and Jones capturing two wickets for 10 runs.

Police then romped to an eight wicket win over D&R Architecture Sea View Farm at the PRG.

Sea View Farm were dismissed for 83 in 13.1 overs, with Rolston Triss Phillip



Members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda cricket team. (File photo)

getting 51 and Gerald capturing five for 36.

Jeron Jones then cracked an unbeaten 41 and captain Derek Mourillon was not out on 22, as Police achieved victory at 85 for two in 9.5 overs.

Freetown, who lost both finals to Police in the two completed Parish League competitions so far this year, also made a winning start to their campaign in the Sir Curtly Ambrose contest last weekend.

Freetown also trounced D&R Architecture Sea View Farm by 10 wickets at Sea View Farm.

Kareem Richards grabbed four wickets for five runs and Clever Martin captured four wickets for six

runs, as Sea View Farm were shot out for just 20 runs.

Freetown then wrapped up the match by scoring 24 without the loss of a wicket in 2.2 overs.

Freetown then crushed St Paul's by 173 runs at Freetown. Cleton Payne slammed 89 and Jarel Philip struck 57, to guide Freetown to 199 for seven in 34 overs.

Andra Samuel captured five for 38 and Robert Browne picked up two for 33. St. Paul's then crashed to 26 all out in 12.5 overs.

However, St Paul's defeated Mahico by eight wickets at Clare Hall. Mahico were all out for 112. Robert Browne took two for 10, Andra Samuel claimed two

for 11, Vaughn "Hungry" Walsh captured two for 13 and Gregg Skepple picked up two for 30.

St Paul's then wrapped up the match by achieving their victory target of 113 for the loss of two wickets. Opener Frederick Floyd struck 35 and Trevor Erskine was not out on 27.

Newfield also beat Mahico by 19 runs at Clare Hall. Newfield made 116, with Kenroy Hill getting 36.

J'quan Athanaze captured four for 39, Akin Rawlins picked up three for 34 and Michael Cornelius took two for 18.

Mahico were then dismissed for 97, with Conroy Semple grabbing four for 20.

cont'd on pg 25