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# JOLLY BEACH RESORT TO REOPEN BY CHRISTMAS

*Story on Page 2*



*An open water way leading to the ocean in historic Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua and Barbuda's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. Earlier this year, the National Parks Authority launched a number of initiatives, including special rate Visitor Passes, to encourage the public to visit Nelson's Dockyard as part of the year-long celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Antigua Naval Dockyard.*

# Local News



## Jolly Beach Hotel renovation project gets cash injection

The government is making a special cash injection into efforts to renovate the Jolly Beach Hotel to get the property ready for the accepting guests by year's end.

The disclosure was made on Thursday by Information Minister Melford Nicholas who said US\$250,000.00 is being provided toward the renovation efforts as the government is anxious to have the property, or portions of it, ready by December.

"The government has allocated funds for the immediate renovation of Jolly

Beach. We have a number of options on the table including the one that we are giving due consideration with Apple Vacations. This seems to be the one that will [be] used to get the facilities in operation after the renovations," he told the post-Cabinet Press Briefing.

Nicholas said the government is keen for the hotel to resume operations as it is a significant driver of employment in that area of the island.

"Additionally, it is important that we have the right complement of hotel rooms to match the number



Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas

of flights that we have coming to the country during the upcoming tourist season."

He explained that the 2021-2022 tourist season has extended into the summer when hotels traditionally close due to low occupancy.

"There were at least two major hotels that did not close during the summer because they still had levels of occupancy upwards of seventy percent. We are therefore hopeful that the same would be true for the 2022-23 tourist season. We feel that getting the rooms of Jolly Beach available would allow for optimal benefits," he explained.

Reopening the hotel is also a priority as this will generate increased room taxes, guest taxes and other benefits for the country.

Nicholas said the Ministry of Works will play a pivotal role in the renovation as it will source materials from its network of suppliers with

the aim of meeting the December, 2022, completion deadline.

The money allocated will allow public works to begin working on the kitchen and other public spaces on the property.

"We also have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Apple Vacations where the government will move forward with the renovations and they would offer technical support and assistance to ensure that the renovations that are taking place in the kitchen et cetera, they will supply technical and architectural services for that to happen. The MOA sets out a 90-day window that will allow us to complete all of these objectives," he stated.

According to Nicholas, the MOA considers the fact that the original October 1st, 2022, deadline for the reopening of Jolly Beach will be delayed to sometime before Christmas.

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# Cabinet recommits to empowering youths

The government is breathing fresh life into its policy of empowering the nation's youth by placing them in positions of leadership throughout the public sector.

Following a marathon eight-hour session on Wednesday, the Cabinet agreed to appoint several youth ambassadors to fill positions that require new energy and drive.

Heads of a number of boards, directors of several government agencies and members within the Senate

are also being targeted in this renewed drive.

"The Cabinet agreed that it is compelled to create space for youth leadership and that there are several candidates that had in fact been appointed following the 2014 and 2018 general elections.

"The Cabinet recalled that it had appointed several 20-plus year-olds following the 2014 and 2018 general elections - Senators Lee, Fortune and Govia following the 2014 elections - Minister Maria Browne



who won a seat in the lower house at age 26 and Senator Knacyntar are among those who filled legislative positions within the parliament of Antigua and Barbuda," the Cabinet Notes detailed.

The Notes said these appointments will join previous youth appointments such as the Director of Gender Affairs and top management for State Insurance Corporation.



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# Local News



## Union writes to liquidator seeking another meeting on LIAT

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU), has once again written to Cleveland Seaforth, the court-appointed administrator for the cash-strapped regional airline, LIAT (1974) limited, seeking a meeting on the future direction of the airline.

In the latest correspondence, ABWU General Secretary, David Massiah says it is important that dialogue between the parties should be treated with greater importance. The union has given Seaforth until Thursday to respond positively to the letter.

The ABWU has already said among the issues to be discussed will be the decision by the shareholder governments to liquidate the company that owes millions of dollars to former employees who were dismissed last year.

But in a letter to Massiah, dated August 11, Seaforth said "discussions held by Heads of Government are separate and apart from the Court-Appointed Ad-



ministration Process, hence the Administrator may not be fully aware of all the matters discussed at such meetings".

In addition, Seaforth said that the "matter of the liquidation of LIAT (1974) Limited is one that must be addressed by the Courts of Antigua and Barbuda and not a Liquidator, subsequently appointed".

However, in the union's latest correspondence, Massiah informs the court-appointed liquidator that "meaningful dialogue with your good self and whoever you choose to be with is still pertinent".

Massiah noted that while Seaforth claims he is not privy to information al-

ready in the public domain, LIAT (1974) Limited is still under a court-appointed administrator and that lack of information should not be an excuse to evade consultations with the union.

The ABWU maintains that regular consultations and dialogue with employees and their representatives is essential in light of all the outstanding issues that are relevant to the airline's future.

"Furthermore...it is imperative that the unions are kept fully abreast with updates as far as the operations are concerned."

Earlier this month, regional leaders met to discuss the situation regarding air transportation in the

Caribbean amidst concerns that both regional and international travellers are finding it very expensive and difficult to commute.

"It was agreed that we would retain a consultant to provide advice to the heads of the region as to how we can address the critical need to have, particularly air transportation resumed at a level that existed prior to COVID-19," said the newly elected Grenada Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell.

LIAT is owned by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne said previously that a decision had been taken that would allow Barbados and SVG to turn over their shares in LIAT to St. John's for one EC dollar.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Browne appealed to Caribbean trade unions to re-think their positions regarding the latest offer made to laid-off workers of the airline.

Fri 26   Day		Fri 26   Night	
<b>87°</b>	22% ESE 13 mph	<b>79°</b>	23% ESE 9 mph
Partly cloudy. High 87F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 79F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity <b>72%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>81%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:52 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:25 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>5:10 am</b>	Moonset <b>6:18 pm</b>
		● New Moon	

## Antigua and Barbuda breaking records, leading Caribbean tourism recovery

Tourism in Antigua and Barbuda is breaking all-time records, buoyed by a surge in visits from the United States, Caribbean Journal has learned.

The surge has made the country one of the hottest destinations in the Caribbean, particularly in the summer of 2022.

And the growth was driven by a significant increase in visitors from the United States, officials said.

Antigua and Barbuda welcomed 24,673 visitors to the destination, representing a 7 percent increase over the same month in 2019, before the pandemic — which had itself been a record for the month.

“For a second year, we are experiencing a healthy summer season as consumer travel confidence grows and travellers make

the decision to take that long-awaited vacation or previously delayed trip,” said Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez.

Indeed, 13,305 of the tourists visiting the twin-island destination last month were from the US, a 30 percent jump compared to July 2019.

Antigua and Barbuda is also seeing strong growth from the United Kingdom market, with a 5 percent increase in UK visits over the same period in 2019.

Canadian arrivals showed a 1 percent increase over 2019.

Last month, just under 9,700 visitors stayed in hotels, while just under 11,500 visitors stayed in villas and guest houses.

“Antigua and Barbuda is presently listed amongst the top ten Caribbean des-

tinations leading the Caribbean tourism recovery efforts,” said Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

“With good month-on-month growth and our overall tourism arrivals for the year to date only 16% less than the 2019 figures, Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism rebound prospects are looking positive, particularly when we consider

global tourism forecasts. For the Fall, our teams will continue to focus on closing the gap and achieving full recovery.”

For the first half of the year, visitor arrivals stood at 154,099, a 16 percent “narrowing of the gap” of the same period in 2019.

That’s one of the strongest tourism recoveries in the Caribbean since the onset of the pandemic. (Caribbean Journal)



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# Local News



## Playwright perishes in Upper Gambles fire

Police have identified the victim in Wednesday night's house fire as Cleon "Punkashe" Williams.

Williams perished in the blaze that consumed his Upper Gambles home just before 9pm.

According to a police statement, firefighters from the St. John's Fire Brigade responded to the emergency on Penny Lane after receiving the call around 8:50pm.

On arrival, they discovered the 14ft by 25ft wooden structure ablaze and immediately began extinguishing the flames.

Charred human remains, now believed to be those of Williams, were later discovered as police combed through the rubble.

The body was pronounced dead at

10:38pm on Wednesday and was removed to a funeral home pending an autopsy.

It is also expected that further inquiries will be conducted to positively confirm the identity of the body. Both police and fire officials have indicated that the process of positively identifying the body could take several days.

Investigations are now underway to ascertain the cause of the deadly blaze.

Williams, known for his signature perm, was a playwright and the founder of Punkashe Theatre Group. He was also a member of Modern Theatre Group.

He had been ailing for some time and was believed to be immobile when the fire erupted at his home making it impossible for him to escape.



Cleon "Punkashe" Williams

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## Alfred Athill named Caribbean Pharmacist of the Year

Director of Pharmaceutical Services in the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Alfred Athill, has been awarded by the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP) for his outstanding contribution to the profession of pharmacy and Caribbean society.

Athill was one of two pharmacists nominated for Caribbean Pharmacist of the Year, 2022. The other nominee was Carlton Lanquedoc of Dominica. The winner was announced at the 42nd Conference for the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists held in Guyana at the Marriott Hotel from 10th - 14th August, 2022.

As part of his prize, Alfred Athill received a plaque donated by Massy Distribution – Guyana, a three night-stay at the succeeding conference donated by Smith Robinson & Co Ltd – Trinidad and Tobago and a Book Award.

Pharmacist Dwight Hudson of Antigua and Barbuda accepted the honour on Athill's behalf.

"It is a delight to be awarded the Pharmacist of the Year by CAP, which is a regional and internationally recognized professional organisation. It would have given recognition for the work I have been doing not only for 2022 but also prior.

"Specifically for 2022, it is a culmination of the work



*Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill with Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph*

that would have been done specifically as it relates to COVID-19. The recognition would have also been triggered by my interaction with the other pharmacists from around the region especially as it relates to COVID-19 mitigation not only in Antigua and Barbuda but the rest of the Caribbean," the director of pharmaceutical services said.

Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Janice Michael, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas, and other members of the ministry's staff, have expressed congratulations to him on his latest accolade.

In 2017, Athill received the Regulatory Affairs award for high standards, excellent service and dedication.

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# Opinion

## Another ban on leaders attending international meetings?

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)*

Once again, politicians in the U.S. are entangling the internal politics of their country with U.S. obligations to the international community.

This time Senator Rick Scott, a Republican from the State of Florida, wants the Biden administration to deny visas to three Latin American and Caribbean leaders, stopping them from attending next month's General Assembly of the United Nations (U.N.) in New York.

Reminiscent of last June's Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, Senator Scott wrote President Biden on August 24, urging him "to deny visas for Miguel Díaz-Canel (Cuba), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua), Nicolás Maduro (Venezuela), and their respective delegations to attend the United Nations General Assembly meetings". Similar calls were made on President Biden, prior to the Summit of the Americas, to exclude Díaz-Canel, Ortega and Maduro.

These calls have much to do with mid-term elections in November that will decide

whether the Republican or Democratic party will control the U.S. Senate. They have come from members of the U.S. Congress and vocal groups of exiles who want regime change in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

For the Summit of the Americas, President Biden bowed to the political risk his party would face at the mid-term elections, particularly in Florida. He did not invite the three leaders to attend.

This decision, occasioned criticism from governments of several Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Many Caribbean governments, in the interest of tackling urgent problems that confronted their countries, requiring international cooperation, opted to attend with the understanding that, at the meeting, they would strongly represent the interests of the Cuban and Venezuelan governments.

Other governments continued not to accept President Biden's decision to exclude Díaz-Canel, Ortega and Maduro. Notable among these, were the governments of Mexico and St Vincent and the Grenadines, both of whose leaders boycotted the Summit. The last thing President Biden should want is a large-scale boycott of a U.N. General Assembly while major issues confront the global community.



Sir Ronald Sanders

So, President Biden is, again, caught on the horns of a dilemma. He recognizes the importance for his party and his administration of the Florida mid-term Senate elections and the contest for the State's Governorship. At the same time, he knows that the U.S. government has obligations to the U.N. organization which are enshrined in the agreement that established the headquarters in New York. Refusing visas for leaders to attend U.N. meetings is inconsistent with the terms of the headquarters agreement.

The stakes are high in Florida. The Democrats are trying both to unseat Republican Senator, Marco Rubio, who is virulently opposed to the governments of Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, and to replace Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, who is also working for the nomination by the Republican Party for the 2024 U.S. Presidential elections. The

exile Latin American community is a powerful voting force in Florida.

Close races in other States, including New York, where the exile Latin American community is also virulent, are also likely to be affected by the political storm being created over the U.N. attendance by the three leaders.

Undoubtedly, in the weeks ahead, many governments around the world are likely to publicly voice their disapproval of what would be an effective U.S. prohibition of the attendance of the Cuban, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan governments at a meeting of the U.N. of which they are members, should President Biden decide to deny them visas.

Senator Rick Scott urged President Biden not only to deny visas to the leaders of the three countries, but also "to their respective delegations". Obviously, this is

*cont'd on pg 9*

*cont'd from pg 8*

meant to exclude Foreign Ministers and Ministerial representatives. He justifies his urging to President Biden with the argument that, “These oppressive dictators and their regimes engage in activity that continues to threaten the stability of Latin America and the national security of the United States”.

Curiously, Senator Scott must imbue these three leaders with remarkable capacity to influence world leaders and sway international public opinion, simply by speeches they make at the U.N., and meetings they might have with representatives of other countries.

Even at the height of the 1962 ‘Cuban missile crisis’ between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the Russian leader, Nikita Khrushchev, was not denied a visa to address the U.N.

To achieve what Senator Scott is urging, President Biden would have to breach provisions of the 1947 headquarters agreement with the U.N. These provisions include the obligation of the U.S. government to provide visas to foreign dignitaries to access the U.N. “promptly”. And while the U.S.

Congress added a note to the agreement, prescribing that “Nothing in the Agreement shall be construed as in any way diminishing, abridging or weakening the right of the United States to safeguard its own security”, it should take much more than the attendance of the three leaders at the U.N.

General Assembly to threaten U.S. security.

In any event, the U.N. is an international organization, headquartered in the U.S. because the U.S. wanted it, and benefits from its activities in New York.

Having the benefits of the headquarters comes with obligations which must be fulfilled for the U.N. to promote its principles – among which is, “To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all”.

Prohibiting the opportunity to pursue this principle – to benefit the narrow purpose, described by Senator Scott as, not affording the three leaders “a legitimacy they have neither earned nor deserve” is akin to throwing out the baby with the bath water.

The principle – and upholding it – must be greater than satisfying narrow, political purposes in one country.

There is not even certainty than any of the leaders want to attend the General Assembly. But it would be wrong to restrict them from doing so. Instead, the U.S. and others have the right to respond to their statements with counter arguments.

Debating the issues is why the U.N. holds general assemblies.

**Responses and previous commentaries:** [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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# Lifestyle



## ‘Magic mushroom’ psychedelic may help heavy drinkers quit

By Carla K. Johnson

The compound in psychedelic mushrooms helped heavy drinkers cut back or quit entirely in the most rigorous test of psilocybin for alcoholism.

More research is needed to see if the effect lasts and whether it works in a larger study. Many who took a dummy drug instead of psilocybin also succeeded in drinking less, likely because all study participants were highly motivated and received talk therapy.

Psilocybin, found in several species of mushrooms, can cause hours of vivid hallucinations. Indigenous people have used it in healing rituals and scientists are exploring whether it can ease depression or help long time smokers quit. It’s illegal in the U.S., though Oregon and several cities have decriminalised it. Starting next year, Oregon will allow its supervised use by licensed facilitators.

The new research, published Wednesday in JAMA Psychiatry, is “the first modern, rigorous, controlled trial” of whether it can also help people struggling with alcohol, said Fred Barrett, a Johns Hopkins University neuroscientist who wasn’t involved in the study.

In the study, 93 patients took a capsule containing psilocybin or a dummy medicine, lay on a couch, their eyes covered, and listened to recorded music through headphones. They received two such sessions, one month apart, and 12 sessions of talk therapy.

During the eight months after their first dosing session, patients taking psilocybin did better than the other group, drinking heavily on about 1 in 10 days on average vs. about 1



Mary Beth Orr poses for a photo in her home, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022 in Burien, Wash., south of Seattle. Orr used to have five or six drinks every evening and more on weekends before she enrolled in a study in 2018 to see if the compound in psychedelic mushrooms could help heavy drinkers cut back or quit entirely. She stopped drinking entirely for two years, and now has an occasional glass of wine, and credits psilocybin for her progress. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

in 4 days for the dummy pill group. Almost half who took psilocybin stopped drinking entirely compared with 24% of the control group.

Only three conventional drugs — disulfiram, naltrexone and acamprostate — are approved to treat alcohol use disorder and there’s been no new drug approvals in nearly 20 years.

While it’s not known exactly how psilocybin works in the brain, researchers believe it increases connections and, at least temporarily, changes the way the brain organises itself.

“More parts of the brain are talking to more parts of the brain,” said Dr. Michael Bogenschutz, director of the NYU Langone Center for Psychedelic Medicine, who led the research.

Less is known about how enduring those new connections might be.

In theory, combined with talk therapy, people might be able to break bad habits and adopt new attitudes more easily.

“There’s a possibility of really shifting in a relatively permanent way the functional organisation of the brain,” Bogenschutz said.

Patients described life-changing insights that gave them lasting inspiration, Bogenschutz said.

Mary Beth Orr, 69, of Burien, Washington, said her psilocybin-induced hallucinations — flying over breathtaking landscapes and merging telepathically with creative people throughout history — taught her she wasn’t alone.

Before enrolling in the study in 2018, Orr had five or six drinks every evening and more on weekends.

“The quantity was unacceptable  
*cont’d on pg 12*



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# Lifestyle



*cont'd from pg 10*

and yet I couldn't stop," she said. "There was no off switch that I could access."

During her first psilocybin experience, she saw a vision of her late father, who gave her a pair of eagle eyes and said, "Go." She told the therapists monitoring her: "These eagle eyes can't see God's face, but they know where it is."

She stopped drinking entirely for two years, and now has an occasional glass of wine. More than the talk therapy, she credits psilocybin.

"It made alcohol irrelevant and uninteresting to me," Orr said. Now, "I am tethered to my children and my loved ones in a way that just precludes the desire to be alone with alcohol."

Patients receiving psilocybin had more headaches, nausea and anxiety than those getting the dummy drug.

One person reported thoughts of suicide during a psilocybin session.

In an experiment like this, it's important that patients don't know or guess if they got the psilocybin or the dummy drug. To try to achieve this, the researchers chose a generic antihistamine with some psychoactive effects as the placebo.

Still, most patients in the study correctly guessed whether they got the psilocybin or the dummy pill.

Paul Mavis couldn't guess. The 61-year-old from Wilton, Connecticut, got the placebo, but still quit drinking. For one thing, the talk therapy helped, suggesting to him that his emotional life stalled at age 15 when he started drinking to feel numb.

And he described a life-changing moment during a session where he was taking the dummy drug: He imagined the death of a loved one. Suddenly, an intense, incapacitating

grief overcame him.

"I was crying, which isn't typical for me. I was sweating. I was bereft," he said. "As I'm trying to reconcile this grief, like, why am I feeling this?"

"Instantly, I thought, 'Drinking equals death.'" He said he hasn't had a drink since.

Dr. Mark Willenbring, former director of treatment research at the National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, said more research is needed before psilocybin can be considered an effective addition to talk therapy. He noted that talking with a therapist helped both groups — those who got psilocybin and those who didn't — and the added benefit of psilocybin appeared to wear off over time.

"It's tantalising, absolutely," Willenbring said. "Is more research required? Yes. Is it ready for prime time? No."

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# Technology

## Bahamian Government warns of increase in digital threats and malicious cyber activities

The Bahamas government is warning of a rise in digital threats and malicious cyber activities, including data breaches to public infrastructure, losses from digital fraud, and illicit financial flows, among other activities.

“Our collaboration with our friends and partners across the globe, specifically information sharing at the regional and sub-regional levels on cybersecurity capacity building and development, will better position The Bahamas to deal with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats,” Prime Minister Phillip Davis told the first-ever National CIRT Stakeholder Engage-

ment Symposium.

He said the event is the first of its kind in the country, being organised by Digital Transformation to Strengthen Competitiveness Project, in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Davis told the symposium that the development of the cybersecurity posture in the country underpins the objectives for digital transformation, and the establishment of the CIRT (computer incident response team) is a critical resource.

“The National CIRT will serve as a focal point for coordinating cyberse-



curity incident response to cyber-attacks – providing cybersecurity support services to government, private organisations, and Bahamian citizens – particularly those in critical infrastructure and essential services in order to defend against malicious cyber activities.

“In our blueprint for change, we identified cybersecurity as one of the critical initiatives for accelerating the country’s economic growth and development. We also recognize that cybersecurity and cyber resilience are essential to developing a digital society and secure and protect every citizen of The Bahamas.”

But he told the event that cybersecurity is a journey that the authorities cannot take on alone, noting that it is a whole community effort and that government, industry, and individual citizens all have a part to play.

He said the National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS), which outlines the country’s cybersecurity strategic principles, guidelines, and objectives, is in its final draft and is being prepared for Cabinet’s approval.

“The strategic assessment was conducted with the en-

gagement of cross functional stakeholders across the public and private sections. We expect that the implementation of the National Cybersecurity Strategy will improve the security of our digital infrastructure and ultimately contribute to its broader socio-economic growth.”

Davis acknowledged that in The Bahamas, “we have seen a rise in digital threats and malicious cyber activities, including data breaches to public infrastructure, losses from digital fraud and illicit financial flows, amongst other activities.

“Cybersecurity is the crucial foundation for advancing our utilisation of ICT and managing cyber risks....and consistent with these advances will be our commitment to modernising our legal framework to support our cybersecurity initiatives and to be strong and resilient against cybercrime.

“We are making big strides in our journey toward a digital society. The National CIRT and cybersecurity strategy will give us the protection and provide the safeguards that we all need in order to do business, transact, and learn in that space,” Davis added. (CMC)



## Spice confirms breakup with Justin Budd

By Jovani Davis

The dancehall queen, Spice has finally broken her silence on the split between her and Justin Budd.

Spice who first publicly shared their romance in 2020 finally addressed the months-long speculation about the breakup and shared her reason for their split.

According to the Grammy-nominated artiste, she's unable to deal with a controlling man.

"Me love if you want man fi control yuh. Mek you no go deh wid him?" Spice stated during her Instagram Live video.

Fans who have been speculating that the pair are no longer together asked about Justin and stated how much they missed him.

"Every minute unu a talk bout 'mi miss rasta'. Mi wuk too hard fi deh which part me deh. Me don't want no man stress, mi nuh no man hold me down, me nuh want no man tell me wah fi do, mi nuh want no man tell me say me can't dance, me can't do this, me can't skin out, mi can't bruk out, me can't wear certain clothes, me can't this, me can't that," Spice stated.

Spice who was addressing a fan who was asking about Budd during the Instagram Live got on her savage mode and stated that she would send the fan Budd's number.

The dancehall queen



Justin Budd and Spice

who is known for her lyrics and her exceptional performances stated that she chose her fans and she's not changing to please anyone.

"Every minute unu a ask me this and unu a ask me that! Mi have a choice and me choose unu; me choose fi perform the same way me always perform, me choose fi be me same self. Me not changing to please nobody."

Spice met Justin in Atlanta while filming for Love and HipHop, where she is now a regular cast member. The two have been seen enjoying vacations in Jamaica as well as Mexico.

Spice has deleted all photos of her and Budd from social media. Budd has not publicly spoken about the

relationship, but he still has photos of them together on his Instagram account, including with her children.

While promoting her single Go Down Deh with Shaggy and Sean Paul on the Wendy Williams show last September, Spice told the host that she was single, the first signal that there was trouble in paradise.

Spice and Justin Budd later had a fight on Love and Hip Hop Atlanta over the statement. At the time, Spice had revealed that the couple had a falling out. The couple had another fight on the show, this time over Spice's dancing and performance.

Spice had explained that Justin felt her dancing and

backing it up on stage was not respected even though it is part of her culture.

Her dancing also forms a big part of her stage experience, earning her the coveted title of "Queen of the Stage" due to her energetic performances involving her dancing, splitting, and performing other moves. These dance moves are not considered sexual in Jamaican culture, especially for entertainers.

One can say that this was maybe too much for the relationship hence the split. We will never know as some fans of Love and Hip Hop are speculating that there was never a relationship to begin with and it was fake, just for the show.

## 'House of the Dragon' is HBO's top series premiere ever

By David Bauder

Nearly 10 million people saw the premiere of "House of the Dragon" on Sunday night, making the "Game of Thrones" spinoff HBO's most-watched series premiere in the network's history.

HBO aired the episode four times on premiere night and it was also streamed on HBO Max. The viewership number is only going to increase in the coming weeks.

For instance, the "Game of Thrones" series finale in May 2019 was seen on its first night by 19.8 million, more than any other series episode on HBO, the Nielsen company said. HBO estimates that some 46 million people in total have seen it, when delayed viewing is taken into account.

Anticipation for "House of the Dragon" was evident in how many people were streaming old "Game of Thrones" episodes on HBO Max, which the network fed by offering crisper picture quality. The weekly average of streams in August is nearly 90% above June, the network said.

"The 'Game of Thrones' prequel recaptured the fire of HBO's original masterpiece in a big way," said Ashwin Navin, co-founder and CEO of the research firm Samba TV. That company estimated that the HBO series more

than doubled the first-day viewership for Netflix's new season of "Stranger Things" this summer.

The challenge — and opportunity — for HBO lies *cont'd on pg 17*



This image released by HBO Max shows Matt Smith as Prince Daemon Targaryen in a scene from "House of the Dragon," a prequel to "Game of Thrones." (HBO Max via AP)

## Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

### ACROSS

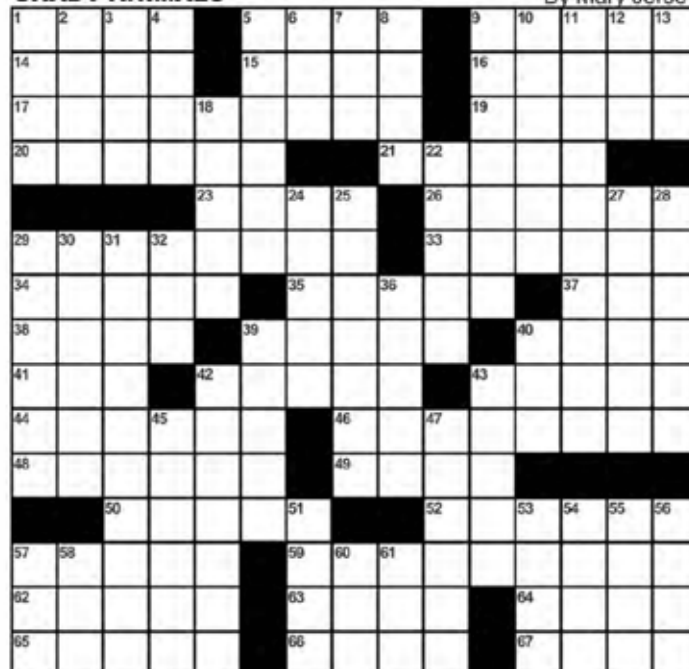
- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Net lining in a woman's hat   | 40) "To thine own ___ be true"     |
| 5) Jr.-to-be                     | 41) Cigarette leftover             |
| 9) Mortgages, e.g.               | 42) Speed tracker                  |
| 14) Encourage strongly           | 43) Crab's claw                    |
| 15) Weight not charged for       | 44) Type of engine                 |
| 16) Coastal feature              | 46) Dilapidated                    |
| 17) Charlie Rich's nickname      | 48) Walked with long steps         |
| 19) Keach who played Mike Hammer | 49) "Buona ___" (Italian greeting) |
| 20) '50s scandal subject         | 50) Cuban dance                    |
| 21) Cobwebbed place              | 52) Plane's passage                |
| 23) Part of a ruler              | 57) Chiropractor's concern         |
| 26) Think like a hillbilly?      | 59) Vodka brand                    |
| 29) Move with legs spread out    | 62) "Bear" that's not a bear       |
| 33) Paris-based intl. agency     | 63) 100 cents, abroad              |
| 34) Rocky ridge                  | 64) Length times width             |
| 35) Raised, as a bet             | 65) Sense of dread                 |
| 37) Farmyard biddy               | 66) Head of a college              |
| 38) Miner's paydirt              | 67) In the vicinity of             |
| 39) Whale constellation          |                                    |

### DOWN

- 1) Crescent point
- 2) Opera solo
- 3) Far from beautiful
- 4) Prefix meaning "to the left"
- 5) Leave high and dry
- 6) Graceless one
- 7) Paid player
- 8) One more than penta-
- 9) Expand
- 10) Act the siren
- 11) Family disgrace
- 12) Columbo, for one
- 13) Pig's place
- 18) Drop vowels
- 22) Aligns
- 24) Like any good crossword puzzle
- 25) Groups of seven
- 27) Peacock "eyes"
- 28) Diet adjective
- 29) Healthy dishes
- 30) "To your health!"
- 31) Deception
- 32) Absorbed, as a cost
- 36) Blender setting
- 39) One of Moses' spies
- 40) Not he
- 42) Beef, e.g.
- 43) Jenny of weight loss
- 45) Noises, essentially
- 47) Kindergarten implement, maybe
- 51) Grew older
- 53) Equine tone
- 54) Had on
- 55) Yachting
- 56) 365 days
- 57) Place to be pampered
- 58) Thing in the kitchen
- 60) Have regrets
- 61) Part of the history book

### SHADY ANIMALS

By Mary Jersey



## Mario Batali settles two lawsuits alleging sexual assault

Mario Batali has agreed to settle two Massachusetts lawsuits that accused the celebrity chef of sexual assault, attorneys for the women said on Wednesday.

The decision to settle the cases comes more than two months after the former Food Network personality was cleared of a criminal charge stemming from accusations by one of the women, who prosecutors alleged aggressively kissed and groped her while taking a selfie at a downtown Boston bar in 2017.

“The matters have been resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. We cannot comment further due to confidentiality obligations,” attorneys for the two women, Eric Baum and Matthew Fogelman, said in an emailed statement.

An email seeking comment was sent Wednesday to Batali’s attorney.

The women alleged that Batali had sexually



*Celebrity chef Mario Batali, centre, is seated at Boston Municipal Court during the first day of his pandemic-delayed trial, Monday, May 9, 2022, in Boston. Batali pleaded not guilty to a charge of indecent assault and battery in 2019, stemming from accusations that he forcibly kissed and groped a woman after taking a selfie with her at a Boston restaurant in 2017. Now, Batali has agreed to settle two Massachusetts lawsuits that accused the celebrity chef of sexual assault, attorneys for the women said on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022. (AP Photo/Steven Senne, Pool, File)*

assaulted them on separate occasions. The accusations

by one of the women led to the only criminal case against the prime-time prominent chef and restaurateur at the height of the #MeToo movement.

One woman testified in May about how she felt confused and powerless to do anything to stop Batali

at the time.

But Batali was acquitted of indecent assault and battery after a Boston judge agreed with Batali’s lawyers that the accuser had credibility issues and that photos suggested the encounter was amicable.

Batali’s lawyers portrayed the accuser as a liar who was financially motivated because of her civil lawsuit brought against the chef in 2018.

If convicted, Batali faced up to 2 1/2 years in jail and would have been required to register as a sex offender.

The other woman — who sued Batali in 2019 — similarly alleged that Batali had groped and kissed her at a restaurant in Boston’s Chinatown neighbourhood in 2016.

Batali stepped down from day-to-day operations at his restaurant empire and left the since-discontinued ABC cooking show “The Chew” after the sexual misconduct allegations surfaced.

Last year, Batali, his business partner and their New York City restaurant company agreed to pay \$600,000 to resolve a four-year investigation by the New York attorney general’s office into allegations that Batali and other staff sexually harassed employees. (AP)

### cont’d from pg 16

in trying to expand “House of the Dragon” beyond the built-in fan base, Navin said.

CBS was the most popular broadcast network in prime time last week, averaging 2.8 million viewers. NBC had 2.7 million, ABC had 2.4 million, Fox had 1.9 million, Ion Television had 1.04 million, Univision had 1.01 million and Telemundo had 810,000.

Fox News Channel led the cable networks with a prime-time average of 2.31 million. MSNBC had 1.32 million, ESPN had 896,000, Hallmark had 870,000 and HGTV had 866,000.

ABC’s “World News Tonight” won the evening news ratings race, averaging 7.2 million viewers last week. NBC’s “Nightly News” had 6.1 million and the “CBS Evening News” had 4.2 million.

# Defence: Key government witness tried to extort R. Kelly

By Michael Tarm

Defence lawyers at R. Kelly's child pornography trial in Chicago sought Wednesday to portray a key government witness as a liar and extortionist, contending the man first approached the R&B star in 2001 and demanded that Kelly pay \$1 million or he'd go public with video that could put Kelly in serious legal peril.

Those assertions came during seven hours of often blistering cross-examination of Charles Freeman, a former merchandising agent for Kelly who testified Tuesday that it was Kelly who first approached him, eventually offering Freeman \$1 million to recover a VHS tape featuring Kelly.

"Your entire relationship with (Kelly) cantered around stealing from him and lying to him," lead Kelly attorney Jennifer Bonjean, raising her voice, told Freeman Wednesday. Minutes later, she added, "You were part of a shakedown scheme, right?" Freeman shot back, "No!" He also said, "I am not a thief."

Federal prosecutors charged Kelly with production of child pornography based in part on that recording, which they say shows him sexually abusing a 14-year-old. He and co-defendant Derrel McDavid are also accused of successfully rigging Kelly's 2008 state



*In this courtroom sketch, the front of the courtroom is blocked off as a sexually graphic video clip is played for the jury during R. Kelly's trial in federal court, Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, in Chicago. (Cheryl Cook via AP)*

child pornography trial by threatening witnesses and concealing video evidence.

Freeman's testimony at this trial helps buttress prosecutors' claims that both Kelly and McDavid knew that videos Kelly had lost track of in the early 2000s were incriminating and could lead to his conviction at the 2008 trial.

McDavid's lawyer, Beau Brindley, started the cross-examination Wednesday by pacing, waving grand jury transcripts at Freeman and several times telling the 52-year-old to "be quiet and listen" to his questions as he sought to tear down Freeman's credibility.

"How many times have you told lies about video tapes connected to Robert

Kelly?" Brindley asked, using Kelly's full first name. "It's multiple times, right?"

Freeman agreed it was.

Freeman, who is testifying under an immunity agreement, also agreed when Brindley asked if it was difficult "to trust a person who lies ... who will cheat and steal to get money."

Kelly, 55, was handed a 30-year prison sentence by a federal judge in New York in June for convictions on racketeering and sex trafficking charges. If convicted in U.S. District Court in Chicago, he could see years added to that sentence.

Freeman said money wasn't his only motivation for agreeing to hunt down the video, insisting he also wanted to help his friend,

Kelly, whom he had known since around 1990.

Freeman conceded that he kept copies of videos for nearly 20 years. Not until a lawyer warned him in 2019 that police were poised to arrest Freeman for possession of child pornography did he finally turn them over to law enforcement, he testified.

After acquitting Kelly in 2008, some jurors told reporters they had no choice because the girl — who then was in her 20s — did not take the witness stand to confirm it was her in the video that was at the heart of the state's case.

Last week, she testified at the federal trial in Chicago, saying she was the child in the video and Kelly was the adult man.

## Grenada government defends dismissals and transfers of workers

CMC – Grenada's Labour Minister Claudette Joseph is defending the decision to send home or transfer public sector workers in the sister isles of Petite Martinique and Carriacou.

"From my investigations of the matters there was nothing wrong and certainly nothing that rose to the level of victimization and definitely not terrorist act as I understand was described by one of the union officials," she said while addressing the matter on "Heartbeat"- the weekly radio talk show of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC).



*Attorney General of Grenada, Claudette Joseph.*

Last week, President of the Public Workers Union (PWU), Brian Grimms, called on the authorities to state whether several public servants had been trans-

ferred or dismissed since the Dickon Mitchell administration came to power in June.

"What we are seeing here is clothed in malice, is clothed in mischief, and is very unfortunate on the sister isles," said Grimes, calling on the Minister for Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Tevin Andrews, who is also the parliamentary representative to deal with the situation.

However, Claudette Joseph, who is also the attorney general, said from her investigations nothing improper was done.

*cont'd on pg 21*



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## SVG: Government warns of increased cost for sugar

CMC - The St Vincent and the Grenadines government Wednesday said it will be implementing measures aimed at lessening the pain of consumers as the price of sugar is set to rise in the coming days.

Government is the sole importer of the commodity and there are reports that consumers could be paying as much as EC\$2.40, from the EC\$1.75 cents (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) per pound of white sugar and EC\$2.05 per pound for brown sugar up from EC\$1.90.

Brown sugar is no longer available at most grocery outlets while white sugar is currently available.

"... white sugar has moved from US\$640 a metric tonne, CIF (cost insurance and freight) to US\$1,100 US dollars per metric tonnes, not cost insurance and freight, FOB (free on board)," Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said on the state-owned NBC Radio, noting that the increase amounts to over 70 per cent increase.

"For brown sugar, the current contract price from the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo), is US\$560 a metric tonne FOB, with the freight costs US\$64 a metric tonne," he said, adding that unofficial communication from the company



states that they are unable to supply St. Vincent and the Grenadines with the commodity until November.

The state-owned Agricultural Input Warehouse, the only entity authorised to import sugar for sale here, therefore contacted Belize Sugar Industries Limited for assistance, Gonsalves said.

"They're asking, in Belize, for US\$832 a metric tonne cost insurance and freight. You see the number? From US\$620 something to US\$832, over US\$200 a metric tonne for the brown sugar," Gonsalves told listeners.

He said the Cabinet would consider the issue later on Wednesday "and to see how we can lessen the pain. There are big number

differences.

"One thing which we can give consideration to is if you're trying to move for the time being the Customs Service Charge on the sugar and associated duties, but it might only bring it down by just about 10 cents a pound.

"Because at these prices, the white sugar would be about \$2.40 per pound and the brown sugar about \$2.05 at these prices."

Gonsalves said he was particularly concerned about the price of brown sugar because the product is used by most people here.

He said that if the sugar from Guyana arrives in late November, the measures would be in place for September, October, and part of November.

"These are the issues

which we have to deal with on an ongoing basis," Prime Minister Gonsalves said, adding that he wants a report at the Cabinet meeting on the price of cooking gas "because I like to stay on top of these things. I do my work very well and carefully.

"That's why we have been able to ease the pain and ease the hardships on people as a consequence of these challenges which we have had to face: COVID, volcanic eruption, hurricane Elsa, drought, the global turmoil in the political economy. Some of the big capitalists, I am not talking in St. Vincent; I am talking monopoly capitalist globally taking advantage of the situation to gouge people," he added.

## Possible economic benefit in training teachers for export- Andrew Holness

Jamaica's Prime Minister, Andrew Holness, said the country could benefit economically if more instructors are trained locally to be exported to other countries battling educator shortages.

He was speaking at an awards ceremony on Tuesday to honour several students who took the 2022 Primary Exit Profile (PEP) exam.

Holness noted in his first public comment on the recent migration of Jamaican teachers that the situation shows that quality educators are produced locally and in high demand elsewhere.

"It says how well our system operates and maybe, whilst we view it (teacher migration) as a threat, maybe we need to look at it in a systematic and strategic way to say to those persons who want to take up our teachers, 'Pay us to train teachers for you', and who knows, maybe there are some economic opportunities there that should be

pursued," he said.

Despite highlighting the possible benefits of teacher migration, the prime minister emphasised that mass migration poses a risk to Jamaica's education system.

"Whilst there is very little the government can do to prevent the exercise of someone's free will to take up an opportunity and an advantage that they would gain, the government of Jamaica still views these developments as a potential threat — a potential challenge — to deliver quality education to our children," he explained.

He further indicated that teachers who are oftentimes recruited are the best and that teachers in the most critical subject areas are frequently recruited.

However, he welcomed the Ministry of Education and Youth's remedies that were presented to the public on Monday, which are aimed at mitigating the effects of teacher resignations, one of which is hiring



*Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness*  
retired teachers.

He stated that the ministry's hiring of retired teachers and the use of information and communications technology (ICT) are two welcomed strategies.

However, he believes that other measures, such as relocating teachers from underpopulated schools, could be explored to mitigate the impact of teacher migration.

"It may become necessary, and it may actually prove advantageous to have relocation from some schools that are underpopulated to schools that need the teachers.

He added: "Now, you have to ensure that you are matching the required teacher that you need coming from an underpopulated school, but those logistics can be worked out in the Ministry of Education.

Education and Youth Minister Fayval Williams stated at a press conference in Kingston on Monday that 167 public school teachers have resigned in the last two months.

However, she revealed that 964 specialist teachers are available for employment to fill those vacancies.

### *cont'd from pg 19*

"So as attorney general I am satisfied based on all the information provided that there was nothing wrong morally or legally in the steps taken but that in fact those steps were taken in furtherance of the transformational agenda of this government because in one particular case the person was actively campaigning against the transformation agenda."

"So, there were good enough reasons and in two instances I understand there

were transfers which happens all the time ...and definitely when there is a change in administration in every part of the democratic world," she added.

The PSU has warned that it will protest against the measure and that "every week we are getting new complaints".

Grimms told reporters that during the campaign for the general election, Prime Minister Mitchell and the NDC had campaigned on the theme of cleanliness, peace, unity, and development.

## Ukrainian fears run high over fighting near nuclear plant

AP – Ukrainians are once again anxious and alarmed about the fate of a nuclear power plant in a land that was home to the world's worst atomic accident in 1986 at Chernobyl.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest, has been occupied by Russian forces since the early days of the war, and continued fighting near the facility has heightened fears of a catastrophe that could affect nearby towns in southern Ukraine — or potentially an even wider region.

The government in Kyiv alleges Russia is essentially holding the Soviet-era nuclear plant hostage, storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it, while Moscow accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the facility, which is located in the city of Enerhodar.

"Anybody who understands nuclear safety issues has been trembling for the last six months," said Mycle Schneider, an independent policy consultant and coordinator of the World Nuclear Industry Status Report.

Ukraine cannot simply shut down its nuclear plants during the war because it is heavily reliant on them, and its 15 reactors at four stations provide about half of its electricity. Still, an ongoing conflict near a working atomic plant is troubling for many experts who fear that a damaged facility could lead to a disaster.

That fear is palpable just across the Dnieper River in Nikopol, where residents have been under nearly constant Russian shelling since July 12, with eight people killed, 850 buildings damaged and over half the population of 100,000 fleeing the city.

Liudmyla Shyshkina, a 74-year-old widow who lived within sight of the Zaporizhzhia plant before her



*A Russian serviceman guards an area of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in territory under Russian military control, south eastern Ukraine, May 1, 2022. Ukrainians are once again anxious and alarmed about the fate of a nuclear power plant in a land that was home to the world's worst atomic accident in 1986 at Chernobyl. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest, has been occupied by Russian forces and continued fighting nearby has heightened fears of a catastrophe that could affect nearby towns in southern Ukraine or beyond. (AP Photo/File)*

apartment was bombarded and her husband killed, said she believes the Russians are capable of intentionally causing a nuclear disaster.

Fighting in early March caused a brief fire at the plant's training complex, which officials said did not result in the release of any radiation. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russia's military actions there amount to "nuclear blackmail."

No civilian nuclear plant is designed for a wartime situation, although the buildings housing Zaporizhzhia's six reactors are protected by reinforced concrete that could withstand an errant shell, experts say.

The more immediate concern is that a disruption of electricity supply to the plant could knock out cooling

systems that are essential for the safe operation of the reactors, and emergency diesel generators are sometimes unreliable. The pools where spent fuel rods are kept to be cooled also are vulnerable to shelling, which could cause the release of radioactive material.

Kyiv told the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, that shelling earlier this week damaged transformers at a nearby conventional power plant, disrupting electricity supplies to the Zaporizhzhia plant for several hours.

At a U.N. Security Council meeting Tuesday, U.N. political chief Rosemary DiCarlo urged the withdrawal of all military personnel and equipment from the plant and an agreement on a demilitarised zone around it.

## Pakistani court bars police from arresting former prime minister Khan

AP — A Pakistani court on Thursday extended former premier Imran Khan's protection from arrest through the end of the month, officials said, after police filed terrorism charges against the country's popular opposition leader.

The court protected Khan from arrest until Sept. 1 over accusations that during a speech over the weekend, he threatened police officers and a female judge. The developments before the court relief for Khan had raised fears of violent clashes between police and Khan, who is leading mass rallies and seeking snap elections after being ousted. The government says elections will be held as scheduled next year.

On Thursday, Khan told reporters outside the court that he never threatened anyone.

He said the terrorism charges against him were politically motivated and that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's government feared Khan's growing popularity.

"You are making fun of Pakistan," Khan said of Sharif's government.

Later, Khan went to another court where a criminal case was registered against him this week on charges of defying a ban on staging rallies in the capital, Islamabad. He was protected from arrest in that case as well until Sept. 7.

Earlier, Khan's lawyer requested the anti-terrorism court to protect Khan from arrest. Babar Awan said the terrorism charges filed against Khan were "an act of revenge."

Arriving at court, Khan was asked to walk toward the courtroom as ordinary suspects do.

Hundreds of Khan's supporters gathered outside the court building, chanting slogans against Sharif's gov-



Former Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan speaks during a news conference in Islamabad on April 23, 2022. A Pakistani court on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022 barred police from arresting Khan through the end of the month, officials said. (AP Photo/Rahmat Gul, File)

ernment. Demonstrators said Khan is being politically victimised by Sharif's government. Later, Khan left the court for his home on the outskirts of Islamabad.

Sharif replaced Khan in April when he was ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament. Legal experts say Khan could face from several months to 14 years in prison, the equivalent of a life sentence if he is found guilty by the court during the trial which has not started yet against him on the terrorism charges.

Thursday's appearance of Khan before an anti-terrorism tribunal amid tight security was the latest development in the saga between Pakistan's government and Khan, who has been holding mass rallies, seeking to return to power.

Khan is also to appear before the Islamabad High Court on Aug. 31 to face contempt proceedings on charges of threatening a judge. His conviction, in this case, will mean his

disqualification from politics for life under Pakistani law. No convicted person can run for office.

It is the second time that Khan — a former cricket star turned Islamist politician — faces contempt charges. After elections in 1993, he was summoned but pardoned by the Supreme Court after describing the conduct of the judiciary as "shameful" and saying it did not ensure free and fair elections.

Legal experts say Khan has limited options and could avoid a conviction if he apologises for his remarks against Judge Zeba Chaudhry, when he told her to "get ready for it, we will also take action against you."

Khan made that critical comment against judge Chaudhry after she allowed police to interrogate Gill, who is the chief of staff at Khan's party. Gill was arrested earlier this month for allegedly attempting to incite soldiers to revolt against the top military

*cont'd on pg 24*

## Shinzo Abe: Japan police chief resigns over ex-PM assassination

BBC – Japan's police chief has said he will resign over the killing of former prime minister Shinzo Abe.

Itaru Nakamura, head of the national police agency, said he wanted to take responsibility for the July 8 shooting.

An investigation has found there were serious flaws in how the ex-PM was protected.

Mr Abe was shot while speaking at a political campaign event in the city of Nara.

The 41-year-old gun-

man was able to walk up behind Mr Abe and shoot him with a homemade gun as he was giving a speech.

The 67-year-old suffered two bullet wounds to his neck and damage to his heart, doctors said.

Local police have already acknowledged "undeniable" flaws in security for Mr Abe.

"In the process of verifying our new security plan, we have come to realise that our security duties would need a fresh start," Mr Nakamura told a news conference as he an-



Japan's police chief, Itaru Nakamura, says he will resign for failing to save former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from assassination

nounced his resignation.

Mr Abe was Japan's best-known politician and longest-serving prime minister, but security was comparatively light as he delivered a stump speech on a street in the western region.

Security experts who have reviewed footage of the attack have previously told news agency Reuters that bodyguards could have saved Mr Abe by shielding him or pulled him from the

line of fire in the 2.5 seconds between a missed first shot and the second, fatal round of gunfire.

The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, was arrested at the scene and admitted to shooting Mr Abe, police have said.

He confessed that he targeted Mr Abe due to his belief that he was linked to a religious group - which Yamagami said had financially ruined his mother.

*cont'd from pg 23*

leadership. Gill was sent to jail the previous day, pending trial.

Since his ouster, Khan has alleged — without providing evidence — that Pakistan's powerful military took part in a U.S. plot to oust him. Washington, the Pakistani military and the government of Khan's successor, Shahbaz Sharif, have all denied the allegation.

Khan came to power promising to break the pattern of family rule in Pakistan. His opponents contend he was elected with help from the powerful military, which has ruled the country for half of its 75-year history. Since his ouster, Khan has also demanded early elections and vowed to oust Sharif's government through "pressure from the people".



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## Young fast bowler Isai Thorne focused on red-ball improvement

The 2022 West Indies Rising Stars U19 Championship represents the first time young Caribbean cricketers are playing long-format cricket at any level since 2018.

This follows the Caribbean hosting of the ICC Men's U19 World Cup which was successfully hosted by Cricket West Indies in January and February several other participants in the tournament players represented the West Indies. These include: Ackeem Augustine (Windward Islands), Johann Layne (Barbados), Nathan Edward (Leeward Islands), Onaje Amory (Leeward Islands), Carlon Bowen-Tuckett (Leeward Islands), and Jordan Johnson (Jamaica).

One of those players in this year's competition is talented young 17-year fast bowler Isai Thorne from Guyana. The young Thorne first came to cricket public attention during the summer 2021 West Indies youth tour of England.

He hails from the famous area of Berbice, Guyana that has produced legendary past West Indies players such as Rohan Kanhai, Basil Butcher and Alvin Kallicharan to modern-day senior team players Shimron Hetmyer, Romario Shepherd, Gudakesh Motie.

Thorne spoke to CWI Media at the Arnos Vale Sports Complex during the



just-concluded match between Guyana and Jamaica.

You have already experienced playing youth cricket against some of the world's best U19 players. How have you found coming back and playing your first U19 tournament against Caribbean players?

We still have a good set of players that come back Under 19, so it's still good competition. So, you still have to be doing the basic things well, going out there hitting length and trying to get wickets and impress as much as possible.

You hail from the famous Berbice cricket area of Guyana. Growing up, what were some of your role models as a young fast bowler?

Well, I came up watching Niall Smith, and Romario Shepherd and watched their training session when they were back home. So, I grasp my confidence from those guys and seeing them play at the top level has

given me most of my confidence.

You represented the West Indies during the ICC Men's U19 World Cup earlier this year. So, for yourself and all of those players, did you look at this as a tournament as an opportunity to come and dominate?

As a West Indies player, I believe you need to come here and show why you are a West Indies player. So, for me, yes, I came here trying to dominate and show that I'm a step above and doing everything I can on the field to help my team win the competition.

In round two versus the Leeward Islands, you took a six-wicket haul. How have you found the bowling conditions compared to what you experienced growing up in Guyana or what you experienced bowling during the Under-19 World Cup?

It's not the easiest for fast bowling, but I think we could still work with it. But I think as senior youth

players, we should be able to cope with the conditions and try to make the best out of it and I think I did that in the last game against Leeward Islands.

Obviously, during the U19 World Cup, it was white ball cricket where at maximum you only had to bowl 10 overs. How have you found the transition in this three-day tournament where you have had to bowl more than 10 overs over two innings?

It has been a very difficult thing because, since last August, I haven't played any red cricket. So, coming here after playing the first game was tough, I have been able to just kind of get into it. Bowling the overs is not a problem for me, because I think I'm fit enough to bowl the overs. It's just that in the white ball game you are trying to hit the stumps more than often we will do here in three-day cricket.

How has the experience of bowling in English conditions during the 2021 West Indies U19 tour helped your game as a young player so far?

It was still a challenge because it was new conditions and all of that from the West Indies. But I think it really helped me as a fast bowler. The conditions were helpful to fast bowling and it shows you how you need to be consistent to get wickets.

# Sports News



## Kobe Bryant widow awarded \$16M in trial over crash photos

AP – Kobe Bryant's widow was awarded \$16 million as part of a \$31 million jury verdict Wednesday against Los Angeles County for deputies and firefighters sharing grisly photos of the NBA star, his 13-year-old daughter and other victims killed in a 2020 helicopter crash.

The nine jurors unanimously agreed with Vanessa Bryant and her attorneys that the photos invaded her privacy and caused emotional distress.

She cried quietly as it was read.

The jury deliberated 4 1/2 hours before reaching the verdict on Kobe Bryant Day, which is celebrated in LA on Aug. 24 because it represents his jersey numbers — 8 and 24 — and is the day after his birthday. He would have turned 44 on Tuesday.

After the verdict, Vanessa Bryant posted a photo on Instagram of herself with her husband and daughter.

"All for you!" the caption read.

"I love you! JUSTICE for Kobe and Gigi!"



Vanessa Bryant, centre, Kobe Bryant's widow, leaves a federal courthouse with her daughter, Natalia, left, and soccer player Sydney Leroux in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022. A federal jury has found that Los Angeles County must pay Bryant's widow \$16 million over photos of the NBA star's body at the site of the 2020 helicopter crash that killed him. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

An attorney for the county declined comment on the verdict outside the courtroom.

The pictures were shared mostly between employees of the LA County sheriff's and fire departments including by some who were playing video games and attending an awards banquet.

They were also seen by some of their spouses and in one case by a bartender at a bar where a deputy was drinking.

Vanessa Bryant tearfully testified during the 11-day trial that news of the photos compounded her still-raw grief a month after losing her husband and daughter, and that she still has panic attacks at

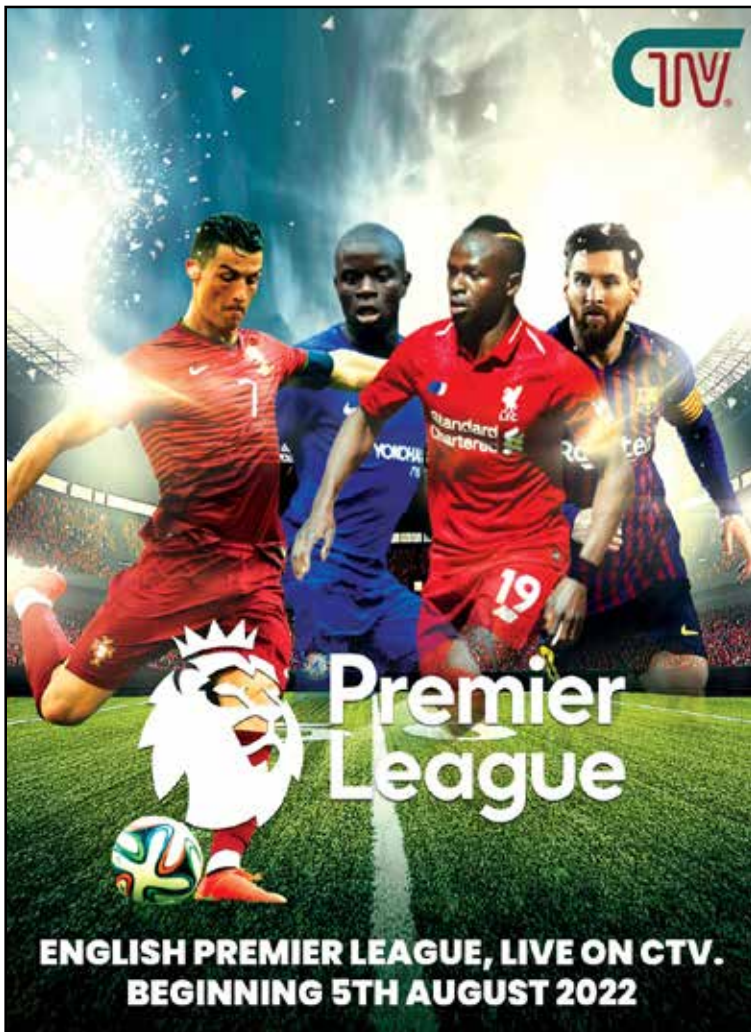
the thought that they might still be out there.

Vanessa Bryant and her attorney declined comment outside court Wednesday.

Her face was still streaked with tears as she walked past TV cameras and dozens of reporters and climbed into an SUV.

Kobe Bryant, the former Lakers star, five-time NBA champion and member of the Basketball Hall of Fame, was travelling with Gianna and seven others to a youth basketball game when the helicopter they were aboard crashed into hills in Calabasas west of Los Angeles on Jan. 26, 2020.

Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for the crash.



## Matthäus returns Maradona jersey from 1986 World Cup final

AP – The jersey Diego Maradona wore in the 1986 World Cup final was back in Argentine hands Thursday thanks to German great Lothar Matthäus.

Matthäus, who swapped jerseys with Maradona at halftime of the final won by Argentina in México, returned the historic apparel at a ceremony at the Argentina Embassy in Madrid.

The shirt will be displayed at a new soccer museum in the Spanish capital.

“It was always a great honour to play against him,” Matthäus said of the late Maradona, through a translator. “As a player and a person, he was always someone very important to me. He will always be in our hearts.”

Matthäus said he also exchanged jerseys with Maradona after the 1990 World Cup final won by the Germans in Italy. He said that shirt was in a museum in Germany.

The jersey Maradona wore against England in the quarterfinals of the



*Former German soccer player Lothar Matthäus stands next to the showcase featuring the shirt worn by Diego Armando Maradona in the final of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, as it is unveiled, during an event at the Argentine Embassy in Madrid, Spain, Thursday Aug. 25, 2022. The shirt was given to Matthäus, after he exchanged shirts with Maradona at the end of the final match. Matthäus has donated the shirt to the Legends football museum in Madrid. (AP Photo/Paul White)*

1986 World Cup, when he scored the controversial “Hand of God” goal, was sold for more than \$9 million in an online auction by Sotheby’s in May, the highest price ever paid at auction

for a piece of sports memorabilia.

Matthäus was given a plaque at the Argentina Embassy in recognition of his soccer career and contribution to sporting values.

## Frankfurt's Kevin Trapp says he's turning down Man Utd offer



*Bayern's Sadio Mane, left, tries to score as Frankfurt's goalkeeper Kevin Trapp makes a save during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayern Munich in Frankfurt, Germany, Friday, Aug. 5, 2022. (AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)*

AP – Eintracht Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp says he has turned down an offer from Manchester United to stay with the German club.

United had reportedly offered a four-year deal to the 32-year-old Trapp, a Germany international who previously played for Paris Saint-Germain and Kaiserslautern.

“It’s true that there’s a written offer,” Trapp wrote Thursday on Instagram. “Manchester United is a global club and I hope everyone can understand that I consider such an offer and think about it.”

Trapp said he decided to stay in

Frankfurt, where he won the Europa League last season and has a contract till 2024.

“Yesterday I told the representatives of both clubs that I decided for Eintracht. I’ve experienced the unforgettable here in Frankfurt and we wrote history together,” Trapp said. “The start of the season has been bumpy but I’ve absolute confidence in us.”

Frankfurt started the Bundesliga with a 6-1 loss at home to Bayern Munich. It drew its next two games against Hertha Berlin and Cologne and next faces promoted Werder Bremen on Sunday.

# Sports News



## Antigua & Barbuda beats Grenada in Under-17 tournament

Antigua and Barbuda rebounded from an opening game loss on Tuesday to record their first win in the Pride of the Caribbean Under-17 Boys Competition at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Centre at Paynters on Wednesday night.

The Antiguan and Barbudans who lost 3-2 to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their first game rebounded by pulling off a 3-0 victory over Grenada in their second encounter.

Playing in the second game of a double-header, Antigua and Barbuda took an early advantage when they were awarded a penalty in the fourth minute after a Grenadian defender handled the ball in the 18-yard box.

Striker Johnathan Shoy stepped forward and calmly slotted home the penalty kick pass the Grenadian custodian to give the young Benna Boys a 1-0 lead.

A 28th minute conversion by right-back Jevaughn Jarvis gave Antigua and Barbuda a 2-0 halftime advantage.

Substitute attacking midfielder Josue Arias, then sealed Antigua and Barbuda's victory by scoring the home side's third and final goal in the 76th minute.

The win gave Antigua and Barbuda a good chance of reaching the final of the



*Members of the Antigua and Barbuda team during the playing of their national anthem prior to the start of their game against Grenada in the Pride of the Caribbean Under-17 Boys Competition at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Wednesday, 24th August, 2022. (Photo Courtesy ABFA)*

four-team competition.

A win for Antigua and Barbuda over St. Lucia in their last preliminary round match today (Friday) will propel the young Benna Boys into tomorrow's (Saturday) final.

In a surprising result, St. Lucia romped to an emphatic 5-1 victory over St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the first match of Wednesday night's double-header.

Kelvin Sylvester scored his first of two goals in the match in the 6th minute to give St. Lucia a 1-0 lead. Striker Makaay Emile doubled his team's advantage with a 20th minute conversion.

Josh Hunte further extended his team's lead when he scored in the 29th minute and Sylvester netted his

second goal of the match in the 31st minute to give the St. Lucians a 4-0 halftime advantage.

After the interval, Isiah Charles scored what turned out to be a consolation goal for St. Vincent and the Grenadines with a 48th minute conversion.

Obofami Poyotte completed the St. Lucian scoring when he scored his team's fifth and final goal of the match in the 67th minute.

Following yesterday's (Thursday) off day, the competition will resume at the ABFA's Technical Centre today (Friday) with the final round of preliminary matches.

Grenada will face St. Vincent and the Grenadines at 1pm and host Antigua and Barbuda will clash

with St. Lucia at 3:30 pm.

The two top teams at the end of the preliminaries will clash in tomorrow's (Saturday) final at 3:30 pm while the other two teams will take on each other in a play-off for third place at 1pm.

The tournament, which is being used as preparation by the Antigua and Barbuda team for the upcoming Concacaf Under-17 Men's Qualifying Tournament in Nicaragua, is being sponsored by Joma Caribbean, Cool & Smooth, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and Paradiso Water.

Antigua and Barbuda will contest Group D of the Concacaf Under-17 Men's Qualifying Tournament in Managua, Nicaragua, from 30th August to 8th September.

## Antigua & Barbuda Combined Schools makes clean sweep of T20 series

Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools have made a clean sweep of their three-match T20 series against the Dominica Combined Schools on their tour of the Nature Isle of the Caribbean.

The Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools pulled off a six-run win over their counterparts in the third and final match at Benjamin's Park in Portsmouth on Wednesday, 24th August, to wrap up the series 3-0.

Set 136 to win, Dominica Combined Schools were restricted to 129 for six in their allotted 20 overs.

Uvis Changes top scored with 58 runs, Daren Toussaint made 27 runs and Yawani Regis contributed 20 runs.

Malinga Brune



*The Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools squad on their current tour to the Nature Isle of the Caribbean.*

snapped up three wickets for 23 runs, off-spinner Demetri Lucas claimed one wicket for 17 runs and Ajahrie Joseph captured one wicket for 27 runs.

Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools batted first and made 135 for seven off their 20 overs. Shamar

Pereira hit 31 not out and Dravid Richardson chipped in with 28 runs.

Morell Burton captured two wickets for 30 runs and Keyron Phillips picked up two wickets for 35 runs.

The Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools T20 series win followed

the team's 2-2 draw with the Dominica Combined Schools in their 40-over series during the earlier part of their tour.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent will return home from their tour to Dominica tomorrow (Saturday.)

## ABFA Knock-out Cup to commence this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) 2022/23 domestic season will officially commence with the start of its Knock-out Cup competition this weekend.

The competition will kick off with first-round matches between first and second division teams starting today (Friday) at the Antigua and Barbuda Technical Centre at Paynters.

In today's opening round double-header, Bolans FC will face Tamo FC at 5:30 pm and Potters Tigers will take on Bethesda at 7:30 pm.

In another double-header tomorrow (Saturday), Garden Stars will op-

pose Earthquake FC at 5:30 pm and Young Lions will clash with Young Warriors at 7:30 pm.

In a triple-header on Sunday, West Ham will tackle CPTSA Wings FC at 3:30 pm, JSC Progressors will meet Attacking Saints at 5:30 pm and Green City FC will challenge Belmont at 7:30 pm.

In other first round matches, Police will face Sea View Farm, John Hughes will take on Glanvilles, Bendals FC will oppose Pares FC, Fort Road FC will clash with Herberts FC, Lion Hill will tackle Jennings United, HUF Up-rising will meet Master Ballers, Real

Blizzard FC will challenge ABAYA of Parham, English Harbour will face Blackburn Palace and Mahico FC has received a bye into the second round.

An overall total of E.C \$85,000 in prize money will be on offer for the top performers in the competition.

The champion team will take home E.C \$50,000, first runner-up will receive E.C \$20,000, second runner-up will walk away with E.C \$10,000 and the third runner-up will take home E.C \$5,000.

The Knockout Cup is being sponsored by Joma Caribbean and Cool & Smooth.

## LI win second T20 match at CWI Under-15 tournament



*The Leeward Islands squad at the CWI Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship in Grenada. (File photo)*

The Leeward Islands recorded their second win in the rain affected Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship in Grenada yesterday (Thursday).

Contesting their second match using the revised T20 format, the Leeward Islands snatched a one-run win on the Duckworth/Lewis method over Trinidad and Tobago in a rain-affected match at the Grenada National Stadium.

Zane Maraj had struck 35 off 34 balls, opener Christian Lall made 24 and Brendan Boodoo contributed 17 in the Trinidad and Tobago innings of 96 for six off their allotted overs.

Leeward Islands captain Matthew Miller captured three wickets for 27 runs. Anthony Pierre had one wick-

et for four runs and Amoree Jones claimed one wicket for 16 runs.

Chasing a winning target of 97, the Leeward Islands were on course to victory at 84 for four in 17.4 overs when rain came and brought an early end to the match.

When the calculations were done, the Leewards were one run ahead of their target, hence the match was awarded in their favour, using the Duckworth/Lewis Method.

The Leewards' batting were led by captain Matthew Miller, who was not out on 26 off 25 balls, and opener Sachin Saunders chipped in with 22 off 27 balls. Yasir Deen picked up two wickets for 17 runs.

Guyana defeated Jamaica by 19 runs at the Grenada National Stadium

on Wednesday afternoon.

Guyana batted first and made 78 for eight off 18 overs in which Adrian Hetmeyer hit a top score of 29.

Geovanni Grey snapped up three for 8, Tedain Noyan snapped up three for 17 and Ryan Littleton claimed two for 15.

In reply, Jamaica were restricted to fifty-nine for 7 off their 18 overs. Savio Jones top scored with 28. Arif Khan bagged three for 15 and Darwin La Rose claimed two for 14.

The final round of T20 matches will be played at the Grenada National Stadium tomorrow (Saturday).

The Leeward Islands will face Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago will tackle Guyana and Jamaica will oppose the Windward Islands.