

JOLLY BEACH WORKERS TO BEGIN RECEIVING SEVERANCE NEXT WEEK

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Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders joins Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other senior diplomats at the opening of the 52nd OAS General Assembly in Lima, Peru. The 6th - 7th October meeting is the first time the members have gathered in-person since 2019. *Story on Page 4*

As tourist arrivals remain on the uptick, gov't announces Jolly Beach sale complete, staff severances to be paid

Antigua and Barbuda has continued to enjoy positive stay-over visitor numbers into September which is traditionally one of the slowest months for tourist arrivals.

The latest statistics have shown that arrivals for September topped 15,462, a fair improvement for the same period in 2019.

2019, the last normal year before the start of the pandemic, has been used as the benchmark against which the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association has compared the industry's performance in 2022.

In September, 2019, 14,124 visitors arrived in the country.

This encouraging development follows word from Wednesday's Cabinet that plans are on track to restore two defunct major hotels to operation.

"The principals of Elite Resorts came to address the management of a refurbished Jolly Beach hotel.

"The object is to have several rooms rehabilitated for the winter season and to have the Elite Resorts manage those rooms. The management company will



Jolly Beach hotel

also market Jolly Beach and share profits with the government of Antigua and Barbuda," the Cabinet Notes revealed.

The report from Cabinet continued that Jolly Beach's court appointed administrator has determined that the resort's dismissed line staff are owed EC\$12.8 million.

Assurance has been given that once the sale of the property is completed today, the staff will be paid from the proceeds of the sale. Severance payments will begin in the upcoming week.

Jolly Beach has been appraised and valued at just

over US\$30 million.

On Thursday during the post-Cabinet press briefing, the governmental body's spokesman, Melford Nicholas, provided a further update on the issue.

"I think that there are administrative issues to be put in place, but yes, in the week following, we would expect that there would be a streamlining of the process to ensure that individual workers could be identified and the line items could be reconciled and the cheques would be received," Nicholas said.

Meanwhile, Cabinet was provided with updates on the lease of the Halcyon

Hotel from representatives of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and former Solicitor General, Keith Ford.

The Sunwing Group, and Antigua Isle - a government owned company - have entered into a 99-year agreement at a cost of US\$400,000 per annum.

The new hotel, which will be called the Royalton Chic, will feature a number of luxury homes built on the hills surrounding the resort.

These holiday homes will be built at a cost starting at US\$200,000.

They will be offered to CIP applicants who are interested in real estate options.

Gov't offers debt amnesty to ease post-COVID economic hardships

To provide economic relief to those people who are still out of work in the aftermath of the pandemic, the Cabinet has agreed to wipe out outstanding debt up to December, 2021 on bills owed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLB-MC), Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and property tax.

This was indicated in this week's Cabinet notes and confirmed at Thursday's post-Cabinet Press Briefing by Minister of Information, Melford Nicholas.

Nicholas said that any debt incurred this year will have to be paid, however, the government has determined it is necessary to intervene to remove some of the financial burden on those in need while ensuring that their access to essential services remains uninterrupted.

In addition to the APUA amnesty, disconnected customers who pay the current month's obligation will be reconnected by November 1st 2022.

Residents and citizens with outstanding hospital bills owed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, and who have been in arrears for more than 180 days, will have their balance forgiven.

The amnesty also ap-

plies to those in arrears with property tax. Unpaid property taxes up to December 31st 2021 will benefit, provided that the owner pays the current year's tax.

While a figure was not stated, it is expected that across the three entities identified, the value of the amnesty could total in the millions.

Minister Nicholas said Thursday while there will be a loss to the government and APUA, much of the debt is uncollectible, as many people are still out of work and are trying to piece together their lives in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"Much of the debt is perhaps, maybe, uncollectible.

"Without an income, how could [a] person reorganise themselves in such a way that they can find new means of themselves and their families, and so it is within the context of those impacts that it has had on



individual families, that the government is making this decision."

Regarding APUA, the information minister said similar debt forgiveness has been extended in the past, however, given the life altering changes brought on by the pandemic years, the government believes the time is right to offer relief to those in need once again.

"We would have done similar measures with APUA before, and it is a matter that we have looked at and made a determination that... what we want to do is for persons who now have

the ability to restart their lives effectively, or resuscitate their lives effectively, in the wake of COVID.

"Now that we have begun to see economic growth, and better and more improved employment opportunities, that without that heavy load on their backs, that they will be able to... become new customers who are actually in a position to pay to the APUA, and so we think at the end of the day, it will have a positive up-tick on the incremental revenue that APUA collects on a monthly basis," Nicholas said.

Fri 07 Day 85° Partly cloudy. High around 85F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		Fri 07 Night 78° Partly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
22% E 13 mph	24% E 10 mph	Humidity 74%	UV Index Extreme
Sunrise 5:58 am	Sunset 5:51 pm	Humidity 81%	UV Index 0 of 10
		Moonrise 4:37 pm	Moonset 3:46 am
		Waxing Gibbous	

Ambassador Sanders raises stern issues facing the OAS in his address to the 52nd General Assembly in Peru

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Ronald Sanders is presently in Lima, Peru participating in the 52nd Organization of American States General Assembly.

The meeting, which began on 5th October and concludes today, is being held at the Lima Convention Centre, under the theme selected by the government of Peru, "Together Against Inequality and Discrimination".

While in Central America, Sir Ronald will engage with heads of government and his diplomatic counterparts on issues salient to the OAS' member nations including strengthening democracy, promotion and protection of human rights, multidimensional security, and integral development.

During his presentation to the body on the opening day of the General Assembly, Sir Ronald raised several sobering issues facing the organisation. These matters included the OAS' precarious financial standing to the ongoing ambiguity and division over the involvement of Venezuela's opposition leader, Juan Guaido, in the affairs of the organisation after the country's elected leader, President Nicolas Maduro, withdrew from the group in 2017.

"As we meet at this 52nd Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, the OAS is financially broke. We are trying to run an Organization that costs \$118 million on an unrealistic Budget of \$81 million.

"The result is that the Secretariat of the Organization is unable to carry out a mountain of mandates from a hill of meagre financial resources.

"Sadly, because of this, the staff of the Organization live in uncertainty. Many are seeking better security elsewhere, and there is an exodus of talent, as skilled people flee to seek refuge in



destinations with better prospects," Sir Ronald said.

He continued that many of the issues facing the body are within the power of its members to correct but urged that swift and decisive action is needed to remedy the crisis looming over the future of the OAS.

"It is the fault of Governments that do not provide the resources; it is the fault of an antiquated Charter; and it is the fault of anachronistic rules which urgently need reform. Therefore, Governments must resolve to address these problems, and commit to provide the resources to give the OAS the vibrance, relevance and importance that it should have.

"Not for the first time, Antigua and Barbuda urges the establishment of a group of Eminent persons from across our hemisphere to produce a report and recommendations on what must happen to recreate the OAS to serve the needs of our Hemisphere, and the needs of our Hemisphere in the World."

Among the other issues that were on the agenda for deliberation was a resolution on the security and political situation in Haiti. The Haiti-led resolution on the security and political situation in the north Caribbean nation asked the OAS General Secretariat to re-establish regular meetings of likeminded delegations and donors, deepen OAS-UN cooper-

ation, and solicit specific cooperation tools the OAS could provide to Haiti.

Sir Ronald also addressed this pressing issue.

"Human rights and human freedom must also remain a fundamental objective of this OAS, but we must devise early warning mechanisms, with implementation machinery, to address violations before they become so persistent and pervasive, that there are empty chairs and lowered flags at our meetings.

"In this regard, my delegation makes it clear that Haiti cannot be left by itself to deal with rampaging, armed gangs who kidnap, terrorize and enrich themselves, defying all laws and tearing down institutions.

"The gangs in Haiti must be brought under control without any further delay.

"The countries, in this Assembly, with the resources to help should do so, and the Haitian authorities must provide them with the guarantees, including stomping our corruption, that are necessary to help," he said.

Sir Ronald also raised issues affecting vulnerable island nations, including the impacts of climate change, inequitable global financial policies and the war in Europe, all of which require the immediate attention and action on the part of the OAS.

cont'd on pg 5

Common Alerting Protocol installed at local radio stations

Four private radio stations are now part of the national early warning system, the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) that will interrupt regular programming to carry specific emergency alerts.

The four stations - Observer Radio, Zoom Radio, God First Radio and Radio Lighthouse have joined state-

owned ABS Radio to broadcast the emergency alerts that notify residents of a pending event like a tsunami, flooding, tropical storm warning, hurricane warning and even civil unrest.

A system test is scheduled for Friday morning at 5:30 a.m.

Prior to this arrangement,

alerts were sent via smart phones, emails and ABS Radio and Television - the first media house to install the interrupts.

CAP Consultant Damian Barker, from Barbados, spent the past two days installing the interrupts at the radio stations and meeting with personnel.

A refresher training was also held with staff from the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and the Met Office who presently send out the alerts.

Representatives from the Police and Defence Forces, the Ministry of Health and the Meteorological Office, along with staff from the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) have been trained and granted access to the CAP.

Ten thousand residents in Antigua and Barbuda have downloaded the app and presently receive alerts whenever they are issued.

cont'd from pg 4

On the fringes of the meetings, there was also a high-level discussion among Ministers of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday centred on the topic, "Women's leadership in international policy to combat gender inequality and discrimination".

Founded in 1948 and composed of 35

nations, the OAS is the world's oldest regional organisation and the General Assembly is the forum at which ministerial-level discussions are held and decisions taken on issues affecting the grouping.

This year's meeting is of particular significance as it is the first time since 2019 that the General Assembly is meeting in-person.

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Antigua and Barbuda names new diplomat to the UN Geneva Office

Antigua and Barbuda has appointed a new Permanent Representative to the United Nations' Office in Geneva.

Boris Latour, presented his credentials to Tatiana Valovaya, the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva on Thursday.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, prior to his appointment as Permanent Representative, Latour worked in the private sector managing an alternative investment fund located in Luxembourg.

He has professional experience

in renewable energy, information technology, real estate, hospitality, agriculture, banking, and finance.

Most recently, Latour worked closely with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to strengthen its diplomatic ties with European nations and various international organisations.

The new diplomat has a master's degree in Management Science and a bachelor's degree in Business and Economics both from the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management in Belgium.



Antigua and Barbuda's new Permanent Representative to the UN office in Geneva, Boris Latoure, presented his credentials to Director-General Tatiana Valovaya on Thursday

2

Tuesday & Wednesday

2

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Police constable receives death threat

Police are investigating a death threat made against one of their own at his home.

The police constable who resides in Pigotts Village made a report to the Parham Police Station on Wednesday that sometime after 7pm, he discovered a note on which was written a threat to end his life.

The law enforcement officer is said to have left his home after 2pm, while his family members includ-

ing his wife remained at the residence.

On his return home Wednesday evening, his wife allegedly informed him that she had discovered the note under a flower pot that was located on the southern side of the house.

The note, the exact content of which is unknown, was removed by the police that visited the scene and an investigation has been launched.

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- 5 OCT** Meet and Greet (5:00pm)
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Opinion

The OAS is broke and broken

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(In replacement of his weekly commentary, Sir Ronald Sanders has provided the following statement made at the OAS General Assembly in Peru on 6 October)

As we meet at this 52nd Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States, the OAS is financially broke.

We are trying to run an Organization that costs \$118 million on an unrealistic Budget of \$81 million.

The result is that the Secretariat of the Organization is unable to carry out a mountain of mandates from a hill of meagre financial resources.

Sadly, because of this, the staff of the Organization live in uncertainty.

Many are seeking better security elsewhere, and there is an exodus of talent, as skilled people flee to seek refuge in destinations with better prospects.

It is little wonder that the peoples of our countries do not see the benefits of the OAS and, therefore, place little or no value in it.

Member states with the financial capacity to pay, withhold their due contributions, and others seek incentives to pay on time what they agreed to pay, and have an obligation to meet.

The Organization is still booking as receivable income, contributions from countries that have severed

their ties from it, in fictional transactions that claim these monies, running into tens of millions of dollars, are somehow payable.

If the OAS was a public company, its auditors would have declared it bankrupt.

The Organization is also structurally broken

The OAS is hardly known by the peoples of our states.

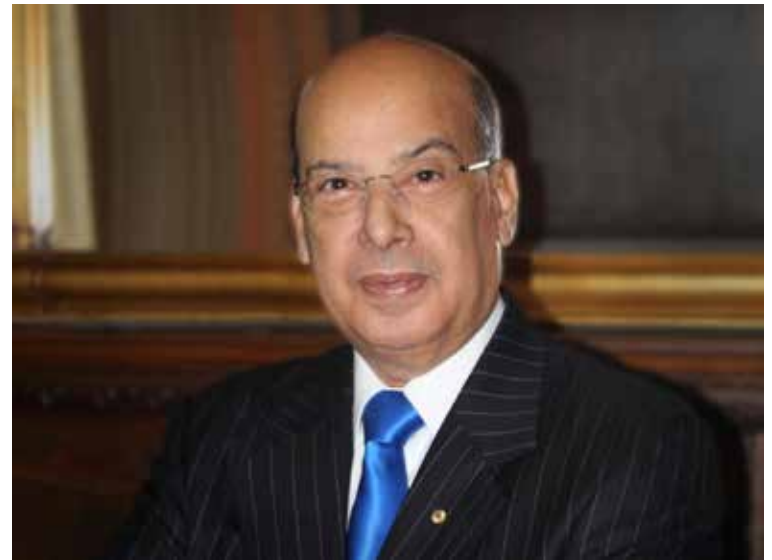
And, collectively, we do not seem to know if we are an organisation of 35 states or of 34.

The OAS has a Charter and rules of procedure that were produced in the days before cellular phones and the internet, before the world became a neighbourhood, and before interconnectivity between nations occurs in the fraction of a section.

Yet its ancient Charter and rules of procedure have remained the guide of an Organization, operating in the modern world with unprecedented challenges.

The result is that the Organization moves at the slow crawl of a turtle when it should be moving at the pace of Jamaica's Usain Bolt, responsive to needs of people at every level.

That is why a General Assembly can impose a violation of the Charter by 19 votes including a disputed representative but cannot change it by 19 votes of fully qualified and accredited representatives as happened this morning,



Sir Ronald Sanders

The Organization has an obligation to respond to the needs of its peoples because its member governments have promised to do so.

That is the compact between governments and people which this Organization was established to fulfil.

But there is a gap between what governments promised and what is being delivered.

And, let it be clear that the failure to bridge that gap is not the fault of the Secretariat and its largely capable staff.

It is the fault of Governments that do not provide the resources; it is the fault of an antiquated Charter; and it the fault of anachronistic rules which urgently need reform.

Therefore, Governments must resolve to address these problems, and commit to provide the resources to give the OAS the vibrance, relevance and importance that it should have.

Not for the first time, Antigua and Barbuda urges the establishment of a group of Eminent persons from across our hemisphere to produce a report and recommendations on what must happen to recreate the OAS to serve the needs of our Hemisphere, and the needs of our Hemisphere in the World.

Mr Chairman, there are critical issues that confront all our nations collectively.

They are issues that none of us can fully satisfy individually, but we can all meet collectively.

Those issues include:

The impact of Climate Change from which none of our nations can escape.

The maintenance and preservation of the international legal order which is the basis for peace and prosperity across the world.

In this regard, we all have an obligation to stand up against any nation that

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violates the global legal order, as Russia has done in Ukraine, creating world economic turmoil and instability that looks set to worsen.

That is why Antigua and Barbuda contributed actively to the resolutions and declarations that sought to tell President Putin that this war must end, and end now.

The innocent and smallest of our nations have been burdened the most, trapped in an international financial system that ignores our needs,

Health issues also confront us all.

COVID-19 is not the last pandemic the world will endure. This hemisphere needs to be ready for the next one. And ready – not with nationalistic protectionism but in multi-nation collaboration.

There should never again be vaccine hoarding by the rich and deprivation for the poor.

The mantra of none is safe, until all are safe will continue to be true in the future as it was as we all trembled in fear at COVID-19.

Addressing economic inequalities is also a common challenge for which there can only be a common solution.

Development and economic advancement must be a goal for all in our hemisphere, for which all in our hemisphere should work diligently in our collective interest.

Human rights and human freedom must also remain a fundamental objective of this OAS, but we must devise early warning mechanisms, with implementation machinery, to address violations before they become so persistent and pervasive, that there are empty chairs and lowered flags at our meetings.

In this regard, my delegation makes it clear that Haiti cannot be left by itself to deal with rampaging, armed

gangs who kidnap, terrorize and enrich themselves, defying all laws and tearing down institutions.

The gangs in Haiti must be brought under control without any further delay.

The countries, in this Assembly, with the resources to help should do so, and the Haitian authorities must provide them with the guarantees, including stumping our corruption, that are necessary to help.

The alternative is the creation of a criminal state in our midst, and a base for criminal activity in our neighbourhood.

The Haitian people do not want this. They are the victims. This OAS has an obligation to help and help now.

Mr Chairman, the OAS can be a force for good, an instrument of peace and prosperity and an influence for democracy and development, but only if we reform it, respect it and resource it.



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Jeffrey Dahmer's latest media moment continues in 'Conversations With a Killer'

By Brian Lowry

Joe Berlinger maintains he didn't set out to become the official chronicler of notorious serial killers, but the producer finds himself capping off a "trilogy" of real-life horror via Netflix's "Conversations With a Killer" series, which – after multipart documentaries devoted to Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy – shifts to "The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes."

The timing of the latest "Conversations" is hardly a coincidence, coming on the heels of "Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story." That 10-part dramatization from producer Ryan Murphy and company has been a major viewing attraction according to Netflix, while renewing discussion about the propriety of the media preoccupation with serial killers, and whether the sheer volume of attention somehow glorifies them.

As BuzzFeed noted, "Monster" hasn't been well received by some relatives of Dahmer's victims, and the seemingly unquenchable appetite for true crime has raised concerns about the "inevitably reductive discourse on social media that romanticizes and capitalizes on murder." (Netflix and the producers opted not to make "Monster" available to critics in advance.)

In an interview with CNN, Berlinger said he hasn't watched "Monster," in part because he didn't want to field questions about it. But in addition to his documentary work he has also dabbled in narrative film in this arena, directing "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile," a 2019 movie that starred Zac Efron as Bundy.

Berlinger bristled at the suggestion that any of these productions might romanticize serial killers, noting that crime has always been a source of fascination. "This is a genre that just



Wendy Patrickus and Jeffrey Dahmer in the Netflix docuseries 'Conversations With a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes.'

invites criticism for whatever reason," he said, adding, "I was accused of romanticizing Bundy through murder porn, which I found very offensive and completely untrue."

The primary difference now is the abundance of shelf space to feed the appetite for such material, with more extended docuseries devoted to such topics filling streaming services – many of which have sprung up in just the last three years – and linear networks alike.

"I thought this was an important story to tell," Berlinger said in regard to "The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes," noting that Dahmer – unlike Bundy and Gacy – actually exhibited "a modicum of remorse" in the unearthed audiotapes.

Both "Monster" and "Conversations With a Killer" also make an effort to focus in part on Dahmer's victims, with Berlinger noting that his productions about Gacy and Dahmer "retell these stories through a 2022 lens," including how homophobia and racial prejudice at the time hampered the investigations.

The fresh material in "Conversations With a Killer" includes recordings of Dahmer and his defense team,

primarily a lawyer named Wendy Patrickus, who is among those interviewed – which seems remarkable given the amount of coverage devoted to each of these figures in the past. As for lessons the docuseries in their totality seek to convey, the producer pointed to the fact all three subjects projected misleading images of trustworthiness in their daily lives.

"We want to pretend that serial killers present themselves as evil monsters all the time," he said, noting that those featured were able to gaslight and fool even those close to them.

Berlinger also contends that a younger generation – his own college-age children among them – is unfamiliar with the details of these stories, or the warnings that they harbor about the possibility of evil hiding in plain view.

"If you walk away from any one of my shows, you see these people for the horrible human beings that they are," he said. "But it's a larger attempt to understand where they fit in the human condition."

"Conversations With a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes" premieres October 7 on Netflix.

Cory Hardrict refutes speculation he cheated on Tia Mowry as sister Tamera supports her

By Lisa Respers France

Cory Hardrict is shutting down talk that he was unfaithful to wife Tia Mowry in the wake of her announcing their split after 14 years of marriage.

The “All American: Homecoming” actor responded after someone alleged in a comment on his verified Instagram account that he had “cheated on her.”

“Lies!,” Hardrict wrote in response.

Mowry announced on social media Tuesday that they were divorcing.

“I wanted to share that

Cory and I have decided to go our separate ways,” she wrote on Instagram, alongside of photo of herself and Hardrict. “I have always been honest with my fans, and today is no different. These decisions are never easy, and not without sadness. We will maintain a friendship as we co-parent our beautiful children. I am grateful for all the happy times we had together and want to thank my friends, family and fans for your love and support as we start this new chapter moving forward in our lives.”

Her twin and “Sister,



Cory Hardrict and Tia Mowry in 2020

“Sister” costar Tamera Mowry-Housley had words of support for her during an appearance on “Today,” saying “the Mowrys have her back.”

“I love her dearly,” Mowry-Housley said. “She

is strong but I know right now she just kind of just wants to ... kind of process it all, take it all in and be a little private about that. As a sister, I’m just going to respect that.”

Winfrey, Letterman among moderators for Michelle Obama tour



Former first lady Michelle Obama speaks to the crowd as she presents her anticipated memoir “Becoming” during her book tour stop in Washington, on Nov. 17, 2018. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana, File)

By Hillel Italie

Oprah Winfrey, David Letterman and Ellen DeGeneres are among the celebrity moderators joining former first lady Michelle Obama on tour for her upcoming book, “The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times.”

Other guests include Conan O’Brien, Tracee Ellis Ross, journalists Gayle King and Michele Norris, “Today” show host Hoda Kotb, poet Elizabeth Alexander and advocate Heather McGhee.

“For me, ‘The Light We Carry’ book tour will be about starting important conversations and digging deeper into the questions that all of us are grappling with as we live through uncertain times,” Obama said in a statement released Wednesday by her publisher, Crown, and the tour’s producer, Live Nation. “I can’t wait to get back on the road and dive into it with such

a thoughtful, impressive group of moderators.”

On Wednesday, Crown and Live Nation also announced that Obama has added seven stops to her monthlong, six-city tour, which begins at Washington’s Warner Theatre on Nov. 15, the book’s publication date. Additional appearances have been scheduled in Washington, along with Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago and San Francisco.

Some of the moderators, including Winfrey and Alexander, spoke with Obama when she promoted her 2018 memoir “Becoming.”

For the current tour, DeGeneres will be on stage for the first two nights, in Washington, with Perry scheduled to interview her in Atlanta, Letterman in Chicago and Winfrey for the last stop, in Los Angeles’ YouTube Theater on Dec. 13.

Kevin Spacey faces New York jury in sexual assault lawsuit

By Larry Neumeister and Tom Hays

Kevin Spacey's lawyer told a jury Thursday that a sexual misconduct allegation that derailed his theatrical career was the product of a young actor's inability to tell the difference between real life and a scene he played on Broadway eight times a week.

Jurors in a New York courtroom heard opening statements in what is expected to be a two-week trial in a lawsuit brought by Anthony Rapp, the actor who in 2017 became the first in a string of people to publicly accuse the "House of Cards" star of inappropriate touching or sexual advances.

The lawsuit stems from an alleged encounter between the two men in 1986, when Rapp was a 14-year-old getting praise for a role in the play "Precious Sons" and Spacey, then 26, was having his own breakout moment on Broadway as the co-star of "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Rapp says the older actor invited him to a party at his Manhattan apartment, then tried to seduce him in a bedroom after the other guests had left.

In interviews and the lawsuit, he has said a drunk, swaying Spacey swept him up in his arms, like a groom carrying a bride, then laid him on a bed and climbed



Actor Kevin Spacey arrives at court for the civil lawsuit trial, Thursday, Oct 6, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Yuki Iwamura)

on top of him. Rapp said he quickly wriggled away and left, then kept quiet about what happened for three decades as both actors saw their careers take off.

In her opening statement to the jury, Spacey's lawyer, Jennifer Keller, noted that the incident Rapp described bore a close resemblance to a scene in "Precious Sons." In the scene, an inebriated father, played by Ed Harris, mistook his son, played by Rapp, for his wife and climbed on top of him. In another scene, Harris lifted Rapp in his arms.

"How did Mr. Rapp come up with such an inventive and original story?" Keller asked the jury. "Eight times each week, actor Ed Harris picked up Mr. Rapp like a groom picks up a bride."

"What does Mr. Rapp claim? Mr. Spacey falls on him drunkenly. No kissing. No grinding. No touching

of his genitals. No request to touch his genitals. Nothing, just like in the play," she said.

Rapp's lawyer, Peter Saghir, said the encounter between the actors was real and that Spacey tried to "gratify his sexual desire" by pressing his pelvis into Rapp's hips when they were on the bed.

"This was a deliberate act," he said. "This is not horseplay."

When Rapp told his story to BuzzFeed in 2017 as the #MeToo movement began to grip Hollywood, he addressed the similarity with the scene in "Precious Sons," saying that perhaps he was initially able to set aside the trauma of his encounter with Spacey because he was "weirdly accustomed to the action, because it had been happening in the play."

Spacey said at the time he had no recollection of the incident. "But if I did be-

have then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior," he said.

Since then, though, Spacey's legal team has said the accusation is false. Rapp never attended the party, they said. And even if it had happened as Rapp described, they have argued, it wouldn't constitute a sexual advance.

Rapp wants compensation for mental and emotional suffering, medical expenses and loss of work.

Keller said Spacey was looking forward to testifying at the trial.

"He wants justice," she said. "Once you've heard both sides, you'll be convinced this alleged assault never happened at all."

The trial comes at a fraught time for Spacey, now 63.

Three months ago, he pleaded not guilty in London to charges that he sexually assaulted three men between 2004 and 2015 when he was the artistic director at the Old Vic theater.

A judge in Los Angeles this summer approved an arbitrator's decision to order Spacey to pay \$30.9 million to the makers of "House of Cards" for violating his contract by sexually harassing crew members.

Those setbacks followed
cont'd on pg 13

Trinidad and Tobago to host inaugural Caribbean Investment Forum

Trinidad and Tobago will host the inaugural Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF) in November which is expected to attract hundreds of businesses and investors from across the world.

Billed as the “largest gathering of businesses since COVID-19” in the region, CIF 2022 is being hosted by the Barbados-based Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago government, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and with the support of the European Union.

The organisers said that the November 8-11 event is intended to help build a “Smarter, Greener Caribbean”.

The CIF 2022 was launched virtually on Tuesday and the Barbados-based Caribbean Export, which is the leading regional trade and investment promotion agency in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group, said over 400 participants heard details about the “dynamic agenda for the business-focused event which will bring together key decision-makers, foreign-direct investors, government agencies, and entrepreneurs, to engage and connect for the benefit of the region”.

It said the forum will particularly highlight four important sectors for growth; AgTech, Renewable Ener-

CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM



gy, Transportation and Logistics, and Digital Business. Its main objectives include building regional resilience, establishing long-term jobs, and championing sustainable development.

Caribbean Export’s executive director, Deodat Maharaj, speaking at the launch of the forum said it is timely and essential because “business and investment have an absolutely critical role to play in driving transformation” in the Caribbean.

“The last two years have demonstrated to us more than ever that building resilience must be the top priority of our region.

“The COVID-19 pandemic placed enormous stress on our economies and societies...it is crystal clear that we need to have a forensic focus on sectors that can drive and advance this transformation.”

The Trinidad and Tobago-based European Union’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Peter Cavendish, said the Caribbean’s attractiveness to investors as a peaceful

region with well-established democracies and highly talented populations.

“The Caribbean is composed of vibrant nations which are active in all of the major economic sectors...and the Caribbean nations’ policies are very naturally closely aligned with the EU’s policies in areas such as the Green Deal, digitalization, economic growth and resilience, and in defending common democratic values.

Trinidad and Tobago’s Minister of Trade and Industry, Paula Goppee-Scoon, in welcoming the staging of CIF 2022, said it is truly a regional event.

The speakers will include the Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Wamkele Mene, the founding managing partner of Celesta Capital, Nicholas Brathwaite, as well as the executive director of Invest SVG, Annette Mark, and the President and Group Chief Executive Officer of Massy Holdings, Gervase Warner. (CMC)

cont’d from pg 12

some victories for Spacey, who has recently been acting in films again.

In 2019, prosecutors in Massachusetts dropped indecent assault and battery charges filed after a man said Spacey groped him at a

Nantucket bar. Spacey said he was innocent. His accuser also dropped a civil lawsuit.

Spacey won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in “American Beauty,” a 1999 film in which he played a frustrated subur-

ban father who lusts after his teenage daughter’s best friend.

Rapp, who as a teenager acted in films including “Adventures in Babysitting,” was part of the original Broadway cast of “Rent,” and is now a regular

on “Star Trek: Discovery” on television. He is also expected to testify at the trial.

Other witnesses will include a psychologist who believes Rapp experiences post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the encounter with Spacey.



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Guyana to seek investors for oil refinery

The Guyana government announced that it will be seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from the private sector for the construction of a small modular oil refinery with a capacity of 30,000 barrels per day to satisfy local fuel demand.

“We are looking at the launch of an expression of interest for a 30,000-barrel refinery. This expression of interest will be launched soon,” President Dr. Irfaan Ali said at the formal unveiling of the ISO Standard for the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest).

President Ali said his government is intent on creating an enabling investment environment and that the GO-Invest is instrumental in this regard.

The government had said previously it would support a privately developed oil refinery in Guyana but had been receiving numerous proposals for small refineries, including six proposals for a refinery in Berbice.



Guyana's president, Dr. Irfaan Ali

GO-Invest chief executive officer, Peter Ramsaroop said the government hoped to possibly build the refinery near a river in Berbice but with newer technologies, it is hoped that such a facility would minimise emissions.

“I think it is very important for Guyana to look at how it can sustain itself in the long term and I think the refinery is just one more step of us

looking at our needs in the near future,” Ramsaroop told reporters.

Guyana recently ordered the reduction of gasoline and diesel prices by double-digit percent to ease the pass-through of fuel prices on goods and services.

The country is expected to produce almost one million barrels of oil per day in another three years.



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Toddler mauled to death by Pit Bull in Nevis

The Royal St. Christopher and Nevis Police Force (RSCNPF) is investigating the death of a 3-year-old who was mauled to death by a Pit Bull mixed breed dog on Wednesday.

According to police, the child was attacked by the dog in Gingerland, Nevis after he wandered off into the backyard of the family home where several dogs were tied.

One of the dogs savagely attacked the child causing severe injuries to several parts of his body.

The child was discovered



after the attack by a member of the family who was at home at the time of the attack.

Other family members were also inside the home at the time the child was being mauled to death.

The toddler was rushed to the Alexandra Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The half-breed Pit Bull was destroyed by police following the attack on Wednesday.

day.

The RSCNPF's Forensics Department collected evidence and is now investigating the incident.

An autopsy conducted on the child's body on Thursday by pathologist Dr. Adrian Nunez concluded that the child died due to severe injuries to his face and neck as a result of the attack.

While Pit Bulls are popular among some canine enthusiasts in St. Kitts and Nevis, the breed is listed among those prohibited from entering the country by law.

PM Ralph Gonsalves not denying or confirming US-Venezuela prisoner swap

CMC - Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves is neither denying nor confirming that the United States and Venezuela exchanged detained nationals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines last Saturday.

International media reported that Venezuela freed seven imprisoned Americans in exchange for the United States releasing two nephews of President Nicolás Maduro's wife who had been jailed for years on narcotics convictions. Gonsalves, who is also the Minister of National Security and Legal Affairs, was asked at a news conference on Tuesday whether the exchange took place at Argyle International Airport or in Canouan, in the Grenadines.

He was also asked to state when the island entered the negotiations as the exchange points and what qualified St. Vincent and the Grenadines as the most suitable neutral country for the exchange as well as whether it was the first time that the island had facilitated such an exchange. But Ralph Gonsalves, one of

the longest serving prime ministers in the region, told reporters that the policy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as encapsulated in its mantra, is "friends of all, we strive for a better world".

He said that any government which thinks that St. Vincent and the Grenadines may be "helpful in any matter to resolve or facilitate in the resolution of any conflict or difficulty" it is "always willing to help because we are friends of all". But he said St. Vincent and the Grenadines will never say what it is doing or not doing in any of these respects "unless it is necessary or desirable to do so in all the circumstances and with the consent and agreement of anyone in which we have been involved in any matter regarding peace, good relations between states, security, and progress." Given what I have just said, I will neither confirm nor deny what you particularly asked. I stated the general position of the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines," he added.

The Associated Press said that three



Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

people in Venezuela who were briefed on the matter had spoken on the condition of anonymity. The news agency said that the Americans included five oil executives held for nearly five years and that the exchange came after months of back-channel diplomacy by senior U.S. officials — secretive talks with a major oil producer that took on greater urgency after sanctions on Russia put pressure on global energy prices.

Woman swept away as heavy rains lash Trinidad and Tobago

LOOP - The search is continuing for a 44-year-old woman who is presumed dead after she was swept away while attempting to cross a ravine as heavy rains lashed the twin island republic on Wednesday.

The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) said that the Yellow Level alert issued as a result of the adverse weather would remain in place until midday on Friday. Police said that the woman, Teresa Lynch of La Pastora Village, Lopinot, located in the foothills of the Northern Range, was reportedly with her 45-year-

old brother and a third individual who were attempting to cross a ravine when she slipped into the rushing flood waters. Her two companions attempted to rescue her, but they encountered difficulties in the rising waters, and were unable to reach her.

The TTMS has warned that the adverse weather would be accompanied by "periods of rain and/or showers of varying intensities... as an active tropical wave traverses westward over our area." It said that there is also a 70 percent chance of heavy showers and thunderstorms that can produce intense rain-



fall in excess of 25mm and warned also of gusty winds in excess of 55 kilometres per hour. "Street/flash flooding and localised ponding are also likely in heavy downpours and seas can become agitated at times in sheltered areas. People are cautioned to watch for flying hazards

during gusty winds, while landslides/landslips are also possible in areas so prone. It said Thursday is expected to be "cloudy to overcast with periods of light to moderate showers and rain and a 70 to 80 percent chance of occasional heavy showers and thunderstorms".

Jamaica to enact legislation against Molly pills

CMC - The Jamaican government is to update its laws to combat the prevalence of methylenedioxy methamphetamine, commonly known as "Molly pills", to help eradicate the problem and hold perpetrators accountable.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness made the announcement at the National Security Council's (NSC) monthly meeting on Thursday, September 29. According to a statement by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) today, the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) presented to the council on the increased use of psychoactive substances and their deviant effects on young people, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly seen in tablet form (ecstasy) and crystal form (molly or mandy), is a potent central nervous system (CNS) stimulant primarily used



for recreational purposes. The desired effects include altered sensations, increased energy, empathy, and pleasure. When taken by mouth, effects begin in 30 to 45 minutes and last 3 to 6 hours.

Short-term adverse effects include grinding of the teeth, blurred vision, sweating and a rapid heartbeat, and extended use can also lead to addiction, memory problems, paranoia and difficulty sleeping.

Deaths have been reported due to increased body temperature and dehydra-

tion. It was noted that a recent situational assessment conducted by the NCDA in May revealed a growing trend in the use of 'Molly,' particularly among youth and young adults.

According to the NCDA, the drug's impact has resulted in increased socially risky and physically dangerous behaviour. The OPM said that Holness directed that the laws surrounding these psychoactive substances be amended to combat the harm they pose and hold the producers and traffickers of the substances accountable.

According to the OPM, the security council was also advised that, in addition to the risks linked to the psychoactive substance, the vast majority of drugs distributed on the market to unsuspecting users contain other harmful and toxic synthetic substances, which are known to have negative long-term effects on the human body.

Thailand attack: Ex-cop kills 22 children at daycare centre

Reuters - A former policeman killed 38 people, including 22 children, in a knife and gun rampage at a daycare centre in Thailand on Thursday, later shooting dead his wife and child at their home before turning his weapon on himself, police said.

The children at the daycare centre in Uthai Sawan, a town 500 km (310 miles) northeast of Bangkok, were mostly stabbed to death, they said. Police identified the attacker as a former member of the force who was dismissed from his post last year over drug allegations and he was facing trial on a drugs charge. The man had been in court earlier in the day and had then gone to the daycare centre to collect his child, police spokesperson Paisal Luesoboon told broadcaster ThaiPBS.

When he did not find his child there, he began the killing spree, Paisal said. "He started shooting, slashing, killing children at the Utai Sawan daycare centre," Paisal said. Videos posted on social media showed sheets covering what appeared to be the bodies of children lying in pools of blood in the garden of the daycare centre. Reuters could not immediately authenticate the footage.

About 30 children were at the facility when the attacker arrived, fewer than usual, as heavy rain had kept many people away, district official Jidapa Boonsom, who was working in a nearby office at the time. "The shooter came in around lunch time and shot four or five officials at the childcare centre first," Jidapa told Reuters.

At first people thought the shots were fireworks, she said.

"It's really shocking. We were very scared and running to hide once we knew it was shooting. So many children got killed, I've never seen



People gather outside of a daycare centre's scene of a mass shooting in the town of Uthai Sawan, 500 km (310 miles) northeast of Bangkok in the province of Nong Bua Lamphu, Thailand October 6, 2022. Sakdipat Boonsom/Handout via REUTERS.

anything like it."The attacker forced his way into a locked room where the children were sleeping, Jidapa said. She said she thought he killed children there with a knife, adding that a teacher who was eight months pregnant was also stabbed to death.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha, in a statement on Facebook, called the shooting a "shocking incident".

"I have ordered the police chief to travel to the scene immediately to take necessary actions and all involved parties to provide immediate relief to all affected people," he said in the statement. Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan will travel to Uthai Sawan to visit the scene on Thursday, his office said. By afternoon, officials stood guarding the front entrance to the daycare centre, a pink, one-story building surrounded by a lawn and small palm trees. In a gazebo nearby, anxious-looking people gathered,

waiting mostly in silence for news. One woman could be heard weeping.

"He (attacker) was already stressed and when he couldn't find his child he got more stressed and started shooting," police spokesperson Paisal told broadcaster ThaiPBS, adding that the man had then driven home and killed his wife and child there before taking his own life. Gun laws are strict in Thailand, where possession of an illegal firearm carries a prison sentence of up to 10 years. But ownership is high compared with some other countries in Southeast Asia. Illegal weapons, many brought in from strife-torn neighbouring countries, are common.

Police said, however, that the gun used in the shooting had been obtained legally.

Mass shootings in Thailand remain rare, although in 2020, a soldier angry over a property deal gone sour killed at least 29 people and wounded 57 in a rampage that spanned four locations.

N. Korea flies warplanes near S. Korea after missile launches

AP - North Korea flew 12 warplanes near its border with South Korea on Thursday, prompting the South to scramble 30 military aircraft in response, Seoul officials said. The highly unusual incident came hours after North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the sea in its sixth round of missile tests in less than two weeks. Eight North Korean fighter jets and four bombers flew in formation and were believed to have conducted air-to-surface firing drills, South Korea's military said. The military said South Korea responded by scrambling 30 fighter jets and other warplanes, though they didn't engage in any clash with the North Korean aircraft.

The North Korean planes were probably dozens of kilometres away from the border, South Korean media said. North Korea has previously sent military aircraft near the border, but Yonhap news agency said this is likely the first time it has mobilised so many warplanes for such a provocative flight and firing exercises. Tensions have risen sharply on the Korean Peninsula as North Korea's recent barrage of missile tests prompted South Korea, the United States and Japan to conduct joint drills in response.

Earlier Thursday, North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles to-



In this image taken from video, South Korean Air Force's F15K fighter jets prepare to take off Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, in an undisclosed location in South Korea. South Korea says North Korea flew 12 warplanes near their mutual border on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, prompting South Korea to scramble 30 military planes in response. (South Korean Defence Ministry via AP)

ward its eastern waters. The launches came after the United States redeployed an aircraft carrier near the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's launch of a nuclear-capable missile over Japan earlier this week.

North Korea has conducted a record number of missile tests this year. South Korean officials said the North may further raise tensions by testing an intercontinental ballistic missile or conducting its first nuclear test explosion since 2017, following an old pattern of heightening animosities before trying to wrest outside concessions.

Some experts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is determined to expand his nuclear arsenal in defiance of international sanctions. They say North Korea's goal is to eventually win recognition as a legitimate nuclear

state from the United States and the lifting of sanctions, though Washington and its allies have shown no sign of doing so.

The latest missiles were launched 22 minutes apart from North Korea's capital region and landed between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. The first missile flew 350 kilometres (217 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 80 kilometres (50 miles) and the second flew 800 kilometres (497 miles) with an apogee of 60 kilometres (37 miles).

Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the second missile was possibly launched on an "irregular" trajectory. It is a term that has been used to describe the flight characteristics of a North Korean weapon mod-

elled after Russia's Iskandar missile, which travels at low altitudes and is designed to be manoeuvrable in flight to improve its chances of evading missile defences.

U.S., South Korean and Japanese destroyers launched joint drills later Thursday off the Korean Peninsula's east coast to hone their abilities to search, track and intercept North Korean ballistic missiles, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The U.S. destroyer is part of the strike group led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, which returned to the waters in what South Korea's military called an attempt to demonstrate the allies' "firm will" to counter North's continued provocations and threats. The strike group was in the area last week as part of previous drills between South Korea and the United States, and the allies' other training involving Japan. North Korea considers such U.S.-led drills near the peninsula as an invasion rehearsal and views training involving a U.S. carrier more provocative.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida spoke by phone Thursday and agreed that North Korea's recent missile tests are "a serious, grave provocation" that threatens international peace, according to Yoon's office. Kishida said

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Gambia urgently recalls syrups blamed for 66 child deaths

AP - Gambia has launched an urgent door-to-door campaign to remove cough and cold syrups blamed for the deaths of more than 60 children from kidney injury in the tiny West African country. Speaking to The Associated Press, the Director of Health Dr. Mustapha Bittaye confirmed the wave of child deaths from acute kidney injury, sending shockwaves across the country of 2.4 million people and around the world.

The U.N.'s World Health Organization has issued an alarm in response to the deaths, saying it had been working with Gambia's government to investigate the cause of the cases and deaths since August. "WHO has issued a medical product alert for four contaminated medicines identified in The Gambia that have been potentially linked to acute kidney injuries and 66 deaths among children," WHO Direc-

tor-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday. "The loss of young lives is beyond heartbreaking for their families." The four medicines are cough and cold syrups produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited in India, WHO said. While the contaminated products have so far only been detected in Gambia, they may have been distributed to other countries, WHO said. The U.N. health agency said it is pursuing investigations with the company and regulatory authorities in India.

"WHO recommends all countries detect and remove these products from circulation to prevent further harm to patients," it said. Teaming up with the Gambia Red Cross Society, the Ministry of Health has dispatched hundreds of young people to collect the suspect syrups through a house-to-house campaign.

Gambia's Medical Re-



Gambia's Medical Research Council has also issued an alarm. Tom Le Goff / Getty Images file.

search Council has also issued an alarm. "Over the last week, we admitted a child with this condition (acute kidney injury) ... and she has unfortunately died. We were able to confirm that she had taken one of the drugs that is suspected to be causing this, prior to her arrival at our clinic. It had been bought at a pharmacy within The Gambia," the council said in a statement. "The drug has been identified as containing a significant amount of a toxin which damages kidneys irreversibly."

In India, the federal reg-

ulator and the state regulator of northern Haryana state are conducting an inquiry into the contaminated medicines. Of the 23 samples tested, four had so far been found to be contaminated and India is waiting for the analysis to be shared with it, said an Indian health official who spoke on condition of anonymity since they were not authorised to speak to the media. Phone calls to the headquarters of Maiden Pharmaceuticals went unanswered. Neither India's health ministry nor the federal regulator responded to queries from the AP.

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the two reaffirmed the importance of the deterrence capability of the Japan-U.S. and South Korean-U.S. alliances, as well as security cooperation among the three countries. Moon Hong Sik, a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesperson, said North Korea's accelerating tests also reflect an urgency to meet Kim Jong Un's arms development goals. Kim last year described an extensive wish list of advanced nuclear weapons systems, including more powerful ICBMs, multi-warhead missiles, underwater-launched

nuclear missiles and tactical nuclear arms.

On Tuesday, North Korea staged its most provocative weapons demonstration since 2017, firing an intermediate-range missile over Japan, forcing the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and halt trains. Experts said the weapon was likely a Hwasong-12 missile capable of reaching the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and beyond. Other weapons tested in recent days included Iskandar-like missiles and other ballistic weapons designed to strike key

targets in South Korea, including U.S. military bases there.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday that the redeployment of the Reagan strike group poses "a serious threat to the stability of the situation on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity." The ministry said it strongly condemns U.S.-led efforts at the U.N. Security Council to tighten sanctions on the North over its recent missile testing, which it described as a "just counteraction" to joint U.S.-South Korean drills.

World ranking rejects last-minute LIV Golf bid for points

AP - The Official World Golf Ranking won't be awarding points to LIV Golf events this year, denying the MENA Tour's request to immediately add the Saudi-funded series to its schedule.

The OWGR said in a statement Thursday the MENA Tour did not give it sufficient notice and there would not be time to finish the review ahead of the LIV Golf Invitational in Bangkok that starts Friday or the event in Saudi Arabia next week.

In a move that indicates how quickly LIV Golf wants world ranking points for its 48-man fields, it created an alliance with the little-known MENA Tour, which hasn't run a tournament of its own since March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MENA Tour stands for Middle East and North Africa and is a developmental tour that has been getting the bare minimum of world ranking points since 2016.

It has 54-hole events with a 36-hole cut, offering a \$75,000 purse. LIV Golf events have a \$20 million purse for 54-hole events with no cut.

The MENA Tour now is aligned with the Asian Development Tour, a step below the Asian Tour. LIV Golf already has invested \$300 million in the Asian



LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman, left, stands with the 4 Aces GC team, from left, Talor Gooch, Captain Dustin Johnson, Patrick Reed and Pat Perez, after winning the team's fourth straight tournament at the LIV Golf Invitational-Chicago tournament Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022, in Sugar Hill, Ill. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

Tour, creating an "International Series" that began this year.

The OWGR said it now is reviewing "significant changes" to the MENA Tour's membership structure and schedule.

The MENA Tour not only submitted LIV Golf's next two tournaments as part of its schedule, it said all LIV Golf players — such as Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson and Brooks Koepka — have joined the MENA Tour.

The OWGR said it would wait until the review is complete before deciding whether to award points to the MENA Tour's new "Limited Field Tournaments."

It said the MENA defined that as "any MENA Tour-approved event" of fewer than 80 players.

Meanwhile, the OWGR

said regular MENA Tour events will still get points.

That won't be the case for LIV Golf this year. After the events in Bangkok and Saudi Arabia, the last tournament is only for teams. Bryson DeChambeau and Harold Varner III are among those that appear certain to fall out of the top 50 by the end of the year, meaning they likely would have no path to play in the Masters and would have to go through qualifying for two other majors.

None of the majors has yet to say whether LIV Golf has caused them to change their criteria for next year.



Sports News



Joseph and Cariah make impact as first match goes down to the wire

CWI - In an enthralling first encounter, West Indies and Australia went toe to toe as the T20I series got off to a thrilling start on Wednesday night at the Metricon Stadium in the Gold Coast. A determined West Indies matched every play against the T20 world champions but missed opportunities in the outfield in the last over led to a three-wicket defeat.

The contest was in the balance throughout and came down to the final ball. With Australia starting the final over requiring 11 runs, in pursuit of 146 for victory, but two fielding errors allowed the home team to win with a ball to spare. Sent in, West Indies made 145-9 from 20 overs, on a lively surface as the left-handed Kyle Mayers top-scored with 39 off 36 balls. Mayers hit five fours and a six – a sensational back foot drive which sailed over the extra-cover boundary and into the top deck of the grand



stand.

Odean Smith arrived in the lower order and hit 27 off 17 balls with three fours and a six which helped the visitors to manufacture 48 runs from the last five overs. Fast bowlers Alzarri Joseph (2-17) and Sheldon Cottrell (2-49) accounted for early wickets in Australia's reply, as the home side slumped to 21-2 at the end of the second

over. Leg-spinner Yannic Cariah, on debut, demonstrated great control and got the crucial wicket of Glenn Maxwell to a skier at extra cover. He produced a spell of 4-0-15-1 – which included 13 dot balls.

Man-of-the-Match Aaron Finch had earlier laid the platform for the successful chase with a critical 58 from 53 balls, in a 69-run, sixth

wicket partnership with Matthew Wade, who finished unbeaten on 39 from 29 balls.

The two teams will now make a short journey to Brisbane for the second and final match of this shot series. They will meet at the historic Gabba on Friday night. First ball is 6:10pm local time (4:10am Eastern Caribbean/3:10am Jamaica).

Anjo Wholesale maintain second best record in Business League

Anjo Wholesale maintained the second best record in the competition by beating Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew 85-56 in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

Playing in the feature game of Wednesday evening's triple header,

Humroy Wright shot a game high 37 points to lead Anjo Wholesale to their seventh win in eight encounters.

Steven Matthew contributed 18 points and Iornie Joseph chipped in with 11 for the victors.

Daysher Samuel had 15 points, while Javier Tony and Aiden Joseph each contributed 10 points for Fearless Crew who slumped to their

eighth defeat in 10 outings.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre notched up their fifth win in 10 outings by recording a 55-41 victory against the Board of Education in Wednesday's opening encounter.

Baldwin Anthony Jr. top scored with 21 points and veteran point guard Nigel Joseph chipped in with

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Fan who caught Aaron Judge's 62nd HR offered \$2M for ball

AP - The owner of a sports memorabilia auction house says he has offered \$2 million to the fan who caught Aaron Judge's American League-record 62nd home run.

JP Cohen, president of Memory Lane Inc. in Tustin, California, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he has texted and emailed Cory Youmans, the man who caught Judge's milestone shot Tuesday night at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. Cohen says Youmans has not yet replied. "I feel the offer is way above fair, if he is inclined to sell it," Cohen said in a telephone interview with the AP on Wednesday. Youmans grabbed the historic souvenir on the fly as it sailed into the front row of section 31 in left field. The homer pushed Judge past Roger Maris for the AL season record — a mark many consider baseball's "clean" standard because the only National League players who hit more have been tarnished by ties to steroids.

Youmans, who is from Dallas, works in the financial world. He was asked Tuesday what he planned to do with the prize while security personnel whisked him away to have it authenticated.

"Good question. I haven't thought



Fans reach for a foul ball by New York Yankees' Aaron Judge during the second inning in the second baseball game of a doubleheader against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

about it," he said. The record price for a home run ball is \$3 million, paid for Mark McGwire's record 70th from the 1998 season.

Cohen had previously pledged to offer \$2 million for Judge's 62nd homer. He said his company has a good relationship with the Yankees and it would be willing to loan the ball to the team for an exhibit. He added the team has frequently exhibited items owned by Memory Lane at Yankee Stadium. "We did make an offer of \$2 million

and that offer is still valid," Cohen said.

After the Yankees lost 3-2, Judge said he didn't have possession of the home run ball. "I don't know where it's at," he said. "We'll see what happens with that. It would be great to get it back, but that's a souvenir for a fan. He made a great catch out there, and they've got every right to it." Youmans was among the crowd of 38,832, the largest to watch a baseball game at the 3-year-old ballpark.

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15 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Bruce Whyte sank 16 points and Raymond Dickenson converted 12 points for the Board of Education who suffered their fourth loss in eight encounters.

Vendors recorded their fifth win in nine games by snatching a hard-fought 60-55 victory against Sledge

O'Ballers in Wednesday's second encounter.

Azandi Thomas sank 17 points and Adrian Carnegie produced 15 points for the Vendors, while Percy Adams scored 13 points, Adissa "Ras I" Harris had 12 points and Steadroy Graham converted 11 points for Sledge O'Ballers, who slipped to their fifth loss in eight outings.

No games are slated to be played today but the Business Basketball League will resume with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex tomorrow (Saturday).

Sledge O'Ballers will face Sandals Antigua at 6:30 pm, Fitzroy Rewinding will challenge Anjo Wholesale at 7:30 pm and the Antigua and Barbu-

da Transport Board will clash with Graphic Impact Shooters at 8:30 pm.

In Sunday's triple header at the same venue, Graphic Impact Shooter will meet the Vendors at 6:30 pm, Mill Reef will clash with Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew at 7:30 pm and the Board of Education will oppose Galley Bay at 8:30 pm.



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Nepal spinner Sandeep Lamichhane arrested after rape accusations

BBC - Nepal spinner Sandeep Lamichhane was arrested on Thursday almost a month after a court issued a warrant over the alleged rape of a 17-year-old girl. Lamichhane, 22, was taken into custody after landing at Kathmandu airport in Nepal, local police told Reuters.

He said on Facebook he was returning to cooperate with the investigation and has denied any wrongdoing. Lamichhane is Nepal's most high-profile cricketer, having played in Australia's Big Bash and the Indian Premier League. He was suspended as Nepal captain last month following the rape accusations.

The warrant was issued by a Nepalese court on 8 September while Lamichhane was at the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). A day later he

tweeted to say he was leaving the CPL and would return to Nepal.

On 25 September, he issued a further statement having not returned, and after this Nepalese police said they had sought help from Interpol with a "diffusion" notice asking member countries for their co-operation in bringing Lamichhane back to the country to face charges.

"News of the arrest warrant issued against me made me mentally disturbed. I could not think what to do and what not to do," Lamichhane said.

"My health condition is gradually improving and I am planning to return to Nepal as soon as possible to vehemently fight back [against the allegations]."

He arrived in Kathmandu on a flight from Doha on Thursday.



Lamichhane has played 74 times for Nepal in Twenty20 and one-day international cricket. He has played for both the St. Kitts Nevis Patriots and Jamaica Tallawahs in the Hero CPL franchise.

Business Volleyball League to serve off with Ballorama

The 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League will commence with an opening ceremony and Ballorama at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex tomorrow (Saturday).

The event will commence at 6:30 pm with a brief opening ceremony, which will be shortly followed by the Ballorama, which will be conducted on a knockout format.

One of the coordinators of the ABAVA Business Volleyball League, Emroy Lee, said tomorrow's Ballorama

is geared towards providing the participating teams with a warm-up competition prior to the start of the league championship during the middle of next week.

"Pretty much everything is ready. We will have a little pre-season warm-up in the form of a Ballorama. It's just a mini tournament just to get the teams ready to play in the league," Lee said.

"It will be a simple knockout tournament. Each game will last for a duration of 10 minutes utilizing a running clock and the team with the most points at the end of the time will be declared the

winner."

Fourteen teams will be participating in this year's Business Volleyball League, including the 2019 champions APUA Inet, which won the title in 2019, the last time the competition was held due to the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Also contesting this year's event are the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), Friends & Family of Island Academy (FFIA), the Department of Treasury, the Inland Revenue Department, 77 Bus and Media.

The rest of the partici-

pants are Police, Sandals, MEDSO, which is a collaborative team from the Medical Benefit Scheme and Social Security, Zammine, Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), Icons and Nate's.

The league will serve-off with the opening double-header at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA on Wednesday, 12th October.

Zammine will tackle Icons in the opening encounter at 6:30 pm and MEDSO will clash with Nate's at 7:30 pm.

2022 National Domino Season opens this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) will commence its 2022 season with an opening ceremony and a Pullorama competition tomorrow (Saturday).

The event will be held at the ABNDA's headquarters at the old Ottos School, just opposite the Wesleyan Holiness Church, Ottos at 7:30 pm.

Public Relations Officer of the ABNDA, Carol Faye Bynoe said, "We are happy to announce that on Saturday will be the opening of the national domino season for 2022. On Saturday, we will be hosting our opening ceremony and then we will have a pullorama.

"Then on Thursday, 13th October, we will start our first competition for the season."

President of the ABNDA, Sheldon Gomes said all 10 affiliated clubs will be taking part in this season's competitions.

He said registration is ongoing and other interested teams will have until Wednesday, 12th October, to register for this season's tournaments.

"The registration of the teams must be done by Wednesday, 12th October, so that we can have everything in place to start our competitions the following

day," Gomes said.

"We have 10 affiliated clubs, but when it comes to the three-hand competition, we will have about 18 to 20 teams competing. We will be staging eight different competitions, including four-hand, three-hand, classics and king and queen dominoes.

"Every week we will have a tournament leading up to the end of the year," Gomes said.

Bynoe said tomorrow's pullorama, which is open to the general public, will be used as a fund-raiser for the National Domino Association.

"The pullorama is not restricted to the domino players who are registered with the association. It's a fundraiser but it is also a fun thing," Bynoe said.

"Anyone can pay about 10 dollars to enter and there are prizes to be won. It is a three-hand competition and each person will play for points and at the end, the person with the most points will be declared the winner."

Antigua and Barbuda is the current world domino champions, having won back to titles in the biennial competitions in 2016 and 2018.

Antigua and Barbuda was slated to host the World Domino Tourna-



President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association, Sheldon Gomes. (Photo courtesy Sheldon Gomes)

ment in 2020, but due the Covid-19 Pandemic, the tournament was postponed until next year.

Gomes said Antigua and Barbuda is making plans to compete in the next World Domino Tournament, which will be hosted in Guyana in 2023.

"The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association is the current two-peat world champions.

"We won back to back tournaments in 2016 and 2018. We were hoping to

do a three-peat in 2020, but the pandemic came in and we had to put back everything," Gomes said.

"But next year is when we are going to have the next world tournament and so we are planning to practice and make all the necessary preparations so we can three-peat in 2023."

Bynoe added, "Even though we are starting our season late, we will still have about nine months to prepare for the world tournament in Guyana in August next year."

PMS to meet AGHS in school girls' knockout final

Princess Margaret School (PMS) will be facing the Antigua Girls' High School in this year's Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Knockout Football final.

Goals by three national Under-15 players, Gabrielle De Suza, K'neice Browne and Ajahna Martin propelled Princess Margaret to an emphatic 8-0 drubbing of Ottos Comprehensive School in their semi-final at the PMS playing field on Wednesday, 5th October.

De Suza scored four goals, while both Browne and Martin each scored twice for PMS.

Antigua Girls' High School, who defeated Clare Hall Secondary 2-0 on penalties after their quarter-final match finished deadlocked at 0-0 at the end of regulation on Friday, 30th September, received a bye into the final when the draw was conducted.

However, the date, time and venue for the secondary school girls' knockout final between AGHS and PMS is yet to be decided by the organizers.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Sports has made a decision to disqualify the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) from the school boys' division knockout football final.

ABICE had received a bye into the final after defeating Irene B. Williams Secondary 8-7 on penalties after both teams were tied 2-2 at the end of regulation in their quarter-final match at the Police Recreation Grounds on 4th October.

According to a media release from the Ministry of Sports, "The Irene B. Williams School has protested the quarter-final match played on Tuesday, 4th October, 2022, vs ABICE on the grounds of ineligibility of a player, Dillon Martin.

The Ministry has investigated the

matter and found Dillon Martin, who played as a substitute in the match, was born on October 22nd, 2002. ABICE would have breached rule (2) of the 2022 School Football Rules which states; Eligibility, U-20 Boys - Born on or after 1st January, 2003. Should not be 20yrs in 2022.

"Hence, ABICE has forfeited the match to Irene B. Williams who now becomes the new school boys' knockout finalist."

Antigua Grammar School (AGS) and Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) will meet in the semi-final to decide the other boys' knockout finalists.

Both teams recorded wins in their respective quarter-final matches on Tuesday, 4th October, to set up their semi-final clash, which will be played on a date and at a venue yet to be decided by the

organizers.

Antigua Grammar defeated All Saints Secondary 2-0 at PMS, while Ottos Comprehensive School beat St. Mary's Secondary School 4-0 at King George V playing field in Grays Farm on Tuesday.

The 2022 Secondary Schools' League competition will continue in the Under-20 Boys' Division today (Friday) with the opening round of matches in the West Zone at 3 pm.

Antigua Grammar School will tackle Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field, defending champions Ottos Comprehensive will meet Antigua State College at King George V in Grays Farm and St. Mary's Secondary School will face Princess Margaret School at the Princess Margaret School playing field.



MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORKSHOP FOR NON-CLINICIANS

October 19th-November 9th
Wednesdays 5:30pm-630pm
The National Public Library

Facilitators:
Founder and Holistic Psychotherapist, Cerene Prince, MSW, LCSW
Resident Psychologist, Tia Phillip, MSC



Mental Health Peer (MHP) Workshop is a psychoeducational workshop for persons who are not mental health professionals. The MHP Workshop's goal is to equip you with a mental health toolkit to help support your family and community.

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Cornwall slams double century in Atlanta Open T20 League

Antiguan and Leeward Islands all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall, who plays for the West Indies in international cricket, has scored an unbeaten double century in T20 cricket.

Playing for Atlanta Fire in the Atlanta Open T20 League, Cornwall amassed 205 not out off 77 balls, striking 22 sixes and 17 fours, against the bowling attack of Square Drive on Wednesday, 5th October.

The 6 feet 6-inches tall Antiguan cricketer completed his double hundred by hitting a six off the last ball of the Atlanta Fire's innings of 326 for one in 20 overs.

Sami Aslam struck 53 not out off 29 balls with seven fours and three sixes and opener Steven Taylor also made 53 off 18 balls with five fours and five sixes.

In reply, Square Drive were restricted to 154 for eight in their 20 overs, losing by 172 runs. Yashwant Balaji top scored with 38 off 22 balls and Varun Sai Mantha made 36 off 22 balls.

Justin Dill grabbed four for 14 and Amila Aponso picked up two for 42.



Antiguan and Leeward Islands all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall, who plays for the West Indies in international cricket, scored an unbeaten double century for Atlanta Fire in the Atlanta Open T20 League on Wednesday, 5th October, 2022. (Reuters)

Cornwall recently claimed that he is a 360-degree player and likes to go after the bowlers.

In 66 T20 matches, he has scored 1,146 runs at a strike rate of 147.49.

However, it was not the first time that a batter

scored a double ton in T20 cricket. Delhi's Subodh Bhati became the first player to score a double century in a club T20 game.

He scored 205 not out in 79 balls, hitting 17 sixes and 17 fours.

In 2013, former West

Indies batsman Chris Gayle scored 175 not out for Royal Challenger Bangalore in the Indian Premier League.

The highest T20 International score is by Australian Aaron Finch, who hit 172 against Zimbabwe in the 2018 tri-series.