



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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PM IN BAHAMAS FOR 44TH CARICOM HEADS MEETING

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Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas during the tour of the LNG Power Plant on Tuesday. *Story on page 4.*

PM Browne leads delegation to 44th Meeting of CARICOM Heads

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in Nassau, The Bahamas for the 44th Meeting of CARICOM Heads which begins today.

Several critical issues to the region will be up for discussion, including climate change, climate finance and the situation in Haiti.

Ahead of the meeting, Foreign Affairs Minister and Chairman of the Council of Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR), E. P. Chet Greene, will chair a meeting of the body and present a report of their discussions to the heads of government.

Other issues on the meeting's agenda include an update on COVID-19 and other emerging health issues, the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, agriculture and security issues.

While in the Bahamas, the prime minister will also engage with Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and participate in a roundtable with United States Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian Nichols, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry,

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne

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Court denies injunction; Kelvin Simon to be sworn in Friday

The United Progressive Party’s Kelvin Simon will be sworn in on Friday as a member of the House of Representatives.

This is the latest development in the unfolding saga over the legitimacy of Simon’s nomination on 28th December, 2022 ahead of general elections last month.

On Tuesday, the High Court denied an application for an injunction by St. Mary’s constituent, Casworth Aaron, who filed a legal petition which attempted to bar Simon from being sworn in as a member of Parliament and have the court determine whether the former school counselor was properly nominated and elected as he was a civil servant at the time of his nomination.

Aaron and his legal team, led by Hugh Marshall Jr., argue that Simon was in breach of Section 10(1) of



Kelvin "Shugy" Simon

the Civil Service Act and Section 39(1)(g) of the Constitution Order of Antigua and Barbuda which broadly state that civil servants cannot run for elected positions in government, nor should they actively participate in partisan political activities.

While Simon produced a letter of resignation that was submitted to the Public Service Commission, Aaron and his lawyers con-

tend that it was improperly submitted and received no response from the commission as at the date of Simon’s nomination.

Marshall has indicated his intent to subpoena a member of the Public Service Commission who can testify to Simon’s employment status with the government when he was nominated in December.

Upon refusing the in-

junction application, the Court then proceeded to give directions for the hearing of the substantive matter, with the next date for court appearance being 24th April 2023, when counsel for both sides will appear before the Court to set a date for the substantive hearing of the matter.

The other application relates to a subpoena for a Public Officer who can speak to the status of employment of Simon as at the date of nomination, 28th December 2022.

Hugh Marshall Jr. is joined by Andrea Smithen-Henry, both of Marshall & Co., are legal counsel for the Petitioner, Casworth Aaron.

Kelvin “Shugy” Simon is represented by Kendrickson Kentish of Lake & Kentish, Harold Lovell, Charlesworth Tabor, Chaku Symister and Sherrie-Ann Bradshaw.

cont’d from pg 2

Special Presidential Advisor for the Americas, Chris-

topher Dodd and President and CEO of the Export – Import Bank of the United

States, Reta Jo Lewis.

The leaders will also engage in a video confer-

ence with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and discuss the Bridgetown initiative for the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture.

Prime Minister Browne, who is accompanied by Minister of Housing, Works and Urban Renewal, Maria Browne, and Ambassador Dr. Clarence Henry, returns to Antigua and Barbuda on Thursday.

<p>Wed 15 Day</p> <p>80° </p> <p>Abundant sunshine. High near 80F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>		<p>Wed 15 Night</p> <p>73° </p> <p>Mainly clear skies. Low 73F. Winds ENE at 10 to 20 mph.</p>	
<p>17% </p> <p>ENE 13 mph</p>	<p>22% </p> <p>ENE 14 mph</p>	<p>Humidity 72%</p> <p>UV Index 10 of 10</p>	<p>Humidity 80%</p> <p>UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p>Sunrise 6:33 am</p> <p>Sunset 6:09 pm</p>	<p>Moonrise 2:01 am</p> <p>Moonset 1:17 pm</p> <p>Waning Crescent</p>		

APCL, APUA pleased with progress of LNG power plant

Work is progressing smoothly on the new US\$50 million Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) power plant now under construction at the Crabbes Peninsula.

That update was provided during a tour of the facility on Tuesday led by utilities minister, Melford Nicholas.

Also part of the tour were representatives of Antigua Power Company Ltd. (APCL), including its chairman, Francis Hadeed and Chief Executive Officer, Calid Hassad.

Hadeed said the project is one of the largest undertakings of its kind in Antigua and Barbuda, as it involves the installation of a new 40-megawatt power plant that will use LNG instead of diesel to generate electricity.

The project is more impressive, as upon its completion, it will also serve as an LNG terminal that will supply the power plant, cruise ships and other LNG power plants in the sub-region.

“Antigua and Barbuda will be the only country in the sub-region that will be able to supply and distribute LNG.

“This plant is like no other in the area; it will be powered by LNG and Antigua and Barbuda stands to benefit by having this LNG plant.



APCL Chairman, Francis Hadeed, responds to reporters' questions during a tour of the LNG Power Plant on Tuesday

“For example, most of the cruise ships are now using LNG to provide electricity and we will be able to supply them right here in Antigua. This is a plus for us,” he remarked.

He disclosed that APCL is partnering with Eagle LNG which is based in Houston, Texas, to construct the LNG terminal which has the full support of the US Embassy in Barbados.

“We are very proud of what we have been able to achieve, and I must say, for an Antigua and Barbuda company to bid on this project against heavyweights like Shell, Total, Natural Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, yet due to our

performance and our prices, we were able to come out on top,” he stated.

Hadeed said the power plant is earmarked for completion in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Meanwhile, Minister Nicholas said the new LNG Power Plant marks a “step-change” in the government’s goal to wean the country off its reliance on carbon producing, heavy fuel power generation in favour of more environmentally friendly LNG and renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

“At the recent United Nations COP27 meeting, the government gave a commitment that by 2030, as

much as 30 percent of the electricity would be generated by renewables as we move to reducing our carbon footprint.

“This new plant will soon generate much of our electricity and it will do so at a much cleaner rate than the other fossil fuel,” he explained.

Minister Nicholas noted that the government is mindful of the growing need for electricity with new hotel plants coming on stream and the construction of several housing developments.

This, he said, necessitates significant investment in power generation to meet the country’s growing demand for electricity.

Reward offered for information on missing man

An EC\$5,000 reward is being offered for information that will help determine the whereabouts of George “Murphy” James of New Winthorpes.

Tuesday marked one week since the 71-year-old vanished after leaving his friend’s coal kiln off Old Parham Road.

On the day he was last seen, James left his home at around 6:30am, in the company of a friend, to assist in retrieving the coal from a kiln located near the mangrove between Parham Town and Weirs.

According to his friend, James left shortly after arriving at the kiln to visit the beach.

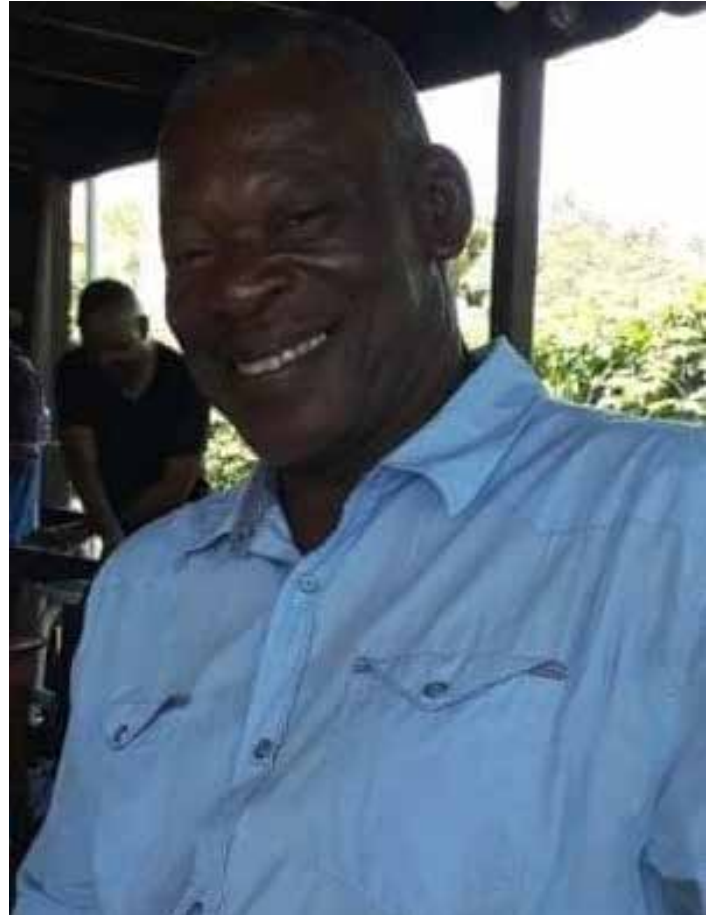
He has not been seen since. Lending support to the family of the elderly man,

Member of Parliament for St. Peter, Asot Michael, has offered to fund the reward that will be released to anyone who can provide “tangible information” to James’ relatives and the police about his whereabouts.

Several searches have been conducted in the hope of locating James, who reportedly suffers from dementia.

For more than five hours on Saturday, a search party led by the police combed New Winthorpes, Pares Village and Osbourn, but came up empty handed.

Residents who may have any information about the whereabouts of George “Murphy” James are asked to call his relatives on 726-5787, 717- 7702, or contact the nearest police station.



George “Murphy” James

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Government wants more middle hotel sector jobs

Top government officials are concerned that there is a dearth of middle level job opportunities in the private sector, but this scarcity is most evident, they believe, in the hotel industry.

Information Minister Melford Nicholas, who raised the issue, said this imbalance is a major reason many young Antiguan and Barbudans look to the government for employment rather than seeking employment in the private sector.

“We (the Cabinet) have discussed what we see as a structural problem facing the economy where there are not enough middle level jobs that are created in the private sector.

“Consequently, there is a great demand of persons who want to be accorded



Information Minister, Melford Nicholas

the status of a government employee. As a member of parliament [I] get the requests every day. So too, do my colleagues.

“We have invested significant sums of public funds to develop the hotel sector. We also subsidise airlines bringing additional airlifts into the country, and while the government

gets the room taxes charged to the guests, that is not enough,” he declared.

With this level of government support, Nicholas said the government’s expectation was that hotels would provide an environment that would create sustainable jobs.

As this has failed to manifest, the government’s

concern is growing as more and more people are shying away from employment in the hotel sector as the employment packages offered are often unattractive.

According to Nicholas, the resulting “enormous pressure” on the government to provide jobs has forced the need for consultations between the government and the hotel operators.

“We have to engage with our economic development partners in the hotels to look at wages and salaries that are being paid. The trade unions also have a role here to ensure an equitable distribution of the wealth that comes in from tourism. Somewhere along the way, things seem to have gone awry and this presents a problem for us as a country,” he remarked.



Former nurse faces more fraud charges

The former nurse who was charged with carrying out a scheme to sell COVID-19 vaccinations cards is facing more legal troubles.

Bolans resident, Jahmesha Millwood, again stands accused of committing fraud, this time by cashing two cheques at M&M Service Station.

According to the information available, Millwood allegedly presented the cheques to the Old Parham Road service station on 20th January, 2023 and, between them, received cash in the amount of \$2,200.00.

While the irregularities that raised the red flag were not disclosed, it is believed that the signature on the

cheques did not match that of the holder of the ACB Caribbean account.

M&M's financial controller made a report to the Criminal Investigation Department last Thursday.

It has since been disclosed that the cheques were stolen from a Crosbies resident.

Millwood, 30, is already before the court to answer two other fraud-related cases.

In 2022, it was discovered that Millwood allegedly sold twenty-one fake COVID-19 vaccination cards at a hefty price tag of \$1,000 each.

The scheme began in November 2021, when she was assigned to the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre vaccina-

tion outpost.

She was not charged with this crime until February, 2022.

Millwood was also stripped of her nursing licence pending the outcome of this matter.

She was granted bail in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Her troubles worsened when in June 2022, she was charged with seventeen counts of fraud for allegedly using the card of a former friend to make unauthorised purchases with her debit card.

Millwood was accused of making \$20,764.17 worth of online purchases using her victim's card while the two were in Jamaica in 2021 participating in a nursing



Jahmesha Millwood

programme at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Several items that corresponded to the unauthorised transactions were discovered at Millwood's Bolans home.

The mother of two was rearrested and charged in this matter.

This case is also open and before the court.



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LIVE

War for control of Haiti's capital targets women's bodies

By Megan Janetsky and Fernanda Pesce

Nadia hushes the crying 3-month-old baby swaddled in her arms, gently planting kisses on her forehead.

She was 19, not ready to be a mother. But the young Haitian's life changed when she was walking home from class on the dusty streets of a gang-controlled area of Haiti's capital last year.

She was dragged into a car by a group of men, blindfolded and kidnapped. For three days, she was beaten, starved and **cont'd on pg 9**



A woman who did not want to give her name for fear of retaliation poses for a photo during an interview at a clinic near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Jan. 20, 2023. The 36-year-old sent her two children to live with family in another part of the city after her husband was kidnapped and killed. Later, the men gang-raped her and forced her to flee her home. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

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gang-raped.

Months later, she learned that she was pregnant. In an instant, her dreams of studying and economically lifting her family dissolved.

As Haiti's toxic slate of gangs continue to plunder the crisis-stricken Caribbean nation, kidnapping, displacing and extorting civilians with nothing left to give, they are increasingly weaponizing women's bodies in their war for control.

Women like Nadia live with the consequences.

"The most difficult part is that I have nothing to give her," Nadia said of her daughter.

"I'm scared because as she gets older to ask about her father, I won't know what to tell her. ... But I will have to explain to her that I was raped."

The woman offered only the name of Nadia, which is not her real one, to The Associated Press, which does not identify survivors of sexual violence.

Long plagued by crisis - natural disasters, political turmoil, deep poverty and waves of cholera - Haiti spiralled into chaos after the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Sexual violence has long been used as an instrument of war around the world, a barbaric way to sow terror in communities and assert control.

"They're running out

of tools to control people," said Renata Segura, deputy director for Latin America and the Caribbean for the International Crisis Group.

"They extort, but there's only so much money that can be extorted from people that are really poor. This is the one thing they have they can inflict on the population."

That fear has rippled across Port-au-Prince. Parents hesitate to send their children to school, worried they could be kidnapped or raped by gangs. By night, the buzzing streets of the city are empty.

For women especially, going outside the house is a risk. So is fleeing: Gangs use the threat of rape to stop communities from abandoning the areas they control.

Helen La Lime, U.N. special envoy in Haiti, told the Security Council in late January that the gangs employ sexual violence to "destroy the social fabric of communities," particularly in zones controlled by rival gangs.

They rape girls and boys as young as 10, she said.

Compounding that is severe underreporting, making it difficult for any authority to grasp the full extent of the damage.

Women fear gangs will seek revenge on them and trust Haitian police just about as much.

The country's current government, which many view as illegitimate, de-

clined to comment on what it is doing to address the issue.

The U.N. documented 2,645 cases of sexual violence in 2022, a 45% increase from the year before.

That figure is just a fraction of the real number of assaults.

Nadia was among those who did not report.

She struggled over if she would keep the baby when she learned that she

was pregnant, but decided to give her daughter the best life that she could. In Port-au-Prince, a place already lacking in opportunity with high levels of poverty, it became impossible for the new mother to work or continue her studies.

Meanwhile doctors like Jovania Michel are trying to fill in the gaps.

Michel works in one of the only hospitals in Cite

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OAS Scholarship Application Announcement

The Organization of American States announces its 2023 call for scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate academic studies and graduate research.

More information can be obtained through the links listed below.

- Call for applications for Graduate Studies: https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/Academic_Program_OAS_2023.asp
- Call for applications for Undergraduate Studies: https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf_2023.asp
· Scholarship application form for Undergraduate Studies (last two years of a Bachelor's degree): <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1137&Type=1&Lang=Eng>
- Scholarship application form for Graduate Studies: <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1136&Type=1&Lang=Eng>

Deadline for submission of applications and accompanying documents to the Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is Friday 31st March, 2023.

The World Around Us



cont'd from pg 9

Soleil, the epicentre of the gang wars in Port-au-Prince.

There, she sees mothers who were gang-raped after their husbands were killed; sexual violence survivors living on the streets, unable to return home out of fear that it could happen again; and survivors suffering from sexually transmitted infections.

“Sexual violence is a way to paralyze, to scare people.

“The minute there’s an increase in sexual violence, everyone stops moving, people don’t go to work because they’re scared,” Michel said.

“It’s a weapon, it’s a way to send a message.”

That was the case for one 36-year-old woman, who spoke with the

AP dressed in a shirt with bright red roses, her hair pulled back carefully in braids. She asked to remain unnamed for fear of retaliation.

The woman once ran a boutique with her husband in Haiti’s capital to put her two daughters and son through school.

In July, a group of armed men, members of the gang G-Pep, showed up

on their doorstep and told them they needed money for bullets.

Unable to get the cash, the men took her husband away at 8 p.m.

The next day, she found his body in a gutter. She fled the neighbourhood, sending her children to live with friends and family in other parts of the city.

Meanwhile, she slept alone on the streets, joining at least 155,000 other Haitians forcibly displaced by violence.

In December, when she tried to return home, the gangsters raped and beat her.

“I’m a professional, and out of nowhere these bandits came ... and made me lose everything. I’m not good. I’m not okay. It all makes me really angry. I got to a point that I wanted to kill myself,” the woman said.

Standing straight with a firm jaw and her head tilted upward, she brushed tears from her face.

When she tried to report the rape to police, they told her that they didn’t handle gang cases.

Today, sleeping in a park with other forcibly displaced Haitians, the one thing that brings her hope is that her children, whom she rarely sees, may still live a better life.

But she worries what deep instability and rising gang control in Haiti will mean.

“I’m not living in a good country,” she said.

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Idris Elba on James Bond: “I’m not going to be that guy”

By Jon Gambrell

Actor Idris Elba says he’s going to stick with being the tormented detective John Luther - not James Bond.

Speaking Tuesday to the World Government Summit in Dubai, Elba brought up the persistent discussions about him taking over as Ian Fleming’s famed British spy. Those had grown louder after Daniel Craig’s demise as Bond in the 25th film in the franchise called “No Time to Die.”

Asked about his upcoming film based on the British series “Luther,” Elba clearly took himself out of playing 007.

“It’s very dark,” Elba said of the series. “We’ve been working on the television show for about 10 years and so the natural ambition is to take it to the big screen, and so we’re here with the first movie.”

He added: “You know, a lot of people talk about another character that begins with ‘J’ and ends with ‘B,’ but I’m not going to be that guy. I’m going to be John Luther. That’s who I am.”

“Luther: The Fallen Sun” is due to come out in American theatres on Feb. 24, then stream on Netflix beginning March 10. It also co-stars Andy Serkis and other actors from the tele-



British actor Idris Elba speaks during the World Government Summit in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023. While on stage, Elba brought up the persistent discussions about him taking over as Ian Fleming’s famed British spy 007. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

vision series.

Elba, 50, is known for a variety of television and film roles, ranging from Stringer Bell on the American television series “The Wire” and the recent movie “Beast.”

While on stage, Elba discussed an upcoming film he’s working on with the American actor and wrestler John Cena called “The Heads of State.”

“He plays the American president. I play the British prime minister,” Elba said. “We get into a caper. I’m very excited about doing that because leadership comes in many different forms.”

In recent weeks, Elba has appeared at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he and his wife Sabrina Dhowre Elba received an award for their work on food security in Africa. Elba also has worked as an anti-crime ambassador with his “Don’t Stab Your Future” initiative in the United Kingdom, where he grew up in east London.

During his talk, Elba urged nations to invest more in creative industries, saying it can provide an economic engine that provides jobs to their youth. In particular, he said creative jobs could greatly help

countries in Africa.

“I believe that Africa, especially as a continent, needs to hold a narrative, change a narrative,” he said.

Discussing storytelling, Elba also praised Dubai for its “incredible tourism story” that it has developed over the last decades. The city-state is seeing a new real estate boom, fueled in part by Russian cash amid Moscow’s war on Ukraine.

“I think Dubai should win an Oscar because the (place) is incredible,” Elba said to applause. “It’s a very, very good job and other countries should take note.”

Will we ever be able to predict earthquakes?



By Richard Gray

The unfolding tragedy amid the crumpled buildings of south-east Turkey and northern Syria highlights how unexpectedly earthquakes can strike. Scientists are searching for ways of providing early warnings about these most unpredictable of natural disasters.

They hit suddenly and without warning. The two devastating earthquakes that struck south-eastern Turkey and northern Syria have claimed thousands of lives and left many more injured or without shelter. Oc-

curing in the early hours of 6 February, most of the victims would have been inside sleeping when the first 7.8 magnitude earthquake brought their homes crashing down on top of them.

The first indication semiologists had that a major disaster was unfolding were the abrupt flashes of activity on their sensitive instruments spread throughout the world as the seismic waves produced by the first earthquake reverberated around the globe. A few hours later this was followed by a second large earthquake of 7.5

magnitude.

The relative shallowness of both quakes meant the intensity of the shaking was particularly severe. And as the area continues to shudder with aftershocks, experts at the United States Geological Survey have warned that those who survived, and the rescue workers now flocking to the region to help, face significant risks from landslides and ground liquefaction as a result of the shaking.

But as the world races to provide aid to the shattered communities on

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

either side of the border between Turkey and Syria, some are wondering why we didn't see this coming.

The East Anatolian fault system where the earthquakes occurred is part of a tectonic "triple junction" where three tectonic plates – the Anatolia, Arabia and Africa plates – grind against each other. Since 1970, only three earthquakes of magnitude 6 or larger have hit the region, and many geologists believed the region was "overdue" for a large earthquake.

So, why could they not predict it?

In truth, the science of predicting earthquakes is very, very difficult. While there are often minute signals that can be detected in the seismic data after an event has happened, knowing what to look for and using that to make forecasts beforehand is far more challenging.

"When we simulate earthquakes in the laboratory we can see all these little failures happening – there is some cracking and some flaws that appear first," says Chris Marone, a professor of geosciences at Sapienza University of Rome, in Italy, and Penn State University in Pennsylvania, US. "But out in nature there is a lot of uncertainty about why we often don't see foreshocks or indications that there is going to be a big earthquake."

Geologists have been trying to use modern scientific methods to predict earthquakes since at least the 1960s, but with little success. Much of the reason for this, says Marone, is the complexity of the fault systems that criss-cross the globe. There is also a lot of seismic noise – the Earth is constantly grumbling and rumbling away, which, when combined with the anthropogenic clatter of traffic, building work and daily life, makes it hard to pick out clear signals.

According to the United States Geological Survey, it takes three

things to produce a really useful earthquake prediction – the location where it will happen, when it will happen and how big the event will be. So far, they say, no one can do that with any certainty.

Instead geologists produce what are their best guesses in "hazard maps" where they calculate the probability of an earthquake within a timeframe of several years.

While these can help with some degree of planning, such as improving building standards in the areas most at risk, it doesn't provide the level of prediction needed to provide early warnings to the public to allow them to evacuate or take shelter. And not everyone who lives in an earthquake zone can afford the kind of infrastructure needed to withstand large amounts of shaking.

"In Turkey and Syria, there were a lot of factors that meant buildings were in a state where they were ready to pancake and fail," says Marone. "In a lot of the Western world there have been seismic reinforcement codes that were implemented in the 1970s and 1980s. But it costs a lot to build and retrofit buildings." (Read about how Japan's skyscrapers are built to survive earthquakes.)

So, scientists have instead been searching for ways to make earthquake predictions more accurate. Alongside seismic signals, researchers have searched for clues in a wide variety of places – from the behaviour of animals to electrical disturbances in the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Scientists in China have been looking for ripples in electrically charged particles in the Earth's ionosphere in the days leading up to earthquakes

Recently, however, there has been growing excitement around the capabilities of artificial intelligence to detect the kind of subtle signals that humans miss. Machine-learning

algorithms can analyse vast amounts of data from past earthquakes to look for patterns that might be used to predict future events.

"This kind of machine-learning-based prediction has produced a lot of interest," says Marone. He and his colleagues have for the past five years been developing algorithms that are capable of detecting failures in simulated earthquake faults in the laboratory. Using fist-sized blocks of granite, they can recreate the stress build up and friction that might occur at a fault, building up pressure until the fault slips, creating what they call "labquakes".

"Elastic waves travel through the fault as it breaks little by little," says Marone. "We can predict when the failure is going to occur in the laboratory based on these changes in elastic properties and the noise coming from foreshocks in the fault zone itself. We'd love to port this to the Earth, but we are not there yet."

Transferring this predictive power of AI to the larger, complex environment of real-world fault zones is far more challenging.

You may also be interested in:

"There are a few cases where people have figured out how to do it in post-prediction after an earthquake which suggest this might work," says Marone. "But there's not been a big breakthrough yet."

Scientists in China, for example, have been looking for ripples in electrically charged particles in the Earth's ionosphere in the days leading up to earthquakes caused by changes in the magnetic field above fault zones.

One group led by Jing Liu at the Institute of Earthquake Forecasting in Beijing, for example, said it could see disturbances in the atmospheric electrons above the epicentre of the earthquake that hit Baja, California,
cont'd on pg 14

cont'd from pg 13

10 days before it hit in early April 2010.

Another group based in Israel recently claimed to be able to use machine learning to predict large earthquakes 48 hours beforehand with 83% accuracy by examining the changes in electron content in the ionosphere over the past 20 years.

China is clearly placing its hopes in these clues in the ionosphere. In 2018, China launched the China Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite (CSES) to monitor for electrical anomalies in the Earth's ionosphere.

Last year, scientists at China's Earthquake Network's Centre in Beijing, claimed to have found drops in the density of electrons in the ionosphere up to 15 days before earthquakes that hit the Chinese mainland in May 2021 and January 2022.

"An energy transfer can occur between the lithosphere and the two layers above – that is the atmosphere and the ionosphere," says Mei Li, one of the researchers working at the China Earthquake Network Centre. But she says the mechanism for how this occurs is still controversial. And she warns that even with the satellite data, their findings are still a long way from being able to predict an impending earthquake.

"We cannot specify the right location where a forthcoming event will happen," say the researchers, in a paper about their findings. Li also points to another complication – large earthquakes can induce changes in the ionosphere far away from their epicentre, which makes confirming the precise location difficult.

"The ionospheric anomaly can appear around the epicentre of an earthquake as well as its magnetically conjugated point in the other hemisphere, which gives us more difficulty to confirm the location of the forthcoming event," she says.

Other researchers are pinning their hopes on different signals. In Japan, some claim to be able to use changes in water vapour above earthquake zones to make predictions. Tests suggest these predictions have 70% accuracy, although they can only say an earthquake might happen at some point in the next month. Others have been trying to use minute ripples in the Earth's gravity that can occur before a quake.

But despite all these claims, none have been able to successfully predict where and when an earthquake will occur before it happens.

"We just don't have the infrastructure to do the kind of monitoring we would need," says Morone.

"Who is going to put up \$100m (£83m) to install a set of seismometers of the sort we use in the lab to monitor a fault? We know how to predict laboratory quakes, but what we don't know is if they really transfer to the complexity of real-world faults. The East Anatolian fault, for example, is in a complex region of the world – not one simple fault plane but a bunch of things coming together."

And even with the ability to make better forecasts, there is still the question of what to do with the information. Until the accuracy improves, evacuating entire cities or asking people to stay out of at-risk buildings could be costly if mistakes are made. But Marone looks to the world of meteorological forecasting for some indication of what might happen if the data improves.

"They already predict big weather events with some accuracy in advance," says Marone.

This allows government agencies to prepare emergency responses to events such as hurricanes and issue warnings to members of the public that can help keep them safe.

Being able to do something simi-

lar for earthquakes is still years away, says Marone. "We are not anywhere near that at the moment."

One area where artificial intelligence may have a more immediate role to play is in the events that happen immediately after an earthquake. Researchers at Tohoku University and Renmin University of China have been developing tools that use AI to classify the damage caused by natural disasters from satellite imagery so governments and rescue teams can be sent to where they are most needed. It uses algorithms to assess building damage and identify the structures which have been totally destroyed or are potentially dangerous.

There are also hopes that machine-learning algorithms might help keep rescue workers and survivors of earthquakes safe by helping to better predict aftershocks that follow a major earthquake.

These can pose an enormous risk by shifting buildings left unstable by the initial earthquake, causing further destruction.

Researchers at Harvard University, for example, have been deploying deep learning – a form of machine learning – to study patterns of aftershocks in the hope they can be predicted.

"We have a very good understanding of what happens after a big event and why aftershocks occur," says Marone. "But it's still not complete. We have got better at knowing as a scientific society if smaller shocks might be leading up to an even bigger one, but there is always uncertainty.

"You don't need to know very much about earthquakes and aftershocks to realise what happened in Turkey is a very unusual situation where you had two really big earthquakes close to one another. The second one was triggered by the second one, but these were two big main shocks."

Trinidad Judiciary denies being unprepared to deal with emergencies following death of lawyer

CMC - The Trinidad Judiciary has dismissed suggestions including those made by the main opposition United National Congress (UNC) that there were no emergency medical response procedures in place when attorney Neil Byam collapsed and died in the courtroom last Friday.

“It is indeed unfortunate that in their shock and grief, people say things without having information and thus cast aspersions on the judiciary’s medical response team and on its first responders who have handled many incidents in our 25 court buildings which, fortunately, due to their intervention did not end in the death of the person who was impacted,” the judiciary said in a statement.

It said the judiciary realises that emergencies, medical or otherwise, by their very nature, do not call for a ‘cookie cutter’ reaction but must be dealt with in keeping with well-developed SOPs. On this occasion, these processes were engaged.”

Byam, 61, a retired deputy solicitor general, was addressing the panel of judges in the Appeal Court, when he collapsed. He had to be assisted by senior counsel Douglas Mendes who helped lower him to the floor where attempts



were made unsuccessfully to resuscitate him.

Justice Prakash Moosai, who was one of the three judges on the panel, said a review or overhaul of the judiciary’s emergency response protocols was needed.

“The response system ought to be a bit quicker in my view,” he said.

Speaking at a news conference on Sunday, Opposition legislator, Dr. Roodal Moonilal said the reports received by the party about the incident, left him saddened.

“It was not on time, not urgent, not done in haste to come to the aid of Mr. Byam when he collapsed,” Moonilal said, adding “our information is that the emergency response was far from

adequate and that there was no emergency kit or any kind of relevant emergency or medical equipment that could be found at the Hall of Justice to come to the aid of this man.”

Media reports said emergency responders arrived 20 minutes after Byam had collapsed.

But in its statement, the judiciary said it is able to deal with medical emergencies at any of its court buildings, taking issue with the suggestions that there were no emergency medical response procedures in place when Byam collapsed and later died in the courtroom.

It said “nothing could be further from the truth” to suggest there were no emergency medical response

procedures in place and that all judges and staff have the number for its medical response team (MRT), including its security officers assigned throughout the buildings.

The statement said Justice Gillian Lucky, who was also presiding over the appeal, called the MRT number and got an immediate response.

“In each of our 25 court locations, all of the senior security personnel and other court security officers, as well as several other members of staff, are trained and certified to act on these occasions. On this occasion, a trained court security officer arrived within two minutes and turned the attorney on his side and began compression subsequently.

Barbados Attorneys call for strong action amid alleged police station recording of lawyer-client conversation

CMC - The Barbados Bar Association (BBA) is calling for “swift and strong action” to immediately address what it says are issues affecting the rights of persons in police custody.

In a statement, the BBA said this includes protocols governing the conduct of attorneys’ confidential communication with accused persons.

It said its call comes against reports of an “alarming complaint” it had received of an incident on February 4 at a police station involving a suspected recording of a private
cont’d on pg 17



Jamaican university student accused of torturing ex-girlfriend

CMC - A 20-year-old Jamaican student of the University of the West Indies (UWI) is to appear in court on Monday after he was charged for allegedly holding his ex-girlfriend captive and torturing her for three days.

Matthew Hyde of Braemar Avenue, Kingston, is charged with assault occasioning grievous bodily harm.

The police say other charges against him are being considered as the probe continues.



According to reports, Hyde allegedly held his 19-year-old ex-girlfriend

brutally beat her and burned her all over her body with a clothes iron.

The incident occurred between Monday, February 6, and Thursday, February 9.

The woman was later rescued, a police report was made, and Hyde was taken into custody and later charged.

The police are seeking to interview a female student of the university whom they believe could provide information about the incident.

against her will in his room on a block on the UWI Mona campus, where he

Brazilian police arrest teenager in thwarted school attack

AP - Police in Brazil arrested a teenager accused of trying to attack a school with explosives while wearing a Nazi armband Monday in a small city outside Sao Paulo.

No-one was injured in the incident in Monte Mor, a municipality of 56,000 residents about 120 kilometres (75 miles) northwest of Sao Paulo, the city hall said in a statement.

Sao Paulo police said the

17-year-old was arrested with explosives and a hatchet, and that he had been filmed removing these items from a car parked outside the school.

Police also said they seized an airsoft gun and Nazi propaganda at the teenager's home.

The Monte Mor city government published a photo of the suspect wearing a Nazi armband when he was arrested.

School attacks are uncommon in

the South American nation, but have happened with somewhat greater frequency in recent years.

On Nov. 26, a former student armed with a semiautomatic pistol and a revolver killed four people and wounded 12 in two schools in the small town of Aracruz in Espirito Santo state in southeastern Brazil. He had a swastika pinned to his vest and had been planning the attacks for two years, police said.

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conversation between an attorney and her client.

"A person in custody has a constitutional right to legal counsel, and that consultation is governed by principles of attorney-client privilege. While the association is informed that the matter is currently under investigation, we urge that the investigation be completed with dispatch, and the results be made known in the coming days," the BBA added.

It said there should be a dedicated meeting room which must be fully private, must be cleared of all items and only contain a desk and seating, and attorneys must be afforded an opportunity to inspect the room prior to conducting an interview.

"In the past, our members have repeatedly raised a number of issues affecting the rights of persons in police custody.

"The time has come for stakeholders to work together to address these issues, not in a reactionary manner, but address them in their totality.

"These and other steps

can and must be immediately implemented to begin to restore what could be seen as a serious breach in trust, confidentiality and the fair and due process of the law," the BBA said,

adding it will await the results of the investigation before making any further comment.

The police have not responded to the BBA statement.

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India tax officers search BBC offices weeks after critical Modi documentary

Reuters - Indian tax officers searched the BBC's bureaus in New Delhi and Mumbai on Tuesday, the British broadcaster said, weeks after the government banned as propaganda a BBC documentary critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's role in 2002 riots.

The documentary focused on the Hindu nationalist politician's leadership as chief minister of the western state of Gujarat during the riots in which at least 1,000 people were killed, most of them Muslims, though activists put the toll at more than twice that number.

The government last month dismissed the documentary, "India: The Modi Question", as propaganda and blocked its streaming and sharing on social media. The foreign ministry said last month the documentary was meant to push a "discredited narrative", was biased, lacked objectivity and showed a "continuing colonial mindset".

The BBC has stood by its reporting for the documentary and said on Tuesday it was cooperating with Indian tax officials.

"The Income Tax Authorities are currently at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai and we are fully cooperating. We hope to have this situation resolved as soon as possible," the



Members of media and people stand outside a building having BBC offices, where income tax officials are conducting a search, in New Delhi, India, February 14, 2023. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis

BBC said on Twitter.

An Income Tax Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a "credible survey operation was ongoing" and that the department would not be able to share details. The department did not respond to a Reuters email seeking comment.

Britain's Foreign Office said it was closely monitoring reports of tax surveys conducted at the BBC's offices. Media rights advocates and India's opposition condemned the searches.

One of two sources in the BBC's New Delhi office told Reuters that tax officials were speaking with the accounts officer and no one was allowed to leave.

While the tax search was in progress, television news crews set up outside the BBC office near Con-

naught Place in central Delhi to report developments, as police and private security guards tried to keep order and prevented dozens of journalists from entering the compound.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said Indian institutions worked independently and the tax department was "within the law in looking into tax compliance".

"India is a vibrant democracy where no one is above the law," BJP spokesman Gopal Krishna Agarwal said.

Following the news, online searches for "India Narendra Modi documentary" surged globally as people looked to download it.

CONDEMNATION

The Editors Guild of India, which calls itself a non-partisan association of

editorial leaders, said it was "distressed by the continuing trend of government agencies being used to intimidate and harass news organisations that are critical of the ruling establishment".

It said the department searched the offices of media outlets NewsClick, NewsLaundry, Dainik Bhaskar and Bharat Samachar in 2021 after their "critical coverage" of the government.

The Asia desk of the Committee to Protect Journalists said on Twitter that "authorities must not harass journalists doing their jobs".

The main opposition Congress party condemned the tax department's action. "... (it) reeks of desperation and shows that the Modi

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Equatorial Guinea confirms country's first Marburg virus disease outbreak -WHO

Reuters - Equatorial Guinea has confirmed its first outbreak of the Marburg virus, a highly infectious and deadly disease similar to Ebola, following the deaths of at least nine people, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

The small Central African country quarantined more than 200 people and restricted movement last week in its Kie-Ntem province after detecting an unknown hemorrhagic fever. Neighbouring Cameroon also restricted movement along its border over concerns about contagion. In addition to the nine deaths, Equatorial Guinea has reported 16 suspected cases of Marburg virus with symptoms including fever, fatigue and blood-stained vomit and diarrhoea, the WHO said.



The World Health Organization logo is pictured at the entrance of the WHO building, in Geneva, Switzerland, December 20, 2021. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse

Marburg virus disease can have a fatality rate of up to 88%, according to the WHO. There are no vaccines or antiviral treatments approved to treat it.

The deaths have been

preliminarily linked to a funeral ceremony in the Kie-Ntem province's Nsok Nsomo district, Equatorial Guinea Health Minister Mitoha Ondo'o Ayekaba said on Friday. Local health

authorities initially reported an unknown illness causing hemorrhagic fever cases on Feb. 7, and sent samples to a laboratory in Senegal that was able to confirm one as positive for Marburg virus disease, the WHO said. It said the teams are conducting contact tracing and isolating and treating suspected cases.

"Thanks to the rapid and decisive action by the Equatorial Guinean authorities in confirming the disease, emergency response can get to full steam quickly," Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said in the statement.

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government is scared of criticism," lawmaker and Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal wrote on Twitter.

"This undemocratic and dictatorial attitude cannot go on any longer."

Last month police in Delhi detained students as they gathered to watch the documentary after their university declined to give permission for a screening of it.

The documentary covers events from February 2002, when a suspected Muslim mob set fire to a train carrying Hindu pil-

grims in Gujarat, setting off one of independent India's worst outbreaks of communal violence.

Modi ruled Gujarat for more than a decade before becoming prime minister in 2014.

His career has been dogged by accusations that he did not do enough to stop the rioting in 2002. Modi has always denied any wrongdoing and in 2013 a panel appointed by the Supreme Court said there was insufficient evidence to prosecute him.

Republican Nikki Haley enters 2024 presidential race

BBC - Nikki Haley, a former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador, has announced she is a candidate to become US president in 2024.

"Now is not the time to hold back. Now is the time for a strong and proud America," she tweeted, linking to a campaign video.

She is the second major Republican candidate to run, after ex-boss Donald Trump launched his bid in November.

Ms Haley is the third Indian American to seek a presidential nomination.

She said in 2021 she wouldn't challenge him for the White House, but changed her mind in recent



Nikki Haley was previously a UN ambassador in the Donald Trump administration

months, citing the need for "generational change".

Other Republicans expected to launch campaigns to be selected for their party include Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former

Vice President Mike Pence.

She has previously criticised Mr Trump's behaviour up to and during the 6 January 2021 attack on the US Capitol by his supporters.

The day after the riot,

she said in a speech that "his actions since election day will be judged harshly by history".

Most early polls show Mr Trump with a comfortable lead in South Carolina, whose primary he won on his way to the presidency in 2016 - an indication of the uphill battle the former ambassador will have, even on what should be friendly ground.

A recent survey by the polling firm Trafalgar Group that included current and likely candidates has Mr Trump in first place with 43% and Ms Haley in fourth at 12%.

Other Indian Americans to run before her were Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, whose bid in 2015 never gained significant traction, and current Vice-President Kamala Harris, who sought the 2020 nomination.

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Super Bowl averages 113 million, third most-watched in history

By Joe Reedy

AP - Fox was hoping the matchup of two top teams in the Super Bowl and a close game would lead to a record night.

Even though Sunday's game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles came down to a field goal with 8 seconds remaining, Fox fell just short of its goal.

The Chiefs' rally to defeat the Eagles 38-35 is on pace to become the third most-watched television show in history, with an estimated 113 million people watching, according to preliminary numbers released Monday.

Fox said the audience estimate includes the broadcasts on Fox and Fox Deportes as well as streaming on Fox and the NFL's digital sites. The figures are via Nielsen's Fast National data and Adobe Analytics.

The 2015 game between New England and Seattle on NBC holds the record at 114,442,000 viewers (not including streaming), followed by Super Bowl 51 in 2017 on Fox between Atlanta and New England (113,668,000).

This was Fox's 10th Super Bowl since it began airing NFL games in 1994 and the second most-watched program in Fox Sports history.

It would also be a slight



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy while talking to Terry Bradshaw after the NFL Super Bowl 57 football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, in Glendale, Ariz. The Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

increase over the 112.3 million average for last year's Super Bowl. The Los Angeles Rams' victory over the Cincinnati Bengals was broadcast by NBC and Telemundo and streamed on Peacock and NFL digital sites.

According to Adobe Analytics, this year's digital feed averaged a Super Bowl-record 7 million streams, an 18% increase over last year (6 million) and more than double Fox's last Super Bowl in 2020 (3.4 million).

It was the third straight year the streaming average has surpassed 5 million. The first Super Bowl to be

streamed, in 2012, averaged 346,000.

Rihanna's halftime show averaged 118.7 million viewers, making it the second-most watched in Super Bowl history. Katy Perry's 2015 performance holds the top mark at 121 million.

The Spanish-language audience average for the game was 951,000, a record for the most-watched Super Bowl game in Spanish-language cable television history. It was also the most watched non-soccer event in Spanish-language cable history.

The Spanish-language number is down from last

year's record of 1.9 million on Telemundo, which unlike Fox Deportes has broadcast affiliates in 90 markets.

The Super Bowl has been televised in Spanish in the United States since 2014.

Final Nielsen data will be available on Tuesday, including the English-language television-only figures. After Super Bowls averaged over 100 million viewers from 2010-18, four of the five games before this year had fallen short of that number because of cord-cutting. That included 95.2 million for the 2021 Super Bowl between Tampa

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Qatar donates World Cup mobile homes to earthquake survivors

AP - Qatar plans to send 10,000 cabins and caravans from last year's World Cup to provide shelter for survivors of the Turkish earthquakes, officials said.

The gas-rich Gulf nation says it had always planned to donate the mobile homes. They were needed to help house some of the 1.4 million fans who descended on the small country during soccer's biggest tournament.

An initial batch of 350 structures was shipped out on Sunday, the Qatar Fund for Development said.

The magnitude 7.8 and 7.5 quakes that struck nine hours apart on Feb. 6 killed more than 35,000 people in southeastern Turkey and war-torn northern Syria. The toll is expected to climb even further as search and rescue teams find more bodies.

Tens of thousands of



Cabins line the World Cup fan village on Nov. 10, 2022, in Doha, Qatar. With an initial batch shipped out on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, Qatar plans to send 10,000 cabins and caravans from last year's World Cup to provide shelter for survivors of the Turkish earthquakes. (AP Photo/Hussein Sayed, File)

buildings were destroyed or severely damaged, leaving millions homeless. As shelters filled up in the days after the quake many were forced to sleep outside in wet, wintry weather.

Qatar and other wealthy Gulf countries have joined

the global effort to send rescuers and aid to the stricken region. The United Arab Emirates has pledged \$100 million for relief efforts. Saudi Arabia has dispatched eight planes loaded with supplies to Turkey and Syria.

The eighth Saudi flight

landed in government-held Aleppo, in northern Syria, on Tuesday. Saudi Arabia was a strong supporter of the opposition at the height of Syria's civil war and - unlike other Arab countries - has shown little interest in any rapprochement with President Bashar Assad.

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Bay and Kansas City, which was the game's lowest TV-only average since 2007.

If Sunday's number can better the 99.18 million from last year, it would mark the first time since 2015 there had been two straight years of increases.

Unsurprisingly, Kansas City and Philadelphia were the two highest-ranked markets. Kansas City led the way with a 52.0 rating and 87 share followed by Philadelphia's 46.3/77.

The rating is the percentage of

television households tuned in. The share refers to a percentage of the TV-watching audience viewing a particular program at the time.

Cincinnati, which lost to the Chiefs in the AFC championship game, and Minneapolis also recorded 77 shares.

The flood of ads during what is easily television's most-watched event of the year was heavy on celebrities - Ben Affleck, Ozzy Osbourne, Matt Damon, Maya Rudolph, Martha Stewart and "Breaking Bad" cast members.

Steve Williamson, senior vice president of the market research firm

GWI, said surveys show that trust in brands is down this year and companies were looking for well-known names for a boost.

"There wasn't a primary brand that took over the Super Bowl," he said. "There were all sorts of brands from alcohol to gambling to Jesus."

Fox also said 15.5 million people watched the season premiere of Gordon Ramsay's competition show "Next Level Chef" following the game. The spot after the Super Bowl is usually the most-coveted time slot on television.

Liverpool urges UEFA to ensure fans are safe at matches

By Steve Douglas

AP - Liverpool urged European soccer's governing body to ensure supporter safety is the top priority at matches after a report detailed how a "mass fatality catastrophe" was only narrowly avoided at last year's Champions League final involving the English team.

Liverpool said it welcomed the findings of an investigation panel which exonerated the club's fans from any blame amid chaotic scenes that saw tens of thousands of supporters - including elderly people and kids - held in increasingly crushed lines for hours before biggest match in European soccer, which was held at the 75,000-capacity Stade de France.

UEFA had initially blamed Liverpool fans, some of whom were fired on by tear gas by police, for arriving at the stadium late and using fake tickets to try to gain entry.

Ultimately, the report found UEFA should bear "primary responsibility for failures which almost led to disaster," which - for many Liverpool fans - had chilling echoes of the tragedy at Hillsborough Stadium in 1989 that led to the death of 97 supporters of the club. Security issues also marred the UEFA-run European Championship final at Wembley Stadium 10 months ago.



Liverpool fans wait in front of the Stade de France prior to the Champions League final soccer match between Liverpool and Real Madrid, in Saint Denis near Paris, Saturday, May 28, 2022. UEFA-appointed investigators have held European soccer's ruling body mostly responsible for chaotic security failures at the Champions League final in Paris that put the lives of Liverpool and Real Madrid fans at risk, the investigation panel wrote in a 220-page document published Monday, Feb. 13, 2023. (AP Photo/Christophe Ena, File)

"We call on UEFA and others at the top of the football regulation pyramid to come together and take positive and transparent action to ensure there are no more 'near misses,'" Liverpool said.

"We implore UEFA to fully enact the recommendations as outlined by the panel - no matter how difficult - to ensure supporter safety is the number one priority at the heart of every UEFA football fixture."

Liverpool said it was "shocking" that its fans were subject to such "fundamental safety failings which have had such a devastating im-

pact on so many," particularly in light of what happened at Hillsborough.

"Paris has only exacerbated their suffering," the club said.

Liverpool chief executive Billy Hogan said the publishing of the panel's findings marked "the end of the beginning" of the changes needed to be carried out by authorities.

"This is where the hard work really needs to start now," he said. "Again, the sense of pride that we have from the behaviour of our supporters - the fact that it wasn't (a) disaster, which is really down to the behaviour

of our supporters around the match itself - but now we need to look at how we make sure that nothing like this happens again."

UEFA has pledged to launch a special refund scheme for fans, and a law firm representing more than 600 Liverpool supporters injured or traumatised by the events at the Stade de France said Tuesday it is pushing forward with a legal claim against the governing body.

Leigh Day said it is making the claim on the basis that UEFA "failed to ensure a safe and secure environment for those attending and could

cont'd on pg 24

Sports News



Stephen Curry hopes to return shortly after All-Star break

By Janie McCauley

AP - Stephen Curry hopes to get back to some on-court work during the All-Star break but will miss time afterward as he recovers from a left leg injury.

The reigning NBA Finals MVP missed his fourth straight game after getting injured against Dallas on Feb. 4 in a collision while defending McKinley Wright IV as he drove to the basket. Wright's knee hit Curry's shin.

"It was a pretty big knock that kind of jolted the bone and ligaments in there, which was all terms I didn't know existed before," Curry said. "It was just a timing thing. If my foot's elevated and it's just more like a contusion you can kind of deal with it but because my foot was planted and a lot of weight on it, the force of the impact was a little more serious than I wanted it to be."

Curry said he will likely have a better idea of the timeline and a possible target date for his return once he actually tests the leg on the court. An MRI exam showed partial tears to his superior tibiofibular ligament and interosseous



Dallas Mavericks' McKinley Wright IV (23) crashes into Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) during the second half of an NBA basketball game at the Chase Center in San Francisco, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023. Curry would leave for the locker room after the collision. (Jose Carlos Fajardo/Bay Area News Group via AP)

membrane in his left leg. He also had a bruise.

Because of the ligament damage, Curry said it's hard to know how long his healing will take.

"At first it felt like it was a normal contusion, just a real serious one, that's why I went to the bench and thought I could kind of just shake it off, then I got up from the bench and felt something different and was like 'Nah, that's not

right,'" Curry said. "I knew it was something more than just a normal contusion because I couldn't put any weight on it and was hobbling around. Thankfully there weren't any broken bones or anything."

Curry is looking forward to welcoming back newly acquired guard Gary Payton II and having everyone healthy to try to make a run at another title. Curry is averaging 29.4 points, 6.3 rebounds and 6.4

assists. He will miss the All-Star game but posed with his No. 30 West jersey.

Curry sat out his 19th game overall this season for the defending champions, 11 of those with a partially dislocated left shoulder. He remains confident about Golden State's chances despite its struggles and inconsistency.

"I know we're a different team than we were, I know we have different challenges than we did last year but it still has been proven that if we're healthy come play-off time and we have a shot to get into a series, that we're a tough out," Curry said. "That's where all the optimism is until proven otherwise."

cont'd from pg 23

owe a legal liability to those who suffered physical and/or psychological injuries."

Spirit of Shankly, a Liverpool supporters' group, also welcomed the panel's findings that the club's fans were not responsible for the chaos.

"A breakdown in communication on the

day, the failures of UEFA, the French police and authorities were to blame," the group said. "The shame - beginning with the stadium billboard announcing kickoff was delayed due to fans arriving late, supporters being tear gassed and pepper sprayed, pick-pocketed and attacked, people frightened they were going to die - is on them."

AGHS, PMS maintain winning run in schools' netball

The Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) and Princess Margaret School (PMS) continued their winning form in the Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools Netball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, 13th February.

The Antigua Girls' High School beat Clare Hall Secondary 22 - 6 in one of five games in the 16 and Under division.

Joy Shaw scored 19 of her 36 shots and Sarah Allen sank 3 of her 8 tries for Antigua Girls' High while I'Jahnae Isadore converted 5 of her 7 attempts for Clare Hall Secondary.

Princess Margaret School recorded two wins beginning with a thrashing of St. Mary's Secondary School, 17 - 0.

Kadejah Alexander



The Antigua Girls' High School 16 and Under netball team. (File photo)

scored 9 of her 16 tries and Jahida Payne sank eight of her 12 attempts for PMS.

Princess Margaret also prevailed 7 - 3 over the Glanvilles Secondary

School.

Jahida Payne scored 4 of 7 attempts for Princess Margaret while Micah Thomas converted 2 of 6 shots for Glanvilles Secondary.

Glanvilles Secondary rebounded to beat St. Mary's Secondary School, 15 - 4.

N'Zee Williams sank

cont'd on pg 26

Five feet tall but a "giant in confidence"; Zaida James is growing in stature

Five years ago, she was a braces-wearing, chubby cheeks 13-year-old in the stands at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Saint Lucia.

She came to watch the West Indies Women play and was excited and overjoyed when she got the chance to meet West Indies Women's all-rounder Hayley Matthews at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Fast-forward to February 2023 and Zaida James has earned a call-up to the West Indies Senior Women's team, after smashing back-to-back half-centuries in the ICC Women's U19 World

Cup, one month prior.

Zaida is all of five-feet tall but has the confidence and ambition of someone much mightier.

A gifted athlete, she started off playing tennis, football and cricket on the fields and courts in Saint Lucia. As time went by, her interest in cricket grew, this was aided by a father who loves the game and is her Number one supporter.

"Be your best in whatever you want to do" that was the advice given to her by her dad and it is a philosophy she has stuck with throughout her

young career.

"It felt amazing because I have been working really hard for the past few months preparing for the U19 team. I wanted to cry with happiness when I got selected to the Senior team" she said.

She scored 22 runs on debut against India in the Tri-Nations Series at Buffalo Park in East London and now she is looking forward to playing her second match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup against India on Wednesday. First ball is 3pm (9am Eastern Caribbean/8am Jamaica).

OCS claim wins in Schools' Volleyball League

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) claimed wins in both the female and male divisions of the Inter-Schools Volleyball League at the YMCA Sports Complex's indeed stadium this week.

Ottos Comprehensive prevailed 15-6, 22 - 20 over Jennings Secondary in the girls' division affair.

Ottos Comprehensive also defeated the Pares Secondary Second Team 25 - 10, 25 - 7 in the boys' encounter.

In last Friday's games, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy was victorious in both divisions.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy girls overcame Islands Academy Second Team 15 - 13, 15 - 8.

They went on to enjoy further success when they defeated the Pares Secondary Second Team 25 - 5, 25 - 14 in a boys' division encounter.

Pares Secondary First Team held off a tough challenge to prevail 28 - 26, 25 - 23 over the Antigua Gram-



The Ottos Comprehensive School (black uniforms) competed against Jennings Secondary in the Girls' Division of the Inter-Schools Volleyball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, 13th February, 2023. (Photo: Elwin Francis)

mar School in the boys' division.

Twenty-four hours earlier, the Christ the King High School First Team, Princess Margaret School and Island Academy all recorded wins in their matches.

In the girls' division, the Christ the King High

School First Team defeated Island Academy Second Team 15 - 8, 15 - 7, while Princess Margaret School came from behind to beat the Antigua Girls' High School Third Team 12 - 15, 17 - 15, 15 - 9.

Island Academy claimed a 26 - 24, 25 - 17 victory over the Jennings Secondary in the boys' division.

This year's Inter-Schools' hard court volleyball competition commenced on 23rd January.

Twelve teams, divided into two zones, are competing in the female division.

Three teams are representing the Antigua

Girls' High School, two from Christ the King High School and Island Academy along with teams from Ottos Comprehensive, Princess Margaret, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Jennings Secondary and All Saints Secondary.

Nine teams are contesting the boys or male division.

Island Academy and Pares Secondary both have two teams along with a team each from the Antigua Grammar School, All Saints Secondary, Ottos Comprehensive, Jennings Secondary and the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

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10 of 16 attempts for Glanvilles Secondary while Tajaeh Matthew scored 2 of 8 attempts and Zadaire Parker scored 2 of 10 tries for St. Mary's Secondary.

There was a win as well for Irene B. Williams who prevailed 16 - 5 over Clare Hall Secondary.

Myah Thomas converted 10 of 14 shots and Kadisha Henry scored 6 of 14 attempts for Irene B. Williams. E'Tanja Roberts sank 4 of 17 tires for Clare Hall Secondary.

T. N. Kirnon among Mini Primary Basketball winners

T. N. Kirnon Primary was among the winners in the Mini Boys' Primary Division of the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools Basketball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday.

T. N. Kirnon defeated Greenbay Primary 11 - 2 in one of the five games contested.

Delroy Francis scored five points and Ajay Ponde converted four points for T. N. Kirnon Primary, while Malique Leblanc scored two points for Greenbay Primary.

Also securing wins were Buckleys, Liberta and Villa primary schools.

Clairmont Carrington scored his team's three points to lead Buckleys Primary 3 - 0 victory over the Cobbs Cross Primary.

Ashavin Pelle and Dre-shawn Lawrence each converted four points to lead Liberta Primary to a 10 - 2 victory against the J. T. Ambrose Primary.

Jaden Russell scored two points for J. T. Ambrose Primary.

Villa Primary prevailed 12 - 4 against the Golden Grove Primary.

Omarie Nacimientosank six points, Raheem Grimmond, four points for Villa Primary, while Tahaem Herbert and Johandry Donalds each scored two points for Golden



The T. N. Kirnon team that won their game in the Mini Boys Primary Division of the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools Basketball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, 13th February. (Photo courtesy inter-schools' basketball league)

Grove Primary.

St. Joseph's Academy prevailed 24 - 15 against Combined in the only Mini Secondary Division encounter to take place Monday.

Iczjaire Sebastian shot a game high of 10 points, Joshua James contributed six points and Nathan Matthew chipped in four points for St. Joseph's Academy.

Jordan Andrew had seven points and Derrick Perez scored six points for Combine.

Originally scheduled to take place at the JSC Sports Complex, the matches in the schools' basketball league have been moved to the YMCA. This is to facilitate minor repairs to the court at the JSC Sports Complex, which is now closed to regular activities.

This has also forced the temporary suspension of all games in this season's Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Second Division.

According to a release

from the ABBA, "Over the past few weeks, the floor has become very unsafe for playing.

"As such, to protect the players against impending injuries, the ABBA Executive has made the decision to close the court, until further notice, to facilitate minor repairs.

"Effective Monday, 13th February, 2023, all division two games will be suspended until the issues with the court have been rectified."

Willikies now fourth in ABFA Premier League

Willikies have jumped into fourth place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier League.

They achieved this by recording a 3 - 1 victory over Ottos Rangers at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday.

Goals by Akeem Weekes in the 14th minute and D'Jarie in the 44th minute gave Willikies a 2 - 0 halftime lead.

Sheppard had earlier failed to score from a penalty, which was saved by the Five Islands goalkeeper in the 42nd minute.

Junior Benjamin reduced the deficit for Five Islands by scoring in the 60th minute.

Novelle Francis Jr. sealed his team's victory by scoring the third and final goal for Willikies in the 87th minute.

Their sixth win in 10 matches lifted Willikies past Old Road into fourth place with 19 points.

Five Islands remain second from bottom of the standings on two points



Willikies forward, Akeem Weekes, (left) celebrates with his teammates after scoring during a Premier League match against Five Islands at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, 13th February, 2023. (Photo: ABFA)

after suffering their ninth loss in 11 matches.

Garden Stars extended their unbeaten run and lead by recording their 10th win in 11 matches in the first division league on Monday.

A goal by Sadique Adams in the 75th minute gave Garden Stars a 1 - 0 win over Bolans at the ABFA Technical Center.

The win lifted Garden Stars to 31 points, 7 points ahead of John Hughes who

are in second place.

A fifth defeat in 10 matches left Bolans in sixth place on 15 points.

Fort Road and Lion Hill played to a goalless draw in a First Division affair at Fort Road.

The result allowed Lion Hill to overtake Bendals in fourth place.

Lion Hill advanced to 17 points from 11 matches, while Fort Road advanced to 11 points from 11 en-

counters.

The ABFA domestic programme continues with matches in the Second Division at 4:30pm on Wednesday, 15th February.

ABAYA will entertain Sea View Farm at the Parham playing field, Jennings United will host TAMO FC at the Jennings playing field and Young Warriors will meet Real Blizzard at the New Winthropes playing field.