

# PM BROWNE: NO MORE BILATERAL TALKS WITH ABWU

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## PM: No more bilateral talks with ABWU

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is taking a tough stance against the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) over the union's intransigence over the LIAT matter.

PM Browne told parliament that the union has spurned his government's many attempts to offer what he termed 'compassionate settlement' of the outstanding monies owed to the workers, only to have the union encouraging the workers to reject the offer.

The prime minister also took issue with the union's continued assertions that the Antigua and Barbuda government owes the airline staff one hundred percent of the outstanding amounts, even though the government only owned thirty-two percent of the shares.

Against this background, PM Browne said there will be no more bi-

lateral talks between his government and the union on the LIAT matter.

"I want to say to the ABWU that if we (the Antigua and Barbuda government) have any such liability to the LIAT workers then take us to court. I also want to state, that we are not having any further bilateral engagements with the ABWU. If they want to engage us, get all four shareholder governments together and let us decide on the way forward," he declared.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader said some of the issues that eventually led to the demise of LIAT, was what he termed the 'sick culture' that was cultivated at the airline over the years, where staff members would routinely call in sick. He pointed a finger at the unions in the region that helped foster that culture, primarily the ABWU.

"So we have come full-circle, COVID-19 came, and decimated the



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne* airline. Two of our colleagues, representing more than fifty percent of the shares decided to wind up the airline. The government of Antigua and Barbuda decided to step in, and became Hercules overnight, decided we will carry the airline alone, incidentally it is still flying today, and we are still standing alone, but instead of getting credit we have been berated by our political opponents and even the staff at LIAT," he indicated.

"We have explained to them ad nauseam, that the government does not owe the workers. The offer was a compassionate payment representing 50 percent of the amount. Yet still, up to recently, the ABWU is making the claim that we have advantaged workers," he explained.

The government has offered to settle a portion of the amount with a proposal of part cash payments and lands...but the ABWU and the workers have said no, opting instead to demand the full payment of one hundred percent of outstanding monies.

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## Antiguans to be allowed to purchase land in Barbuda

The Antigua and Barbuda government has announced its intention to allow people, born in Antigua, or any citizen of the country to be able to purchase land in Barbuda.

The commitment was made clear by Prime Minister Gaston Browne who stated in the wrap-up of the National Debate in the House of Representatives that Antigua and Barbuda is a unitary state and that any citizen should be allowed to purchase land anywhere in the country.

During the current session of parliament, PM Browne said he is determined to see this happen and also advised that the government will be tabling legislation to give effect to the policy.

He dismissed the assertion, still entertained by the representative of Barbuda and many Barbudans, that land on the sister isle is owned by the people in common.

“You were tenants in common on crown land and the Privy Council has ruled that your assertion is wrong and has been wrong for a long time.



Barbuda

“All the land of Antigua and Barbuda are vested in the crown, according to the Privy Council,” the prime minister declared.

The Barbuda Council fought the government on the matter and has lost their case in every step of the court system in the country, including the final court of appeal, the Privy Council in London.

Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, was highly

critical of the Barbuda representatives, for stating that he would abide by whatever decision the Privy Council rendered, but even after the Council lost, both he and his acolytes have refused to accept the ruling.

The Prime Minister and the Attorney General, in their separate presentations berated the Barbuda representatives for continuing to peddle untruths to the Barbuda peo-

ple and for creating, in their minds, the notion that there is an alternative to the Privy Council’s ruling.

During the cross talk in the debate, the representative could be heard issuing what some may interpret as an intention to create mischief should the government proceed in making it possible for Antiguans and other nationals to purchase land in Barbuda.

It was also noted that the Barbuda representative owns property in Antigua, along with other members of the Council.

“If you can own land in Antigua, why can’t any Antiguan own land over there? I am asking the members of the other side if they agree to this idea?” the prime minister queried.

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|--|--|
| <p>Thu 16   Day</p> <p><b>84°</b> </p> <p>5%  S 10 mph</p> <p>A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 84F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.</p> | <p>Thu 16   Night</p> <p><b>73°</b> </p> <p>18%  NW 4 mph</p> <p>Partly cloudy skies. Low 73F. Winds light and variable.</p> |
| <p>Humidity <b>64%</b></p> <p>UV Index <b>Extreme</b></p>  | <p>Humidity <b>76%</b></p> <p>UV Index <b>0 of 10</b></p>  |
| <p>Sunrise <b>6:14 am</b></p> <p>Sunset <b>6:17 pm</b></p>   | <p>Moonrise <b>1:58 am</b></p> <p>Moonsset <b>1:11 pm</b></p> <p>Waning Crescent</p>   |

## Sir Molwyn pleads: Let us work to save the youth of the nation

Health and Wellness Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has made an impassioned appeal for a united national effort to save the youth of the nation.

Sir Molwyn, who announced that this new term would be his last, serving in the House of Representatives, said he is very concerned about what is happening to the young people of the country.

“The elephant in this room is the young people. When our young people listen to some of the utterances; when they get up each day, all they hear are negative voices, nothing uplifting!” he declared.

With comments such as “you are what you are because the politicians don’t care about you and you are what you are because the politicians don’t care about your education, bombard-



Health and Wellness Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph

ing the young people daily, what will become of young people?” the minister queried.

“So what is going to happen to

these young people who are not getting positive messages? I then had to think of my own upbringing. I was sur-

*cont’d on pg 5*

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## Gov't receives legal advice on proposed sale of the Alfa Nero

The government is seeking to protect itself and its officers from possible legal action when it proceeds with the sale of the yacht, the Alfa Nero, which has been moored at Falmouth Harbour for more than a year.

To this end, the Cabinet invited three lawyers from the Legal Affairs Division to review an amended law, governing the Antigua Port.

The amendment will make clear the ability of the government to sell by auction a vessel that appears sanctioned, or which falls under the proceeds of Crime Act. The Alfa Nero has been in the waters of Antigua and Barbuda for more than a year and a half; it has received more than five hundred thousand (\$500,000.00) dol-



lars' worth of fuel; and the money to buy food for the crew (reduced from forty-one to five members), is projected to last no more than two weeks.

"A ten-day notice will follow the auction that will appear in the local press as

well as outside of the jurisdiction. Such that everyone in the world will notice the government's intention to sell the vessel that poses a threat to other vessels and the harbour where it is moored," cabinet sources revealed.

According to the sources, the government wants to ensure that it dots every 'i' and crosses every 't' to ensure that when the vessel is sold, there would be no grounds upon which anyone is able to seek legal redress. This means, making an amendment to the existing law which the government is committed to do when parliament meets on Thursday.

The government has been informed by external agencies that the vessel is owned by a Russian oligarch who is among dozens of rich Russians who have been sanctioned by western powers, since the invasion and occupation of portions of Ukraine by Russia, in February last year and which continues even today.

### *cont'd from pg 4*

rounded by people such as teachers who would say positive things to uplift you and make you confident; make you look at life with positive possibilities.

"When you have young people without that type of influence from home, not getting it from the schools, and in recent times, the churches seem to be distracted by other things rather than embracing young people and helping them develop wholesome characters, what do we expect, than what we see in society today," he remarked.

He added that some on the opposition benches have been promoting the idea that young people are 'victims' and someone

else was responsible. "The call should be that everybody should be working in unity to save the youth of this nation!" he implored.

The health minister said activities such as sports are important for young people as they help them to 'use up' their excess energies. However, he said that the entire nation should put aside their differences and come together to create the environment through which the young people may thrive and flourish.

Sir Molwyn advised that on his retirement from active politics he intends to dedicate much of his time, to helping young people to cope with the vagaries of life.

## World Consumer Rights Day focuses on renewable energy

The rising cost of fuel that generates energy and the impact not just on consumers, but also on the environment are the focus of a World Consumer Rights Day message delivered by Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene.

Speaking on the theme: ‘Empowering Consumers Through Clean Energy Transitions’ Greene observed, that countries across the globe are faced with the harsh reality that most economies are facing a deepening energy crisis globally,

which is having an especial untold impact on vulnerable consumers.

He referenced Consumers International which predicted that global energy prices would rise by 50% by the end of 2022 and will stay high in 2023. The world, it noted, needs energy to support everyday life and drive human and economic development. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports that in 2019, over 26,000 terawatt-hours of electricity were produced worldwide. This electrici-



Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene

ty is being produced by a range of energy sources, but mostly fossil fuels.

He noted that energy production and use, are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions around the world.

“As greenhouse gases are a driving force behind climate change, countries worldwide including Antigua and Barbuda are actively working on a clean energy transition by changing how energy is produced,” he stated.

Greene emphasized the government’s commitment to the clean energy transition, which means shifting energy production away from sources that release a lot of greenhouse gases, such as fossil fuels, to those that release little to no greenhouse gases.

“As we celebrate World Consumer Rights Day, it affords consumers, businesses, and the government the opportunity for us to place

greater emphasis on the need for the protection of our environment from the harmful effects of greenhouse gases. Additionally, it allows for increased awareness and promotion of various forms of renewable energy sources and the advantages to include cost-saving benefits available to consumers,” he remarked.

The trade minister noted that, as the world struggles to navigate what he described as ‘the greatest cost of living crisis in a generation’ and as the energy world drastically responds to supply and climate issues, the Antigua and Barbuda Government considers it crucial that long-term sustainability is achieved by the integration of renewable energy sources, to the benefit of consumers.

“Consumers too, must play their part by utilizing energy conservation measures and promoting energy efficiency,” he urged.

**NOTICE**

To: Her Worship  
The Licensing magistrate  
St. Johns Magistrate Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

To: Her Worship  
The Licensing magistrate  
St. Johns Magistrate Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. Johns  
Antigua.

Dear Madame,

**Re: Notice- Application for Liquor Licence**

I, Maria Elena Rodriguez of Villa, with registered business situated at Bennett Street in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 next ensuring for a Liquor License Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "M.E. Rodriguez Mini Mart" situated at Bennett Street in the parish of St. John, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023

*Maria E. Rodriguez*  
Maria Elena Rodriguez  
(1268 7885497)

# SLBMC observes Patient Safety Awareness Week

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is this week observing Patient Safety Awareness Week which focuses on the safe use of pre-

scribing medication, among other safety issues.

Spokesman Salma Crump said the Week runs from March 12 to 18 with activities for the in-house staff and others for the benefit of the public. As an example, on Wednesday, there was a talk given at the hospital where the emphasis was on prescription drugs and their use. Patients were encouraged to take these medications at the correct times, indicated by the doctor and pharmacists, and to ask questions if they are unsure of a particular matter.

cus were for those older patients who may not see well, or hear well, for them to ensure that they understand clearly the information from the doctor regarding the medications," she suggested.

Additionally, she said people who assist the elderly should familiarize themselves with the correct usage of the medications before giving them to the patients.

Internally, Crump said the hospital staff was looking at issues such as quality service and safety for patients at the institution.

## Education Ministry pays tribute to fallen teacher



Francille Davis

The Ministry of Education is paying tribute to the late Five Islands Primary School teacher, Francille Davis, who died in her sleep on Tuesday night.

Word of her passing sent shock waves throughout the education system in Antigua and Barbuda as well as the society generally. 47 year old Davis, lived at Greenbay Hill.

Through written communication, the Director of Education broke the sad news to staff of the ministry on Wednesday morning. It read:

Good morning colleagues. It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of

the untimely passing of Ms. Francille Davis, kindergarten teacher at Five Islands Primary School. I was told of her passing this morning. The principal of the school indicated that Ms. Davis was at work yesterday. She was an incredible teacher. She was always bubbly and loomed largely at Five Islands Primary School. She was always around with a big voice. She assisted the M&E Unit with the supervision of the G6NA last year. We pray for her family, relatives and friends and thank God for her life and her service and pray that her soul will repose in perpetual peace.

## NY bank's demise: Contagion or a problem with the business?



Customers do business at a branch of Signature Bank in New York, Monday, March 13, 2023. President Joe Biden is telling Americans that the nation's financial systems are sound. This comes after the swift and stunning collapse of two banks that prompted fears of a broader upheaval. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

### By Geoff Mulvihill

Signature Bank's collapse came stunningly fast, leaving behind the question of whether there was a fundamental flaw in the way it did business — or if it was just a victim of the panic that spread after the failure of Silicon Valley Bank.

There were few outward signs that Signature Bank was crumbling before the New York Department of Financial Services on Sunday seized the bank's assets and asked the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. take over its operations. The FDIC will run it as Signature Bridge Bank until it can be sold.

But leading up to the takeover,

there were calls on social media warning depositors to get their funds out of the bank — and those were followed with a real-life frenzy of withdrawals. There hasn't yet been a public accounting of exactly how much money was withdrawn from the bank with a history of being friendlier than most in the U.S. to the cryptocurrency industry.

"This is not about a particular sector in the case of Signature Bank," Adrienne Harris, superintendent of the Department of Financial Services, said at a media briefing this week. "But we moved quickly to make sure depositors were protected."

The department has described the

New York-based financial institution as a "traditional commercial bank," but its two-decade history was certainly unconventional.

Signature catered to privately held businesses and their owners and executives. It became one of the 20 largest banks in the country that way, based on deposits. By the same measure, it was also the third largest U.S. bank to fail, after Washington Mutual's collapse in 2008 and Silicon Valley Bank's demise last week.

Founded in 2001, it was a major lender to New York City apartment building owners. Clients included for-

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*cont'd from pg 8*

mer President Donald Trump and the family of his son-in-law and former White House adviser, Jared Kushner. Trump's daughter, Ivanka, who also became a key Trump administration adviser, was on the bank's board of directors from 2011-13, before her father's run for president.

She wasn't the only high-profile member of the board. Over the years, two former members of Congress also served on it: Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican, and Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat who was a co-author of the landmark 2010 legislation that overhauled regulation of the financial industry.

Signature also made loans to New York taxi drivers seeking medallions, a part of the business that struggled as ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft took off and the value of medallions fell.

Unlike most U.S. banks, it was also friendly to cryptocurrency businesses, becoming the first FDIC-insured bank to offer a blockchain-based digital payment platform in 2019.

Partly because of crypto, the bank's deposits grew by 67% in 2021. But last year, as the crypto exchange FTX crashed and declared bankruptcy, Signature pulled back. Its deposits over the year declined by \$17 billion, or nearly 17%. The bulk of that was because of what the bank called a "planned reduction" in crypto-related assets.

In a January earnings release, Joseph DePaolo, then Signature's CEO, said the bank planned to expand geographically.

"We see growth on the horizon," DePaolo said.

Even as he made the prediction, the bank's stock was falling amid crypto struggles and a broader stock market slump.

After hitting a high of \$365 in early 2022, the bank's stock plunged to

less than one-third that value by late February of this year. The freefall began this month until trading was halted on March 10 with the stock sitting at \$70.

Until it was shuttered, it had been a go-to bank for the crypto industry. Konstantin Shulga, co-founder and CEO of Cyprus-based Finery Markets, which connects cryptocurrency businesses with banks and other businesses, said that many of his firm's clients banked with Signature or Silvergate Capital, which last week voluntarily shut down its bank, warning it could end up "less than well capitalized."

Shulga said that having so few banks catering to the cryptocurrency industry is a problem.

"Because of this concentration, both parties failed," he said. "The clients failed because they were only forced to operate within these two banks, and the banks failed because they were not able to pick up more business from other areas to diversify."

The other problem, he said: Social media accelerated the run on Signature deposits.

Twice in March, Signature took the uncommon step of issuing financial updates as depositors fled Silicon Valley Bank, which was taken over by regulators two days before Signature was.

It said that as of March 8, 80% of its deposits came from "middle market" businesses including law and accounting firms, healthcare companies, manufacturers and real estate management firms.

But it also shared had one key characteristic with Silicon Valley Bank, which was a major player in financing the tech industry: a high portion of uninsured domestic deposits.

Signature Bank was fourth in that category as of the end of 2021, with nearly 90% uninsured. Silicon Valley Bank was second. Uninsured depos-

its are amounts above the FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000 per individual account. Only after the bank was taken over did the FDIC waive the insurance cap for depositors in both it and Silicon Valley Bank.

In the meantime, the bank's reassurances did not slow the withdrawals, which picked up Friday and then continued into the weekend, until regulators stepped in.

Frank, the former congressman, called it "an unjustified total shutdown" and said he believed it came about because New York banking officials wanted to send a message to banks to stay away from the crypto business. He said that things were stabilizing.

The state regulatory agency that shut it down rejected that claim and pointed to what bank executives did as withdrawals continued to mount.

"The bank failed to provide reliable and consistent data, creating a significant crisis of confidence in the bank's leadership," an agency spokesperson said in an email.

A spokeswoman for the bank's former leaders declined to respond, but Frank said that the numbers were changing because the situation was shifting.

An autopsy of the bank could play out in court.

This week, a shareholder filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn claiming the bank and its executives misrepresented the facts with its two assurances this month that the business was healthy.

"We intentionally maintain a high level of capital, strong liquidity profile and solid earnings," Eric Howell, then Signature Bank's president and chief operating officer, said in a statement March 9, three days before the bank in its old form ceased to exist, "which continues to differentiate us from competitors, especially during challenging times."



## Scientists create mice with cells from two males for first time

By **Laura Ungar**

For the first time, scientists have created baby mice from two males.

This raises the distant possibility of using the same technique for people – although experts caution that very few mouse embryos developed into live mouse pups and no one knows whether it would work for humans.

Still, “It’s a very clever strategy,” said Diana Laird, a stem cell and reproductive expert at the University of California, San Francisco, who was not involved in the research. “It’s an important step in both stem cell and reproductive biology.”

Scientists described their work in a study published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

First, they took skin cells from the tails of male mice and transformed them into “induced pluripotent stem cells,” which can develop into many different types of cells or tissues.

“Then, through a process that involved growing them and treating them with a drug, they converted male mouse stem cells into female cells and produced functional egg cells. Final-

ly, they fertilized those eggs and implanted the embryos into female mice. About 1% of the embryos – 7 out of 630 – grew into live mouse pups.

The pups appeared to grow normally and were able to become parents themselves in the usual way, research leader Katsuhiko Hayashi of Kyushu University and Osaka University in Japan told fellow scientists at the Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing last week.

In a commentary published alongside the *Nature* study, Laird and her colleague, Jonathan Bayerl, said the work “opens up new avenues in reproductive biology and fertility research” for animals and people. Down the road, for example, it might be possible to reproduce endangered mammals from a single male.

“And it might even provide a template for enabling more people,” such as male same-sex couples, “to have biological children, while circumventing the ethical and legal issues of donor eggs,” they wrote.

But they raised several cautions. The most notable one? The technique

is extremely inefficient. They said it’s unclear why only a tiny fraction of the embryos placed into surrogate mice survived; the reasons could be technical or biological.

They also stressed that it’s still too early to know if the protocol would work in human stem cells at all.

Laird also said scientists need to be mindful of the mutations and errors that may be introduced in a culture dish before using stem cells to make eggs.

The research is the latest to test new ways to create mouse embryos in the lab. Last summer, scientists in California and Israel created “synthetic” mouse embryos from stem cells without a dad’s sperm or a mom’s egg or womb.

Those embryos mirrored natural mouse embryos up to 8 ½ days after fertilization, containing the same structures, including one like a beating heart.

Scientists said the feat could eventually lay the foundation for creating synthetic human embryos for research in the future.

## Bobby Caldwell, soulful R&B singer who broke barriers, dies at 71

By Chelsea Bailey

Music legends are mourning one of their own: R&B singer Bobby Caldwell died at his home on Tuesday night.

Caldwell's hit single, *What You Won't Do For Love*, shot to the top 10 on Billboard Hot 100 in 1978 and broke barriers in the R&B genre.

Caldwell had been battling a long illness, his wife, Mary Caldwell, said. He was 71.

His songs have since been sampled across genres by artists ranging from Tupac Shakur and Common to Ella Mai.

He would later transition to song-writing, penning tunes for Neil Diamond and Roberta Flack.

Questlove sampled



R&B singer Bobby Caldwell in 2006.

Caldwell's *Open Your Eyes* for a collaboration with Common to produce the song, *The Light*. Questlove led tributes to Caldwell on Instagram, lamenting the fact that he never got to meet Caldwell in person.

"Caldwell was the closing chapter in a generation in which record execs wanted to hide faces on

album covers so perhaps maybe their artist could have a chance," he wrote. "Man such a missed opportunity to meet a legend. Thank you for your voice and gift."

Born Robert Hunter Caldwell on August 15, 1951, Bobby knew he was destined for a career in music by the time he was a teenager, according to his

website.

In the early 1970s he began playing as a guitarist for Little Richard. By 1978, he had launched a solo career and released the hit single that propelled him to fame.

As Questlove's post-recalled, Caldwell's record label initially took care to keep his face off his first album. R&B was traditionally dominated by African-American singers. The decision led to years of continuing shock as new fans discovered the singer was white.

But new fans still kept coming for Caldwell's sultry ballads punctuated by horns - especially in Japan and across Asia, where Caldwell remained popular well into the 1990s.



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## BVI Premier likely to announce election date this week

CMC - Just over a month after he dismissed rumours that his administration could be moving towards holding an early general election, Premier Dr Natalio Wheatley is getting ready to announce the election date this week.

“We are not going to have early elections,” he had said in February.

The House of Assembly was dissolved last Friday paving the way for the general election that must be held within two months. General elections are constitutionally due by mid-May.

Wheatley became head of government after after premier Andrew Fahie was detained in Miami in April last year by United States agents posing as cocaine traffickers from a Mexican drug cartel.

He said that his ruling Virgin Islands Party (VIP) is close to finalising its slate of 13 candidates for the election.

“Some time ago we would have gone to our party Congress where we selected 10 individuals to move forward for this general election and we will have a Congress to ratify our remaining members. We should be having the Congress over the next few days,” he told the CARIB Update television programme.

At least four political parties and several independents are expected to contest the elections, but Wheatley said he remains confident that the VIP would be returned to power.

“We have been able to steady the ship, we have improved our relationship with the United Kingdom and of course we have been able to implement recommendations and the United Kingdom has expressed their pleasure of the progress even though there are areas we have to improve upon.

“But generally they are pleased with the progress and of course peo-



ple of the British Virgin Islands are pleased with the progress made so far and correcting things in our governance,” he added.

Last year, the British government decided not to impose direct rule on the BVI, despite a report finding gross failures of governance in the territory.

The review had recommended the BVI’s constitution should be suspended and its government dissolved amid corruption concerns. But the foreign secretary will instead allow a new administration to implement reforms in the next two years.

The inquiry was commissioned in 2021 amid claims about corruption and misuse of taxpayers’ money. The sole Commissioner, British judge Sir Gary Hickinbottom, in his report had described the state of governance in the BVI as “appalling bad”.

Sir Gary had called for a two-year suspension of the BVI constitution, cessation of the elected ministerial government and the imposition of direct rule by the UK. He also recommended reviews of the government’s welfare payments, the sale of public land, and law enforcement on the islands.

Residents of the BVI took to the streets outside the official residence of Governor John Rankin protesting

the recommendations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) government also condemned the move by London.

The sub-regional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in its condemnation noted “the general feeling is that we don’t understand why the British in the 21st century, making decisions similar to what they had done years ago in other countries”.

In the last general elections held on 25 February 2019, for the 13 of the 15 seats in the House of Assembly, there was a total of 41 candidates nominated including 11 women.

The parties contesting the poll was the then ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), the VIP, the Progressive Virgin Island Movement (PVIM) and the Progressives United (PU). There were also two independent candidates in the 2019 race.

The VIP won eight of the 13 seats and for the first time, women won three seats in the House of Assembly.

Voters in this British Overseas Territory elect 13 representatives for a four year term, nine of whom are electoral district representatives and the other four as territorial-at-large representatives, the Attorney General, a non-voting, ex officio member and one elected Speaker.

## Dominica's cultural icon Alwin Bully to receive official funeral

Loop - The Government of Dominica will accord the late Alwin Bully an official funeral, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced on Monday.

Alwin Bully, the renowned cultural administrator, artist and playwright passed away on Friday after a battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 74.

He is revered for designing Dominica's national flag and for his role in the promotion of the island's arts and culture dating back to his days as Chief Cultural Officer at the Division of Culture, which he founded in 1978.

"To honour his proud legacy, the Government of Dominica will bestow an official funeral in recognition of his contribution to our country.

"All flags will be flown at half-staff for two days - the day immediately preceding the burial and the



Alwin Bully (Photo credit: Dominica GIS).

day of his burial," Prime Minister Skerrit told his bi-monthly press conference.

The Prime Minister described the late Alwin Bully as an exemplary citizen, a kind and humble soul, who demonstrated profound love and commitment for

Dominica, its people and culture.

"Through his work as a cultural administrator, both in Dominica and the region, he helped engender a deep appreciation for our customs and traditions."

He said Bully's legacy was in the national flag he

designed in 1978, which incorporated aspects of Dominica's natural features and the spirit, character, and values of the Dominican people.

"It is in the Cultural Division he established, providing a structured approach to the promotion and development of our cultural artforms; the many national organisations he spearheaded, including the National Cultural Council, the Dominica Artists' Guild, the Writers' Guild, the Carnival Organising Committee and the Komité Pou Etid Kwéyòl; several of which continue to function today," the Prime Minister added.

He also lauded Bully for the mentorship he provided to young playwrights, actors, directors, writers, costume designers and other creatives, who now proudly speak of the influence he had on their lives and work.

## 16 migrants detained after cargo ship jump in Puerto Rico

Loop - Federal authorities are investigating a group of at least 16 migrants who apparently were stowaways aboard a cargo ship headed to Puerto Rico and jumped into the ocean as it neared the US territory on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in San Juan Bay and was recorded by onlookers as all but two migrants hurled themselves

into the water and were rescued by the US Coast Guard.

Two female migrants who remained aboard the cargo ship also were detained, Jeffrey Quiñones, spokesman for US Customs and Border Protection, told The Associated Press.

The cargo ship had departed from Jacksonville, Florida, but officials sus-

pect the migrants might have scrambled aboard the ship in waters near the Dominican Republic after abandoning a small boat in that area, Quiñones said.

Authorities had not yet determined where the migrants are from or why they jumped into the water, but they were in good condition overall, he said.

## Imran Khan greets supporters after police withdraw from around ex-PM's home

BBC - Pakistan's main opposition leader Imran Khan has greeted supporters outside his home, hours after there were violent clashes as police tried to arrest him.

He addressed the crowd and took pictures with those gathered near his compound in the city of Lahore.

In one video, he can be seen wearing a gas mask. Police fired tear gas shells during clashes throughout the night.

One official told the BBC that the arrest operation had been paused.

Punjab Interim Information Minister Amir Mir said the court-ordered operation to detain Mr Khan was suspended on Wednesday to allow a cricket tournament to take place nearby, as the stand-off was causing major traffic disruption.

He said the operation would likely continue after the final of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) on 19 March.

No international cricket was played in Pakistan for six years following an attack on the Sri Lanka team by gunmen in 2009. It also took years for international players to return, and the ongoing tournament involves a large security operation.

"We can't afford to risk the security and safety of the PSL," a senior police official told the Reuters news agency.

Later on Wednesday, the



The former prime minister spoke to supporters gathered outside his residence in Lahore.

Lahore High Court ordered police to postpone the arrest of Mr Khan until Thursday, pending the result of a hearing on the legitimacy of the arrest warrant.

Officers and paramilitary rangers were seen leaving the Zaman Park suburb where the house is located, with some reportedly abandoning roadblocks and checkpoints.

Mr Khan then appeared outside and spoke to his supporters. "The police and rangers sent to harm Imran Khan were pushed back by the people," his PTI party Twitter account posted.

The 70-year-old, who was ousted as prime minister last April, is facing allegations he sold state gifts while in office. He says the case is politically motivated.

On Wednesday, the streets outside Mr Khan's home were littered with de-

bris and smouldering barricades.

His supporters gathered at one of the roads - a major highway in Lahore - and chanted his name.

Hours earlier, officers in riot gear had fired tear gas and water cannon in an effort to disperse hundreds of supporters at the compound. Some in the crowd threw stones and bricks.

Police then tried to force their way into the compound to arrest Mr Khan for failing to appear in an Islamabad court.

"I have never witnessed such brutality, that's what shocks me," Waqar Khan, a PTI supporter told the BBC.

Recalling Tuesday's clashes, one woman, Tazeen, said: "Are we not humans? What kind of a country is this? People around me could not breathe," one woman, Tazeen, said.

Mr Khan has said he did

not appear in court because of security concerns as two militant attacks had previously taken place there. The politician has offered to sign a guarantee that he will appear in court on Saturday.

He earlier told the BBC there was "no reason" for police to arrest him as he had taken protective bail until Saturday. He also said the government was determined to put him behind bars after previous failed attempts.

He said the authorities were trying to arrest him to stop his party from taking part in forthcoming elections. But he added: "Whether I am in jail or not they will not be able to stop my party winning."

Government minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the move had nothing to do with elections and police were only complying with court orders.

*cont'd on pg 15*

## Turkish floods inundate two cities hit by quakes killing 14

By Paul Kirby

Fourteen people have died and several others are missing after floods swept through the streets of two cities in south-east Turkey devastated by last month's earthquakes.

Among the victims were quake survivors who had been living in container homes since the quakes.

Cars tumbled on a torrent of floodwater through the streets of Sanliurfa, where 12 people died.

A container housing two families in Adiyaman was caught up in the floods.

A woman living in the container was among two people killed in the city. Several others were reported missing. Tents in the city were evacuated.

The latest disaster came only five weeks after the twin earthquakes on 6 February in which 48,000 people were killed and many more left homeless.

Search and rescue organisation Afad said that in one 24-hour period, 136mm (5.4in) of rain had fallen in one area of Adiyaman province and 111mm (4.4in) in



This man was pulled to safety from the underpass at the Abide junction.

Sanliurfa, which saw a third of its annual rainfall in the past two days.

The governor of Sanliurfa, Salih Ayhan, said his province had never seen flooding like it and officials appealed to residents to evacuate the ground floor and basements of homes.

The bodies of five people were found in a basement apartment and Turkish media said they were Syrians.

Bodies were also recov-

ered from an underpass at the major Abide road junction.

Several people were dragged off in their vehicles by the current of the floodwaters and people who tried to help those stranded were themselves swept away.

Dramatic footage emerged of a man being pulled out of the torrent in Sanliurfa by a local dangling a rope from a ground-floor window. A similar rescue took place at the Abide

junction.

Two of the missing were firefighters, said the governor, who appealed to residents to keep well away from the moving water. A hospital was flooded and 200 patients moved elsewhere.

The rain is due to die down towards the end of the week.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is grappling with the aftermath of last month's earthquake, is facing elections on 14 May. He has sent the interior minister, Suleyman Soyly, to the flood region.

Leading opposition figures are also due to visit Sanliurfa, and have vowed to help meet the urgent needs of residents.

*cont'd from pg 14*

She claimed that Mr Khan was using his party workers, women and children as human shields to evade arrest and stoke unrest.

Since being ousted from office, Mr Khan has been a vocal critic of the government and the country's army. He has

toured the country delivering fiery speeches calling for elections due later this year to be held early.

He has kept up pressure on his successor Shehbaz Sharif with demonstrations and blames him for an assassination attempt in November in which he was wounded in the leg.

## Russian spy network accused of sabotage arrested in Poland

By Adam Easton

A group of foreign citizens have been arrested on suspicion of spying for Russia, two Polish government officials have told the BBC.

Radio station RMF FM reported that Polish security services had broken up a spy network working for Russia.

Six people were detained on suspicion of having installed secret cameras to film transport infrastructure used to deliver aid to Ukraine, it reported.

RMF FM said the cell had prepared sabotage plans.

The decades-long spy conflict between Russia and the West has intensified since the Ukraine war.

Poland is one of Ukraine's strongest allies and its security forces have arrested several people on suspicion of spying for Russia since the invasion last February.

According to the radio station, the group had installed dozens of cameras beside railway junctions and important transport routes in Poland's Podkarpackie province, which borders Ukraine, it said.

Some of them were found close to a small regional airport that has been converted into an international logistics hub delivering military and humanitar-



The group reportedly installed cameras at places including Rzeszow-Jasionka airport, where Joe Biden flew into.

ian aid to Ukraine.

Military and cargo aircraft from the US and across Europe regularly fly in and out of the Rzeszow-Jasionka airport, where American troops can be seen beside their Humvees, to deliver supplies to waiting trucks that make the 100km (62 mile) journey to the Ukrainian border.

The site is considered so sensitive, Washington has deployed US Patriot air defence systems to protect the airfield.

US President Joe Biden flew into the airport on his way to his recent visit to Kyiv.

Security at critical infrastructure sites has reportedly been heightened, RMF FM said.

Poland's Interior Minister, Mariusz Kaminski, who is responsible for the Polish Internal Security Agency (ABW) - and whose officers reportedly made the arrests - is due to speak to the media about the RMF FM report on Thursday morning.

Several people have been arrested for spying in the past year. Last month, prosecutors charged a Russian citizen, who is a long-term resident in Poland, with spying for Russia between 2015 and 2022.

The man, who ran a business in Poland, was allegedly involved with historical reconstruction groups, where he made contacts with Polish military personnel.

He was arrested in April last year following an investigation that found he allegedly collected information on the organisational structure of Polish military units in the north-east of the country.

A Spanish national of Russian origin, who was identified as an agent for Russia's military intelligence agency (GRU) was arrested in Przemysl, south-eastern Poland, by the ABW last year on suspicion of spying for Moscow.

In March last year, a Polish employee of the Warsaw Registry Office, identified as Tomasz L., was arrested on suspicion of transferring operationally valuable data to the Russian intelligence services.





Ja Morant was drafted second overall by the Memphis Grizzlies in the 2019 NBA draft.

## Ja Morant: NBA star suspended for eight games without pay after gun incident

BBC - Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant has been suspended for eight games without pay by the NBA after a video showed him holding a gun in a Colorado nightclub.

Morant was also in an intoxicated state and his conduct was “detrimental to the league”, the NBA said.

The All-Star guard, 23, apologised following the live broadcast on his Instagram page on Saturday, 4 March.

NBA boss Adam Silver said Morant’s conduct was “irresponsible, reckless and potentially very dangerous”.

He added: “It also has serious consequences given his enormous following and influence, particularly among young fans who look up to him.”

In a statement after meeting Morant in New York on Wednesday, the commissioner said: «He has expressed sincere contrition and remorse for his behaviour.

“Ja has also made it clear to me that he has learned from this incident and that he understands his obligations and responsibility to the Memphis Grizzlies and the broader NBA community extend well beyond his play on the court.”

It is legal to carry a gun in Colorado with some exceptions, including possession while under the influence of alcohol.

Glendale Police Department did not find enough evidence to charge anyone for a crime.

The incident occurred hours after

the Grizzlies lost 113-97 to the Denver Nuggets and Morant has not played since, while the NBA investigated.

He has already missed five games, and as the suspension is backdated, he will be allowed to return against the Dallas Mavericks on 21 March.

“Based on the information obtained during the investigation, the league did not conclude that the gun at issue belonged to Morant, was brought by him into the nightclub or was displayed by him beyond a brief period,” an NBA statement added.

“The investigation also did not find that Morant possessed the gun while traveling with the team or in any NBA facility, and the Colorado authorities did not find sufficient cause to charge Morant with a crime.”

# Sports News

## Enforcers beat Rockets in national softball cricket league

Sagicor Enforcers snatched a 16-run victory over Jennings Rockets in the Men's Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) T-10 Competition at Dredgers on Tuesday night.

Enforcers won the toss and batted, scoring 59 for six off their 10 allotted overs. Kimberly Anthony scored 14 and Patara Francis claimed two wickets for six runs.

In reply, Jennings Rockets were restricted to 43 for six off their 10 overs. Chuntene George made 14 while Anthony captured two wickets for seven runs.

In other encounters on Sunday, Dredgers crushed Old Road by 103 runs. Dredgers made 136 for three from 10 overs. Mervin Higgins slammed 106 with 14 sixes and 3 fours while Hezekiah Weston took two wickets for 18 runs.

Old Road then crashed to 33 all out from 8.2 overs. Zach Thomas picked up 2 for four and Vernal Isadore had two for 13. Dredgers also won by default over Flyers.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business pulled off an eight-wicket win against Lil Lincs Supermarket Antigua & Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) Warriors.

ABDF Warriors scored 60 for seven from 10 overs. Theodore Benjamin got 26 and Edwin Jackson made 17. Charles James bagged three for 10, Winston Roberts took two for 9 and Kerry Mentore claimed two for 14.

Strictly Business coasted to victory, reaching 61 for two in 7.2 overs. Kerry Mentore made 16 and Owen Graham was not out on 12.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business also overcame Marko Inc/Grill Box Buckleys 3J's by eight wick-

ets. Buckley 3J's made 67 for four. Gregson Merrick scored 17, Denley Thomas struck 15 and Nigel Fergus got 14.

Strictly Business made 68 for two in six overs. Winston Roberts cracked an unbeaten 37 and Owen Graham made 17 not out.

Lil Lincs Supermarket Antigua & Barbuda Defence Force Warriors rebounded to beat Sisserou by 34 runs. ABDF Warriors made 113 for four with Vaughn Charles smashing 63 and Theodore Benjamin getting 34. Ernest Sargent captured two for 16.

Sisserou could only muster 79 for seven in 9.4 overs. Thagman Gamchand made 23 not out and Anthony Mathurin got 16. Malik Marcellin took two for 13 and Quincy France claimed two for 16.

Marko Inc/Grill Box Buckleys 3J's defeated PMS by 10 wickets. Denfield Roach struck an unbeaten 30 and Keny Benjamin made 19 not out to guide PMS to 87 for three.

Randino Turners slammed an unbeaten 49 and Denley Thomas cracked 39 not out as Buckleys 3J's achieved victory by scoring 88 without loss in 5.1 overs.

Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets won by default over Flyers by default and also defeated 300 by nine wickets.

Molvin James struck 28 not out as Bullets made 52 for five. Kimani George snapped up three wickets for five runs. In reply, Bullets raced to victory by scoring 53 for one in just two overs. Essan Warner smashed 42 not out, hitting seven sixes.

Old Road also defeated 300 by 26 runs. Old Road made 102 for three. Rowan Irish hammered 47 and Vincie Bowen scored 18. Molvin James cap-

*cont'd on pg 19*



*Sagicor Enforcers' allrounder Kimberly Anthony starred with bat and ball to lead her team to victory in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's T-10 Competition at Dredgers on Tuesday, 14th March, 2023. (File photo)*



Princess Margaret School's Craig Massiah dribbles the ball up court during his team's Junior Boys Division encounter in the Inter-Schools' Basketball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday, 14th March, 2023. (Photo courtesy Schools' Basketball League)

## PMS trounce SNRA in schools' basketball league

Princess Margaret School (PMS) romped to an emphatic 58-point victory over the Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) in the Inter-Schools' Basketball League at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday.

Craig Massiah shot a

game-high 30 points to lead Princess Margaret to their 77-19 victory in the Junior Boys Secondary Division encounter.

Massiah was supported by Tyrese White with 14 points and Tyrese Nervais with eight points, while Cecil Seepaul scored

six points for Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

St. Anthony's Secondary coasted to a 51-17 victory against the Antigua State College in the Senior Boys Division.

Jabin Penn converted 14 points and Devante Carter sank eight points

for St. Anthony's Secondary, while Shemmoi Liddie scored seven points for State College.

Kinaya Lewis and Alyssa Jardine each scored eight points as Combine prevailed 21-19 against the Antigua Girls High School in their Senior Girls' Division affair.

Keturah Christmas also scored eight points for the Antigua Girls High School.

TN Kirnon Primary prevailed 6-4 against Combine in the encounter in the Mini Girls' Primary category.

*cont'd from pg 18*

tured two for 24.

In reply, 300 was restricted to 76 for seven. Pete Lee made 17 and Veston Lewis got 10. Clarence Francis bagged two wickets for five runs, Peter Thomas had two for 12 and Hezekiah Weston claimed two for 15.

Sisserou cruised to a 10-wicket win over PMS. Denzil Roach struck 28 and Kenny Benjamin hit 24 not out in the PMS total of 87 for two.

Anthony Mathurin slammed an unbeaten 55 and Sylvester Scotland made 30 not out to lead Sisserou to victory at 94 without loss in 9.4 overs.

## Dominatrixx drop points in three-hand domino contest

Leaders Dominatrixx were beaten in the Team Three-Hand competition in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League over the weekend.

Dominatrixx dropped points in the competition when they could only secure a third place finish in their encounter during the sixth-

round of Team Three-Hand matches at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

Contesting the second of six matches last weekend, Dominatrixx could only muster a total of 71 points in the encounter which was won by Ramplers, who scored 75 points, narrowly beating the A Team of Dou-

ble Six who finished second with 74 points.

The opening match was won by the C Team of Bolans Revellers with a total of 83 points. The A Team of Bravo came second with 73 points and Moise Eagle Warriors finished a distant third with 59 points.

Unstoppables ran away with victory in the third encounter by amassing a total of 81 points to beat Future with 70 points and the A Team of Bolans Revellers with 63 points.

Triple Dynamite coasted to victory in the fourth match by chalking up a total of 76 points to prevail against the B Teams of Double Six and Bolans Revellers with 66 and 65 points respectively.

Success as well for the three-hand teams of Rising Stars and the A Team of Willikies Superstars.

Rising Stars scored 75 points to beat the B Team of Willikies Superstars with 72 points and Parham Strikers with 67 points.

The A Team of Willikies Superstars recorded 79 points to overcome Legacy with 72 points and the B Team of Bravo, who finished third with 65 points.

Meanwhile, Dominatrixx and Willikies Superstars recorded wins in the seventh round of matches last weekend to remain joint leaders of the Team Four-Hand competition.

Dominatrixx trounced Double Six 52-27, Willikies Superstars crushed Unstoppables 72-15 and Bolans Revellers prevailed 47-33 against Ramplers.

Dominatrixx and Willikies Superstars now lead the Team Four-Hand competition with identical records of six wins and one defeat, after seven rounds of matches.



## Wins for Master Ballerz and English Harbour in Second Division

FC Master Ballerz and English Harbour recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Tuesday.

The Master Ballerz romped to a 4-2 victory against bottom team TAMO FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Keyon Joseph put Master Ballers ahead with a goal in the 25th minute, but Jahiem Grant equalized for TAMO FC with a 28th minute conversion.

Clive Sansculotte scored in the 32nd minute to give Master Ballerz a 2-1 half-time advantage. After the interval, TAMO FC equalized when Jimal Christian scored an own goal in the 60th minute.

However, Uran Francis returned the favour by scoring an own goal in the 73rd minute which gave Master Ballers a 3-2 lead. Romar Gidrisingh then produced an 83rd minute conversion to seal victory for Master Ballerz.

Their seventh win in 14 matches carries Master Ballerz to 24 points and up to fifth place in the 15-team competition, while TAMO



*The FC Master Ballerz Football Team. (File photo)*

FC remains in the cellar position on three points after suffering their 12th defeat in 13 outings.

Delroy Simpson scored twice to lead English Harbour to a 4-1 victory over Lingies CPTSA Wings in their encounter at the English Harbour playing field.

Simpson scored in the 53rd and 69th minute to give English Harbour a 4-0

advantage after Oshane Blackwood had scored in the 14th minute and Wayne Phillip with an 18th minute conversion had given their team a 2-0 halftime lead.

Nesworn Knowles scored a consolation goal for Wings in the 87th minute.

The sixth win in 14 appearances carries English Harbour to 22 points and

into sixth place on goal difference.

Wings will remain in the 11th position on 13 points after succumbing to their 8th loss in 13 matches.

The ABFA's domestic programme will continue with four matches in the First Division at 4:30 pm today, Thursday, 16th March.

Lion Hill and Police will clash at the Golden Grove playing field, Young Lions will host John Hughes at the Old Road playing field, Green City will take on Potters Tigers at the Potters playing field and Bendals will meet Bolans at the Bolans playing field.

### *cont'd from pg 22*

against the Guyana Harpy Eagles at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad.

The Red Force trailed the Harpy Eagles by 317 runs after Guyana was dismissed for 324 in 86.3 overs on the opening day.

Kevin Sinclair top scored with 69 off 96 balls, Leon Johnson made 62, Anthony Bramble got 56 and Kemo Paul scored 46. Leg-spinner Imran Khan claimed four for 80, off-spinner Brian Charles had three for 85 and Uthman Muhammad picked up two for 31.

## Dowrich slams century against LI Hurricanes

Captain Shane Dowrich hit an unbeaten century as defending champions Barbados Pride, reached 294 for eight at the close of the opening day of their third round Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional four-day championship match, against the Leeward Islands Hurricanes at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad yesterday.

Dowrich, who won the toss and opted to bat, was not out on 116 as Barbados batted a total of 88 overs on the opening day.

The right-handed wicketkeeper/batsman has so far faced 191 balls during which he struck nine fours and a six. Dowrich held the Barbados innings together by featuring in two half century partnerships.

Dowrich shared in a 92-run fifth wicket stand with Kevin Wickham, who made 41 off 61 balls. He also added 73 runs for the eighth wicket with Chaim Holder, who scored 43 off 56 balls.

Off-spinner Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall kept the Leewards Hurricanes in the game by steadily picking



Barbados Pride captain Shane Dowrich

up wickets throughout the Barbados Pride's innings to end the day with impressive bowling figures of six for 50 off 24 overs.

The Windward Islands Volcanoes had the better of the opening day exchanges in their regional third round match against the Jamaica Scorpions at Providence in Guyana.

The Scorpions were struggling on 98 for seven at the close, trailing by 119 runs, in response to the Volcanoes first innings total of

217 all out in 60.3 overs.

Derval Greene has so far top scored for the Scorpions with a run-a-ball 33 not out. He shared in a seventh wicket 57-run partnership with Jamie Merchant, who contributed 24, to revive the Scorpions' innings after Jamaica was reeling at 41 for six.

Justin Greaves had so far taken four for 34 and Shermion Lewis had picked up two for 29.

Alick Athanaze hit a top score of 81 off 111 balls

with 12 fours and a six in the Windward Volcanoes first innings. Athanaze shared a 107-run fifth-wicket partnership with Greaves, who gave good support with a knock of 50 off 97 balls.

Greene grabbed five for 30, Nicholson Gordon claimed two for 26 and Merchant took two for 39.

Trinidad & Tobago Red Force reached seven without loss at the close of the opening day of their regional four-day encounter

*cont'd on pg 21*