

# PM EULOGISES LATE MOTHER AS “REMARKABLE SINGLE PARENT”



*Story on Page 2*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his sister Blondelle with the urn bearing the ashes of their mother Patricia Rose Richards, as they exit the Saint John's Wesleyan Holiness Church, following a Thanksgiving Service yesterday

## PM gives emotional tribute at thanksgiving service for late mother

Many Antiguans and Barbudans heard for the first time yesterday the struggles Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his siblings endured as children and the determination by their late mother to provide their needs while battling mental illness.

Mr. Browne delivered the eulogy at the funeral service for Patricia Rose Richards, who passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024, at 76 years old.

With his mother's urn resting on a table surrounded by white flowers, the head of government, before a packed congregation at Saint John's Wesleyan Holiness Church, reflected on their difficult upbringing and the many challenges they experienced, particularly him and his sister Blondelle, after Patricia Richards' mental illness was confirmed at just 29-years-old, praising God for guiding them through a life



An emotional Prime Minister Gaston Browne being supported by his wife Minister Maria Browne, while delivering the eulogy at his mother's funeral service

that could have turned out differently.

"It was my sister Blondelle and I who faced the greatest hardships, being raised by a mentally ill single parent.

While society often saw her as a useless lunatic, my sister Blondelle and I held her in high esteem, as our gem; our un-

*cont'd on pg 3*



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**Other Key Requirements**

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*cont'd from pg 2*

sung hero, the wind beneath our wings.

Despite enduring her psychosis at the tender ages of 9 and 7 and half years respectively, and the attendant societal ridicule, scorn, and stigma associated with her mental health illness, we never scorned her; we were never ashamed of her; we never demonized her.

“She was – and is – our mother. A mother whom we loved and protected during her vulnerable periods from the time we were youngsters.”

Mr. Browne recalled that due to the illness that consumed his parent, he and his sister were her protectors, keeping her safe from those who saw opportunities to take advantage of her illness.

“If it wasn’t for our diligence and courage in the instinctive response of children to protect their mother, who was by then a quite hapless, vulnerable soul, she would have become a victim of repeated rapes at the hands of those

heartless, vulturous men,” he said.

The prime minister remembered his mother as a “remarkable single parent” who was resilient despite the odds that were stacked high against her.

Through her illness, she found God he revealed and soldiered on, even with new challenges that presented themselves.

Patricia Richards found jobs to help sustain her family, but there were numerous times they went hungry, which also affected their health. However, she remained their champion.

“She motivated us by instilling in us sound moral values of honesty, hard work, frugality, contentedness, and the importance of an education.

“Even during her numerous episodes of mental illness, she insisted on our regular attendance at church and school.

“We were so well-grounded in the value of an education that not even

hunger kept us away from school.”

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has always spoken of his difficult childhood with a mentally ill parent.

But for many, yesterday’s eulogy gave further insight into his life that may have never before been told publicly.

He said it was his hope that his family’s experiences will serve to motivate others that are going through similar ordeals in life.

“For our entire existence, Blondelle [sister] and I have had to fight to confront and overcome the stigmatization, discrimination, and denigration of having a mentally ill mother.

However, we were blessed with the emotional power to surmount those challenges. Let our mother’s life experience and our role in her life, be an example of how we should embrace and love those among us with mental challenges,” the prime minister remarked.

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## Poor support for Watchnight Gathering

Disappointed with the attendance on Wednesday evening at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Watchnight Gathering in observance of Emancipation Day, the Minister of Education, Sports and Creative Industries has agreed something must be done to boost interest and attendance for the event.

Organised by the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission, the Watchnight Gathering, held at the Botanical Gardens, was described as a continued cherished tradi-

tion symbolising the anticipation enslaved Africans felt as they awaited news of their freedom. However, it continues to be overshadowed by the carnival festivities that are held simultaneously.

On Wednesday evening, Minister Daryll Matthew said the turnout continues to be disappointing and told the gathering there must be renewed interest in the activities planned in observance of Emancipation Day.

“Maybe as the minister

with responsibility for festivals and events like this, maybe I need to do some reflection to see whether or not we are doing enough to empower and enlighten persons about this activity,” the minister exclaimed.

He has agreed with previous calls made by the Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission, Ambassador Dorberene O’Marde, for the Watchnight Gathering and other emancipation-related



Daryll Matthew

events to be observed on a national holiday, specifically set aside for Emancipation Day, adding it must be undertaken through consensus.

“I hope ladies and gentlemen that next year, we would see more persons here.

“But between now and July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025, I would really hope that a national conversation really emanates, a conversation that asks the difficult questions, a conversation that is not viewed through coloured lens blue or red – but a conversation that is honest, genuine, with country at heart.

“I hope that we are mature enough to have a conversation about what development ought to look like and whether or not we are there.”

Minister Daryll Matthew has applauded the ABRSC for their continued efforts to keep the conversation alive on where we have come from and where we need to go.

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## The UWI welcomes new Chancellor

The University of the West Indies has welcomed its new Chancellor, Dr. The Most Hon. Dodridge Miller, the 7<sup>th</sup> holder of the highest office in the regional uni-

versity system.

The University Council appointed Chancellor Miller at its annual business meeting earlier this year. According to the University's Stat-

utes and Ordinances, "the Chancellor shall preside at meetings of the Council [the highest governing body of the regional university] and any Convocation and shall



Dr. The Most Hon. Dodridge Miller

have such powers and perform such duties as may be conferred upon the holder of the office of Chancellor by The UWI Charter or any Statute, Ordinance or Regulation."

Chancellor Miller, a distinguished graduate of The UWI, brings a wealth of experience to his new role. He is regarded as a true Caribbean luminary with over 30 years of leadership in the banking, insurance, and financial services sectors, including a successful tenure as the Group President and CEO of Sagicor Financial Company until his retirement in March 2023.

In a statement to the University Community, Chancellor Miller asserted, "I am eager to engage our contributing Governments together with the leadership of the University to hear from them how they would wish to deepen our working relationship. Their support remains essential for the continuity of The UWI's role as a partner in the development agenda of the region."



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Applications may be submitted electronically to [Janice.Thomas@fsfc.gov.ag](mailto:Janice.Thomas@fsfc.gov.ag) or hard copy applications addressed to the undersigned, may be mailed or delivered to the Financial Services Regulatory Commission. Please note that these should be sealed, marked "Confidential" and indicate the job reference "DOIP2024".

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West Side Symphony Steel Orchestra	1st	"Superman" by Ricardo Drue	Aijal Jarvis	Veron Henry	Eugene Davis
West Indies Oil Gemonites Steel Orchestra	2nd	"Let Loose" by Tian Winter	Patrick Stone Johnson	Veron Henry	Joseph Henry
Harmonites International Steel Orchestra	3rd	"Socaholic" by Ricardo Drue	Aubrey "Lacu" Samuel	Eustace Harris	Alston Davis
Crab Hole Liquors Panache Steel Orchestra	4th	"Ah Love It Here" by Ricardo Drue	Malik Smith	Veron Henry	Maurisha Potter
Original Steel Orchestra	5th	"Happy Music" by Ricardo Drue	Derel Jarvis	Veron Henry	Elvis Wetherill
Halycon Steel Orchestra	6th	"Let's Do It" by Ricardo Drue	Deiondre Teague	Dudley Dickson	Dwayne Mussington
Caribbean Union Bank Hells Gate Steel Orchestra	7th	"Ah Love It Here" by Ricardo Drue	Khan Cordice	Veron Henry	Keith Athill

## Saint Lucian delegate crowned Jaycees Queen 2024

Shan Lucien is the new Jaycees Queen following the staging of the 61<sup>st</sup> edition of the Jaycees Queen Show on Wednesday evening.

The Saint Lucian national claimed the title following a night of competition that was threatened by inclement weather earlier in the day.

Delegates representing 11 countries vied for the title, but it was Lucien who received the judges' nod, ending a more than 30-year drought for Saint Lucia it was reported. She also won the Performing Talent



Segment, Modelling Skills Evening Wear, Best Dress for Evening Wear and the award for staying true to the theme.

Ms. Antigua and Barbuda,

Desrie Markham, was adjudged 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up in the competition. Additionally, she copped the Swimwear Segment and also the award for Miss Congenial-

ity.

Amonai Francis, Miss Grenada, claimed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up position. She was also named winner of the Interview Segment.

Organisers of the show JCI Antigua, had announced in March the cancellation of the Jaycees Queen Show 2024, citing unforeseen circumstances beyond their control.

However, in April, the general public was informed that the show will be staged on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2024, in partnership with Antigua Cruise Port and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.



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# Opinion



## Age, Race, and Fear – the US Elections and Caribbean Interests

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The outcome of the US Presidential elections will reverberate globally, impacting many nations. Every government, including those in the Caribbean, has begun to weigh which candidate's victory might better serve their interests.

The latest event in the campaign circus features Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, ridiculing the presumptive Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, over her racial origin. Trump has questioned Harris's race, saying, "She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn Black."

Trump made this remark at an appearance at the National Association of Black Journalists, where he was interviewed live by a Black journalist. The remark was clearly intended to dilute support for Harris among Black journalists.

Historically, race has always been a significant factor in US politics, dating back to 1863 when Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that all enslaved people were to be set free. Throughout US history, the Civil Rights movement has fought for Black people's

rights, including the right to vote and hold office.

The election of Barack Obama as the "first Black president" of the US overcame significant barriers. However, for many White Americans, the issue of Black people in high office became more pronounced. Trump exploited this 'fear' of Black people in political life against Obama by emphasizing his Blackness while ignoring his White heritage. Now, with rising confidence among Black people concerning their legitimate place in all aspects of US society and their recognition of the power of their vote, Trump is using the race card differently against Harris. He is seeking to portray her as "Indian" and not "Black" to diminish her standing with Black voters.

Furthermore, Harris has come under the spotlight of Trump because he and his political disciples successfully managed to engineer the withdrawal of the previous presumptive nominee, President Joe Biden, on the basis that he is old and feeble. Biden was 81 when he decided to withdraw as a candidate for election; Trump was 78 – a mere three years younger than Biden.

Remarkably, having eliminated Biden, Trump is now the oldest presidential candidate in US history,



Sir Ronald Sanders

and the question of being "too old" has disappeared from his campaign. Given a younger and nimbler opponent, Trump is employing race against Harris by questioning her Blackness and emphasizing her Indianness.

Nonetheless, with the strong support she has already received from the hierarchy of the Democratic Party, she is certain to be the party's nominee for the presidential election in November.

Fear has also been used as a political tool by both sides, and it will likely become the dominant theme in the weeks and days ahead. Trump is portraying Harris as a 'socialist,' claiming that she will encourage immigration and refugees who, according to him, are for the most part criminals, rapists, and drug traffickers. Immigrants and refugees are being painted as a

serious threat to US society generally. He has added that immigrants are taking 'Black jobs.' Intrinsic to this argument is that Black people are mostly employed in low-skill or labouring jobs that immigrants and refugees are grabbing, dislocating Black people.

An underlying theme of the Trump campaign is that the US is not ready for a woman as President and certainly not for a Black woman. This premise is being developed into another 'fear' in the campaign.

On the other side, Harris is also using fear as a tool against Trump. She has cast him as a villain who is a convicted felon, a woman abuser, a fraudster, and a tax dodger, undeserving of the US Presidency. Drawing on her background as a prosecutor, she has declared that she knows Trump's "type."

All of this is par for the  
*cont'd on pg 11*

# Opinion

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political course. The factors are the same in politics globally.

In the Caribbean, governments are watching this race, trying to determine which of the two candidates would be best for them. They see a surface difference between a woman of Indian-Jamaican heritage, likely to continue policies of Obama and Biden. However, there was no great benefit for the region from either Obama or Biden. While the administrations of both men acknowledged the fundamental challenges confronting the region, the steps that were taken did not transform their capacity to overcome these challenges. Those who had high expectations of Obama because he was “Black” learned that, rightly, he was the President of the US, concerned with his own country.

The same situation will prevail if Harris wins the presidency. The fact of her Jamaican and Indian parents will not cause her to prioritize either Jamaica (and by extension, the Caribbean) or India. She is an American, and if elected as president, will focus her attention on US national interests at home and abroad.

The Caribbean has also had experience with Trump as President. His present presidential campaign does not suggest that his isolationist posture will change or that he has any interest in the Caribbean, which, apart from Guyana and Suriname,

holds little attraction to the US either as a market or as a location for resources such as oil and gas. Beyond curbing immigration and refugees, principally from Haiti, and restricting the flow of illegal drugs through the region, the previous attitude toward the region is unlikely to change.

For these reasons, the

Caribbean should not believe that it has a stake in the US presidential fight. Who is elected US President is a matter for the voters of the US. Once a new administration is in place, the region will have to work to command as much attention as it can in order to address its concerns on the practical basis of shared values and

mutual concerns. The race or party affiliation of the President will be of no consequence.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*

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# Uber strikes EV deal with Chinese Tesla rival BYD

By João da Silva

Uber has announced a deal which aims to bring 100,000 electric vehicles (EVs) made by China's BYD to the ride-hailing giant's global fleet of cars.

The two companies say they will offer Uber drivers incentives to switch to electric cars, including discounts on maintenance, charging, financing and leasing.

The multi-year agreement will be rolled out first in Europe and Latin America, before being made avail-



BYD opened a plant in Thailand in July.

able in the Middle East, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The announcement comes as EV sales around the world have slowed and

Chinese car makers face higher import charges in *cont'd on pg 14*

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## Trinidadian artist 'Plumpy Boss' evacuated from Sint Maarten

The Sint Maarten government has responded decisively to a shooting incident that occurred during last Sunday.

Meschach Emmanuel, known as 'Plumpy Boss', a Trinidad-based artist recently charged with gang membership in his home country, sustained a gunshot wound to the head while performing.

Sint Maarten officials claim they did not authorize Emmanuel's entry into the country and have since facilitated his evacuation.

In response to this incident, relevant government departments have initiated discussions, investigations, and agreements to enhance public safety policies and prevent similar occurrences.

"Ensuring the safety and



Prime Minister of Sint Maarten, Luc Mercelina.

security of our citizens and visitors is of paramount importance," said Prime Minister Luc Mercelina. "We are committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to implement effective measures that will protect our community."

According to a statement from the government, Mercelina, who also

serves as acting Minister of Health, coordinated the air ambulance evacuation of Emmanuel to Trinidad.

"Reaching out to the necessary authorities and ensuring the artist's safe evacuation was a priority for us," stated Mercelina. "I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the police department, the dedicated staff at the

St Maarten Medical Center (SMMC), and all those involved for their unwavering support and professionalism during this critical time."

The evacuation faced initial challenges in securing a host hospital in Trinidad but was resolved through collaboration between the Prime Minister, SZV, SMMC, and Trinidad authorities.

"We are relieved to report that the music artist has arrived safely in Trinidad and remains in stable condition, where he is expected to receive further medical treatment," added Mercelina.

The government acknowledged the police department's role in ensuring a safe environment for medical professionals during the incident.

*cont'd from pg 12*

places like the US and the European Union.

"The companies aim to bring down the total cost of EV ownership for Uber drivers, accelerating the uptake of EVs on the Uber platform globally, and introducing millions of riders to greener rides," the two firms said in a statement.

They also said they will work to integrate BYD's self-driving technologies into Uber's platform.

Earlier this year, Uber said it was working with Tesla to promote EV adoption among its drivers in the US and planned to develop a purpose-built EV with South Korean car giant Kia.

The US, the European Union and

other major markets have recently announced tariff hikes on China-made EVs in moves aimed at protecting their car industries.

The move has prompted BYD and other Chinese EV makers to expand their production facilities outside China. In July, BYD agreed a \$1bn (£780m) deal to set up a manufacturing plant in Turkey.

The new plant will be able to produce up to 150,000 vehicles a year, according to Turkish state news agency Anadolu.

The facility is expected to create around 5,000 jobs and start production by the end of 2026.

Also last month, BYD opened an EV plant in Thailand - its first factory

in South East Asia.

BYD said the plant will have an annual capacity of 150,000 vehicles and is projected to generate 10,000 jobs.

At the end of last year, BYD announced it would build a manufacturing plant in EU member state Hungary.

It will be the firm's first passenger car factory in Europe and is expected to create thousands of jobs.

The company has also said it is planning to build a manufacturing plant in Mexico.

BYD, which is backed by veteran US investor Warren Buffett, is the world's second-largest EV company after Elon Musk's Tesla.

## Grenada PM defends sacking of government minister

CMC - Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell on Thursday defended the decision to dismiss Youth and Sports Minister Jonathan LaCrette from his cabinet, saying he had lost confidence in him.

Mitchell told a news conference that on Tuesday he had advised the Governor General Dame Cécile La Grenade to revoke LaCrette's appointment both as a minister and as a senator.

Mitchell said that he has since thanked LaCrette "for his service to the government and people of Grenada as a minister of government and as a senator and he has expressed his appreciation for being given the opportunity to serve in the Cabinet."

"The reason for doing so is that as prime minister, sitting in the Cabinet, I formed the view that I had personally lost trust and confidence in Mr. LaCrette in his capacity as a minister and in those circumstances, I thought it was appropriate for me to inform him of that fact and to inform his fellow Cabinet colleagues."

Mitchell said that the exchange took place during the weekly Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, which he chaired one day after chairing the 47th regular meeting of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders held here July 28-30.



Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell.

"I want to emphasise there is no personal issue between myself and Mr LaCrette.

"I am quite fond of him, there are no personal issues between him and the ministers of government. They have an excellent relationship," Mitchell said, adding "this is purely an issue of my prime ministerial discretion in relation to Mr LaCrette as a minister."

He said he wanted to make it clear that if he loses the trust and confidence of any minister "the only appropriate thing to do would be to allow that minister to be relieved of the burden of ministerial duties."

Mitchell said he appreciates that the dismissal would be an issue that ought to be discussed, whether in

the media or other places, but maintained "I will not get into the nitty-gritty of the details because they are not appropriate given the fact that it is a trust and confidence issue."

He has since named Education Minister David Andrew to act as the Minister of Youth and Sports "until I make a further decision as to the substantive post to the Minister of Youth and Sports or any further Cabinet realignment."

Mitchell said that LaCrette still remains a member of the ruling National Democratic Congress (NDC), adding "I look forward to continue working with him in that capacity as the member of the National Democratic Congress."

LaCrette was appointed

a senator after he failed to win the St George's Northwest constituency in the June 2022 general elections. He was initially appointed as the Health Minister but in a cabinet reshuffle in January 2024 he was reassigned to serve as the Youth and Sports Minister.

Mitchell dismissed suggestions that he had made a "mistake" in bringing LaCrette into the Cabinet, given that he had shifted him once and then removed him from office two years after the NDC won the elections.

"Former minister LaCrette is a member of the National Democratic Congress, and I have the privilege of being able to appoint any member of the National Democratic Congress who is willing to serve as a senator or as a government minister."

"You have to appreciate that governance and politics are dynamic, too often we seem to think how you start is how you finish. That's not just the reality of life, and so I haven't made a mistake."

"You are entitled to take decisions, review the decisions and to adjust as you see fit based on the circumstances of what is happening. So, I don't view my decision-making in the context of a mistake," Mitchell said, leaving the door open for a possible return of LaCrette.

## Police forces to co-operate to tackle violent disorder, says PM

By Zahra Fatima

Police forces across the country are to increase their co-operation to tackle violent disorder, Sir Keir Starmer announced on Thursday.

It comes after a crisis meeting with police chiefs following rioting in the wake of the Southport attack, which saw unrest spread across the country earlier this week.

Starmer described the chaotic scenes that unfolded in the aftermath of the stabbing as the “actions of a tiny, mindless minority” and condemned “far-right hatred”.

Earlier on Thursday, a 17-year-old appeared in court charged with the murder of three children in



Emergency services were dealing with unrest in Hartlepool on Wednesday night. The attacks on Monday.

The prime minister said the new national violent disorder programme would help clamp down on violent groups by allowing forces to share intelligence.

In a televised speech, Sir Keir added: “These thugs are mobile, they move from community to community, and we must have a police response that can do the same.”

He also condemned “violent disorder, clearly whipped up online”, describing it as crime, “not protest”.

“We will take all necessary action to keep our streets safe”, the PM continued.

Sir Keir said nobody involved in rioting should “pretend they are speaking” for the grieving families, adding that the community of Southport “had to suffer twice” in the wake of the stabbings.

“Mosques being attacked because they’re mosques - the far right are showing who they are. We have to show who we are in response to that.”

“These thugs are mobile,” he added, “they move from community to community. We must have a policing response that can do the

same.” The new powers would include shared intelligence and the wider deployment of facial recognition technology.

It would also include more Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) to restrict the movement of offenders and stop them travelling, similar to measures taken against football hooligans.

Speaking to the BBC after a meeting with the prime minister, the chair of the National Police Chiefs Council has said further disorder can be avoided.

Chief Constable Gavin Stephens said: “It’s our job in policing to be worried about this but it’s not inevitable”. He also warned those thinking of attending further riots would feel the full force of the law.

The police chair also urged communities to pull together - and said everyone

*cont’d on pg 17*

### AUCTION NOTICE

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Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, we shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Thursday the 08<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024 at 11:00am the above residential properties at Golden Grove.

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*cont'd from pg 16*

had to play a part “in not fanning any flames of disorder”.

Sir Andy Marsh, Chief Constable at the College of Policing, said in a statement that the emergency meeting which brought together police leaders from across England and Wales was “to make sure that we are talking to each other, and that we can be prepared.”

Some of the places targeted in the widespread disorder were mosques, leading the Muslim Council of Britain to urge mosques to strengthen security during Friday prayers.

In a message to British Muslims who expressed concerns, the prime minister said: “Let me be very clear: I will take every step that’s necessary to keep you safe.”

On Tuesday, Southport saw a night of unrest following a vigil in memory of the victims of the knife attack. Protesters gathered near a mosque in the Merseyside town and threw bricks at the building and police officers, leading to the arrest of five men.

Merseyside Police announced on Thursday that a Section 60 Order would be in place, granting officers additional powers to search suspects.

The order, starting at 18:00 BST, is set to be in place until 18:00 on Friday. The force also confirmed there would be an increased police presence.

On Wednesday evening, more than 100 people were arrested in central

London as officers clashed with protestors in Whitehall during a demonstration.

Unrest also broke out in Hartlepool, where eight people were arrested, several officers were injured and a police car was set on fire. In Manchester, two people were arrested after objects were thrown at the public and police.

In Aldershot, Hampshire, a police officer suffered minor injuries during trouble near a hotel housing migrants.

Dal Babu, former Ch Supt and firearms commander in the Metropolitan Police, blamed the disorder on the “reckless” spread of misinformation about the identity of the suspect charged in the stabbing.

The prime minister was asked what he would do to hold social media companies accountable for the spread of disinformation on their platforms.

He responded by saying discussions need to be had about companies striking the “right balance”, and warned social media “carries great responsibility”.

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## Hezbollah leader says conflict with Israel in 'new phase' after killings

By **Hugo Bachega**

In Beirut's southern suburbs of Dahiya, the stronghold of Hezbollah, large crowds wearing black joined the funeral for Fuad Shukr, a senior commander of the powerful Lebanese militia and political movement, and the most high-profile member to have been assassinated by Israel during these current hostilities.

They carried placards with Shukr's face, waved the yellow-and-green Hezbollah flag and chanted some of the group's slogans, sometimes with their fists in the air.

According to the Israeli military, Shukr was behind a missile strike that killed 12 children and teenagers on a football field in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights last Saturday. Hezbollah has denied involvement, although it initially claimed an attack on a nearby military base, which raised the possibility that the missile missed its intended targeted.

Shukr, who was also known as al-Hajj Mohsin, was said to be a close adviser to Hassan Nasrallah, the influential and long-time Hezbollah leader.

As people were gathered, Nasrallah gave a televised speech that was watched closely for any indication of Hezbollah's possible next moves.

The conflict with Israel had entered a "new phase", he said, speaking from a secret location, as he always does for security reasons. The enemy must wait for the "inevitable response" because it had crossed "red lines", he added, saying that the reaction would be proportionate to Israel's targeting of a civilian building.

His tone seemed to indicate that the group remained uninterested in another major war with Israel. But there are concerns that they could be



Mourners carry Fuad Shukr's coffin during his funeral in Beirut on Thursday, sliding into one.

"I'm not afraid of war. We're ready for whatever Sheikh Nasrallah decides to do," one man in the crowd told me. "Inshallah," said another, meaning God willing, when asked if he believed that Hezbollah would retaliate for the killing.

Shukr's killing on Tuesday - an attack that killed six other people, including two young siblings - renewed fears that the relatively contained conflict between Hezbollah and Israel could escalate into an all-out war, with the potential to engulf the entire Middle East.

Hezbollah says its campaign, which started a day after the Hamas attacks on Israel on 7 October, is in support of Palestinians in Gaza. Most of the group's attacks, and Israel's counterattacks, have been limited to areas along the Lebanon-Israel border.

Supported by Iran, Hezbollah has long been seen by Israel as a much more formidable foe than Hamas. The group has an increasingly sophisticated arsenal of weapons that includes attack drones and precision guided missiles capable of striking deep in-

side Israel.

A conflict with Hezbollah would probably involve other Iranian-supported groups in the region, members of what Tehran calls the "Axis of Resistance" - the Houthis in Yemen or militias in Iraq, for example.

Iran, too, has vowed to respond to the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas political chief who was killed on Wednesday while visiting Tehran for the inauguration of the new Iranian president.

Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel, which has stayed silent. The killing has dealt a blow to the possibility of any success in ongoing talks for a ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. It is the main hope to defuse tensions with Hezbollah, and diplomatic efforts continue to try to de-escalate the situation.

The Israeli military has said it is ready for any scenario, as the country braces itself for a possible response to the two assassinations.

Nasrallah's speech contained, as expected, sharp words against Israel but did not appear to suggest that a bigger war was imminent just yet.

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# Sports News



## Cornwall cites lack of preparation for Leewards' dismal showing at U-19 tournament

Coach Wilden “Pollo” Cornwall said a lack of preparation time for the team to gel played a major factor in the Leeward Islands poor showing in the recently concluded Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Men’s two-day and one-day championships in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Barbados played unbeaten to win both the revised two-day competition and the 50-over one-day or limited overs championship.

The Leeward Islands produced a string of disappointing batting performances to finish fourth in the two-day contest and won only one of their five matches to finish at the bottom of the 50-over competition.

Cornwall said there was a big difference to the way the Leewards performed in comparison to other teams, especially Barbados, who won one and drew three of their four matches in the two-day contest and won four matches after their first match in the one-day competition was rained out.

He said the difference in performances can be attributed to the amount of time the players of the other teams spent together in preparation before the tournament.

“When you look at how

Barbados and the other teams performed and look and see how we performed, I think we need to give the players a good platform so that they can perform at their best. Barbados performed really well in the tournament because the players have been together for the past four to five months, the same as the other territories,” Cornwall stated.

“I think the time has now come for us to look at things differently and start to prepare our players a lot earlier to give them the best possible chance of competing well at that level.”

The Leewards batting, in particular, struggled throughout the entire tournament.

The Leewards made 222 for nine declared in their second innings in a drawn second round encounter against Barbados. It was the only time the Leewards surpassed 200 runs in any of their innings in the two-day competition, which was also affected by rain.

The Leewards also surpassed 200 runs only once during the 50-over limited-overs competition.

It came against the 2023 dual champions Jamaica in the fourth round as the Leewards made 208 for nine off their 50 overs and went on to record a 19-run victory,



Coach Wilden “Pollo” Cornwall which was their only win in the one-day competition.

Cornwall said the more experienced players failed to perform in a Leeward Islands team that exposed several under-17 players at the regional under-19 level for the first time.

“We exposed a lot of under-17s, which to me showed some glimpses of talent that augers well for the future. But our players who have played at this lev-

el in previous years never really put their hands up. This is where you want your big guns to perform, knowing they have previous experience at this level, but they never set the tournament on fire,” Cornwall said.

“Yes, the performances were disappointing, but I took some positives from it. We played well in some areas, but in the end, you could see we failed to stay *cont’d on pg 21*

## Swiatek ousted by China's Zheng at Olympics

PARIS, Aug 1 (Reuters) - Iga Swiatek must wait four more years to try and win an Olympic gold medal after the Polish top seed was shocked by China's Zheng Qinwen in the semi-finals but Novak Djokovic's hopes are intact despite a scare on Thursday.

There will be a first-time Olympic men's singles champion after Tokyo winner Alexander Zverev crashed to a quarter-final defeat against Italy's Lorenzo Musetti.

Swiatek was the overwhelming favourite for gold after a third successive French Open title this year confirmed her as the Queen of Clay, but she was outplayed 6-2, 7-5 by sixth seed Zheng on another sultry day at Roland Garros.

Serbia's 37-year-old Djokovic, bidding to claim a long-overdue Olympic gold medal, reached the semi-finals for the fourth time as he beat Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 7-6, although he appeared to be troubled by



Qinwen Zheng of China celebrates her victory over Iga Swiatek of Poland during their women's semifinals match at the Roland Garros stadium, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024. (AP)

his suspect right knee.

In snapping Swiatek's 25-match winning run at Roland Garros, dating back to 2021, Australian Open runner-up Zheng became the first Chinese player to reach an Olympic singles final.

Zheng, who did not even have to bring her A-game against a badly off-key Swiatek, will face either Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova or Croatia's Donna Vekic for the gold

medal. Swiatek will have to console herself with a match for a bronze.

With so many big names missing from the Olympic singles and with several seeds having wilted early, Swiatek was odds on to add the Olympic gold to her five Grand Slam titles.

She held a 6-0 career record against Zheng, but the 23-year-old Swiatek picked the worst possible time to produce one of her worst displays of the year, spray-

ing 36 unforced errors.

Men's top seed Djokovic was imperious as he won against Tsitsipas. Djokovic will now aim to snap his semi-final curse and beat Musetti, who was a 7-5, 7-5 winner against Zverev.

Spain's Olympic debutant Carlos Alcaraz remained on course for gold as battled past American Tommy Paul into the semi-finals, winning 6-3, 7-6(7) after saving a set point.

Alcaraz will play Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime, who beat Norwegian claycourt specialist Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-7(8), 6-3.

United States duo Rajeev Ram and Austin Krajicek followed up their defeat of Spain's Alcaraz and Rafa Nadal the previous evening to book their place in the final as they overcame Czech pairing Tomas Machac and Adam Pavlasek 6-2, 6-2.

### cont'd from pg 20

the course due to our lack of preparation. We had a nine-day camp in Antigua that was mostly washed out by rain, and it really showed in the end."

The Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Championship, initially set to commence on July 2, with a three-day competition preceding a 50-over tournament, underwent significant changes due to Hurricane Beryl's passage across the Windward Islands and Barbados in late June.

The hurricane affected regions including host country St. Vincent and the

Grenadines, necessitating a delay and a subsequent alteration in the tournament's format.

The tournament began on July 11 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines under a revised format. It featured four rounds of two-day matches and five rounds of 50-over matches.

Despite these modifications, the tournament was still able to conclude on July 31 as initially planned, ensuring teams have a balance of match time to develop their skills and adequate time for recovery between matches.

## CWI president pays tribute to Sir Frank Worrell on his 100th birthday

On the centennial birthday of Sir Frank Mortimer Maglinne Worrell, Cricket West Indies (CWI) President Dr. Kishore Shallow paid a heartfelt tribute to the legendary cricketer, highlighting his transformative impact on both the sport and the Caribbean community.

“Today, we stand at the intersection of history and aspiration, commemorating the centennial birthday of Sir Frank Mortimer Maglinne Worrell,” Dr. Shallow began.

“This moment invites us to reflect deeply on a man whose impact extends far beyond the boundaries of cricket, touching the very essence of Caribbean identity and resilience.”

Sir Frank Worrell’s historic appointment in 1960 as the first black captain of the West Indies team for an entire series marked a turning point not only in cricket but also in the fight against racial prejudice.

Dr. Shallow underscored how Worrell’s leadership symbolized hope and change, unifying the Caribbean with a spirit of dignity, pride, and excellence.

“Worrell’s appointment was a bold declaration that cricket in the West Indies would no longer be shackled by the chains of racial prejudice,” Dr. Shallow emphasized.

Under Worrell’s cap-



Sir Frank Worrell

taincy, the West Indies team became a beacon of possibility and a source of collective pride. His ability to unite players from diverse backgrounds into a cohesive and formidable unit demonstrated that unity is the Caribbean’s greatest strength.

“Sir Frank’s tenure as captain was more than a chapter in a cricketing saga; it was a pivotal moment in our region’s social and cultural renaissance,” Dr. Shallow noted.

Reflecting on the current state of West Indies cricket, Dr. Shallow called for introspection and purposeful collaboration. He acknowledged that recent performances have not met the expectations of West In-

dian fans, and emphasized the need for transformation and innovation within the sport.

“Our commitment to transformation in pursuit of excellence must be evident. We must embrace innovation and creativity to strengthen our cricket systems, including coaching and selections,” he said.

Education, according to Dr. Shallow, is crucial for the future of West Indies cricket.

He urged young cricketers to learn about the rich history of the Caribbean and the significance of cricket, emphasizing that the legacy of legends like Sir Frank Worrell must inspire future generations.

“The legacy of leg-

ends like Sir Frank must be shared in all forms possible to inspire future generations,” he asserted.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Shallow celebrated Sir Frank Worrell’s enduring legacy as a guiding light for the Caribbean.

“Sir Frank Worrell’s legacy is a testament to what can be achieved when we dare to dream and work together,” he said.

“As we celebrate his life and contributions, let us recommit ourselves to the principles he stood for—unity, excellence, and an unwavering pursuit of progress. His story is our story, and as we move forward, let us carry his spirit with us, striving to build a future worthy of his legacy.”

## FIFA offers talks to leagues, player unions amid legal filings and threats in soccer politics

PARIS (AP) — FIFA offered talks with global groups of soccer leagues and player unions to end a three-month deadlock after they threatened legal action over adding to the packed competitions calendar.

In a letter seen by The Associated Press, FIFA told the World Leagues Association and FIFPRO on Thursday “our offer to engage in dialogue remains on the table” amid a swirl of legal filings and threats in international soccer politics.

“FIFA believes there is a more productive way forward for football than the threat of legal action,” soccer’s world body said in a statement to the AP.

In May, the leagues and union said FIFA was “inherently abusive” for continuing to add games and competitions that forced their

members to adapt.

FIFA has expanded the 2026 World Cup, hosted across North America, to 48 teams from 32, and added a 32-team Club World Cup that will also be played every four years. It launches next June in the United States.

Also in the coming season, UEFA is expanding its three season-long club competitions with extra teams and more games that squeeze domestic schedules.

The European groups of leagues and player unions also have targeted FIFA — but not UEFA — in a formal legal complaint to Brussels.

That is being handled by the European Commission, the executive arm of the 27-nation European Union that can intervene on alleged breaches of compe-



FIFA President Gianni Infantino addresses the audience during the Sport for Sustainable Development Summit at the Paris Olympic games at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris, France, Thursday, July 25, 2024. (AP)

tition law.

FIFPRO member unions in England and France also filed suit against FIFA at a commercial court in Brussels, seeking a referral to the European Court of Justice.

That court in Luxembourg was critical of FIFA and UEFA last year in a ruling in the Super League case brought by some storied soccer clubs.

FIFA manages the calendar of international matches, which mandates when clubs must release players to national-team duty through 2030. The global groups of leagues and unions want talks on it reopened with them getting a greater say.

On Thursday, FIFA said it “serves and balances the overall interests of world football, including the protection of players.”

FIFPRO did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

### *cont'd from pg 24*

berth as one of the top two finishers in the tournament and qualify for the CONCACAF Caribbean Cup later this year.

“We are going into this game confident that we can beat the team from Dominica. If we win on Friday, we will be going into the final on Sunday against a team from either Jamaica or the Dominican Republic,” Hughes said.

“So once we win our next game, we will qualify for the next round (the 2024 CONCACAF Caribbean Cup), which is where the opportunities are going to lie for our young players to possibly get recruited

by other top clubs.”

Jamaica’s Premier League winners, Arnett Gardens FC, and Club Atlético Pantoja from the Dominican Republic will meet in the other semi-final on Friday at 5 pm.

Arnett Gardens FC scored a convincing 7-1 win over home team CRKSV Jong Holland in their quarter-final at the Ergilio Hato Stadium on Tuesday.

Club Atlético Pantoja secured their spot in the semi-finals with a 1-0 victory over Metropolitan FC of Puerto Rico in their quarter-final at Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca on Tuesday.

# Sports

FRIDAY 2ND AUGUST 2024



## Hughes commends Grenades for display in Curacao

President of the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades Football Club Chester Hughes is commending the players of his team for their impressive performances at the current Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Championships, which is being held in Willemstad, Curaçao, from July 25 to August 4.

After crushing the Guyana Defence Force 6-2 in the preliminary round, Grenades booked their spot in the semi-finals after snatching a 2-1 victory against defending champions SV Robinhood of Suriname in their quarterfinal match at the Stadion Rignaal Francisca on Tuesday night.

“The guys are performing and punching above their weight as far as I am concerned. They are doing exceptionally well, and I am really impressed,” Hughes stated.

“They have really stood up to the opponents and really showed that we may be small as an island, but we are tallahwah and can compete with any bigger or superior country.

“This is the second time that Grenades are playing



Players of the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades team celebrate after scoring a goal during one of their matches at the Caribbean Football Union Club Championships, which is being held in Willemstad, Curaçao, from July 25 to August 4. (CFU Media)

in the competition against clubs from across the Caribbean region and have made a statement that we are here and we are here to compete.

“The last time we went to the club championships in Jamaica, we defeated Montego Bay at their home, and that took us to the next

round, which was held in Trinidad.”

Hughes said the Grenades gave their all to pull off their upset victory against SV Robinhood in the quarter-finals.

“Grenades have once again struck at the nerves of Caribbean football,

where they would have defeated the two-time CFU Club Shield champions, SV Robinhood of Suriname. The players gave their all against Robinhood; they threw everything at Robinhood, and Robinhood kept fighting back, but at the final whistle, the Grenades were triumphant with a 2-1 victory,” Hughes said.

“Grenades are the underdogs here in this competition, but Grenades always fight hard against tough opponents. We fight champions as champions because we are champions.”

The Grenades will be seeking to continue their impressive showing when they face CCCUL Dublanc of Dominica in the second semi-final on Friday at 8 pm.

Dublanc FC book their semifinal berth by defeating RAMS Village Superstars FC of St. Kitts 5-3 in penalty kicks after both teams were deadlocked 2-2 at the end of regulation at Stadion Ergilio Hato.

Victory on Friday will not only propel the Grenades into the final on Sunday but also secure their

*cont'd on pg 23*