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VOL 19 NO. 099

Thursday, September 10, 2009

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## Sons of former Minister arrested in investigation

~ El Hage says it's about Blue Lagoon ~

ARUBA—The sons of former UPB Minister Carlos Mercera were arrested on Tuesday on Aruba and on Bonaire in connection with the major investigation into the laundering of drug money and gold smuggling in the ABC islands and in some European countries.

Four premises were searched on Aruba including the home of the former Minister in Serro Pella. Documents, vehicles and gold were seized in the searches. No indication was given as to which

part of the investigation the Mercera brothers are suspected to be involved in.

In the meantime, UPB member on Bonaire Burney El Hage said he cooperated fully with the detectives when they searched his home on Tuesday. According to El Hage, detectives were particularly interested in information they suspect was in his possession concerning the Blue Lagoon project that never got off the ground in Bonaire.

The developer of Blue Lagoon Albert de Groot and two other persons are key suspects in the real estate fraud section of the ongoing investigation.

El Hage said he and UPB leader Ramananto Booi, whose home was also searched on Tuesday, had stopped the US \$1.5 billion project after information indicated that De Groot was not being open and honest about the

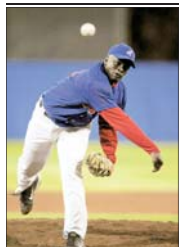
project and there was no realistic way the project could have been realised.

El Hage told the *Amigoe* newspaper he thought it was unfortunate that he and Booi were being targeted after they were instrumental in stopping the project in the first place. No official report from the prosecutor's office has been issued in this regard.

The public prosecutor's office of the Netherlands Antilles, which is coordinating the investigation, described the motives of the raids conducted on Tuesday as "presumptions of fraud-related offenses committed by people within the public administration on Bonaire." These offenses were discovered during a year-long major money laundering investigation in the Antilles and in Europe.

Within the scope of this coordinating and honest about the

*Continued on page 7*



St. Maarten's Simon Pantophlet delivers a pitch against Sweden in the World Championships Baseball first round game in Stockholm, September 9. Netherlands Antilles won 10-8. (See story page 44.)

### IN BRIEF

**• Cole Bay ROUNDABOUT ADJUSTED**  
As a result of adjustments made, it is now safer for large vehicles leaving the new roundabout in Cole Bay to negotiate the corner onto Union Road. **Page 2.**

**• Philipsburg CENTRAL C'TTE MEETS TODAY**  
Members of the Central Committee of the Island Council will meet today to discuss a wide range of constitutional issues. **Page 4.**

**• Philipsburg TWO YEARS FOR CARLOS**  
Carlos Alfonso Richardson (27) was sentenced to two years' imprisonment Wednesday for attempted manslaughter. **Page 11.**

## New entry permit system passed for rich investors

WILLEMSTAD—The Antillean government has introduced a new permit system for investors. This new entry permit is called an "investor permit" and is geared towards what government describes

as "bona fide powerfully wealthy foreigners" who would like to stay in the Netherlands Antilles without choosing to take up residence here or do business here.

Potential investors will have to comply with a number of condi-

tions to be eligible for the investor permit.

The most important condition is that the investor is obligated to conduct a business investment and/or real estate investment with a total minimum value of NAF. 650,000 guilders. This investment should be made 18 months, at the latest, after the first request for the permit is completed.

*Continued on page 6*

implementation of compulsory education when Charles Leopold Bell School reopens its doors on Monday.

All parents who had registered their children when the process started earlier this year are asked to visit the school this Friday with their children. Parents should take along their child's birth certificates or copies of their passports.

Education Commissioner William Marlin, who toured the school yesterday with a delegation, stressed the importance of parents showing up in person. "We don't want a situation where you end up with a child in school and then something happens and you don't know who the responsible person to deal with is," he said at a mid-afternoon press conference.

*Continued on page 8*

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## Poisoned atmosphere

As the world continues to smart under the effects of the global financial and economic crisis governments and their social partners worldwide continue to close ranks and cooperate for the common good as they seek to find the best possible solutions – sometimes creative and innovative ways – for tackling the crisis and protecting the interests of their people. Here in the Caribbean, the St. Augustine campus of University of the West Indies (UWI) will be hosting an important forum later this month to discuss the effects of the crisis on economies in the Caribbean.

In neighbouring Anguilla, which is faced with a serious budget deficit and is about to lock horns with the British Government over the question of the desirability of Anguilla borrowing to bail itself out of its current financial crunch, the government and the private sector will be sitting down shortly and knocking heads over some of the thorny issues.

Not too far away, in St. Kitts as well as in Nevis, the governments are also engaged in serious consultations with other stakeholders about the economy.

Here in St. Maarten the Island Council will be meeting on Monday at the request of the opposition Democratic Party to discuss St. Maarten's financial and economic situation.

Detect the difference in approaches? For several months we have been advocating a coming together of government, the opposition and other stakeholders in St. Maarten in a sort of rescue mission to wrestle with the harsh economic realities that, though not glaringly evident, are persistently gnawing away at and undermining the economy.

Earlier in the year, an economic summit that was organised with the Chamber of Commerce – not the government – taking the lead role. Unfortunately, while the participants came up with recommendations that needed to be given deeper consideration, changing political and other circumstances seem to have taken the wind out of the sail of those who were spearheading the effort.

Several months later the crippling effects of the global crisis are no less severe, but with a new government in the saddle and a new opposition trying to find its way at a time when elections are just around the corner, the atmosphere has been poisoned and the prospects for a coming together of minds in the manner we have been advocating seem to be getting dimmer and receding further.

Our hope is that in the interest of St. Maarten, when the Island Council meets on Monday, the session will be devoid of chest-thumping, grandstanding and finger-pointing, and there will be no loss in the air.

### WEATHER

**Today:** Partly cloudy, becomes occasionally briefly mostly cloudy, with possibility of a few local showers.

**Winds:** Southeast to East, around 19mph.

**Sea conditions:** Tranquil.

**Seas:** 2-3 feet.

**Forecast high:** 31°C 88°F

**Forecast low:** 26°C 79°F

**SYNOPSIS:** The dry air mass that covered the area on Wednesday in the wake of a tropical wave suppressed most clouds and shower development across the regional area. This weather condition is making way for a relatively moist air flow, leading to an increasing chance for shower activity over sections of the local islands. Otherwise, rather tranquil sea conditions with waves less than 3 feet continue to prevail.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** The names for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Basin in 2009 will be Grace, Henri, Ida, Joaquin, Kate, Larry, Mindy, Nicholas, Odette, Peter, Rose, Sam, Teresa, Victor and Wanda. Hurricane Fred was located yesterday at 5:00pm about 600 miles West-southwest of the Cape Verde Islands, moving Northwest, and does not pose any threat to the Caribbean region, but the Meteorological Service of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will continue to monitor its progress.

Elsewhere, tropical cyclone development is not expected during this forecast period.

**HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK:** None.

**VOLCANIC ACTIVITY:** None.

**Outlook until Friday evening:** Generally partly cloudy, with somewhat increased East to Northeast trade winds and no significant precipitation.

**Sunrise:** 5:59am

**Sunset:** 6:18pm

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St. MAARTEN LEAD CLUB meeting at 8:45 am at La Lakerbak.  
LIONS meeting at the Upper Princess Quarter Community Centre Lions Den in Sucker Garden every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8 pm.  
St. MAARTEN LEAD CLUB meeting at Jubilee Library 1st, 3rd Friday every month at 8:30 pm.  
KWANGS meets at Wilb'ing building on Thursday each month at 7:30pm. **Kwangs**

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**Agenda St. Maarten / St. Martin**

**Key Club of the St. Maarten Academy**  
meeting at the St. Maarten Academy every Friday at 1:30 pm.  
**KIWANGS SOULGALA 1st & 3rd Monday**  
7:00pm Holland House  
**JOE St. Maarten (AWOKEES)** meeting at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library every last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.  
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Two trucks pass side-by-side on the corner to demonstrate that the corner can be made if driven correctly.

## Cole Bay roundabout adjusted, truckers can make safer turn

COLE BAY—Trucks pulling forty-foot containers and other heavy equipment now can safely clear the corner onto Union Road coming out of the new roundabout, after adjustments were made and instructions given on how to utilise the roundabout.

A demonstration for the media of how heavy equipment drivers should make the turn was held yesterday by the Department New Projects Development and Planning. As reported on Monday, truck drivers in particular were instinctively avoiding driving over the red-bricked area on the turn because of the raised bricks.

Instead, they made wide turns into oncoming traffic to avoid this area and consequently created a dangerous problem. One trucker told *The Daily Herald* he avoided driving over the bricks because he thought it was part of the beautification and the raised bricks meant "no driving."

In response, Commissioner in charge of Public Works Theo Heylinger instructed the department and contractor Windward Roads to lower the raised bricks to the level of the road.

Once this was done, the truckers could use that portion of the road more easily to make sharper turns and avoid oncoming traf-

fic. Department head Kurt Ryan said the way truckers had been avoiding the bricked area and creating a dangerous problem indeed had been an eye-opener when the roundabout was opened.

He explained that truckers always could have used the bricked area to make the turn, but apparently did not know this. He said the department thought it was

important to demonstrate to the truck drivers how to best utilise their driving skills coming out of the roundabout.

The demonstration featured two trucks, one coming into the roundabout, the other exiting and making the turn. "We saw that if drivers make the turn correctly, there should not be any problems with the roundabout," Ruan said.

## Lab Services thieves get community service

PHILIPSBURG—Reynaldo Ashton Wilson (18) and Carlos Ramon Dilone (19), who broke into St. Maarten Laboratory Services attempting to steal computer equipment were sentenced to community service, in court Wednesday.

Wilson was present to receive his sentence of one month conditional jail time with three years' probation and 100 hours community service. Prosecutor Rienk Mud described Wilson as a first-time offender who had already paid back half of the cost of the damage inflicted on the building during the break-in.

Mud said, "He looks like he's of good will." However, he told Wilson that if he appeared in court again he would be in serious trouble. When asked by

Judge Monique Koppel why he had carried out this heist, Wilson was at a loss for words.

Dilone was not present at the sentencing and was noted to have been involved in other similar cases. He was sentenced to two months conditional jail time with three years' probation and 120 hours of community service.

## Local company discovers virus on airport website

~ Google blacklists PJJA site ~

PHILIPSBURG—Local network security firm Secure Tech International (STI) and young local entrepreneur Glenton Pantophlet discovered and analysed an embedded virus on the Princess Juliana International Airport Website.

As a consequence of the embedded virus, Google has blacklisted the site as unsafe for Web surfers. Google has a lengthy list of rules for Website owners about what is and isn't acceptable, and makes the consequences of breaching its guidelines clear. This could include the site being removed entirely from Google's index.

STI Network Security Analyst Alton Lourens explained that when a visitor to PJJA's site clicked on a link at [www.pjjae.com](http://www.pjjae.com), any current updated antivirus programmes detected a "Trojan" embedded in the HTML code.

On receiving the report of this occurrence, STI conducted further investigations and analysis of the Website. "We were able to confirm that indeed a rather rare, but troublesome and potentially dangerous virus is embedded in the code of the Website," Lourens said.

"The 'Trojan' spreads its damage by first infecting Web designer's PCs. Once an unexpected Web designer's PC is infected, all HTML documents (Web pages) on that PC become infected with some embedded 'iframe' code. When these Web pages are uploaded, an unprotected user simply viewing or browsing the Website will also be infected," he added. Lourens said Avira, a worldwide leading supplier of self-developed security solution for professional and private use, advised companies that owned infected sites like PJJA to take them offline, fix the hole (on the server), check the pages for infections, clean them and go online again.

Web designers who do not identify and delete such viruses right away can possibly infect all of their own websites, which may number in the hundreds, and subsequently pass it on to other site developers that may infect their sites, collectively in-

fecting thousands of sites. *The Daily Herald* understands that PJJA is aware of the problem and probably will issue its own release and explanation in the next few days. This could not be confirmed by press time on Wednesday.

## Production delay A/H1N1 vaccine

THE HAGUE—Dutch Minister of Public Health Ab Klink will be getting in touch with his Antillean colleague Omara Leechang shortly, to inform her of the delay in the production of the vaccine for the A/H1N1 virus.

Klink had ordered 34 million Tamiflu vaccines, enough to vaccinate all citizens of the Dutch Kingdom, including the Netherlands Antilles and

Aruba, twice. However, the production of the vaccine is not what it should be, so the vaccines will be delivered in two batches.

The first batch of 6 to 10 million vaccines should arrive in late October and the second, possibly, in November. Klink will be discussing the consequences of the delay in production for the islands.

## Marlin to Curaçao for meetings today

PHILIPSBURG--Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin heads to Curaçao this afternoon for a meeting of the Ministerial Steering Group on Constitutional Affairs. Marlin told the press Wednesday that St. Maarten had hardly been represented at these sessions, a situation that the new government was aiming to change.

Former Commissioner now Opposition Leader Sarah Wesoot-Williams had hardly ever attended these meetings, held once weekly, and attended by the Council of Ministers and the Curaçao Island Government, he added. If the island was represented at all, it was by an advisor, Marlin clarified.

For the past two weeks, the commissioner and other government representatives have not attended the meetings in person, but have participated via teleconference.

Marlin, Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman and three or four advisors will be in Curaçao next Friday for the preparatory meeting for the Kingdom Steering Group Meeting planned for September 30.

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Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin weighed in on the decision to call parliamentary elections in January 2010, during the Rotary luncheon on Wednesday. He gave an insight into whether St. Maarten should participate in the elections, whether it was wrong or illegal to hold elections, and what the consequences would be if St. Maarten did not participate. He also fielded questions from Rotarians. Marlin was presented with a plaque for participating in the Rotary event.

## Central Committee meeting for today instead of PCCA

~ William: Sarah should resign as PCCA head ~

PHILIPSBURG--Island Council members will be updated on constitutional developments and the make-up of delegations attending the preparatory and Kingdom Political Steering Group meetings in Curaçao this month, during a Central Committee meeting today, Thursday.

The meeting requested by the National Alliance (NA)/Heyligher coalition was originally supposed to be a meeting of the Permanent Committee for Constitutional Affairs (PCCA), also comprised of all Island Council members.

However, Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin told the press Wednesday that, after "some research," it had been confirmed that Opposition Democratic Party (DP) leader Island Councilwoman Sarah Westcott-Williams was still PCCA Chairwoman.

Westcott-Williams has been "extremely critical" about PCCA meetings not being held, but in essence, it is up to her to get meetings going, the commissioner said. She is also behaving as though the new government has not been doing its job in this respect, as no PCCA meetings have been held for the year. DP was in charge of government until June 8, and no meeting had been called up to that time, Marlin stated.

DP has been constantly

calling itself a "vigorous opposition," but it is clear that it is only criticising work it left incomplete, undone or never began, he continued.

### Call for resignation

Westcott-Williams had told the press last week that she had requested a meeting of the Political Steering Group, explaining that she had opted not to ask for a PCCA meeting because she was still Chairwoman – a post that had been given to the then leader of the largest party represented in the Island Council.

Asked about this request, Marlin said none had been received, and while it was the "good right" of the former Constitutional Affairs Commissioner to request a meeting via the press, she "knew the address" of the Government Building and that it was the place to lodge such a request.

Based on the resolution establishing the PCCA, the chairperson is chosen by the 11 members of the Island Council who form the PCCA. Westcott-Williams had been chosen for the post about nine years ago. "We would suggest and hope that she would resign from her position to allow the PCCA to appoint a new chairperson."

Marlin suggested that Westcott-Williams do the correct thing by resigning as PCCA Head, because as Commissioner she had been busy and hadn't had time to hold meetings, and now she was busy with party press conferences, once or twice weekly.

He pointed out that when the NA/Heyligher coalition had taken office, DP Island Councilman Petrus "Leroy" de Weever had done the "politically ethical thing" by resigning as Central Committee Chairman to allow the coalition to appoint a new head. NA Island Councilman and Parliamentarian George Pantophlet had been elected Central Committee Chairman in August.

### Sharing Information

With regard to providing information about constitutional affairs developments in forums such as PCCA, Marlin said a lot of information had been shared at the beginning of the process, but now that

the quest for country status was grinding into the final hours and days, there wasn't much new.

He thought PCCA meetings should be held every month to six weeks at this point, and where possible, before or after major meetings such as the Kingdom Political Steering Group sessions, so positions or decisions could be dealt with.

As for informing residents directly via town hall meetings, Marlin said he believed there was a need for more information to be given to the people.

They are already getting information directly from the press, sometimes before the other Island Council members, because journalists cover major meetings. He noted that people might feel they got enough information from the press and wouldn't find it necessary to show up for town hall sessions.

Regarding town hall sessions, he remarked that an effective way of reaching people needed to be found, because people seemed more eager to attend a meeting called by their political party on an issue than a town hall session.

"We are working on a campaign... we are not ready to release details. Yes, there is a need to bring more information to the public," the commissioner said. "In general terms, the public is often less interested because the arguments tend to be very academic. They don't really understand when you are talking about certain agreements being made. The public really wants to know how it affects them."

### Press Briefings

The weekly Executive Council Press Briefing – a fixture of the former DP government – became a thing of the past, several weeks after the new coalition took over. Marlin said there was no special reason for the cancellation of this one-hour, live forum with the local press.

Wednesdays have been an extremely busy day for commissioners, but they have been meeting regularly with the press, particularly if they have had something of importance to share, instead of waiting for just a Wednesday contact, he added.

## LIAT passengers de-planed as precautionary measure

ANTIGUA--A fluorescent light end connector on a LIAT plane overheated causing smoke in the cabin as the aircraft was about to depart Antigua for St. Maarten and Tortola Wednesday morning. LI 316, with 37 passengers on board, was taxiing up the runway when the crew was alerted of the smell of smoke in the cabin. As a precautionary measure, the captain immediately shut down the aircraft engines and the passengers were disembarked and returned to the terminal building.

The emergency services arrived on the scene within minutes. No injuries were reported. LIAT engineers have since repaired the faulty connector and the aircraft has been returned to service.



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From left: Francisco Machado, Val Coffy and Elizabeth Wayland display the poster for the 13th annual Dominica World Creole Music Festival scheduled for October 30 to November 1. Dominica's tourist board has organized two weeks of events around the festival.

## Organisers here promoting Dominica Creole Festival

COLE BAY—Promoters of this year's World Creole Music Festival in Dominica are selling the event as a multicultural fun-for-the-family regional event.

Organisers have planned three nights of concerts and scheduled more than two weeks of other events around the 13th annual festival.

The Dominica Festival Committee (DFC) and the tourism board want guests to experience Dominica's nature, culture and excu-

sions while enjoying concert nights. "We really want to show what Dominica has to offer as a destination," said Elizabeth Wayland of the Dominica Tourism Board. "There's never a dull moment in Dominica; there's so much to do, so much to see."

The big draw between October 30 and November 1 is the triple treat of concerts featuring big name performers of zouk, soca and Dominica's original music style. Performers this year

include MFR Band and Swingin' Stars, DLux Band and Morgan Heritage, and WCK and Maxi Priest. Tickets for the concert nights are EC \$120 nightly or EC \$325 for the entire season.

"The festival will be running for two weekends this year. We've been trying that for the past few years and we've decided to keep that," said DFC representative Val Coffy.

The festival weeks include Dominica's Heritage Day (October 25), Lime Creole in the Park (October 26-29) and the Independence celebration (November 3-31). Creole Day (October 30) features cultural foods and dress, and helps launch the festival.

The first night features Swingin' Stars, La Perfecta, MFR Band, Patrick St. Eloi, Zin and Alan Cave and Machine-A-Swinger. DLux Band, Icons of Zouk, Sweet Mickey, Morgan Heritage, Triple Kay Band and Caribbean Vibes are lined up for the second night. Dominican icons WCK are in the final night with Cadence Icons, Maxi Priest, Michele Henderson, Roy Cape All-Stars and Nature Boys.

Local promoter Francisco Machado, who has organised Latin and Zouk shows on the island in recent years, is helping to promote the Creole festival on-island. "We have our own hectic responsibility to the festival this year," Machado said.

More information on the World Creole Music Festival is available on the official Website [www.wcfdominica.com](http://www.wcfdominica.com).

## Case of attempted murder utilising SUV dismissed

PHILIPSBURG--Oranje School teacher Glenda Maria Mussen (41), accused of attempted manslaughter when she almost ran over her brother with an SUV on July 13, was dismissed of the charge in court Wednesday.

Although she explained to judge Monique Keppels that she had only used her SUV as a shield of protection against her enraged brother, Prosecutor Rienk Mud was convinced otherwise.

Mussen explained in detail a family dispute which sparked her brother's attack on her, where during the assault he boxed her in her head as well as kicked her several times. With a neighbour intervening, the ruction between Mussen and her brother was stopped.

Before deciding to get in her car and drive to the police station, Mussen said she tried to contact police, but to no avail. Being a diabetic and feeling weak from the blows she received from

her brother, Mussen said attempting to drive her SUV became a challenge.

She called for another brother to come and drive her. However, she said he did not understand what she was indicating to him of her current state of health. Deciding then to continue en route up Front Street, her initial brother who started the attack started throwing bricks at the SUV, where at a certain point one brick sent through the window hit her on her back, causing scars which she still has.

At this point, turning her SUV in the direction of her brother in what Mussen explained was an attempt to shield herself, her brother pitched yet another rock through the windshield hitting her in her head before she became unconscious and crashed into a wall. At this point, Mussen said, her brother jumped onto the bonnet of the SUV.

While Mussen's brother claims that she deliberately attempted to kill him and that he suffered pain to his

hip as well bruises on his right arm and toes, Mussen accused her brother of lying. She stated that the day after the incident he was his normal self, riding his bike through the neighbourhood and ranting about his intentions to get her fired from her job.

Mussen, a mother of four whose health has worsened since the incident, as a result cannot get back to her post at the Oranje School; moreover, she told the judge she is currently homeless, choosing to stay away from her home on Front Street, the same area her brother resides.

Dismissing the case, Judge Keppels noted that it appears Mussen's family has a history of disputes with this incident just being another one. Prosecutor Mud questioned, however, why Mussen did not leave the scene in haste to avoid the brick-throwing by her brother and the destruction of two other cars when Mussen crashed her SUV.

## Duncan: Resigning won't stop elections

PHILIPSBURG--Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan (NA) has stated very clearly he is not in favour of parliament elections set for January but sees it as counterproductive to resign from his post over the matter.

There has been talk in the community that the minister should "come home" in protest of Prime Minister Emly de Jongh-Elhage announcing elections without consulting the Council of Ministers or her coalition partners.

Commenting on this, Duncan said it will make absolutely no difference if he resigns because if he does resign, elections would still go ahead.

Instead, it is better to register his discontent and continue working on getting all the necessary legislations and tasks in place to ensure St. Maarten and Curaçao

are ready for their people's desired status of countries within the kingdom.

There is "no quarrel" in the coalition about the elections issue, he added. Parties that had favoured a postponement to allow the constitutional process to be completed, like him, have registered their sentiment but work continues as usual.

"There is no thought or feeling to break up the coalition. The focus is on getting the work done as much as possible to meet the deadlines so the islands are prepared," the minister said.

Initially, there was a political agreement that elections would be postponed. However, this will go ahead as required by the constitution in January because the Antillean Advisory Council advised against a postponement.

\$\$\$

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# Rotaract, Rotary to assist youth associations



Members of French side service clubs Rotary and Rotaract met with board members of Agrément Youth in Action (AYA) on Thursday. From left: Rotary Club's René-Jean Duret, Rotary President Jasmine Sally, AYA President Gérald Delisca-Jourdan, and Rotaract President Vincent Seasseau.

MARIGOT—Officials from Rotaract Club and Rotary Club St. Martin Nord met with members of the association Agrément Youth in Action (AYA) on Thursday as part of a series of informative sessions to enlighten youth associations on the work and help that the two service clubs can provide.

It was also an occasion to formally introduce to the press Rotaract's new president for the 2009-10 year, Vincent Seasseau.

Rotary Club's René-Jean Duret and President Jasmine Sally were present to explain the work of Rotary

Club, both internationally and locally.

AYA President Gérald Delisca-Jourdan noted his association, comprising some 34 members, had been in existence for six years and continued to be very active. Developing the youth through basketball has always been a primary focus in Agrément and three players from the community are currently playing for national teams in France, he added.

Delisca-Jourdan said AYA had at least three projects to work on for the upcoming season that he hoped would receive the support of Rotaract and Rotary. One of these is "St. Martin Back in the Day," a project to chronicle the life experiences of elderly citizens so the youth can better understand their culture and heritage. Another is a workshop for unemployed persons to learn how to make a movie.

Vincent Seasseau said the meeting had been important for all three organisations to share knowledge of how each operated, in order to become stronger together.

Rotaract Public Relations Officer Patrick Hénoçq said Rotaract's main goal was to develop leadership and responsibility among the youth.

"Our aim this year is to work together with as many youth associations as possible," he said.

Rotary President Jasmine Sally said the youth were close to the heart of Rotary as it was in everyone's interest to help "the future leaders of St. Martin."

René-Jean Duret noted it was important to know a national Rotary Fund was in place to help with projects, providing the local Rotary Club can absorb the initial 25 per cent cost of the project. A further 25 per cent can be solicited from other international clubs and the remaining 50 per cent will be paid out of the national Rotary Fund to complete the project.

One of the most important Rotary programmes geared to the youth is the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) for young people between 14 and 30 aspiring to become leaders.

## Rotarians reading to children on Sat

PHILIPSBURG--Rotarians plan to celebrate International Literacy Day by reading to children at the library this weekend.

Members of Rotaract Club of St. Maarten Sunrise, Rotary Club of St. Maarten Sunrise and St. Dominic Interact Club will entertain youngsters with stories at Philipsburg Jubilee Library for three hours on Saturday.

Literacy Day was Tuesday, September 8.

Club members will read from 11:00am to 1:00pm and students will "receive a token of appreciation at the event for their active participation."

"The club encourages parents to bring their kids along for an educational and memorable day," a release from the club said Wednesday.

## ENTRY PERMIT

No indication or clarification was provided by government as to how broadly the word "investment" was viewed and what exactly an "investment" entailed.

Additionally, the investor must deposit NAF. 50,000 guilders per year in the crime-fighting fund of the island upon which he/she wishes to establish the investment.

The investor will be allowed to stay a maximum of 120 days per year in the Antilles and will have to secure sickness insurance coverage similar to the coverage SVB provides, from a

Continued from page 1.

renowned insurance company.

The ministerial decree regarding the investor permit states that these investors should benefit Antillean interests by bringing in foreign currency, stimulating the economy and also by contributing to the community through investment in real estate on the various Antillean islands. The regulation has been geared towards independent entrepreneurs, "knowledge immigrants and foreigners" who stimulate the economic development of the islands.

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## Maria says wrong decision on e-zone could distort economy

PHILIPSBURG—Councilwoman Maria Buncamper-Molanus has cautioned the Executive Council not to act without properly evaluating the pros and cons of establishing geographical economic zones compared to establishing economic zones (e-zones) in particular service areas.

The wrong decision, she said, could distort the economy to such an extent that instead of generating more employment and revenues, the contrary takes place. Buncamper-Molanus was referring to the idea of establishing an e-zone (economic zone) on St. Maarten.

She advised the present Executive Council not to try and re-invent the wheel and to stop wasting precious human resources and time. "It must be emphasized that precious resources have already been invested in research, reports, and the NA/Heyliger Executive Council should not simply discard this investment made because the process was initiated by the Democratic Party Government," she said.

She added that the draft legislation should be presented to the Island Council and should the present Executive Council choose not to do so, the Democratic Party faction will.

The issue, which the Councilwoman quickly reminded was a DP initiative outlined in its governing program

2007-2011, appeared in the local media in August when the present commissioner of economic affairs met with a group of interested business people.

"Falling under the umbrella of diversification, the DP Executive Council already did the necessary research and received a report from KPMG regarding this topic. The DP Government also had the previously mentioned diversification study done in which financial services were listed as a feasible economic activity among others," the Councilwoman said.

In February of this year, councilwoman Buncamper-Molanus, then Commissioner of Economic Affairs, travelled to Curaçao with among others the Director of Economic Research and Development on a fact-finding mission and met with the relevant persons in this field in Curaçao including the State Secretary Alex Rosaria.

She said it was about creating an attractive tax environment.

"Finding our niche was the recommendation given from all corners when it comes to developing our financial services. We should be cautious not to copy Curaçao or anyone else for that matter, as St. Maarten has its own unique market," she said.

Her further explained that the harbour, through its chairman, expressed the

interest in establishing an economic zone for transshipments for the purpose of being competitive.

In addition, she continued, the American University of the Caribbean, represented by attorney Suzy Romer, met with the DP Executive Council to discuss their interest in applying for an economic zone for this educational institution as they approached the end of their tax holiday.

"Parallel to this, far reaching discussions were held with Soualiga Development Group who submitted a proposal to Government to help St. Maarten prepare the establishment of our very own Bureau Intellectual Properties," Buncamper-Molanus said.

"This same group was also preparing a proposal for the establishment of an office that could properly facilitate businesses interested in doing business on St. Maarten within the e-zone. This would naturally only be possible after St. Maarten effectuates the federal legislation, the latter being a rather simple process of bringing a draft ordinance to the island council for approval," she added.

The Councilwoman said the assignment was given to the Department of Economic Development and Research in May of this year by the DP Executive Council to prepare the draft legislation, making it possible to establish economic zones on St. Maarten.

"At the end of the day, the benefit to the overall economy must be the primary objective. This is no simple subject, but if properly done can be the solution to totally changing the labour market, elevating it to the level necessary to create job opportunities particularly at middle and high income levels," she concluded.



Detectives removing items from the home of UPB leader Ramoncito Booi on Tuesday.



Detectives placing confiscated items in a jeep found at the home of former Minister Carlos Mercera on Wednesday.

## ARRESTED

Continued from page 1.

nated international criminal investigation, confiscations took place at a number of locations in Curaçao, Bonaire, Aruba and a couple of European countries, including Holland, Belgium and Austria.

The Public Prosecutor's Office in Holland also disclosed that the main suspect in the investigation, a 39-year-old Dutchman with the initials W/W, was arrested on Tuesday. The prosecutor's office suspects that he was on his way to South America to regulate another drug shipment to Holland, via West Africa.

Concerning W, El Hage said he only knew him as a computer expert and consultant for government. "I

don't know what the connection between him and De Groot is or was," El Hage said.

While investigating the money-laundering scheme, a large scale gold smuggling ring operating via Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles was uncovered. This smuggling of gold is re-

lated to an arrest on March 27 this year in the USA. The detained person is suspected of large-scale drug trafficking of cocaine out of Colombia. More than eight billion US dollars reportedly passed through the accounts in the USA which this person was managing.

## No head chosen yet for Constitutional Bureau

PHILIPSBURG—The National Alliance (NA)/Heyliger coalition still has to make a decision about replacing the head of Bureau Constitutional Affairs (BCA). Head Jeannette Hagen will take up a post in a similar capacity in Curaçao as of October 1.

Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin said when asked about a replacement Wednesday that the Executive Council will deal with recommendations submitted by him soon. "No deci-

sion has been made as to what will happen with the vacant position."

This post may be phased, according to information gathered, as the island prepares the organization structure for Country St. Maarten.

Hagen's contract was not renewed by government at the end of the three-year tenure that started in 2006 under the then-Democratic Party (DP) government. A main reason for the non-renewal was apparently an unfavourable work review.

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# Consumers need not worry over new rate adjustments

WILLEMSTAD--According to utility company Aqualectra, there is no cause for community concern following recent rate adjustments. "Nobody will be charged for something that he or she did not use,"

the utility company said in a statement.

After yesterday's rate adjustment, the total consumption at the end of the supply period will be reviewed, as usual. Supply periods vary per consumer

and do not necessarily coincide with the month.

For example, some periods run from August 11 to September 10 and others from September 7 to October 6, the company pointed out. In the latter example, the relevant household or establishment will be charged the new rate for the entire period.

It's a different case if the period includes both the former rate and the new rate. In that case, Aqualectra will view the consumption at the end of the period and will charge accordingly. So if the period runs from August 11 to September 10, that'll be a total of 31 days, of which 27 days will be charged at the former rate, and 4 days at the new rate.

Aqualectra will total the period consumption and divide it by 31 to come up with a daily average. Using this example, the invoice amount would be calculated as follows: "27 x daily average x 'former rate' plus 4 x daily average x 'new rate'."

The aforementioned will be explained once again on the next utility invoice.

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Commissioner William Marlin and officials inspect one of the classrooms at Charles Leopold Bell School (from left): Adjunct Director for Public Education Glenderlin Davis-Holdy, Member of the Academic Support Team Keith Gittens, Commissioner Marlin and his Executive Assistant Dorothy Lake.

## LEOPOLD BELL SCHOOL

Continued from page 1.

The school will reopen with five classes to accommodate 110 pupils ages four to six years who couldn't be placed in the public school system at the start of the new academic year. Three of the classes will house cycle one year one and two pupils and two classes cycle one year two pupils.

A smaller number of students had already been accepted at several government- and government-subsidised schools at the start of the new school year.

Because of the physical size of the classrooms and in keeping with the principles of Foundation-Based Education (FBE), each class will have a maximum of 22 pupils.

There will be a period of assessment during the first few days to determine how the pupils will be grouped. Marlin said this would be done by the teachers, assisted by the speech therapist, remedial coordinator, the special education coordinator and the public school coordinators for math and English.

Two recently retired teachers with FBE experience have been recruited to work at the school. A public school educator will also be transferred to Charles Leopold Bell School to teach and to act as coordinator for the five classes. Interviews were also held with other teachers on Wednesday.

"We have also identified one of the social workers in the public education family who will work with the children for one day. We also have a speech therapist, who also will visit the school for one day," the commissioner said.

Part of a donation of 300 tables and chairs from Office World were used to furnish the classrooms. The furniture was assembled by a team from the Public Works Department. Marlin said school supplies such as chalk, books, pencils and paper, which could not be ordered for Monday, would be "borrowed" from existing schools.

"The other schools have been approached to assist in this matter and they will gladly comply. ... We will soon place an order for 15 computers which will be part of the learning material necessary for the students."

"The progress of the school will be monitored over the next few months.

Commissioner Marlin said some persons who had registered pupils earlier this year had said these children were not yet on island. He said though that this could be due to a number of factors such as the child being on vacation or the child having been born here, but being with family members abroad.

"You cannot say up front that it's a case where - [as some] people interpret it - there is a cheap sale on education in St. Maarten so let me put a couple of children on a flight or a boat and let me send them to St. Maarten."

While the exact cost to implement compulsory education is not yet known, Marlin's rough estimate is that it probably will be in the vicinity of NAF. 700,000-900,000 per school year. This includes material, salaries, equipment, among other expenses.

Marlin said government

would continue with the phased implementation of compulsory education. He said while it was difficult to estimate the number of undocumented children in St. Maarten, many of these children had been born here.

He also expressed hope that with the Brooks Tower Accord now in effect, persons who qualified would be able to regularise their status and that of their children.

"I hope that by next year this time we will no longer be talking about undocumented children," he said. "Because of the Brooks Tower Accord ... persons who have been living here for a number of years and fit the criteria can qualify for residency and apply for permits and their children in one shot can be admitted and we can no longer talk about undocumented."

"It automatically speeds up the entire ... issue of compulsory education, because between now and the next school year one will have a clear picture as to who the students are, who are eligible for education and the number of these students.

"It is not something that has to take three or four years. In the course of the upcoming school year government should have a firm grip on who is allowed to stay and who is not allowed to stay. Those who are allowed to stay will go through the proper process of being documented and taken up in education programmes and will be documented workers who form part of the SVB [Social Insurance Bank] and other such institutions."



# Scot: Gynaecologist acted irresponsibly

CAY HILL—The decision by Gynaecologist/Obstetrician Dr. Randall Friday to accept the responsibility to care for the patients of the two remaining gynaecologists as well as those of midwife Regina Janga along with his own patients was "irresponsible" says St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) General Director Dr. George Scot.

However, Friday says the issue is not about gynaecologists taking vacation or operating in or out of the SMMC, but one which underscores the "inadequacy" of the current system and shows the need for more gynaecologists and midwives. He also dismissed the "irresponsible" charge saying he was responsible for only their emergency patients.

A number of pregnant women raised concerns about weaknesses in the delivery of women's health care on Monday when they learnt that only one gynaecologist - Friday - was available to tend to the scores of women with maternal issues. The remaining two gynaecologists - Dr. Michael Petit and Dr. Tjon Kon Fat - are on vacation, while the only midwife operating here is out "until further notice."

Scot, as well as Head of Sector Health Care and Labour Jorien Wuite, said the hospital does not regulate the vacation schedule of medical practitioners who are not in service of the hospital and has no control over the going and coming of independent specialists.

They both explained that

it's up to the independent specialists to transfer continuity of care of their patients in their absence to another specialist. "This is something that the Inspectorate of Health has been reiterating over the past couple of years," said Wuite.

Scot provided *The Daily Herald* with correspondences he had received from both Petit and Tjon Kon Fat indicating that they will be proceeding on vacation and that Friday would be responsible for their patients. It was only after receiving these correspondences that he learnt upon further enquiry that the midwife was also on vacation until further notice and that Friday would also be taking over care of her patients. Scot said her note had been posted on the notice board at the hospital.

The correspondences show that Petit is on vacation from September 7-15 and Tjon Kon Fat from August 17 to September 17. This means that Friday will be the only gynaecologist functioning in St. Maarten for at least one week - September 7 - 15.

Scot said while Petit and Tjon Kon Fat had complained in a letter to the media and to the Executive Council in January 2009 that the workload for night and weekend calls was too heavy to be handled by two gynaecologists, it was not correct for them to transfer



Dr. George Scot

the continuity of care for their patients to one doctor.

"Therefore, it was irresponsible for Friday to take over such a huge responsibility particularly if he doesn't have an agreement with one or more of the gynaecologists operating in French St. Martin," the SMMC General Director said.

He explained that issues can arise if, for example, Friday is handling a complicated procedure such as a problematic caesarean section and another emergency case pops up. He said, too, that since Friday will also be on call from September 2-20, this action does not ensure responsible care from the group of gynaecologists working in SMMC.

Wuite said, "The question arises whether the continuity of care is guaranteed in

this situation, and I think that this cannot be a full yes [because] for one week one gynaecologist has to be available 24 hours and has to attend many patients at many different possible locations. [This] can be very busy, but I understand that [one of the gynaecologists] is away for only one week." Asked whether he wouldn't be overwhelmed by the amount of work that will be coming his way and by having to be on call around the clock, Friday said he was only handling emergencies and not the everyday patients of the two gynaecologists and midwife.

"We need more specialists and we need more midwives and who is responsible for this I don't know, but the finger pointing must end. This problem has been going on for years. It's nothing new," said Friday.

"If Petit or Tjon Kon Fat

decides to retire or don't want to work anymore, what will the hospital do? They don't have a contingency plan. What is their plan because if someone leaves we are in the same situation? The system is inadequate. Whoever is responsible, we can all work together and solve this problem once and for all; it's getting redundant," the gynaecologist added.

Statistics from SMMC in 2008 show that on average, 18 caesarean sections are performed monthly and at least one delivery per day.

"This should have never happened," Scot said. "I am responsible for the continuity of care for patients at the hospital. I am not responsible for someone when they walk down the street and something happens."

*Continued on page 10*



Jorien Wuite

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## GYNAECOLOGIST

Continued from page 9.

pens to them. But when you are in the hospital I am responsible for that," Scot explained.

"The system needs to be regulated. You can have two structures: one where doctors and specialists are in service of the hospital so that when they go on vacation the hospital is responsible. Or you have a working agreement that sets conditions."

Scot said all doctors who started operating at the Medical Center since he joined in 2003 are either in service or have admittance agreements. Eight medical practitioners including an eye specialist, a paediatrician, two psychiatrists, a dermatologist and two surgeons are in service at the hospital or have admittance contracts. Six medical practitioners including Tjon Kon Fat and Petit operate independently and without an admittance contract.

Scot, as well as Wuite, said the Inspectorate of Health in Curaçao up until now is responsible for policing the delivery of quality health care. "And if they see that something is wrong with the current system then they have to do something about it," Scot said.

"There is a quality law which states that it's mandatory to have an admittance contract. We are in the process with the specialists to come to one admittance contract that is applicable for all the specialists but as long as there is none, it is still their responsibility."

Wuite said the issue is a challenging one that has the department's attention. She said government is also looking for another gynaecologist and will most likely be consulting with Friday on the issue on Wednesday. She said, too, that the situation with the midwife is unclear and she will be looking into it.

"If there is something that needs the attention of the inspectorate of public health we will also contact them to inform them of the situation and in the meantime we have no remedy," she said.

Wuite said, too, that there were about seven gynaecologists operating in French St. Martin who can also be tapped. "We shouldn't always be behaving as though we are half of an island," she said, adding that the both sides just have to ensure that the necessary agreements are in place when help is needed.

In the meantime, pregnant women are concerned about the situation and hope that their health is not placed at risk. (Judy H. Fitzpatrick)

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## Prioritised spending helps debt reduction, says banker

NEVIS – General Manager of the Bank of Nevis Mr. Everet Martin says all departments in the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) should make a concerted effort to prioritise spending in pursuit of debt reduction.

Martin was delivering remarks at the third Annual Consultation on the Economy on Tuesday under the theme "Engendering a prosperous future by creating stability and growth through improved governance".

"An effective debt management strategy must prioritize government spending. An efficient and effective public expenditure management programme must include a consistent macroeconomic framework in presenting the budget, effective control mechanisms on overall expenditure and

a budget reporting system that produces reliable, comprehensible and transparent and timely data," he said.

Martin also said the Public Sector Investment Plan (PSIP) needed to be reviewed to ensure that funds were expended on high income generating projects to boost employment.

He also pointed to the need for the use of proposal appraisal techniques in the determination of which projects should be executed.

In relation to tax reform, Martin contended that critical consideration should be given to reform the tax system, making it one which would not impede growth.

He proposed a system which included a corporate income tax with a rate that was uniform and moderate. "Accordingly, government should expedite the intro-

duction of the new Corporate Tax Act; the introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) with one rate and minimal exemptions. Such a system must include a simplified regime for small tax payers.

"The introduction of a more transparent regime for the granting of tax concessions [and] an effective tax administration that facilitates 'voluntary compliance' [that] effectively monitors tax payments and promptly follows up on late payment or non payment," he said.



Students of the Maria Immaculata Lyceum (MIL) in Curaçao put their skills to the test and displayed several delicious dishes they created at school for the public. Parents, friends and the general public were offered the opportunity to purchase the food items. The funds raised from the sales will go towards various school projects.

## Richardson gets 2 years for attempted murder

PHILIPSBURG—Carlos Alfonso Richardson (27) was sentenced to two years' imprisonment Wednesday for attempted manslaughter.

He had fired several random shots with a nine-millimetre gun in the vicinity of Milton Peters College in June in a dispute over fees owed to him by a peer to whom he was selling his car.

Richardson attempted to convince Judge Monique Keppels that his intentions that day had not been to shoot at the person with whom he had a dispute. However, witness statements were to the contrary, describing Richardson as a devil during his actions, clearly attempting to shoot at his peer.

According to Richardson, the dispute had started over the use of his car when he had instructed the person to whom he was in the process of selling the car not to allow another young man with whom Richardson had a conflict to drive the car.

His peer's disobeying his request had sparked his rage, Richardson said, and he had been further provoked when his peer had dared him to take measures for his allowing the other young man to drive the car. Richardson said that in frustration he had decided the best solution would be to destroy the car, a move Prosecutor Rienk Mud described as "stupid."

Richardson's method of attempting to destroy his car was to fire shots at it while many individuals, including young children, were in close proximity. Judge Keppels noted this as bad judgement, having caused several lives to be put in danger.

Prosecutor Mud considered the charges of attempted manslaughter and possession of an illegal firearm proven, to which Judge Keppels agreed. Mud added that Richardson's criminal record gave a view of his lifestyle, including the use of firearms in the manner he had used one that day.

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## Government, private sector partnership important to Nevis' future prosperity

NEVIS—Bank of Nevis General Manager Everet Martin says government's partnership with the private sector is imperative to engender future prosperity.

Martin was addressing the Third Annual Consultation on the Economy hosted by the Nevis Island Administration (NIAs) Ministry of Finance on Tuesday.

"While there are public goods such as education, health and road developments which are better left to government for development, there are growth areas that should be left to the private sector.

"Without the engagement of the private sector, initiatives targeting sustained growth may be significantly delayed. Accordingly, government must share its strategic development plan with the private sector ... The establishment of 'think tanks' which include the private sector should be established," he said.

However, the private sector should not wait on government but instead identify areas of development to participate in, he added.



Everet Martin

Martin listed a number of initiatives and made recommendations to the NIA which he said were intended to identify some growth areas, which would lead to a stable economic environment and sustained future prosperity.

Among the issues he addressed were debt management, government expenditure, tax reform, civil service reform, tourism, the offshore sector, non-traditional growth areas and improved governance, which he said would serve no purpose unless there was public trust and confidence in government.

"There is a need to review public sector pro-

ductivity. An audit of the jobs in government needs to be conducted and job descriptions revised with specific performance requirements and accountability," he stressed.

He continued: "Further, there is need for enhanced financial reporting, both outward and internal. Such reporting must include parliament, ministers, government officials, the electorate, tax payers and the general public. Transparency and openness would not only improve general corporate governance but build public trust and confidence," he said.

Martin also stressed that fostering an economy, based on his proposed initiatives, could not succeed in the absence of effective corporate governance in the public sector, or the collective will and partnership between the private sector and government.

He said that both the government and the private sector should collectively continue to strive to keep Nevis "nice."



Some of the Nevis Island Government employees at the consultation



Some participants at the Third Annual Consultation on the Economy hosted by the Ministry of Finance in Nevis

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## BES islands to step out of St Maarten treaty

THE HAGUE--The Dutch Government is proposing to cancel the 1994 treaty between the Netherlands and France dealing with control of persons at Princess Juliana Airport, on behalf of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius (BES islands).

A proposal to this extent is included in the draft legislation dealing with treaties affecting the BES islands when they become part of the Netherlands as "public entities." The Dutch Parliament's approval will be necessary to apply the treaties to the BES islands after the transition.

Approval is also necessary to cancel two specific treaties, of which the treaty regulating control of persons at St. Maarten's airport is one. Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Verhagen submitted the law proposal, covering some 80 treaties and agreements, to the Second Chamber on Wednesday.

According to the proposal, the validity of the treaty on control of persons at airports in St. Maarten, signed in Paris in May 1994, is limited to St. Maarten. As such, it is not necessary for

the BES islands to be partners to this treaty.

The Dutch Government is also seeking to cancel a treaty for the BES islands dealing with the possibility of seamen with Spanish nationality entering the Netherlands Antilles without a visa or permit. The treaty will no longer be relevant when the BES islands become part of the Netherlands, as citizens of the European Union, of which Spain is a member, don't need a visa to enter Dutch territory.

The treaties for which the Dutch Government is seeking approval on behalf of the BES islands concern protection of military data, protection of cultural heritage in case of armed conflict, regional cooperation and exchange of information in the area of Customs, protection of intellectual and industrial property, and fisheries, among other issues.

They further address international cooperation in penal cases such as extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of sentenced persons; combating of corruption, fraud and money laundering; interna-

national cooperation for civil servants; exchange of civil registries' data; the metric system; the European Charter; sea transport of nuclear materials; ensuring that BES residents can travel to certain countries without a visa; equal rights for women; and refugees.

There are four categories of treaty involved, for the BES islands. The first concerns treaties valid for both the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles. The second concerns those that are only applicable to the Netherlands Antilles and that must remain valid in the BES islands.

The third category consists of treaties that were approved and ratified for the Netherlands, but not for the Netherlands Antilles, and which will become applicable to the BES islands. The law proposal has to make it possible to apply this third category to the BES islands. The integration of the BES islands into the Netherlands doesn't mean that all treaties approved and ratified by the Netherlands automatically apply to the BES islands. Internationally, this is not a requirement.

The fourth category concerns treaties that were ap-

proved by both the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles, but of which only part was ratified by the Netherlands and not in the Netherlands Antilles, in anticipation of implementation legislation. Some of these treaties will become applicable to the BES islands.

It is the intention to inform the depositaries (trustees) of multilateral treaties and the other parties in bilateral treaties, of the application to the BES islands of treaties already valid for the Netherlands Antilles, around the transition date, October 2010.

## Two break into elderly couple's home, police hold one suspect

ST. EUSTATIUS--Police here have detained one suspect and are hunting for another, who they believe can assist them in their investigations into a robbery committed at the home of an elderly couple, Tuesday night.

Police said the suspect now in custody was held Wednesday with stolen merchandise on him. He was being interrogated and they were not in a position to provide any additional information as their investigation was ongoing.

The senior citizen victim of the Tuesday night break-in told *The Daily Herald* Wednesday that she had been in her living room watching television around 9:00pm when she had heard a noise coming from her bedroom. At first she thought one of her cats had knocked something over, but

when she looked up she saw two young men approaching her from the bedroom. They had scarves over their heads so she couldn't see their faces. They brandished a knife.

"They first asked me where my husband was, and then said they wanted money and wouldn't hurt me if I cooperated. I said I didn't have any large amount of money but had a little in my purse. They took me to the bedroom where my purse was on the bed. They dumped it out and took about NAF. 800," she explained.

She continued: "They thought I must have more money somewhere, but I said I didn't. They asked me a lot of questions about where I kept my money, and I said I kept it in the bank. They thought I must have an ATM card, but I didn't. I

got the impression that if they had found an ATM card, they would have threatened me until I gave them a pin number. But I had no such thing."

She said the young men stayed about 20 minutes in the house, opening drawers in her home office and in her bedroom and throwing the contents around. They took her digital camera. Finally, they took her into the closet, tied up her hands with a belt they found there, and then left the same way they had entered - through the sliding door in the bedroom.

She said she had managed to free herself and had waited a few minutes to make sure her attackers had left before calling a friend and asking her to call the police.

## Commissioner Kamp to hold public session

SABA--Commissioner for the BES islands Henk Kamp will hold a public information session from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Monday, September 14 at the Eugénius Centre.

Kamp will be accompanied by coordinators from the Dutch Ministries, who will report on the progress with regard to preparations for the changes leading to Saba's new status as a public entity of the Netherlands. There will be three major themes: public safety, social welfare, and environment.

The Regional Service Centre said that the public session is organized a bit differently this time. After the initial welcome by dignitaries and introductory statements by Commissioner Kamp, attendees will be able to ask questions directly of various Dutch ministerial representatives.

In this way, individuals may speak to and get acquainted with the 13 different Dutch ministerial quartermasters on an individual basis.

The session will be conducted in English and Dutch, with English language handouts, and Dutch-English translation available if necessary.

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# CPA lodged an appeal against MCS verdict

WILLEMSTAD—Curaçao Ports Authority (CPA) has lodged an appeal to the higher court regarding the verdict in which MCS Exploitation Company was not held liable for filling in of a section of the Schottegat.

In 2007, the Island Territory of Curaçao leased out a section of 103,000 m<sup>2</sup>, situated in the Schottegat, to MSC. According to the conditions of the lease, MCS is allowed to deploy harbour-related activities on that section for setting up an industrial processing firm and exporting processed products.

For that purpose, amongst others, MCA intended to build a concrete and asphalt plant on the section it was granted in long lease. The CPA immediately objected once it got wind of the plans.

According to CPA, MSC never complied with certain conditions as outlined in the lease and subsequently claimed the disputed section. The CPA also expressed further doubts whether the industrial processing plant will still be set up. The CPA wanted the court to instruct MCA to remove material it had dumped into the harbour

to start construction of the plant.

In the summary proceedings, the judge determined that there is no reason to order MCS to retrieve what has been dumped in the water, a decision the CPA cannot agree with.

The CPA is a harbour company, which is responsible for the management of the harbours and the relevant waters and wharves. MCS is a private company that deals in real estate, conducts a retail trade in building materials, and manages other companies.

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## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Wilma J. Meyers

and

Emela L. Meyers-Mays

(sister of Otto O. Meyers Jr.)

hereby make known to the general public that as per August 25th, 2003 the **Power of attorney** that was given to

**Otto O. Meyers, Jr.**

has been revoked.

He is no longer authorized to act or make any general or specific transactions on our behalf. This public announcement was previously placed in August 2004.

Signed:

Wilma J. Meyers

Emela L. Meyers-Mays



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## Dutch bureau to assist with Statia zoning plan

OENKERK—Experts of a Dutch physical planning bureau are coming to St. Eustatius in a week and a half to help draft a zoning plan for the island. The project is commissioned by the Island Territory of St. Eustatius. The experts already visited Bonaire to assist with a zoning plan there.

The group of six will make an inventory of the physical situation on the island and start preparations for a so-called structure vision, which should lead to a zoning plan, explained project leader Jur van der Velde of Buro Vijn.

The structure vision serves to determine what the island wants where it comes to physical planning, where and how (economic) growth is possible and what this growth means for the people and nature. Historical and cultural values will be taken along, as well as nature.

St. Eustatius doesn't have a zoning plan at the moment. Having a zoning plan is important because the island will become part of the Netherlands as a 'public entity.' In the Netherlands, zoning plans are a must. Customarily, governments take decisions on physical planning aspects based on a zoning plan. This includes building permits and construction specifications.

The idea of a zoning plan is to divide the island into areas. Each area gets a specific designation or function, such as residency, tourism and recreation, commercial, industrial and nature. The zoning plan determines what can and cannot be built in the specific areas.

A zoning plan should lead to a better balance of development and natural habitat. It serves to protect values and qualities of nature, ecology, history, culture and buildings. But at the same time, a zoning plan has a development function, explained Van der Velde. It is binding: government, companies and citizens have to stick to it. A plan gives rights and responsibilities.

The zoning plan will not set norms for environmental protection, or evaluate the value of cultural heritage. It will not do a technical analysis of the soil. A zoning plan deals more with the physical functioning aspect, but it does take the environment, soil structure and cultural heritage into account.

Van der Velde stressed that his team will not take the final decisions of what comes where in the zoning plan.

That is up to local government. "It is a plan for and with the island. We advise, make proposals, but government will ultimately decide," he said in an interview with *The Daily Herald*. He added that the support of the population and government is very important.

The structure, vision and zoning plan will not be a Dutch copy. It will be based on the local situation, said Van der Velde. "The idea is not to implement Dutch customs and regulations one-on-one. It will involve a different way of reserving, different rules geared towards the local situation. Things on St. Eustatius are different to in the Netherlands. It will require creative thinking," he said.

Buro Vijn was selected from the eight bureaus that were

approached for the project. Buro Vijn has ample experience in the Netherlands and also on the Frisian islands (*Waddeneilanden*). The bureau is assisted by colleagues of RBOI, a company that belongs to the same group, as well as Ecorys from the Netherlands and the Caribbean marine biology research institute Carmabi from Curaçao.

The team travels to St. Eustatius on September 21 and will stay for one week. The project is funded through the Antillean development fund USONA.



Yesterday was October 9, 2009 or 09-09-09 and several people worldwide used the day to get "hitched". This was no different on Aruba where the local census office performed 16 weddings. The eldest couple were Gabriel Werleman and Loudes Croes (pictured). Even though the couple only brought along a small group of family to bear witness, their wedding attracted attention from the media and a small gathering outside.

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## Your Permit, Our Concern

The Office of Cor Merx Legal Services invites the general public once more to a two-hour **information session** about:

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**Time:** 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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Sergeant Yearwood, Superintendent Proctor, Sergeant Best and Inspector Sinclair at Wednesday's press conference.

## Police probing armed robbery at Sur la Plage, fire at school

ANGUILLA—The Royal Anguilla Police Force (RAFF) is investigating an armed robbery at a villa at Meads Bay. They are also investigating a fire at the Stoney Ground Primary School.

The police reported Wednesday that they received a call from Sur La Plage at 2:18am on September 5 about the robbery and officers from the Criminal Investigation Department visited the scene.

A resident, who is a German working in Anguilla, reported that two masked intruders entered the guest house, kicked open the bedroom door and tied up his arms and legs. They then proceeded to search the property and stole US\$2,047 in cash. The men were dressed in black and one had a firearm.

In the case of the fire at the Stoney Ground Primary School, the police said they were alerted at 1:56am that there was smoke in the unit

housing the special needs class. The fire truck was called and the fire was put out. However, investigations are continuing as the police want to determine the origin of the fire.

They are engaging a specialist from Anguilla to determine the origin and to see if it is a case of arson. Damage to the building was mainly smoke damage and also the air conditioner, fire extinguisher and a sink were damaged.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Yearwood reported that during the past week the police arrested 13 persons - all men. Two were arrested to prevent a breach of the peace, two for burglary, one for burglary and attempted fraud, and eight - in five separate incidents - for possession of cannabis.

There were also six burglaries in the villages of West End, South Hill, Blowing Point and The Valley. A PlayStation, US\$400 in cash, and a cash pan with

an unknown amount of cash were stolen. There were also four thefts and these included a wallet, US\$160, number plates, a gas cylinder, and a cell phone. Seven cases of criminal damage were reported and these included damage to a gas line, a rear fender, a wind shield, a door of a car, appliances and a camera. Six minor traffic accidents were also reported.

## Shortage of swine flu vaccines expected in the Netherlands

THE HAGUE—The Dutch health ministry said Tuesday Swiss drugs giant Novartis was behind on swine flu vaccine orders and would deliver less than half of the first batch of 20 million doses.

Novartis informed Dutch authorities last week that the first delivery, expected in late October, would not be as big as expected, the ministry said in a statement. The company had also "informed the World Health Organisation that the yield of vaccines is lower than expected," it added.

"The Netherlands expects to receive less than half of the ordered number of doses with the first delivery" -- some six to ten million doses, said the statement. "Other countries are also having trouble with the late delivery of ordered vaccines."

In August, Dutch authorities said they would offer vaccinations to about five

to six million people considered most at risk of complications from the A(H1N1) virus as of October. These included people with cardiac or liver diseases, diabetes and immune deficiencies; women with health problems who are more than four months pregnant; and everybody aged over 60.

The group most at risk according to a list drawn up earlier will be vaccinated, but other groups may have to wait. People who get a flu jab every year will get the A(H1N1) vaccine as will those aged over 60.

The health council had recommended healthcare workers and people caring for weak patients to be vaccinated early, but it is now likely that they will have to wait a little longer.

Health Minister Ab Klink said Novartis would deliver vaccines proportionally; more for those countries that had ordered more. "We (the Netherlands) will

get a relatively big number because we ordered vaccines for the entire population in spring."

Novartis would not confirm or deny the statement. "Novartis has been in continuous dialogue over the last months with governments, including the Dutch government, due to the low yield of the current seed strain received from WHO and the potential impact on delivery timelines and volume," said Novartis spokesman Eric Allhoff.

"It is clear to governments that our H1N1 contracts are dependent on yields and we remain committed to our contractual obligations." The Netherlands has ordered 34 million doses of swine flu vaccine, enough for two doses for each of its 16.5 million inhabitants. The other supplier of the swine flu vaccine, GlaxoSmithKline, is delivering the vaccine as planned.

## Cuban diplomat urges graduates to contribute to nation building

ST. KITTS—This year's graduates of Cuban universities have been urged to make a meaningful and worthwhile contribution to the development of St. Kitts and Nevis.

"You must display humanitarianism and internationalism and help your country of St. Kitts and Nevis," said Resident Cuban Ambassador Ana Maria Gonzalez at the 5th Annual St. Kitts and Nevis Cuban Alumni Association.

Dr. Ron Carty of Saddlers, Electrical Engineer, Gaston Dixon of St. Paul's and Accountant Shara Maynard of Nevis received certificates from the St. Kitts and Nevis Cuban Alumni Association to mark their achievement. Absent was Dr. Sakkara Assagel.

Ambassador Gonzalez said she was honoured to be participating and thanked the Alumni Association for all the support given to her during her tenure of office.

"Each time a graduation ceremony takes place, we are encouraged because we have worked very hard not only in St. Kitts and Nevis, but with the rest of the Caribbean. Cuba is not a rich



From left: Dr. Ron Carty, Shara Maynard, Ambassador Ana Maria Gonzalez and Gaston Dixon at the 5th Annual St. Kitts and Nevis Cuban Alumni Association. (Photo by Ernest Williams)

nation with many natural resources but we have developed our own human resources and have extended it to our friends in the Caribbean and around the world. The way we have found to help and support the rest of the Caribbean nations is to train their nationals in the varying professions," said Ambassador Gonzalez.

"We hope that they do not just become a professional, but work for their humanity to serve human be-

cause that is the ideal of the Cuban cooperation. The third world countries need our support.

"Although we have been blockaded by the United States for 50 years - the longest blockade in the history of mankind, which has affected us economically - we still share what we have with our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean in line with our international policy which began since 1953, especially

with the countries in Africa and in the Caribbean in the 1980's," said the top Cuban diplomat in the Federation.

Cuba has 31,000 students from the three continents with more than 3,000 from the Caribbean nationals. Ambassador Gonzalez used the opportunity to congratulate the graduates and their families and hoped that the relationship between St. Kitts and Cuba will be strengthened. (C/OPM)

## Three men arrested for possession of cannabis

ANGUILLA—Police confiscated 43 pounds of cannabis and arrested three persons Monday for bringing the drugs to Anguilla.

According to a report from the Royal Anguilla Police Force (RAFF), on Monday September 5 at about noon, the Drugs and Firearms Task Force, assisted by the Financial Investigating Unit, received a tip off about illegal activity at Sandy Hill Bay and went to investigate. They saw a rubber dinghy with three persons on board and on inspection found 43 pounds of compressed cannabis.

The three men who were arrested are D.C., 33, of Stoney Ground, M.P. and E.C., both 26, from The

Valley. Two are born Anguillians and one is a Belonger. They appeared before the Magistrate on a charge of importation of controlled drugs.

Sergeant Best said that the street value of the drugs is approximately US\$100,000. The drug seizure was described by the police as a significant find and the investigation is continuing. Superintendent Proctor made it clear that they are pursuing the case as far as possible and any others associated with the case will be dealt with by the law.

He said anyone with additional information about the case should inform the RAPE.



## Bankers cap their bonuses in Holland



Amsterdam financial district Zuidas (Maurice Boyer Photo)

AMSTERDAM--Dutch banks published a code of conduct to cap executive bonuses on Wednesday. Bonuses for management board members will be capped at 100 percent of their annual salary as of 2010. No limit was set for other bank employees, such as traders.

All the Dutch banks, including global banking giants ING, Fortis and ABN Amro agreed to the new code, which it is hoped will set an international example in the run-up to the G20 meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania later this month.

Part of that meeting of the world's 19 largest in-

dustrial nations plus the European Union will be dedicated to restricting bankers' bonuses, which many people blame for the crisis, although no concrete measures are expected.

The effect of the banking code in the Netherlands will probably be limited. According to the banking association which drafted the code, there are currently no executives in the Netherlands who receive bonuses exceeding their fixed salary.

The cap also applies to options and stock packages, both in granting and in cashing them. Former ABN Amro CEO Rijkman

Groenink received a higher remuneration through such a deal.

Bank association Chairman Boele Staal explained why the bonus cap is explicitly not intended for traders. "Banks should have the freedom to reward their best traders when they seal a good deal. High bonuses can be justified there. But those rewards should now be related to long-term perspectives and not short-term commercial goals."

The code also includes principles of risk management, corporate governance and remuneration policies. It applies to banking activities in the Netherlands and abroad.

Finance Minister Wouter Bos, who had threatened to regulate the bonuses if the sector did not take responsibility, calls the code "a unique step forward."

"For the first time, the banking sector has taken an initiative like this. That is a giant and good step forward on the route of restoring faith in the financial sector," he said.

## Tourists no longer welcome in cannabis-selling coffee shops

AMSTERDAM--The Dutch government wants to maintain its tolerant policy towards cannabis and keep so-called coffee shops open, but they should no longer be tourist attractions, Dutch ministers wrote in a letter that was leaked to the press on Tuesday.

The ministers of justice, home affairs and health wrote that reducing the number of coffee shops and keeping foreigners out should make it easier to reduce crime and other nuisances the coffee shops are now causing.

A government memorandum on altering the coffee-shop policy and other drug-related issues is expected this fall, but the letter already shows where the ministers now stand. They want to implement a members-only system to keep tourists out.

Herds of tourist who buy their drugs in border towns near Belgium and Germany have become a pest in several places and neigh-



Only registered members will be able to buy soft drugs from coffee shops. (Photo Rien Zivold)

bouring countries have expressed their dissatisfaction with the Dutch system.

The Netherlands has been tolerant about the use and sale of weed and hash for three decades. Cultivation and wholesale of the drug are prohibited however. This discrepancy has become known as the "gedoogbeleid" (tolerance policy).

An advisory committee said in July that the policy has gotten out of control in the past 15 years and needs to go back to small, private

shops for local users. It advised against legalising soft drugs altogether.

The ministers want municipalities to implement a members-only system, where members can buy up to three grams of hash or weed each with their (Dutch) bank card. This should make it less appeal-



The Empire State Building in New York is seen lit in orange on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the city. Willem-Alexander and Máxima ignited the lights Tuesday night. (Photo: ANP)

## Young Dutch teenager released from prison

AMSTERDAM--Anouk Bolkenbaas, the 13-year-old girl who has spent over two months in a youth prison because there was no room for her in a youth care facility, has been released.

A juvenile judge on Tuesday decided she should not be locked up. A psychological review of the girl and her parents had come to the same conclusion.

Anouk's mother, Liesbeth Bolkenbaas, had campaigned for two months

to get her daughter out of prison. In an interview with *NRC Handelsblad*, she said, "I call the prison management almost every day. I have contacted people in parliament, written to minister Rouvoet.

"I have tried to locate everyone in the child protection services who was involved with the decision to send Anouk to prison. I want to ask them: 'What are you doing? I was asking for help, not punishment.'"

Anouk, who had never been in trouble with the police, had run away from home a number of times. When her mother wanted her placed in a closed care facility, the girl ended up in the youth prison Teylingereind instead.

The juvenile judge has not only ordered Anouk's release, he also lifted the temporary restriction of parental authority. Anouk's case is not unique: 518 Dutch children are currently in youth prisons in the Netherlands because there is no space for them in care facilities.

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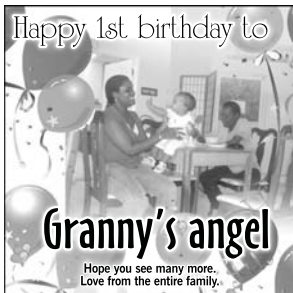
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Happy 1st birthday to



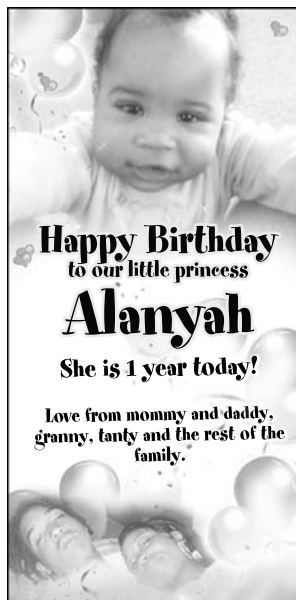
**Granny's angel**

Hope you see many more.  
Love from the entire family.



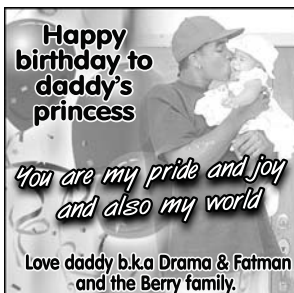
**Surprise!**  
Birthday greetings  
are going out to  
the most sexy,  
loving, dedicated  
daughter.

Coming from your sexy mom, sisters,  
brothers, your children, nieces and nephews,  
wishing you all the best and many more years to  
come with lots of love.



**Happy Birthday**  
to our little princess  
**Alanyah**  
She is 1 year today!

Love from mommy and daddy,  
granny, tanty and the rest of the  
family.

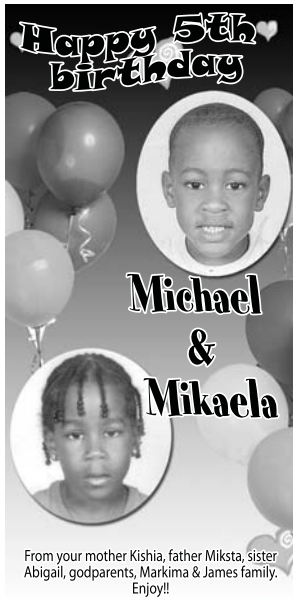


**Happy birthday to daddy's princess**

*You are my pride and joy  
and also my world*

Love daddy b.ka Drama & Fatman  
and the Berry family.

**Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



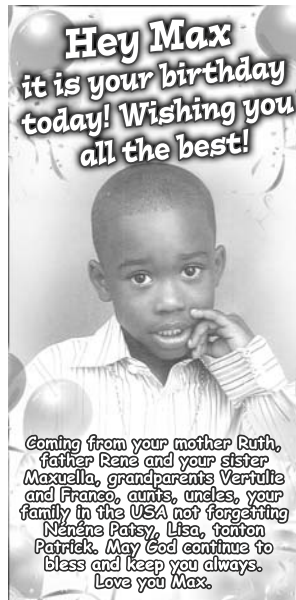
**Michael  
&  
Mikaela**

From your mother Kishia, father Miksta, sister Abigail, godparents, Markima & James family.  
Enjoy!!



**Happy birthday!**

From Allan, David, Diahann, Natalie & Frans and the rest of the family circle.  
We love you very much! Do enjoy your special day to the fullest!!!!



**Hey Max**  
it is your birthday today! Wishing you all the best!

Coming from your mother Ruth, father Rene and your sister Maxuella, grandparents Vertulie and Franco, aunts, uncles, your family in the USA not forgetting Nenéne Patsy, Lisa, tontan Patrick. May God continue to bless and keep you always.  
Love you Max.

## Cops trying to burn exhibits arrested by their colleagues

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—Two police constables were Tuesday caught in the act trying to destroy what appeared to be court exhibits in a bonfire at D'Abadie.

Sources say the officers - one of whom is a WPC - were detained by their colleagues on the La Resource Road following the discovery.

The constables who are attached to the Arima Criminal Investigations Department were being questioned up to Tuesday evening. The PC has ten years service while the WPC has 12 years service.

Contacted by the Express on the matter, Acting Commissioner of Police James Philbert confirmed the incident stating: "Officers received information that (officers) were sighted in an area, and they were burning some stuff. Enquiries are continuing, items were seized and photographs were taken. I am currently awaiting a report on the matter."

It was only on Monday, a corporal with 12 years service was served with a departmental warning letter following the seizure of court exhibits stored in his locker at the Arouca Police Station.

The narcotic exhibits, which were ordered destroyed in 2003 by a magistrate, consisted of two marijuana joints, one rock of cocaine and a bag containing 16 (TT\$10-worth) pieces of marijuana in a clear plastic bag.

Four completed narcotics case files were also found in the locker on Monday afternoon.

Sources say the other locker, which is located adjacent to the corporal's, contained a water gun while a desk searched at the station contained five spent shells and a quantity of marijuana.

On Monday PC Andre Barrow was granted TT\$100,000 bail by an Arima magistrate after being slapped with nine charges of misbehaviour in public office, arising out of the alleged discovery of court exhibits at his home. (Trinidad Express)

## TT\$11M spent so far on UDeCOTT commission

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—Fees for the Chairman and members of the Commission of Enquiry into the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) and the construction sector have cost the taxpayer TT\$11 million since its inception and are projected to cost a further TT\$7 million in the next fiscal year, amounting to a total of TT\$18 million.

This according to the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2010, which was tabled on Monday, just prior to the presentation of the 2010 Budget by Finance Minister Karen Nunez-Tesheira in the House of Representatives.

This substantial expenditure in the face of the collapse of the Commission appears to strengthen the case for Government to take steps to validate acts and things done by the Commission.

It is uncertain whether the full allocation in 2008 related solely to the Uff Commission which began public hearings in September or whether it included the cost of previous Commissions of Enquiry.

However, this figure does not include the cost of legal fees for the various state agencies such as UDeCOTT, the Housing Development Corporation, NIPDEC and the Attorney General, all of which hired a battery of attorneys to represent them at the Commission which was headed by Prof. John Uff, UDeCOTT. (Adapted from Trinidad Express)

**Birthday greetings are going out to the queen of our hearts**  
**Tamisha Ally Priest**  
 Coming from your husband Ally and daughter Alyshma with lots of love. Enjoy your day and may you have many more years!!!

**Hiep hiep hooray**  
**Dimitri Quellery**  
 is 1 today!  
 Birthday wishes are coming from mommy, daddy, grandma & grandpa, aunts, uncles, the rest of the family circle & the MADD family. May God keep blessing you to see many many more years. We love you!!!!

**Look who is 2 today!**  
**Happy birthday to Alexio Menta**  
 From daddy Alex, mommy Marietsa, sister Alicia, your aunts, uncles, grandparents, godparents, cousins and the entire circle at Winnie the pooh.

**Look who is 6 years old today!**  
**Happy birthday to Joseph Blasmin Lejuez**  
 From Jackelin, Diana and the rest of the family.

**Happy Birthday**  
**Shanna-Lee**  
 a.k.a **Munchy**  
 Coming from your son AJ, friends Charnette, Nicky, Anisha, Bigga, Papa, X-box, Rex, Orville and the rest of the hill crew, Tata & D.S.G. boys. Enjoy your day to the fullest. We all love you.

**Look who is 14 today!!!**  
**Happy Birthday**  
**Chantal**  
 Coming from mom June, daddy Earl, sister Shanee, niece Kayan, brothers in the USA and Jamaica, Kayla, Tav, Carol, auntie Paulette and Escobar.

**STOLEN**  
**Missing from Cay Hill Veterinary Clinic.** Bobby Lee, mixed Brittany Spaniel white and brown, needs medication, \$500 REWARD OFFERED FOR RETURN, no questions asked! Please contact William/ Philippe 586-3434 or 0690 58-41-53



Judges appointed to serve as puisne judges and Master-in-Chambers show off their Instruments of Appointment after a ceremony at King's House on Monday. From left are Frank Williams, Carol Edwards and Evan Brown who will act as puisne judges, and Sharon Aiton-George, who will serve as Master-in-Chambers in the Supreme Court. (Jamaica Observer photo by Joseph Wellington)

## Four more senior judges sworn in

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Four judges were sworn in to higher offices Monday by Governor General Sir Patrick Allen, during a ceremony at King's House.

Sworn in were Frank Williams, Carol Edwards and Evan Brown to act as puisne judges and Sharon Aiton-George, who will serve as Master-in-Chambers for the Supreme Court.

Hall, before handing over the ceremonial Instruments of Appointment to the judges, urged them to continue to protect the legitimacy and integrity of the judicial system.

He told them that despite the challenges, the public will be observing their performances and will be scrutinising their timeliness and the quality of their judgments.

"We implore you to ensure that your actions are fair and balanced so that you can, at all times, command the respect of Jamaicans at all levels and constantly reaffirm the integrity and quality of the judicial system," he added.

In her charge to the appointees, Chief Justice Zaila McCalla said despite the demands, they would have

to be proactive to ensure that the time of the court is not wasted.

"We have the awesome responsibility of being agents of change from a culture of delay, to a reformed justice system that is efficient, fair and reliable," she said. "We cannot, however, allow the challenges, no matter how formidable, to derail us from our duty to dispense justice with the utmost efficiency and sensitivity. We must continue to do the best that we can with the resources that we have."

Responding on behalf of the judges, Justice Frank Williams expressed appreciation.

"We are acutely aware that we are being entrusted with an awesome responsibility, and we vow today to ensure that, at the end of the day, the Judicial Services Commission and you all can rest satisfied that the confidence that you have reposed in us was indeed well placed," he said. (Jamaica Observer)

## Rapid Rail may be put on hold

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—The billion-dollar Trinidad Rapid Rail Transit System could be put on hold if the downturn in the economy continues.

Finance Minister Karen Nunez-Tesheira said Tuesday the next phase of the Rapid Rail project would be considered in the context of the performance of the economy.

She was answering a question during a post-budget seminar hosted by the Chamber of Commerce at Westmoorings.

## LIME withdraws its termination letters

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—Telecoms giant LIME, (formerly Cable & Wireless) has "with immediate effect" withdrawn letters of termination sent to workers on July 30.

This was revealed Tuesday night by Prime Minister David Thompson after more than four hours of negotiations at Government Headquarters between the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) and LIME.

"It was agreed that the letters of redundancy which were issued to the employees by Cable & Wireless on July 30, 2009, will be withdrawn with immediate effect," Thompson said.

However, there was still some uncertainty over whether, or when, the terminated workers would be reinstated.

"We have to work through that with the Minister [of Labour Wednesday]," said LIME's country manager Alex MacDonald.

"We remain committed to our employees and we want

to thank all of them for holding firm with us while we went through this."

More than 100 workers were terminated, but not all of them accepted the enhanced severance packages offered by LIME, and the BWU's general secretary Sir Roy Trotman said those who took packages would remain terminated but a new date for resumption of work had to be set for those who did not.

"If a person has had their letter of termination withdrawn the person should resume work immediately," Sir Roy said.

"The company seems to have some difficulty in understanding that. So it is part of what we will be addressing tomorrow [Wednesday]. If you fire a man and you tell him 'sorry', the letter is withdrawn, the next obvious step is to tell him when to return to work and what you will do about the time he was not working.

"Some workers have accepted packages and if a worker accepted, I don't imagine that worker will want to lose their self-respect. So he or she will remain terminated."

While LIME's chairman Sir Allan Fields was not present Tuesday, MacDonald revealed that the decision to withdraw the letters came from the board of directors, who met last Monday.

"We referred the matter to the board of directors and we were encouraged by their thoughts on the matter and they authorised us to withdraw the letters issued to our employees," he said. The two parties were scheduled to meet at 9:00am yesterday, Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour Senator Arni Walters, while the BWU was scheduled to hold a meeting for all LIME workers, those terminated and those still employed, at Solidarity House at 5:00pm. (Daily Nation)

## Bishops' High teachers stage sit-out over unruly student

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Teachers at the Bishops' High School refused to teach Tuesday until a first-year student who has failed twice in the same class and has a record of discipline, was expelled.

Starbuck News learnt from a source Tuesday evening that according to regulations governing the school if a student fails twice in the same class then that student is asked to leave the institution and seek a transfer to another school. The parents of the student in question, the source explained,

were informed that their child could no longer attend the Bishops' High for this reason.

The school, according to the source, received a call from an Education Ministry official informing that the child would continue attending the Bishops' High School. It was when teachers saw the student present in the school compound Tuesday, fully informed, that they made their decision to "sit out" from classes.

"Although this child and his parents were both told

that he could no longer attend the school that student still showed up... that student had many problems with other students," the source said.

Following the teachers' decision to take action against what they described as a "brazen disregard for the rules" the Guyana Teacher's Union lent its support. President of the union Colwyn King, reports said, condemned the disregard for rules governing the high school. However, several efforts made to contact King last evening via telephone were futile.

Meanwhile, Starbuck News could not reach Minister of Education Shaik Baksh or other relevant education officials for a comment regarding the matter.

"That child has had to be taken to the police station and is not dedicated to studies... many teachers have had their authority challenged by this student," the source explained.

The Ministry of Education, the source said, will have to intervene because teachers have refused to teach until the school's regulations are adhered to and the student is expelled. (Starbuck News)

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## Envoy Bill Clinton chides donors over aid for Haiti

UNITED NATIONS—Haiti has kept its promise to build a government but donor nations have failed to deliver the aid they pledged to the poorest country in the western hemisphere, Bill Clinton said on Wednesday.

"They've only gotten a pittance of the aid that was pledged to them," Clinton, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's special envoy to Haiti, told reporters after addressing a meeting of the Security Council on the Caribbean nation.

"A lot of that is part of the appropriations process that plays out in the latter half of every year," the former U.S. president said. "But we can't get to January with only US\$21 million of over US\$760 million in commit-

### Lottery scam accused granted J\$300,000 bail

SANTA CRUZ, St Elizabeth—A 33-year-old man who was charged with obtaining money by false pretences in a lottery scam case in St Elizabeth was last Wednesday offered bail worth J\$300,000 when he appeared in the Black River Resident Magistrate's Court.

The accused, Sheldon Hilton, labourer of Gazeland district in St Elizabeth, who was officially charged by the police on September 1, was ordered, on condition of his bail, to report to the Junction Police Station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm.

He was also ordered to surrender his travel documents and to stay away from all money transfer institutions.

The court was told that on August 27, a joint police team carried out a raid at a house occupied by the accused at Gazeland. Hilton and seven other men were found there.

Following a search of the premises, several printed and written scripts with names, addresses and telephone numbers of US citizens were allegedly found inside the house, as well as nine cell phones and over J\$188,000 in Jamaican and US currencies.

The men were subsequently taken into custody for questioning. All except Hilton were released. Hilton is to return to court on November 4. (Jamaica Observer)

ments disbursed down there (in Haiti)."

"We've got to get the show on the road," Clinton added.

Clinton said Haiti has been delivering on promises to stabilize the country.

"They did what they were supposed to do," he said. "They've got a functioning political system. The legislature's working with the executive branch. They've got a good government there. ... They need the rest of us to do more."

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice told the Security Council that "real gains have been made to improve security in Haiti."

"But we are acutely aware of the potential threats, including transnational crime, gang violence and civil unrest," she told the 15-nation council. Clinton added that he hoped to boost private investment in Haiti. But the success of private investment projects, he said, will depend on donor nations living up to their aid commitments so Haitians can continue to improve their infrastructure.

Devastating hurricanes caused an estimated US\$1 billion of damage last year, while the global financial crisis brought a sharp reduction in remittances vital to many Haitian families.

Ban has also urged donor countries to be generous to Haiti. He has been influenced by a report by British academic Paul Collier which said that if Haiti could improve its roads and ports, it was well-placed to benefit from low labour costs and duty-free access it enjoys to the U.S. market.

U.N. officials say that security has improved dramatically in Haiti, where just a few years ago large areas were controlled by heavily armed gangs that killed, kidnaped and raped with impunity.

After decades of dictatorship and military coups, Haiti's civilian police force was created just 15 years ago, when its army was disbanded. The U.N. peacekeeping mission known as MINUSTAH, made up of 7,000 soldiers and 2,000 police, has worked to help stabilize Haiti since its last revolt in 2004. (Reuters)



The big green and purple bookworm had a lot of attention at the annual Literacy Day in Queen's Park to celebrate International Literacy Day. It was just one of the many tools used by the Ministry of Education and its supporters to promote literacy and reading among the country's youths. Here, children wait anxiously to touch the bookworm. (Daily Nation photo)

## Read to succeed students advised

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados—Reading took on new meaning for hundreds of school children in Barbados Tuesday.

The smart-looking youngsters, dressed in crisp school uniforms, crowded the various stalls set up in Queen's Park for the annual Literacy Fair on International Literacy Day, which was being celebrated worldwide for the 40th year.

Three book stores were among the agencies setting up booths with various charts, books, games and reading aids to assist with learning and the advancement of literacy.

A green and purple mascot - a bookworm worm - attracted loads of curious children, who gathered around to get a touch, see it chuckle or in some cases be enveloped in a bear hug. (Daily Nation)



Dr. Josett Lewis-Smikle

## Teach students to write more, lecturer advises

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The lack of emphasis on the teaching of writing skills at the primary level is resulting in many students delivering poor quality written work in high school and in external exams, an expert in literacy studies said Monday.

Dr. Josett Lewis-Smikle, lecturer in Literacy Studies at the School of Education, University of the West Indies, Mona, said the emphasis on multiple-choice dominated examinations such as the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT) has meant that students are unable to properly express themselves in writing their school-leaving Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) exams.

"The Jamaican curriculum, especially at the lower levels, a lot of emphasis is on reading, but not much on writing. This is what impacts on the CXC level. If you read the CXC reports on the languages, Social Studies and Science, one of the biggest problems is that the students cannot write," Dr Lewis-Smikle said.

She was among the guests at the Observer's weekly Monday Exchange meeting, for a discussion focusing on the problem of illiteracy in Jamaica. Yesterday was observed as International Literacy Day.

Dr Lewis-Smikle suggested teaching writing skills from as early as grade one or earlier as a solution to the problem of poor writing. She acknowledged the difficulty of teaching reading and writing skills to children who come from Creole or Patois-speaking environments, but she said with encouragement and parental support, much more could be achieved in reducing illiteracy rates.

Dr Alison Cross, co chair of the technical-services subcommittee of the Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning

(JFL) board, who was also on the forum, noted that the competition to achieve high scores in the GSAT was forcing primary and preparatory school teachers to focus on multiple choice questions at the expense of the writing aspects of the curriculum.

She said teachers were preparing students with templates for letters and other pieces of written work, instead of teaching them to write creatively.

"The curriculum is wonderful. It is dynamic and it has the potential. But the GSAT has drained the curriculum and the teachers teach to (prepare for) GSAT. Where

the content of the curriculum gives suggestions like 'do a dialogue, or do a debate on this', the parents say 'we don't have time for a debate. Give them the multiple choice and let them pass the test.'" Dr Cross said.

She, however, noted that some teachers managed to fit the thinking and writing aspects of the curriculum into their programmes while still preparing students for GSAT.

Dr Lewis-Smikle suggested a programme of ongoing assessment of students to ensure that they practise more writing in schools. (Jamaica Observer)

## Trinidad & Tobago up in competitive rankings

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad—Trinidad and Tobago has become a more competitive location.

The country rose in the rankings of the Global Competitiveness Report which analysed the performance of 134 nations and ranked them in terms of competitiveness.

Trinidad and Tobago moved up in the rankings from 2nd last year to 86th this year.

The report was a collaboration between the World Economic Forum, the Competitiveness Company and the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business.

Trinidad and Tobago's competitive advantages included strength of audit and reporting standards, quality of pri-

mary education, quality of management schools, quality of electricity supply and air transport infrastructure, the Competitiveness Company said in a statement yesterday.

The country also ranked well in terms of tax rates, ease of access to loans and soundness of banks.

In terms of problems doing business, crime and theft, poor work ethic in the labour force and government bureaucracy ranked highest.

The overall performance of the country placed it as an innovation-driven country, a stark change from its performance five years ago when it was largely efficiency-driven, the statement added. (Trinidad Express)

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## What are the main points in Obama's healthcare reform

### How Would It Be Paid For?

Obama said the plan would not add to the U.S. budget deficit, but did not offer many specifics on how it would be financed.

He said it would be paid for by eliminating hundreds of billions of dollars in waste and fraud, as well as subsidies in Medicare that go to insurance companies. The rest of the cost would be covered by revenues from drug and insurance companies. Obama said, and the plan would charge insurance companies an unspecified fee for their most expensive policies.

It will include a provision requiring more spending cuts if promised savings do not materialize. It would create an independent commission of doctors and medical experts charged with identifying more waste in the years ahead.

### Does The Plan Create A Public Option?

It proposes a not-for-profit government-run healthcare insurance program to be part of new "insurance exchange" and compete with private insurers.

The public option—which has been strongly resisted by insurance companies—would be available only to those without insurance. Obama said less than 5 percent of Americans would sign up for it, based on Congressional Budget Office estimates. The public option would not be taxpayer subsidized, and would have to be self-sufficient and rely on premiums it collects.

The insurance exchange, a marketplace where individuals and small businesses would be able to shop for health insurance, would take effect in four years. Obama said customers would benefit because they would bargain with insurers as a large group. The plan would provide need-based tax credits for those who could not afford insurance from the exchange.

### What Does It Mean For Insurance Firms?

The plan would make it illegal for insurance companies to deny healthcare coverage because a customer has a pre-existing condition, or to drop or water down coverage to those who get sick. Insurance companies would also be barred from placing annual or lifetime caps on coverage.

It would also limit how much Americans could be charged for out-of-pocket expenses and require insurance companies to cover, at no extra charge, routine checkups and preventive care like mammograms and colonoscopies.

But the plan would also greatly expand insurance companies' customer base by requiring individuals to carry basic health insurance. It would also require that businesses offer workers healthcare, or chip in to cover the cost for their workers. There would be a "hardship waiver" for those who still could not afford coverage, and 95 percent of small businesses would be exempt from the requirements.

### What Happens Before The Insurance Exchange Starts?

Because it would be four years before the exchange starts, the government would offer low-cost coverage to those who cannot get insurance because they have pre-existing conditions, to protect them against financial ruin if they become seriously ill. Obama said that plan was proposed by Senator John McCain, his Republican rival in the 2008 presidential election.

### Does The Plan Cap Malpractice Suits?

Many Republicans have asked that Obama's healthcare plan limit or cap malpractice awards. Obama did not offer any such caps or limits.

He said he was proposing that "we move forward on a range of ideas," on malpractice suits. He said that his predecessor, Republican President George W. Bush, considered authorizing demonstration projects in individuals stated to test ways to limit doctors' fears of lawsuits, and said he was directing his Secretary of Health and Human Services to move forward on that initiative.

## Obama urges quick action on healthcare reform

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama told Congress on Wednesday "it's time for bickering is over" and called for quick action on a broad healthcare overhaul that would dramatically transform the U.S. health system and insurance market.

In a sometimes emotional speech, Obama said lawmakers were "closer to the goal of reform than we have ever been" and spelled out proposals he said would improve stability for those with insurance and expand the options for those without, including a controversial government-run "public option."

He issued a sharp rebuke to critics of his healthcare drive, accusing them of substituting scare tactics for honest debate.

"I will not waste time with those who have made the calculation that it's better politics to kill this plan than improve it," he told a joint session of Congress and a national television audience. "If you misrepresent what's in the plan, we will call you out."

Democrats gave Obama frequent standing ovations and Republicans at times murmured unhappily and held aloft copies of a Republican-sponsored healthcare bill. One Republican lawmaker shouted "you lie" when Obama said his plan would not pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants.

Lawmakers laughed openly when Obama said "there remain some significant details to be ironed out."

Obama hoped the speech would rejuvenate his flagging push for an overhaul of the \$2.5 trillion healthcare system, which has bogged down in Congress amid a flood of criticism and disputes. He said his overhaul would cut healthcare costs, improve care, regulate insurers to help protect consumers and expand coverage to more than 46 million uninsured Americans. He repeated his pledge that the proposal, which would cost \$900 billion over 10 years, would not increase the budget deficit.

As promised, he spelled out several concepts he wanted to see included in any final bill passed by Congress, including creation of an insurance exchange where individuals and small businesses could shop for policies.

He also reiterated his support for a government-run insurance plan—the so-called "public option"—that has drawn strong opposition from critics who fear it would harm insurance companies and amount to a government takeover of the industry. But he made it clear the lack of a public option in any final bill would not be a deal-breaker.

"The public option is only a means to that end—and we

should remain open to other ideas that accomplish our ultimate goal," he said.

Earlier in the day in the Senate, months of bipartisan Finance Committee talks by the so-called "Gang of Six" negotiators moved into the final stages as the panel's Democratic chairman, Max Baucus, said

companies on their most expensive healthcare policies and offer tax credits to individuals and families to help offset the cost of premiums.

Three committees in the House of Representatives and one other Senate panel have completed work on a healthcare bill, leaving the Senate Fi-

goal of Republicans. He also endorsed a proposal from Republican presidential foe John McCain for an insurance pool for high-risk consumers.

He said he would prohibit insurers from dropping coverage for sick patients and capping coverage in a year or lifetime, would place a limit on out-of-



U.S. President Barack Obama (R) waves at the start of his speech about healthcare reform as U.S. Vice President Joe Biden (L) Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (C) look on before a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Wednesday.

it was time to proceed with or without Republicans. Baucus told reporters he would push ahead with a bill next week after the modelled after proposals he distributed recently to members.

That plan would levy a fee on insurers to help pay for coverage but would not include a government-run health insurance option, which he said "cannot pass the Senate."

Baucus's plan also includes sweeping insurance market changes. It would tax insurance

Committee as the final hurdle before each chamber can take up the issue. But Republicans have balked at the total cost, questioned Obama's pledge the plan would not increase government debt and called some of the proposals a first step to a government takeover of healthcare.

In a bid to win Republican support, Obama proposed a series of state demonstration projects on medical malpractice reform, a long-sought

poCKET expenses, and require insurers to cover routine checkups. Individuals would be required to have insurance under Obama's plan, but he promised tax credits to individuals who cannot afford it. He said reducing waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid—the healthcare plans for the elderly and poor—would pay for most of the plan, with the rest coming from a fee on insurers who would benefit from tens of millions of new customers.

## NATO troops free kidnapped New York Times reporter

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan—NATO troops freed a kidnapped British reporter for the New York Times in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, but his Afghan colleague, a British soldier and at least one civilian were killed in the rescue.

New York Times reporters Stephen Farrell and Mohammad Sultan Munadi were abducted while attempting to visit the scene of a NATO air strike that killed scores of Afghans in the north of the country.

In an account published on the newspaper's website, Farrell said he was freed by commandos during the raid, but Munadi was shot dead in front of him while they tried to run to safety.

"We were all in a room, the Taliban all ran, it was obvi-

ously a raid," Farrell said.

The two men ran outside, he said. "There were bullets all around us. I could hear British and Afghan voices."

Farrell said Munadi went forward, shouting: "Journalist! Journalist!" but dropped in a burst of gunfire. Farrell did not know whether the shots came from insurgents or the rescuers.

"He was lying in the same position as he fell," Farrell said. "That's all I know. I saw him go down in front of me. He did not move. He's dead. He was so close, he was just two feet in front of me when he dropped."

Bill Keller, executive editor of The Times, said: "We're overjoyed that Steve is free, but deeply saddened that his freedom came at such

a cost. We are doing all we can to learn the details of what happened. Our hearts go out to Sultan's family."

The British Ministry of Defence said a British soldier had also been killed in the raid and his family had been notified of his death. It gave no further details.

Abdul Waheed Omarkeheil, district chief of Char Dara district in Kunduz province, said an Afghan woman was also killed during the raid in the house where the two men were being held. The district was the site of last week's NATO air strike, which killed scores of Afghans. Farrell and Munadi had gone to the area to report on the incident, in which NATO attacked civilians were killed.

# Religious fanatic briefly hijacks Mexican airliner

MEXICO CITY--A Bolivian-born man clutching a Bible and claiming a divine mission hijacked a plane in Mexico with more than 100 people aboard on Wednesday, but the incident ended quickly and without bloodshed.

Jose Flores, who told police he was a Protestant minister, seized the AeroMexico Boeing 737 after take off from the Caribbean resort of Cancun demanding to speak to Mexican President Felipe Calderon. Flores, 44, smuggled a false bomb on board and threatened to blow up the aircraft if he could not warn the president of what he said was an impending earthquake, police said.

"He said he is a minister and that it was a divine revelation that made him carry out this action," Security Minister Genaro Garcia told reporters.

The plane landed safely in Mexico City, its origi-



Jose Mar Flores Pereira from Bolivia, accused of hijacking an AeroMexico plane on Wednesday.

nal destination, and police stormed the aircraft after the passengers had been allowed off, but not the crew. Police apparently detained Flores without a struggle and a few minutes later led him away in handcuffs, ending Mexico's first hijack drama in years.

Transport Minister Juan Molinar told reporters

that all 104 passengers and crew of 8 were safely off the aircraft. "There was no bomb," he said.

Nine men were initially detained, but Security Minister Garcia said eight were ordinary passengers caught up in the drama. He said Flores, wearing a shirt and jeans, was the only hijacker.

Smiling and chewing gum, the hijacker was presented at a news conference but refused to answer journalists' questions. Earlier, security forces raced to Mexico City airport and helicopters circled above the airport as the plane landed and taxied to a part of the airport reserved for emergencies.

Some passengers said they were not aware of the hijack during the flight, although one man noticed Flores was carrying a Bible. "We really didn't know what was going on," passenger Adriana Romero told Mexican television. "We realized it was a hijack when we saw the police trucks."

Mexico has no major radical political groups who espouse violence, although Calderon is embroiled in a bitter war with drug cartels, whose turf wars have killed more than 13,000 people since he took power in late 2006 and set the army on them. Direct attacks by drug gangs on the public or attempts to force talks with the government are very rare.



Police and rescue team members stand around a Boeing 737 plane at International Airport in Mexico City on Wednesday.

The last major hijack in Mexico was in 1972, when four men describing themselves as part of a group of armed communists seized an aircraft in the northern city of Monterrey and redi-

rected it to Cuba.

In 1999, a flight leaving the capital for Monterrey returned after 40 minutes after a man threatened the pilot and said he had bombs in his belt. El Universal re-

ported.

Cancun is Mexico's top tourist destination and attracts millions of U.S. and European sunseekers every year to its white-sand beaches and luxury hotels.



Federal police prepare to enter a hijacked Boeing 737 plane at the international airport in Mexico City on Wednesday.

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A man on a partially submerged bus waits for evacuation on a highway in Istanbul on Wednesday.

## Heaviest rains in 80 years kill 31 people in Turkey

ISTANBUL--Flash floods killed 31 people in northwest Turkey, sweeping through the city of Istanbul, swamping houses, turning highways into fast-flowing rivers and drowning seven women in a minibus that was taking them to work.

Twenty-six died in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city with 14 million inhabitants, Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said late on Wednesday, after two days of the heaviest rain in 80 years produced sudden flood waters which engulfed low-lying areas.

Another five died in Saray,

west of Istanbul, reportedly all from the same family. Nine more were missing, Erdogan said.

In Istanbul rescue workers, some on boats, put out planks and ladders to help drivers, stranded in fast-flowing waters, reach the safety of bridges and high land. Military helicopters also assisted bringing stranded people to safety.

The worst flooding occurred in areas in the west of the city, on the European side, where drainage is often poor. The waters began to recede late on Wednesday revealing wrecked buildings and debris scattered across the streets, as distressed residents and workers started the clean-up. Interior Minister Besir Atalay said the death toll could rise as waters continued to recede.

Witnesses said waves of muddy waters pulling cars, trees and debris crashed into homes and buildings early on Wednesday as people were getting up to break their fasting during the holy month of Ramadan. "We heard a crashing sound and then saw the waters coming down carrying cars and debris," said Nuri Bitken, a 42-year-old night guard at a truck garage.

"We tried to wake up those who were still asleep in the trucks but some didn't make

it. The dead had to be retrieved by boats," Bitken told Reuters.

CNN Turk television showed scenes of white blankets covering the bodies of people found in the western Halkali neighbourhood near Ataturk International airport. Airport officials said there was no disruption to flights.

"My friend got stuck in the truck after the water rose all at once. The vehicle stopped working after filling with water. We rescued him with a winch," Kamran Coskun told Reuters TV in Ikitelli district.

Istanbul's ancient district of Sultanahmet, with its famous mosques, the palaces of the waterfront and Beyoglu's area of narrow streets were largely unaffected.

In the Ikitelli commercial district, residents scrambled for office equipment amid debris. In other parts of the city, people waded chest-high through swamped highways.

Insurance company Axia Sigorta Deputy General Manager Ali Erlat said damage from the floods could total \$70 million-\$80 million, the state-run Anatolian news agency reported. Public Works Minister Mustafa Demir, who toured the worst hit areas, said there was "huge damage to infrastructure".

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## Police investigate nursery over injuries to children

LONDON--Detectives have questioned five people as part of an investigation into unexplained broken bones suffered by three toddlers who attended a nursery in Nottinghamshire.

Police and Ofsted, the body which oversees nurseries, said they had launched a joint probe last month into the Rocking Horse Nursery in the village of Plumtree after a child was taken to hospital after suffering an unexplained fracture.

"Subsequent enquiries have so far established that two further children who attended the Rocking Horse Nursery had also suffered unexplained fractures this year," a Nottinghamshire Police spokesman said on Wednesday. "All the children involved are aged between one and two years, and officers have questioned five people in connection with the investigation. Two of those were arrested and subsequently released on police bail,

while the remaining three were questioned under police caution."

Police said there was no suggestion of any sexual abuse at the nursery which has places for 90 children aged up to four. The nursery has now been closed.

"While the investigation is ongoing, we have taken immediate steps to ensure the safety of children by suspending the provider's registration," an Ofsted spokesman said. "This means that the nursery is closed until further notice. We will review this situation once all investigations have been concluded."

The nursery said it could make no comment while the probe was ongoing. A statement from lawyers representing the directors said they had not been informed that there was evidence to suggest any alleged injury had occurred while the child was in the care of the nursery, local media reported.



# Former Iron Curtain oddity now a tourist hotspot

MOEDLAREUTH, Germany—A tiny village of 50 residents straddling the former border dividing East and West Germany and nicknamed “Little Berlin” has preserved its own 100-meter section of the Iron Curtain—for tourists.

For more than 38 years Moedlareuth belonged to two different countries and ideological systems. The 2.5 meter (eight foot) high Wall, similar to the famous Berlin Wall, remains a fixture in the village center even 20 years after Communism collapsed.

Nowadays the farming hamlet that lies some 300 km (186 miles) south of Berlin has become a prime destination for tourists searching for the remnants of the Communist era when East and West Germany were divided. “Visitors can come here to get a real glimpse of what it was like to live here with the Wall running through the middle of the village,” said Robert Lebegern, director of the Deutsch-Deutsches Museum in the heart of Moedlareuth.

For four decades the villagers of Moedlareuth were divided by the Iron Curtain. Half of the village was in the old German kingdom of Bavaria, the other part lay in the eastern state of Thuringia. It was one bizarre aspect of the country’s division.

A neighborly cup of tea is now a mere matter of a few steps, but traces of the old division still persist: there are two different post codes, two dialing codes and two different school systems. Those living in the former East greet each other with “Guten Tag” (good day)

## Key events in Europe’s revolutions of 1989



**1 Jun 4, Poland:** **Solidarity** – trade union movement fighting for political freedom during 1980s – wins first multi-party elections in Soviet bloc, heralding collapse of communism in Europe



**2 Sep 10, Hungary:** Budapest permits thousands of East German “tourists” to cross border to West – first case of Warsaw Pact state failing to rein in each others’ citizens



**3 Nov 9, Germany:** Berlin Wall falls after unprecedented series of mass public rallies forces East German authorities to allow citizens to cross border into West Germany



**4 Nov 10, Bulgaria:** Mass demonstrations on political reform force **Todor Zhivkov** – Soviet bloc’s longest-serving leader – to resign, paving way for first free elections since 1946



**5 Nov 24, Czechoslovakia:** Communist politburo toppled after week of mass protests known as **Velvet Revolution**, led by dissident playwright **Vaclav Havel**



**6 Dec 25, Romania:** Hardline President **Nicolae Ceausescu** executed by firing squad after violence sweeps country in wake of brutal crackdown on protesters

Pictures: Getty Images, Associated Press

© GRAPHIC NEWS

while their neighbors from the heavily Roman Catholic state of Bavaria tend to use the traditional greeting “Gruss Gott!,” literally translated as “Greet God!”.

In addition to the original segment of Wall—which looks like a compact version

of its big brother in Berlin—the old border posts, watch towers and barbed-wire fencing still stand in their original positions.

The occasional barking dog—an eerie echo of the past border control—interrupts the droning of a tractor in the nearby fields. But

gone are the armed guards who once surveyed residents. Instead snap-happy tourists arrive by the busload.

The inhabitants of sleepy Moedlareuth have grown used to the constant influx of visitors who shuffle to the museum to watch a

20-minute film documenting the peculiar split reality that became normality for nearly four decades. More than 60,000 visitors came to Moedlareuth in 2008 and the museum expects a similar number to make the trek to the isolated village this year as the 20th anniversary of the Wall falling approaches. “It feels very frozen in time,” said Huw Diprose, 20, a student of International Politics at Aberystwyth University in Wales, who was on a walk along the former Iron Curtain. “It was barely a year old when the wall fell. I wanted to come here to get into the mindset of what it was like back then.”

East Germany started to fence itself off from the West in 1952—a border that for centuries had been administrative then divided families, friends and neighbors. East Germany built the Berlin Wall in 1961 and at the same time in Moedlareuth. Even neighborly greetings were outlawed.

“We could wave to our friends on the other side of the wall, but they weren’t allowed to acknowledge us

back,” said Karin Mergner, a 62-year-old farmer living in western Moedlareuth.

When the Wall finally cracked open in 1989, eastern Moedlareuth was overwhelmed by the sudden media attention. Residents quickly became resentful of visitor stereotypes of backwardness and reports of bitter East-West division.

It took a while for the small town to reunite. Four weeks after the Berlin Wall was opened on November 9, 1989, a direct border opening was finally made in Moedlareuth on December 9 1989 but everyone was still required to present their passports.

It wasn’t until six months later, on June 17, that people were allowed to cross the border in “Little Berlin” freely, after the mayor on the Bavarian side, Arnold Friedrich, knocked down large chunks of the Wall with a digger.

“It was a great moment of celebration,” said Lebegern, director of the museum. “But afterwards some East Germans complained that he had damaged East German property.”

## Lawmakers back Kremlin’s new military power

MOSCOW—Russian lawmakers backed a law on Wednesday that provides a legal basis for President Dmitry Medvedev to deploy troops beyond Russia’s borders, a year after the country’s forces were sent to Georgia to fight a war. Georgia has said the law is an attempt to legitimize Moscow’s role in the August 2008 conflict.

The first reading of the bill was passed in Russia’s lower chamber, the Duma, with a clear majority and enthusiastic support from deputies as a defence against pos-

sible conflicts, with hints directed towards countries like Ukraine and Georgia.

“Some states mostly in the south and southeast, should let their general staffs know that the President of Russia must protect its citizens wherever they may be,” said nationalist Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Since modern wars can be swift, a lengthy procedure to sanction the deployment of troops abroad could harm national interests, said the head of the parliament’s defence committee

and pro-Kremlin lawmaker, Viktor Zavarzin.

Most countries in the former Soviet Union have significant minorities of Russian citizens. Several have Russian military bases, including Georgia’s ally Ukraine, which hosts a major naval base on the Black Sea. Medvedev said in August that the new law was motivated by last year’s war in Georgia, but said he hoped he would not have to send troops abroad again. The legislation must still be passed in further readings by both the lower and

upper chambers before entering into law but is not expected to face any hurdles, with pro-Kremlin parties in control of both chambers.

When the plans to draw up the law were announced last month, Georgia’s Foreign Ministry said it was an attempt to put a legal framework on last year’s war, which erupted in its disputed province of South Ossetia. Russia has since recognised South Ossetia and a second breakaway region Abkhazia as independent states, but only Nicaragua has followed its lead.

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If you would like to learn more about how you could volunteer to join this dedicated team of women to become a Girl Power Facilitator please go to <http://www.sxmaids-foundation.org> and follow the link at the bottom of the page where you will find more information. Or email [jbgirlpower@gmail.com](mailto:jbgirlpower@gmail.com) or telephone 557 8700 (9am to 5pm) and speak to a Girl Power team member.



An Afghan man rides on his donkey-cart past a poster of President Hamid Karzai in Kabul on Wednesday.

## Karzai defends Afghanistan presidential poll as honest

KABUL—Incumbent Hamid Karzai defended last month's Afghan presidential election as honest on Wednesday, a day after returns showed him set to win in a single round and a U.N-backed panel ordered a partial recount.

The standoff has alarmed Western leaders who have risked their own political capital to send troops on what is becoming an increasingly unpopular mission.

Preliminary election results issued on Tuesday gave Karzai more than 54 percent of valid votes tallied, putting him above the 50 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff with his closest rival, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah. But the independent Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC), appointed mainly by the United Nations, said it had found "clear and convincing" evidence of fraud and ordered a partial recount.

On Wednesday, Karzai praised the conduct of the vote. "The president praised the (election officials) for holding the election with honesty and impartiality despite all the difficulties," the presidential palace said in a statement.

Abdullah says Karzai's backers have attempted to steal the Aug. 20 election by stuffing ballots on a massive scale. Early vote tables, which have been removed from the election commission's website without explanation, showed whole villages in which Karzai received every single ballot cast, sometimes with exactly 400 or 500 votes.

For now, Western officials have put their confidence in the watchdog ECC, which can overturn the result and must sign off on the outcome before it is final. Diplomats

say they are uneasy but resigned to the possibility of the U.N.-backed body reversing a result released by Afghanistan's own election authorities. The West originally hailed the vote as a success, largely because the Taliban failed to disrupt it. Those assessments have become increasingly muted as evidence of fraud has mounted.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari played down concerns about the Afghan election and said in a BBC television interview he would be present if Karzai is sworn in for a new term.

In central Kabul, hundreds of people gathered to mourn the death of Tajik anti-Taliban hero Ahmed Shah Masood who was killed on Sept. 9, 2001, by al-Qaeda—a

crucial rallying day for half-Tajik Abdullah who was part of Masood's inner circle. Addressing the rally, Abdullah made no direct mention of the election but played up his link to the iconic commander.

"Masood fought for this country and died for this country," said Abdullah, whose supporters have threatened to hold protests if their election concerns were not heard. "He fought to bring peace and security to this country."

Speaking alongside Abdullah in a city festooned with Masood posters, ex-president and key ally Burhanuddin Rabbani added: "The election result must be cleared or Afghanistan will face chaos and big challenges."

## Destroyed schools deepen Pakistani children's woes

NEW DELHI—The destruction of hundreds of schools during fighting between the Pakistani army and Taliban militants has left more than half a million children with little hope of education, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

The army offensive against militants in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) resulted in one of largest internal displacements in recent times. About 2.3 million people fled their homes, most after fighting intensified in April.

But as displaced families leave the shelter of camps and host communities to go home, they are finding many of their children's schools in ruins. "The impact of the fighting has been quite dramatic on schools and students in NWFP," Luc Chauvin, deputy representative for the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan, told Reuters AlertNet in a telephone interview.

"Some of the girls' schools were blown up by the Taliban before the fighting, while other schools were destroyed during the active conflict," he said.

Chauvin said about 230 schools had been "completely flattened", while about 410 schools had been damaged with collapsed walls and roofs caused by mortar fire, rocket-propelled grenades or bombs.

The Taliban, who oppose female education, blew up girls' schools when they controlled the Swat area for about two years. They attacked other empty schools because soldiers often used them as camps.

Chauvin said more than 4,000 other primary and secondary schools also needed to be renovated. Many had been converted into shelters to accommodate people fleeing the fighting.

"Lots of schools need to be cleaned up, repainted and refurbished after so many people have been living there and things have been stolen or furniture burnt as firewood," he said.

Humanitarian workers, who are assessing how to help war-ravaged areas such as the Swat valley, say schools are amongst the worst-hit infrastructure. Despite areas being declared safe, militants are still operating and have been car-

rying out revenge attacks by burning down more schools and attacking students.

Chauvin said a lack of schooling for more than half a million children would be a devastating blow to people desperate to get back to normal life. "When children go to school it creates a sense of normalcy and this is what returning populations need," said Chauvin. "But this is impossible if the schools no longer exist."

Aid workers say it is imperative to invest in poverty alleviation and development projects in NWFP, which has become a fertile ground for recruiting militants, but the humanitarian community in Pakistan is struggling to find funds. The United Nations has only received 3 percent of the funds required to restore basic services such as water and electricity systems, and hospitals and clinics.

Chauvin said schools were also being neglected with donors only funding 17 percent of the \$23.2 million required. "There seems to be consensus that education is key but when it comes to action, education is sometimes the forgotten child."

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# Iran presents proposals as West ups nuclear pressure

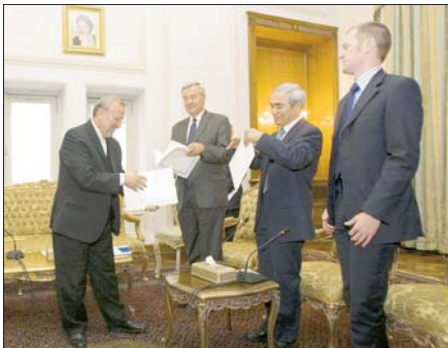
TEHRAN—Iran handed a package of proposals to world powers on Wednesday, as it came under renewed Western pressure to swiftly engage in “meaningful” talks to resolve the dispute over its nuclear programme.

Tehran says its proposals address “various global issues” and represent a “new opportunity for talks and cooperation”. But it was not clear what the proposals were and whether they would be enough to avert the threat of further sanctions on Iran.

The United States said it hoped that Iran’s proposals would be constructive and said it intended to study them carefully. “We hope that what is contained in that response is a serious, substantive and constructive response to the proposal,” U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice told reporters after a meeting of the U.N. Security Council. “We will study the content carefully.”

Hours before the package was handed to representatives of world powers in Iran, the United States said the Islamic Republic was moving closer to being able to make atomic bombs by stockpiling enriched uranium. “We have serious concerns that Iran is deliberately attempting, at a minimum, to preserve a nuclear weapons option,” U.S. envoy Glyn Davies told a meeting of the 35-nation governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“Iran is now either very near or in possession already of sufficient low-enriched uranium to produce one nuclear weapon if the decision were



Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki (L) hands over his package of proposals to ambassadors of countries in the Group of 5+1, in Tehran on Wednesday. Iran handed the package of proposals to world powers on Wednesday, as it came under renewed Western pressure to swiftly engage in “meaningful” talks to resolve the dispute over its nuclear programme. (R to L) Deputy Head of Mission Patrick Davies, China's Ambassador Xie Xiaoyan and Germany's Ambassador Heribert Honsowitz.

made to further enrich it to weapons-grade,” Davies said at the Vienna-based U.N. nuclear watchdog body.

Iran, the world's fifth-largest crude exporter, says its nuclear programme is aimed at producing electricity and has repeatedly rejected demands to halt enrichment, which can have both civilian and military purposes.

Senior diplomats from the six major powers, Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, plan to hold a conference call on Wednesday to discuss Iran's proposal, a U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei said his non-proliferation inspectors had serious concerns, but we are not in a state of panic.

“That is because we have not seen diversion of nuclear material (from declared civilian uses), we have not seen components of nuclear weapons. We do not have any information to that effect,” he said.

But there is growing Western disquiet about Iran's nuclear advances which have been largely out of sight due to the restrictions Iran has placed on U.N. inspections. ElBaradei said intelligence material suggesting Iran had illicitly stud-

ied how to assemble nuclear arms was serious and Tehran must address it, not just issue unsubstantiated denials. “If this information is real, there is a high probability that nuclear weaponisation activities took place (in Iran).”

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Monday Iran was ready for dialogue on problems and challenges facing the world but insisted it would not back down in the nuclear issue.

Ahmadinejad has already snubbed U.S. President Barack Obama's end-September deadline to talk to the major powers on Iran's nuclear work, saying discussion on the issue was “finished” and Tehran would not negotiate on its “rights”. Iran was ready to negotiate and cooperate on making “peaceful use of clean nuclear energy” available for all countries and in preventing the spread of nuclear arms, he said.

U.S. President Barack Obama has indicated Iran will face much harsher inter-

national sanctions, possibly targeting its lifeline oil sector, if it does not accept good-faith negotiations by the end of September. In Vienna, three big European Union powers prodded Iran to engage in meaningful nuclear talks “now” and warned Tehran could not endlessly evade an IAEA investigation.

“Iran's responses so far have been neither positive nor satisfactory,” Germany's Ambassador Ruediger Ludecking said.

“We again call on Iran to engage in meaningful negotiations with a view to achieving a comprehensive diplomatic solution. Iran should make use of the window of opportunity now,” he said, speaking on behalf of France and Britain as well.

The three European countries said Tehran's “persistent defiance and point-blank refusal” to suspend enrichment, and its avoidance of negotiations, as demanded by U.N. Security Council resolutions since 2006, was unacceptable.

## Iranian opposition leader urges calm despite arrests

TEHRAN—Iranian opposition leader Mirhossein Mousavi urged his supporters on Wednesday not to be provoked by the detention of one of his top allies and another reformer, a statement on his website said.

Mousavi said the detention of reformers Alireza Hosseini Beheshti and Morteza Alviri was a “sign of more horrendous events to come”.

“Keep your calm and remain aware,” said Mousavi in the statement posted on the website Kaleme.com. “Be careful not to let them (authorities) provoke you.”

The arrests on Tuesday, reported by reformist websites, signalled increasing pressure by the authorities on pro-reform foes of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Ahmadinejad renewed his defence

of the disputed June election, saying on Wednesday his reelection was a defeat for the West which he accused of meddling in the polls.

The presidential election was a historic slap in the face of the shaky liberal democracy, the state news agency IRNA quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

Mousavi's website earlier quoted the wife of Beheshti, who heads an opposition committee looking into alleged abuses of imprisoned protesters after the disputed June election, as saying he was arrested in his home on Tuesday. The wife, who was not named, said five security agents took part in the raid and searched “everywhere, even the bedroom” for several hours and seized personal belongings and documents

before taking Beheshti away. The family was treated in an “impolite way,” she added.

He is the son of Ayatollah Mohammad Hosseini Beheshti, who was head of Iran's supreme court for about a year after its 1979 Islamic revolution and killed in a 1981 bombing attack. There was no immediate comment from officials on the report.

Another reformist website, mowjamp.com, said on Tuesday that Alviri, a top aide of pro-reform cleric Mehdi Karubi and a former Tehran mayor, had been detained. Also on Tuesday, judiciary officials closed down Karubi's office in northern Tehran and seized documents and computer data disks, the ILNA news agency reported earlier.

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## Royal reopens socialist party leadership dispute

PARIS—French opposition politician Segolene Royal said on Wednesday she was shocked by new allegations that vote rigging had cost her the Socialist Party leadership, and was considering ways to seek redress.

The dispute will add to the misery for the Socialists, who have failed for years to overcome internal divisions and have suffered repeated electoral drubbings at the hands of President Nicolas Sarkozy and his centre-right UMP party.

"I felt shocked when I thought about the thousands of Socialist Party members whose votes were stolen from them," Royal, who was runner-up to Sarkozy in the 2007 presidential election, said during an interview on France 2 state television.

She was referring to a new book by journalists Karim

Rissouli and Antonin Andre. In excerpts published this week by French media, the authors say they have evidence of widespread ballot stuffing during the leadership race in November 2008.

Royal lost that contest to Martine Aubry, a former labour minister, by a margin of just 102 votes out of 135,000 cast. "We knew that there had been some cheating, but not on that scale and not in such an organised way," Royal said on France 2.

Socialist Party spokesman Nicolas Hamon dismissed the charge. "(The book) is poorly informed and takes liberties with accounts given by various people in order to incriminate the party," he said during an interview with TV5 Monde.

Royal said she would take time to read the entire book

and would seek advice before deciding what to do.

Allegations of vote-rigging had surfaced during the leadership contest. At the time, Aubry denied cheating and insisted that the official result was valid.

The revival of the controversy is a blow to Aubry, who has struggled to assert her authority ever since the disputed poll. Her inability to quell chronic party infighting was blamed for a disastrous performance in European Union parliamentary elections in June, when the Socialists slumped to 16.8 percent of the vote compared with 28 percent to the UMP.

The once-mighty party has not triumphed in a presidential election since 1988, when Francois Mitterrand won a second term. It has completely failed to capitalise on voter anger about the financial crisis, leaving the field open for Sarkozy to promote ideas usually associated with the left, such as tighter market regulation and state intervention in the economy.



Spain's High Court judge Baltasar Garzon (C) leaves the Spanish Supreme Court in Madrid on Wednesday after testifying about accusations that he started an investigation into crimes committed during Spain's Civil War without having proper authorisation.

## Spanish judge risks ban over Civil War dead investigation

MADRID—Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon faced accusations of malpractice over his investigation of thousands of disappearances during Spain's Civil War in a case that could end a career that has brought him international fame.

Garzon, who appeared as a defendant in the Supreme Court, is best known for his attempt to extradite former

Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet in the late 1990s to face charges of human rights abuses over his rule following a bloody 1973 coup. A court spokesman said if a case finally went to trial, Garzon could be charged and risks being banned from practising as a judge.

Garzon was questioned for three and a half hours but left the court to cheers and applause from children and grandchildren of civil war victims. The proceedings were prompted by a lawsuit filed by the conservative public employees' union Manes Limpias and the group Libertad e Identidad on the grounds Garzon had no jurisdiction to investigate the disappearances.

Widely despised by Spanish conservatives who accuse him of links to the governing Socialists, Garzon's Pinochet investigation set an international precedent for the principle that crimes against humanity could be investigated anywhere. It led to a continual stream of cases launched by Spanish courts against foreign targets including former associates of Argentina's military junta and Chinese and U.S. officials.

Eventually, following an investigation into alleged abuses by Israeli forces, diplomatic pressure led the Spanish government to say that it would change the law to stop judges investigating cases with no link to Spain.



### Island Territory of St. Maarten Netherlands Antilles

#### PUBLIC TENDER

The Executive Council of the Island Territory of St. Maarten, hereby invites prospective bidders to the public bidding for the project:

#### NUMBER PLATES ISLAND TERRITORY OF ST. MAARTEN 2010

**Principal:**  
The Executive Council of the Island Territory of St. Maarten, coordinated by the Island Receivers Office.

**Financed by:**  
The Island Territory St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles.

**Project Objective:**  
The objective of this project is among others to: Deliver the number plates for motor vehicle tax year 2010 to the Island Territory St. Maarten in accordance to the specifications and market price.

**Terms of Reference:**  
The Terms of Reference for this project can be obtained at the office of the Island Receivers Office, Island Receiver Sherry Hazel, address: Soualiga Rd # 6, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles. Tel: +599 5422083 Fax: +599 54229594. The Terms of Reference is available in Dutch.

**Submission of Bids:**  
The bids must be submitted, in writing, signed, in the Dutch or English language, in the format as described in the Terms of Reference, in triplicate, in a closed envelope, with on the envelope the address and the notification "Bid for Number Plates Island Territory of St. Maarten 2010". The bid must be submitted at the Island Receivers Office to the attention of the Island Receiver, address: Soualiga Rd # 6, Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles, ultimately on September 30th, 2009 at 2:00 pm.

The bid may be submitted by e-mail at sherry.hazel@sinmaarten.gov or infoordom@yahoo.com. All documents then need to be completed in one pdf-file. Also the signature will need to be scanned and included. Bids per fax will not be accepted. Envelopes will be opened and bids will be announced during the tender session.

**Project Awarding:**  
The aim is to award the project ultimately by October 12th, 2009.

**Further Information:**  
Further information about the tender procedure and the project can be obtained at the office of the Island Receiver, Sherry Hazel, Tel: 542-2083/Fax: 542-3594. Questions must be submitted in writing.

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# Asian social networking sites profit from virtual money

SINGAPORE—By selling an array of virtual products from avatar clothes to e-furniture, Asia's social networking sites appear to have solved the conundrum of how to leverage big profits from their extensive user bases. It's simple, they say, the money might be virtual but the profits are all too real.

Chinese university student Tian Shengrong spends about 20 yuan (\$2.90) per month purchasing outfits for her pet penguin avatar or playing games on QQ, an instant message portal on Qzone, China's most popular social networking site. It might not seem like a hefty sum, but every fen, or cent, is money in the bank for Tencent Holdings, which owns Qzone and saw an 85 percent increase in its second quarter net profit this year compared to 2008 despite the economic downturn.

"They keep growing even though the economy's bad because they keep making millions from cents from millions and millions of people," said Benjamin Jaffe, head of Internet consulting firm Plus Eight Star.

From virtual clothes to e-pets, Asians spend an estimated \$5 billion a year on virtual purchases via websites such as Qzone, Cyworld in South Korea, and mobile-phone based networkGREE in Japan, according to Plus Eight Star. That's about 80 percent of the global market for virtual products, it says.

"Social networking is just a way to get people together, but if you want revenue you have to sell them something. What they found was that people were happy to pay for content related to emotion, status and entertainment," said Jaffe.

Of the virtual sales in Asia, about 80 percent comes from the sale of such items as equipment for online games such as rods for GREE's fishing game Tsuru Star 2. The rest comes from purchases for avatars on social network-



A customer looks at a web page of Qzone, a Chinese social networking site at an internet cafe in Changzhi, Shanxi province August 28, 2009.

ing sites.

Such is the success of virtual sales on Asia's most popular social networking sites that Myspace and Facebook are starting to look with a fresh eye at the potential of virtual money to generate cold hard cash. Qzone's Tencent Holdings made off \$1 billion last year with just 13 percent coming from advertising revenue. In contrast, Facebook and Myspace depend on advertising to fund most of their revenue.

The evolution of virtual money on social networking sites in Asia is partly due to a less developed online advertising market which drove Asian web businesses to seek new ways to profit. Cultural issues are at play too. Gaming is popular among adults in Asia, whereas in the West it tends to be only for kids.

East Asian societies are also very status conscious. Players are loath to be the only avatar without the latest gear and Asians are perhaps more willing than counterparts in the West to buy virtual products to update their avatars or social space.

Asia's social networking sites tend to be country specific but they have very active user bases. Qzone had 228 million active user accounts for the second quarter of 2009, although

it won't give out monthly visitor figures. Meanwhile, Cyworld, which says that 90 percent of South Korea's 20-somethings are members, had 23 million unique visitors per month at the end of the first quarter of 2009.

#### Virtual Rentals

Like their Western counterparts, Asian social networking sites allow their users to chat, play games and share photos.

There is also some advertising, but the sites earn most of their revenues from their users. Members are represented by avatars and acquire virtual currency from the sites to buy digital goods, game packages or upgrades.

The model has taken off abroad but there is still

a long way to go until the West catches up with Asia. Habbo, a social networking site for teenagers owned by Finland's Sulake Corporation, sells virtual clothes and furniture. Meanwhile, games such as Pet Society which is available on Facebook and allows users to raise virtual pets, sells goods such as virtual pet accessories and e-food.

Playfish, creator of Pet Society and other social games, says it has 47 million active users per month playing its games.

With seven million or so inhabitants, the virtual world Second Life offers a range of e-wares for sale for Linden dollars. Some are mundane and others are controversial such as guns and virtual phalluses with price tags based on

the size.

Asia is also a playground for a range of virtual business models such as rentals. For example, Cyworld rents background skins of popular South Korean baseball players for limited periods. Such rentals drive repeat sales and tap into trends.

#### Lost In Translation

The success of these East Asian sites contrast sharply to the frustrated social media landscape across the Pacific where despite immense popularity, Facebook and Myspace are yet to fully harness the profit potential of their massive user bases.

Facebook, the world's biggest social network with close to 300 million visitors per month, is on track to bring in more than \$500 million in revenue this year, mostly from advertising, but its focus is on growing its user base rather than making money. Still, a recent New York Times article suggested signs of an exodus from Facebook as disillusioned users leave due to privacy concerns or complaints of rampant commercialism.

Rupert Murdoch's Myspace has been unusual among the major social networks in turning profitable through advertising sales, although is now undergoing a major overhaul, including ousting its CEO and firing hundreds of staff, in the face of worry-

ing user metrics.

Meanwhile, both Facebook and Myspace are eyeing the virtues of virtual money. Facebook, which sells virtual goods mainly in the form of "Facebook gifts" through a credit system, said in March that it was looking at offering a common virtual currency to third-party application developers.

At the Web 2.0 Summit late last year, Myspace's recently-departed chief operating officer Amit Kapur mentioned that the firm was also seeking to develop a payments and virtual goods system. Meanwhile, Internet entrepreneurs are coming to Asia to pick up on innovative web business models. In June, 32 venture capitalists and Internet entrepreneurs visited Japan and China under the banner "GeeksOnAPlane", to learn about local success stories such as DeNA, video hosting website Tudou, and gaming website PopCap.

"They were all blown away even though some of them already knew about what was going on here," said George Godula, founder of Shanghai-based consultancy Web2Asia.

"They (Asian social networking sites) are quite nimble at finding out business models or ways of how to make money," he told Reuters.

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## Myanmar asserts control over rebellious region

LAUKKAI, Myanmar—Myanmar's military regime is stepping up efforts to seize its neighbours that armed ethnic separatists on its border are under control after violent clashes that sent thousands of refugees pouring into China.

The normally reclusive junta invited a group of more than 50 observers to the Kokang region bordering China, an ethnic Chinese enclave the military says is now under its control after decades of rebellion to Yangon's rule.

The group comprised Western and Asian diplomats and foreign journalists, including two from China,

the regime's biggest ally, which has urged the junta to restore stability in a region strategically important to its energy needs. Rebel fighters from the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), defeated by Myanmar's "Tatmadaw" army after a recent offensive, were nowhere to be seen, but officials said around 800 had agreed to join its border patrol force.

Normally abuzz with border trade, gambling and racy nightlife, Kokang's once-thriving hotspots resemble ghost towns and many who fled the fierce fighting have yet to return.

Shops, casinos and karaoke bars remain shuttered and thousands of armed troops and security police patrol the towns and man checkpoints along deserted roads.

Local businessmen said many people who returned to assess damage to their shops and homes had slipped back into China, fearing more unrest if the army launches a widely expected new offensive against the United Wa State Army (UWSA), a 20,000-strong militia run by opium warlords and drugs barons.

"They are worried about the outbreak of war. Rumour has it that there will be battles between government troops and UWSA," said a local trader. "Business has dried up almost completely. It will take a long time to return to normal."

Deputy Home Minister Brigadier General Phone Swe said an interim local government in Kokang, installed by Yangon just over a week ago, had agreed to play a part in next year's elections in return for regional autonomy after the polls.

Many of Myanmar's ethnic rebel groups such as the Kokang and the Wa in its remote, predominantly ethnic Chinese Shan State do not trust the regime and have long refused to disarm, join an army-run border force and take part in the polls, the first in the former British colony since 1990. In its almost five decades of unbroken rule in the former Burma, the military

agreement had been expected on Tuesday. Ko-meybashi characterised the delay as a "performance" by the Social Democrats to persuade their supporters that they would have a voice in government.

The new ruling Democrats have already vowed to re-think the U.S. troop redeployment plan but may want to play down the issue ahead of Hatoyama's first meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama later this month. U.S. officials have said they will not negotiate the deal.

The new ruling party's pledge to forge a more independent stance from key security ally Washington has raised concern about possible friction, although Hatoyama has said the alliance remains at the core of Japan's diplomacy.



Kokang ethnic soldiers stand outside a deserted market as a convoy carrying diplomats and foreign journalists visits Laukkai, capital of Myanmar's Kokang region, on Wednesday.

has failed to establish control along its northeastern border where many ethnic groups believe the junta's political gestures are veiled attempts to neutralise their power.

Peace has been restored, but for how long is unclear. Ethnic rebels in the Kokang region may have

succumbed to the junta's demands, but it remains to be seen if bigger and better armed groups such as the Wa would be so easily defeated.

Phe Xiao Chain, chairman of the local interim administration, said Kokang's new leadership was on good terms with the power-

ful United Wa State Army. "We are ready to transform into an autonomous region under the new constitution after taking part in 2010 election," he told Reuters, adding that the former rebel leader, Phon Kya Shin, was still at large and thought to be under the Wa's protection.

## Japan's ruling Democrats seal coalition agreement

TOKYO—Japan's new ruling Democratic Party clinched a deal on Wednesday to form a coalition with two tiny parties whose help it needs to pass laws smoothly, papering over gaps on security matters that could upset key ally Washington.

Despite a landslide victory in the Aug. 30 poll for parliament's lower house, Yukio Hatoyama's Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) needs backing from the socialist Social Democrats and the conservative People's New Party in the upper house to ensure legislation can be enacted freely, since the upper chamber can delay bills.

"It is wonderful to have reached a coalition agreement that will help lead people's lives in the right direction," Hatoyama said in a joint news conference with his counterparts from the two parties. "We can now stand at the starting line of a new government. We will do our best to carry out the people's mandate."

The parties compromised on the wording of a call for changes to a planned redeployment of U.S. Marines on Japan's southern island of Okinawa. In a joint statement, they said they would "raise the issue" of revising an agreement governing U.S. military forces in Japan and seek changes to a deal under which some 8,000 Marines are to be moved to Guam and a Marine base relocated within Okinawa. Media said the Social Dem-

ocrats had sought stronger wording.

The Democratic Party itself is a mix of security hawks and doves, and some analysts have expressed concern that reaching agreement on policies will be further complicated by the coalition with the pacifist Social Democrats. "I think they will continue to criticise and cause delays in decision-making while in government. But if they are told to get out of the coalition they will say 'wait a minute'—that's the SDP (Social Democratic Party)," said Yoshiaki Kobayashi, a professor of political science at Keio University in Tokyo.

An agreement had been expected on Tuesday. Ko-meybashi characterised the delay as a "performance" by the Social Democrats to persuade their supporters that they would have a voice in government.

The new ruling Democrats have already vowed to re-think the U.S. troop redeployment plan but may want to play down the issue ahead of Hatoyama's first meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama later this month. U.S. officials have said they will not negotiate the deal.

The new ruling party's pledge to forge a more independent stance from key security ally Washington has raised concern about possible friction, although Hatoyama has said the alliance remains at the core of Japan's diplomacy.

## Australia police launch Timor war crimes probe

CANBERRA—An investigation into the killing of five foreign journalists during Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor will be reopened to look at possible war crimes, Australian police said on Wednesday.

An Australian coroner looking into the deaths of the two Australians, two Britons and a New Zealand—known as "the Balibo Five"—ruled in 2007 that they were killed in the East Timorese village of Balibo to cover up the invasion.

"Allegations of war crimes

committed overseas give rise to complex legal and factual issues that require careful consideration by law enforcement agencies before deciding to investigate," the Australian Federal Police said in a statement announcing the new investigation.

Australian-based journalists Greg Shackleton and Malcolm Rennie, sound recordist Tony Stewart and cameraman Gary Cunningham and Brian Peters were killed during the invasion. The still-cloudy circum-

stances surrounding their deaths have been made into a new movie.

Official Indonesian reports have said the five died in crossfire with Timorese Fretilin fighters on Oct. 16, 1975, as Indonesian forces entered East Timor in an incursion ahead of a full-scale invasion of the territory two months later.

Australia's Home Affairs Minister Brendan O'Connor refused to comment on the investigation, which is likely to annoy sections of Indonesia's government and military. Influential former Jakarta governor Sutiyoso served as a junior officer in East Timor at the start of the invasion and Australian police sparked a diplomatic row two years ago by trying to call the one-time general to the coronial inquest.

A spokesman for Indonesia's foreign ministry said the country considered the case closed. "So far we only follow it from the news but we will ask for a clarification as to what the investigation would be like, the nature, the objective and the period of the investigation, because the case happened 34 years ago," spokesman Teuku Faizasyah said.

"We call it a closed case. We also have no intention to re-open the case," he said.

## UN: Vietnam birth trend may fuel sex work, trafficking

HANOI—The ratio of boys born in Vietnam compared with girls has grown at an unusually rapid pace in recent years and could lead to a rise in sex work and trafficking, the United Nations said.

The sex ratio at birth was 112.1 male births per 100 female births in 2008, up from an estimated 106.2 in 2000, the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) said in a report.

With growth since 2006 of one percentage point per year, the ratio might cross the 115 mark within three

years, it said. By 2035, the surplus of adult men would be 10 percent or more of the female population if the sex ratio did not return to 105 male births per 100 females, it said.

"Scarcity of women would increase pressure for them to marry at a younger age, there may be a rising demand for sex work and the trafficking networks may also expand in response to this imbalance," UNFPA said. "Examples of gender-based violence and human trafficking have already been observed in Vietnam

and point to some of the risks faced by vulnerable girls and women."

A key factor behind the rise in the number of male births to female births is increasing access to sex-determination and sex-selection technology, "which has allowed couples to pursue their desire for one or more sons," the UNFPA said.

Vietnam, which has had an agriculture-based economy for centuries, has a population of nearly 86 million with a strong preference for sons.

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**Dawn Beach Estate** One bedroom, fully furnished, private entrance, washer/dryer, internet, shared community, 24 hours security, APT internet. Available now. Excluding utilities. \$975 per month. 1 month deposit required. Call: 520-1012.

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**For rent** on Simpson Bay Road, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath apartment, pool & furnished, \$2,700/month. Call: 580-2833 for appointment.

**For rent**, Shop Puerto Del Sol, Simpson Bay, Call for appointment: 580-2833.

**For Rent 2 bedrooms**, 2 bath, fully furnished, A/C, washer/dryer, kitchen utensils. Location: Pinsett Road. Price \$3,000 per month including utilities. Requirements: One month deposit/first month rent. Call: 520-0623.

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**Guana Bay 2 bedroom 1 bath** room apartment large porch spectacular sea view overlooking St. Barths. Fully furnished, A/C, cable TV, private parking, \$1,650 per month, utilities included, 1 month deposit. Immediately available. Call: 554-0355.

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**Like new apartment**, Dawn Beach, bedroom 1 bathroom, semi furnished \$1,000, excluding utilities, A/C, ocean view, common pool, parking, including internet. Call: 527-3461.

**Medium sized fitted** with freezer compartment \$150. Bed sleeping couch 3 persons seating, \$300. King sized bed with dark washed woodwork, 2 doors, 10 drawers, 10 drawers (hardy used), thick mattress. \$500. Call: 520-5801.

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**New, 2 bedroom 1 bathroom apartment**, \$850 per month. 2 bedroom 2 bathroom, \$900 Large dining room, front & back porch, big yard space, 1 carport, 1000 sq feet. Call: 580-1931/524-1184.

**One bedroom apartment** for rent at Pinsett Road, Betty's Estate, available October 1st/2009. Common pool, great view, alarm system. \$650 per month, 2 months security deposit. Call: 553-1484/554-1114.

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**Pelican Key/Exclusive**, grand villa, 3 bedroom/2 bath, splendid view. Call: 580-950-7053. View common pool, fully furnished, quiet area, kitchen, seafood & private on the beach. Call: 520-9881/20-025/0580-29-15-01.

**Pelican Key/Exclusive**, grand villa, 3 bedroom/2 bath, splendid view. Call: 580-950-7053. View common pool, fully furnished, quiet area, kitchen, seafood & private on the beach. Call: 520-9881/20-025/0580-29-15-01.

**Pelican Key/Exclusive**, grand villa, 3 bedroom/2 bath, splendid view. Call: 580-950-7053. View common pool, fully furnished, quiet area, kitchen, seafood & private on the beach. Call: 520-9881/20-025/0580-29-15-01.

**For rent** one bedroom apartment, fully furnished, A/C, washer/dryer. Amazing ocean view. Rent \$1,100. Tel: 522-6502.

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## CLASSIFIEDS

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Pointe Blanche Two beautiful 1 bedroom/1 bath apartments, amazing view, fully furnished, short or long term. Immediately available. Pets allowed. Please call: 522-5131 or leave a message at 542-2851. Thank you!

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Longsimon Bay Yacht Club. One large bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Washer/dryer, A/C, washer/dryer, American kitchen, 24 hours security, safe, pool view, fully furnished. Call: 522-5140/557-1135.

Simpson Bay Yacht Club. One large bedroom, 2 bath apartment. Washer/dryer, A/C, washer/dryer, American kitchen, 24 hours security, safe, pool view, fully furnished. Call: 522-5140/557-1135.

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Special, now until December 2009. A recession and economic package. Rent a room at Sea Breeze Hotel, \$700, 1 month/extended stay prices negotiable. Maximum 2 stay (2) people, room service included. Call: 542-6055/542-6056, sea.breeze@hotel.com.

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God fearing honest young lady with experience is seeking a job to babysit, kitchen helper, housekeeping for a small family or to take care of an elderly. Call: 580-5560. God bless you.

Honest hard working Christian lady is looking for a job as housekeeper, babysitter, take care of an elderly, wash/iron, clean, caretaker for your home while away, day or night. Call: 588-0970/522-0358.

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Apple Inc Chief Executive Steve Jobs speaks about features on the iPod nano, which includes a video camera, at a special event in San Francisco on Wednesday.

## Steve Jobs strides back into the Apple limelight

SAN FRANCISCO—Steve Jobs stepped back into the spotlight for the first time in nearly a year on Wednesday, drawing a standing ovation before unveiling new and cheaper iPods for Apple Inc.

But Apple's shares closed 1 percent lower after hitting a year's high in the session. Analysts said they dipped because investors took profits after a steady run-up in the days before the event. One analyst also pointed to Jobs' appearance, saying the 54-year-old chief executive looked "frail."

Dressed in his trademark black turtleneck and jeans, Jobs took the stage and thanked everyone in the Apple community for their "heartfelt support."

Jobs, a pancreatic cancer survivor, spoke with characteristic passion about new products and dropped his signature line—"one more thing"—before introducing a new iPod nano with a video camera. It was his first public appearance since returning to work in June after six months of medical leave, during which the charismatic corporate showman underwent a liver transplant.

"I now have the liver of a mid-20s person who died in a car crash and was generous enough to donate their organs. I wouldn't be here without such generosity," an emotional Jobs told the audience, urging them to all become organ donors. "I feel great. I probably need to gain about 30 pounds, but I feel really good. I'm eating like crazy. A lot of ice cream," Jobs later told the New York Times in a short interview.

Apple shares initially rose about 1 percent to a year's high before retreating to close \$1.79 lower, or 1 percent, at \$171.14 on Nasdaq.

"I'm sure (Jobs) looking so frail—the guy's had the most extreme surgery you can have—didn't help matters, but I think people have come to grips that the torch is going to be passed, it's just a matter of when," said Dave Rovell, managing director of U.S. equity trading at Canacodd Adams. "The stock's had such an incredible move, I wouldn't read too much into it. It's probably just some profit taking."

Apple's stock has doubled this year, valuing the company at \$155 billion—triple that of smartphone arch-rival Research In Motion—and second only to Microsoft's \$221 billion among tech companies on the S&P

500. Jobs started off by announcing a new version of Apple's popular online media store, iTunes, and updated software for the iPhone. He then unveiled new iPod features and colors, and announced price cuts for other models ahead of the crucial holiday season.

The audience at the event in San Francisco included Google Inc Chief Executive Eric Schmidt, who recently stepped down from Apple's board amid increased scrutiny from regulators about the companies' ties. Since late last week, analysts had been expecting Apple's stock would get a boost from an appearance by the company co-founder. The shares rose in the afternoon to \$174.47, their highest since Aug. 28, 2008. But they quickly retreated.

## Stock Market Report

Key Stock Movements September 9 2009

|           | DAY'S CLOSE | CHANGE IN POINTS | HIGH      | LOW      |
|-----------|-------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| NEW YORK  | 9,547.22    | +49.88           | 9,584.63  | 9,594.41 |
|           |             |                  | (Mar 05)  |          |
| LONDON    | 5,004.30    | +56.96           | 5,004.30  | 3,512.09 |
|           |             |                  | (Sep 09)  | (Mar 03) |
| TOKYO     | 10,312.14   | -81.09           | 10,639.71 | 7,054.98 |
|           |             |                  | (Mar 20)  | (Mar 10) |
| FRANKFURT | 5,574.26    | +92.53           | 5,574.26  | 3,690.72 |
|           |             |                  | (Sep 09)  | (Mar 03) |

London Currency Fixing Rates September 9 2009

Following are the middle exchange rates for leading currencies against the dollar:

|                    | CURRENT | HIGH    | LOW     |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Euro               | 1.456   | 1.46    | 1.4466  |
| Japanese Yen       | 92.01   | 92.59   | 91.62   |
| British Pound      | 1.654   | 1.6591  | 1.6457  |
| Swiss Franc        | 1.0405  | 1.0489  | 1.0383  |
| Australian Dollar  | 0.8671  | 0.8668  | 0.8567  |
| Brazilian Real     | 1.8332  | 1.84    | 1.8179  |
| Canadian Dollar    | 1.0793  | 1.0824  | 1.0749  |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 7.75    | 7.7506  | 7.7502  |
| Mexican Peso       | 13.4548 | 13.4775 | 13.3007 |
| South African Rand | 7.5325  | 7.575   | 7.39    |

Gold (ounce) \$996.60 (\$97.80)

# Lehman bust highlights analyst "group-think disease"

NEW YORK—All of Wall Street's bank analysts were caught up by Lehman's collapse—and few have deemed themselves since. Just a handful have dared to issue a "buy" on bank stocks that have surged since March—after they all failed to slap that "sell" on Lehman Brothers before it went bust a year ago.

"There's a group-think disease on Wall Street," said Robert Luttis, chief investment officer of Cabot Money Management who started buying financial stocks for his \$400 million fund this year.

Even star analysts like Mercedith Whitney—famed for calling Citigroup's troubles in 2007—and renowned bear Mike Mayo, whiffed on just this year's turnaround and Lehman's problems. Only 45 percent of bank analysts managed to beat an index of commercial banks or capital markets firms with their recommendations in 2008, according to Thomson Reuters' StarMine. And it is hardly better this year, with just 46 percent of analysts beating the market.

You figure analysts would know their own industry



Tony Lomas (C) and his colleagues Dan Schwarzmann (R), and Steve Pearson of Price Waterhouse Coopers, auditors for Lehman Brothers pose during a news conference at Lehman Brothers in London in this September 15, 2008 file photo.

better. Think again. A herd mentality and a concern that controversial calls could damage their careers are holding them back from greatness.

"There's a fear of publicly being wrong," said David Ellison, chief investment officer at FBR Funds with \$1.4 billion under management.

Anonymous researchers at fund companies have an easier time making edgy calls because they work behind

closed doors, he explained.

It is also tricky to highlight risky business practices or slam misguided strategy at other banks if your own firm is doing the same stuff. "It's a little bit close to home," said Ben Wallace, securities analyst at Grimes & Company in Westborough, Massachusetts, adding, "The investment banks really don't cover themselves well."

It is best to make predictions that sound reasonable at the time you make them, said Henry Blodgett, the once celebrated but later reviled dotcom analyst who now runs news site The Business Insider, in an e-mail.

"Analysts who stick their necks out, especially on the negative side, often get their heads chopped off," he wrote. "Analysts who never stray from the safe middle ground, meanwhile, often enjoy long, profitable and stress-free careers."

the world economy "begins to recover at the end of this year," projected strong oil demand growth in developing countries will be partially offset by weaker oil use in industrialized nations, contributing to a supply surplus.

Flynny said despite the fact that the market is "swimming in crude," prices for oil may continue to be supported by outside forces, such as the weak dollar and a global economic stimulus. For the fourth quarter of 2009, the agency lowered its forecast for OPEC crude oil production to 29.26 million bpd from its prior estimate of 29.31 million bpd.

"The combination of higher prices and OPEC's weaker compliance with production targets over time suggests that OPEC crude oil production could (still) rise over the remainder of the year, unless prices fall sharply from current levels," the EIA said.

The EIA raised its forecast of OPEC oil output during 2010 to an average 28.89 million bpd from 28.82 million bpd.

Blodgett, who made famously bullish calls on internet stocks but got into hot water when he dismissed some stocks in private, became the poster boy for the flawed analyst. Add accounting scandals like WorldCom and Enron, and the pressure was on Wall Street's research community to call it as they saw it without hiding behind euphemisms.

Things have looked up since then, but just a bit. In 2008, 8 percent of analyst recommendations were "sells," compared with just 1 percent in 2000, according to Thomson Reuters research.

## Losing Calls

Still, just nine out of 20 brokers correctly called the banking sector profitably last year. And the big names had a checked record.

Investors following veteran Dick Bove would have gained from his call to buy Bank

of America Corp shares in April—they have more than doubled since then. But you would have lost big time if you had heeded Bove's call to buy Lehman on Aug. 21, 2008: Shares fell 94 percent and are now basically worthless.

Whitney, who launched her own firm this year, made money for investors who followed her calls to sell Citigroup and Bear Stearns shares in 2008. But if you had taken her advice to hold on to Lehman, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs shares, you would have squandered your Citigroup and Bear

shares. Mike Mayo, named Institutional Investor's (II) third-best large-cap bank analyst of 2007, adopted a "not so negative" stance on banks in July last year. The KBW Bank Index had fallen 30 percent by the end of 2008.

Then he started banks with an "underperform" rating in April 2009 when he left Deutsche Bank for Cayton Securities. The KBW Banks Index has climbed 60 percent since.

Whitney was a runner up in the II ranking, while Bove did not get a mention. The winner, Matthew O'Connor of Deutsche Bank, and runner-up Ed Najarian, who was at Merrill Lynch in 2008, did not have the handicap of covering Lehman.

Whitney, Bove and Mayo did not return calls seeking comment.

## A Few Good Men

Of course, it is tougher than ever to cover Wall Street. Complex derivatives and high leverage have raised the unpredictability factor for

bank results.

"Banking is a black hole, there's no way you can really analyze any of these institutions and know what you're looking at," said Ethan Heisler, an analyst at Hexagon Securities and former debt analyst at Citigroup.

And there are some analysts who have beaten the market. Sandler O'Neill & Partners' Jeff Harte and Bank of America's Guy Moszkowski have made the most profitable calls so far this year, according to StarMine.

A long/short portfolio based on Harte's calls would be up 28 percent, while Moszkowski's calls would have earned about 6 percent. The KBW Banks Index is flat this year. Both Harte and Moszkowski also beat the market last year, when Moszkowski was ranked third in Institutional Investor's rankings of broker and asset manager analysts. Harte, based in Chicago, is modest about his success.

"After how bad 2008 was, it's hard to be too excited about having picked some stocks that worked in 2009," said Harte. "It's been a hard environment."

Indeed, investors may find that picking the top analyst is just as tricky as picking the top-performing stock. They may be best served by taking FBR's Ellison's advice—using the analysts' consensus view to do exactly the opposite.

"When the analysts become all bullish is when you should be worried if you own (financial stocks)," Ellison said. "You should short them when they're all bullish and own them when they're all bearish."

IEA:

## Global oil supplies to outstrip demand

WASHINGTON—Global oil demand through next year will be weaker than previously forecast while petroleum supplies will be higher, the U.S. government said in a revised outlook on Wednesday.

The latest forecast from the U.S. Energy Information Administration could put downward pressure on oil prices, which have more than doubled since February on hopes for an economic recovery.

The EIA cut its forecast for world oil demand growth in 2010 by 30,000 barrels per day to daily demand of 84.58 million bpd. But it boosted its forecast of global oil production growth by 150,000 bpd to average output of 84.65 million bpd.

The EIA's new monthly short-term energy forecast would mean a daily world oil supply surplus of 70,000 barrels. "This is the definition of an oil glut and should mean we will enter a bear market," said Phil Flynn, an energy analyst at PFGBest Research in Chicago.

The EIA said while the current outlook assumes

## GM board shakes up management, moves on Opel

DETROIT/FRANKFURT—General Motors Co shook up its management and dispatched a negotiator on the sale of its Opel unit to Berlin after a watershed two-day board meeting under the direction of Chairman Ed Whitacre, people familiar with the proceedings said.

GM's 13-member board endorsed the departure of GM's chief financial officer, a new marketing campaign aimed at winning back skeptical U.S. consumers and a still-sealed decision on Opel that will be conveyed to German officials on Thursday, the sources said.

As part of the board review, Chief Financial Officer Ray

Young, 47, will leave the automaker after an 18-month stint that included a failed effort to avoid bankruptcy, according to the sources, who were not authorized to discuss the situation.

Meanwhile, John Smith, the GM executive who has headed months of negotiations with the German government and two potential bidders for GM's Opel unit, was on his way to Berlin, the sources said. Smith will brief the German trust supervising Opel and German government officials before news conferences scheduled for Thursday in Germany, the sources said.

It was not immediately clear what action the GM board had taken on Opel

after spending the past month weighing the merits of selling the European unit against the cost of keeping it. A group led by Canadian auto group Magna International has a promise for the financial backing of the German government to take control of Opel.

Brussels-listed RHJ International has a rival bid that GM management has said would be easier to implement.

On Monday, financial adviser KPMG presented a report to GM's board that said the automaker's management had used "overly optimistic" assumptions when it prepared an earlier estimate of the cost of keeping Opel. German labor

and government officials ratcheted up the pressure on GM to take some action at this week's board meeting after the board deferred a decision last month.

Magna Chairman Frank Stronach said earlier on Wednesday that he expected a GM decision on Opel within the next few days or weeks. Magna remains interested in Opel and would not try to buy other automakers if its bid fell through, Stronach said.

The German government said earlier in the day that it expected GM to repay a 1.5 billion euro (\$2.2 billion) state loan if the automaker called off the sale of its Opel unit.



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- Theme must be motivated
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**A Token of Appreciation and a Prize will be awarded to the winner**

# An accounting required

By Eugene Robinson

WASHINGTON — Torture is a delicate business. The aim is to injure but not incapacitate — to inflict precisely enough pain and terror to break a subject's will, but no more. To calibrate the proper degree of abuse, the torturer must have an accurate sense of how much agony the subject's mind and body can tolerate.

In the Bush administration's program of "enhanced interrogation," this expertise was provided by doctors and psychologists — professionals who are supposed to heal and comfort. A new report by Physicians for Human Rights assembles the evidence and reaches a sickening but inescapable conclusion: "Health professionals played central roles in developing, implementing and providing justification for torture."

Dwell on that for a moment, especially if you be-

lieve the Bush administration's decision to submit terrorism suspects to medieval interrogation practices was somehow justifiable — or even if you believe that torture was wrong but that now we should "look forward" and pretend it never happened. This is how torture warps a society and distorts its values.

Much of the information cited by Physicians for Human Rights had previously been unearthed, but some new details were disclosed in the CIA inspector general's report released last week — revealing "a level of ethical misconduct that had not previously come to light," according to the human rights group.

From sources that include published reports, an inquiry by the International Committee of the Red Cross and various documents pried out of the government by organizations such as the American Civil Liberties

Union, here is some of what we know:

The interrogation program — using 11 abusive "enhanced" techniques, including waterboarding — was designed by two Ph.D. psychologists. The techniques, according to a statement released in April by American Psychological Association President James H. Bray, "are tantamount to torture as defined by APA and international law."

Said the APA: "The central tenet of psychology's code of ethics is, like that of medicine, to do no harm. It is unjust to assert that stress positions, forced nudity, sleep deprivation, exploiting phobias, and waterboarding — along with other forms of torture techniques that the American Psychological Association has condemned and prohibited — cause no lasting damage to a human being's psyche."

According to Bray, "There is one ethical response to an

order to torture: *Disobey the order.*"

We know that medical doctors were asked to sign off on the "enhanced" techniques. We know from detainees themselves, as quoted by the Red Cross, that there was medical monitoring of waterboarding sessions. We know from the CIA inspector general's report that a 2004 letter from a Justice Department official reauthorizing the use of waterboarding specified a maximum of two two-hour sessions per day, with both a doctor and a psychologist present.

From the torturer's point of view, this probably looks like compulsion — an attempt to ensure that interrogators didn't go too far, that they didn't cause permanent harm, that they stayed within bureaucratic guidelines. But from any other perspective, it's simply and starkly grotesque.

That any medical doctor would help design or review a program of torture, let alone be present when an abusive interrogation amounting to torture was being conducted, would be a gross ethical violation.

The American Medical Association's code of ethics "forcefully states medicine's opposition to torture or coercive interrogation and prohibits physician participation in such activities," according to a letter AMA officials sent to President Obama in April. AMA guidelines state that "physicians must neither conduct nor directly participate in an interrogation," and that doctors "must not monitor interrogations with the intention of intervening in the process, because this constitutes direct participation."

So how was our government supposed to conduct abusive

interrogations without the guidance of psychologists to tell them whether they were irreparably damaging the subject's mind or physicians to tell them whether they were irreparably damaging the subject's body? It would have been impossible.

Doctors and psychologists might have been able to prevent this whole shameful episode by refusing to participate. Instead, professionals who were trained in the healing arts used their experience and skill in a way that facilitated harm. They played a vital role in enabling torture.

I like to believe that some psychologists and physicians took a stand and said no. As for those who said yes, the law should hold them accountable — just as conscience, one hopes, is already doing.

## Challenges facing our newly formed country

I felt that in my last letter concerning candidate choices from mature voters, I failed to address some of the important necessities that the infrastructure of this "newly to be formed country" are in dire need of.

First off, "The Dump." For God's sake, get rid of this breeding ground for creating pandemonium right away. What makes it sensible to continue to make use of this area, tightly surrounded by waste of all types produced by human beings, in an environment which is necessary for producing and providing the correct ecological base for wildlife forms of all biological characteristics to thrive, because of the body of water that is alive (not dormant) which produces the sustenance for biological ecology to co-habit? The ecological effects are notably polluting the atmosphere, thus causing imbalances in nature and rapid evolution of life forms to become unpleasant realities.

Take the migration situation. They evolved to "streamlined shaped mosquitoes" never seen before in St. Maarten. Plus, these creatures appear as ants, running a track race

before they turn into mosquitoes. And, water, sitting dormant is not the cause for these things to breed. Abnormal, yes, or not? Get rid of "The Dump" and construct a fully functional modernized waste disposal treatment plant.

Better treatment, salary scale wise, as well as benefits and pensions for Civil Servants also seems to be an area that needs more focused attention from our political leaders. They also should be respected highly, because of the jobs they do that are much-needed to service the public, some at a life-threatening level, which seems to become more and more diverse and complex.

Officials dissatisfied with the performance level of high profile civil servants should discuss their dissatisfactions with those responsible for the management and coordination of operations that these civil servants are expected to perform. This way, everyone maintains the level of respectability due, even though there may exist cause for criticism.

Hospital medical services in St. Maarten are commendable. Commendable because the medical personnel display their level best and work with

an air of professionalism, seemingly at any function they are trained to perform.

Particularly urgently needed as an addition to the infrastructure of the hospital are additional trauma facilities. These additional units will be necessary for emergency treatments whenever simultaneous episodes occur in different sections of St. Maarten.

For instance, let's say two or three gunshot victims have to undergo emergency treatment. All these incidents happen randomly within a one-hour time. Can our hospital handle this crisis as well as whatever else occurs within that one hour? I think not! Let's hope this scenario doesn't occur, unless proper facilities are in place to handle it.

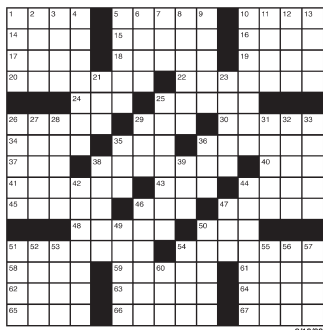
I'm sure there are many other additions to the infrastructure of St. Maarten technically, as well as logistically, that can be added to the list.

Our newly formed leadership will be responsible for a progressive change in Government Administration and will win the respect of our Caribbean neighbours, as well as initiate positive train of thought from politicians in Holland, who will be able to make change happen, fiscally as well as socio economically, showcasing our newly developed country in the Caribbean.

Allan A. Richardson.

### ACROSS

- 1 Italy's capital
- 5 Quickly
- 10 Highlighted it
- 14 Mountain goat
- 15 From the neighborhood
- 16 Length times width
- 17 Ark builder
- 18 lft
- 19 Spill the beans
- 20 Joy
- 22 Obscuring of a celestial body by another
- 24 Sheep's cry
- 25 Spud
- 26 Place of relief
- 29 Moist
- 30 Papal crown
- 34 Fluffy candy
- 35 Prohibit
- 36 City in Arizona
- 37 Commotion
- 38 Emergency cargo released from a plane



### Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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- 41 Iskale to
- 42 Show
- 43 Angels Sing
- 44 Dumpty
- 45 Very skilled
- 46 White lie
- 47 Courageous
- 48 Assigns
- 50 Hit a tennis ball
- 51 More than a few
- 54 Glowing
- 55 Microwave
- 56 with supported
- 61 Off-Broadway award
- 62 Decree
- 63 Lacking sense
- 64 Arm bone
- 65 Access Steeple
- 66 Our sutras
- 67 Look for
- DOWN
- 1 Watermelon's outer layer
- 2 Woodwind
- 3 Lunch or dinner

- 44 Doubtful
- 46 Tabby or tiger
- 47 Creator
- 49 Ingredient in spaghetti sauce
- 50 \_\_\_ with;
- 51 Couch
- 52 Wicked
- 53 Tender young beef
- 54 City in Nevada
- 55 Qualified
- 56 Planetary number
- 57 Yellowish-brown wood
- 60 Aswan \_\_\_

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# Damaged election, damaged strategy

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The aftermath of Afghanistan's elections has been uglier and more consequential than the campaign that preceded the voting. It has become clear that President Hamid Karzai's bid for re-election was tainted by widespread fraud, a development that represents the Obama administration's first significant failure in foreign affairs.

The administration had emphasized that its primary goal was a credible election process, not the victory of any particular candidate or group. President Obama and his aides had sharply urged Karzai publicly and privately to

make this vote as close to fair and free as possible in a country at war. Karzai not only disregarded the pressure; he used it to campaign as a nationalist fighting outside influences.

The Afghan leader does not fall short in the chutzpah department, or in cunning. He presented Washington with a fair account by stitching together a coalition of warlords and other corrupt local officials to deliver the results he wanted. Post-election U.S. efforts to get Karzai to bring his opponents into high positions in the government — which would require them to stop voicing accusations of fraud — do not change the underlying meaning of what happened on August 20 and since.

The disputed elections are not simply a political embarrassment. They pose significant questions about the new U.S. counterinsurgency strategy of population protection, which was initially keyed to clearing areas contested by the Taliban — largely the Pashtun-inhabited southern region — to enable people there to vote freely.

But even in many of the "cleared" villages, Afghans refused to come out to vote, apparently fearing that in a matter of weeks or months the Taliban would seek back into their zones and seek vengeance on those who went to the polls.

Even more tellingly, Pashtun elders went to Kabul, sought out Western journalists and gave them detailed on-the-re-

cord accounts of how Karzai supporters falsified the returns from the elders' territory. This may attest to their new attachment to democracy and press freedom — or, as I would guess, to their fear of how the Taliban would react to fabricating large-population turnout in their villages.

There are calculations that people engaged in civil war live and die by, those who reside in the territory that American, British, Afghan and other soldiers fought to clear will want to see if their communities do remain beyond Taliban reach for long. Only then will they decide to take the kind of risks the administration expected of them this time.

The White House initially described the elections as an unmythologized success story. But after the U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints Commission said Tuesday it had found "clear and convincing evidence of fraud," particularly in the southern provinces, U.S. officials privately resumed criticizing Karzai. Still, they avoided any suggestion that the relatively heavy U.S. and British casualties this August had been in vain.

The continuing role of tribal politics in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan will also be studiously and deliberately neglected by the administration in public. That is unfortunate. The tensions between Afghanistan's ethnic groups hold the key to the administration's political and military strategies — but an increasingly restive American public is not being told this.

Karzai's relatively poor showing among his fellow Pashtuns, who make up 42 percent of Afghanistan's population and nearly all of the Taliban's forces, is a danger sign for Obama's strategy of rapidly building up the Afghan national army by adding U.S. trainers and other personnel, and forces while moving to co-opt local Taliban commanders.

The Bush administration originally rejected such a strategy after concluding that Afghan forces lacked the "absorbent capacity" to field enough officers and sergeants to direct large Afghan formations. This was another way of saying that was an army expansion that would have sent large numbers of Taliban and Uzbek tribesmen from the north into Pashtun areas to fight the Taliban would have created new disasters.

The important debate is not the media guessing game about how many troops U.S. commanders may request beyond the 21,000 already approved by Obama. The more serious question is whether the escalation strategy can produce results fast enough on the ground to stem growing disaffection at home.

Karzai's failure to heed Washington's demands for a credible election process makes this harder. Obama is stuck with a damaged plan to which there is little immediate alternative. He needs to be more forthright with the American people about the sacrifices and obstacles ahead. It is the people who are ultimately responsible, and they need the facts to exercise local Taliban commanders.

## Asia treading near overconfidence

By Andreas Oppenheimer

SINGAPORE — Perusing the newstand in the Hong Kong airport on my way here, I saw something that caught my eye: most of the books were about China's — and Asia's — allegedly unstoppable rise to the world's foremost superpower. Among the books were *New Asian Emperors*, *A Bull in China*, *China Shakes the World* and *China into the Future*. In the magazines section, you could see *The Economist's* cover reading, "Asia's astonishing rebound."

## Talk show host just doesn't get it about Turn-over tax

Dear Editor,

Allow me to bring up an issue that is living a life of its own on the talk show "Home Alone" on the Turn-over tax (TOT). Don't forget, TOT was introduced by St. Maarten Patriotic Alliance (SPA), now National Alliance (NA), when St. Maarten was at its lowest from the devastation of Hurricane Luis in 1995. Remember: "hurricane or no hurricane, St. Maarten must pay it share."

For political reasons, the sarah continues to say that Democratic Party (DP) Leader Sarah Wescot-Williams should have fought to reduce the TOT when she was in government. Rather than giving the right information, he continues to mislead the people.

What the host failed to say is that NA is now in the Central Government and has the authority to negotiate issues like TOT with the Central Government, of which it is a part. These are tough times and the St. Maarten people need relief.

When the Central Government increased the TOT from 3% to 5%, the DP leader said then: "You can go ahead and increase the TOT for Curaçao, not for St. Maarten." That is why St. Maarten only contributes 3% TOT today. This was only possible because DP was part of the Central Government and decided enough was enough!

NA has been in government on a federal level since 2006 and they have refused to work in the interest of the St. Maarten people! There are a number of issues they refuse to solve, because by solving them, they would make DP look good.

Contrary to this, DP was solving the people's problems. I am saying this because, when the NA took office on June 8, an NA minister said that with NA on both levels of government it would be smooth sailing.

As the old saying goes: "Pick sense out of nonsense."

Guillaume Carty

## The Oppenheimer Report

I was surprised by this outbreak of buoyancy because in several trips to Asia in recent years, I had found the opposite. Chinese officials consistently tried to play down the world's forecasts that China will become the world's largest economy.

When I pointed out to Chinese officials that I was amazed at how rapidly China was modernizing, they would tell me, "Yes, but we still have 800 million poor. In many parts of our country, we are

still in the Third World." The party line was trying to avoid scarifying the West.

But now, the Chinese — and their fellow Asians — are brimming with confidence, and seem less worried about showing it. While major Western countries' economic output is expected to fall by 3.5 percent this year, and Latin America is projected to decline by nearly 2 percent, Asian economies are likely to grow by more than 5 percent.

In Singapore, I paid a visit to Kishore Mahbubani, the author of the recently released *The New Asian Hemisphere: The Incredible Shift of Global Power to the East*. Mahbubani, a former Singapore ambassador to the United Nations, is the dean of the National University of Singapore's School of Public Policy, and one of the country's best-known thinkers.

"We are reaching the end of the era of Western domination of world history," he told me.

The West has dominated world history for only a brief period of time, spanning from the 1820 Industrial Revolution to nowadays, he said. "That period was a historical aberration, and is coming to an end. That's why I talk about the 'return' of Asia, and not about the 'rise' of Asia."

Mahbubani says there is "an explosion of cultural confidence of nuclear proportions in Asia," due, among other things, to the fact that Asia's embrace of free-market economics has unleashed the business creativity of the region's 4 billion people. Also, Asia's meritocratic systems — as opposed to many Latin American countries' tradition of cronyism — and its strong emphasis on education will turn Asian nations into technological powerhouses, he said.

My opinion: Maybe so. Based on what I saw in Singapore, China and India, there is an obsession with improving education in Asia that you don't see in the West. That will help Asian countries create elite scientists who will produce incredibly sophisticated — and well-priced — exports. Still, I can't help but recalling that 40 years ago the conventional wisdom was that Russia would rule the world, and 30 years ago it was that Japan would be the world's next superpower. It didn't turn out that way.

Perhaps because many of these books' authors have a soft spot for authoritarian regimes, they tend to downplay the possibility that racial and political tensions will explode in China, Vietnam, Singapore and other non-democratic countries. (I'm more upbeat about India, a democracy that is already used to absorbing internal conflicts.)

In addition, China's economic system is legally murky, and there are greater risks of wars among Asian countries than between the United States and Mexico or — considering the little appetite in the U.S. Congress for new wars after the Iraq fiasco — any other countries.

And the West is still far ahead in science and technology. The number of U.S. patents registered annually dwarfs that of China. And according to China's own Shanghai University ranking of the world's best universities, U.S. universities are far ahead of the pack.

We can't rule out that there will be "New Asian Emperors," as the book forecasts. But it won't happen overnight, and it may not happen at all. Despite Asia's phenomenal growth, I wouldn't put all my savings in Chinese yuan, at least not yet.

### UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 9 | 8 |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   | 1 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |
|   | 2 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   | 1 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
| 8 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   | 7 |   |   |   | 3 | 6 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 7 | 4 |   | 8 |   |
|   | 3 |   | 4 | 9 |   |   |   |   |

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 boxes contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 |   |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 |

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### Ether Ming Gumbs of Grand Case

Sunrise: December 28th, 1920 - Sunset: August 16th, 2009

Husband: Andre Constance Gumbs (deceased)

Son: Abdul Irvin Mingo (St. Martin)

Special thanks to:  
Ingo Sergy (St. Thomas)  
Maddeline Hodge (St. Martin/St. Thomas)

Related to: Mingo, Gumbs, Hodge, Duzant, Lawrence

Service will be held in the Grand Case Catholic Church, Saturday, September 12th, 10:00 a.m.



By Linda C. Black

**Today's Birthday (September 10)** -- If you focus on making money this year, you'll find ways to do it. Ever think of writing a book? Starting an import business? Expand your area of operations. Step outside your box.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** -- Today is a 7 -- Don't believe everything you hear. Messages will be garbled, and some will just be lies. Do your own homework.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** -- Today is a 7 -- If you ask, you're likely to get money that's owed to you. This could even work if you get somebody to ask for you.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** -- Today is a 7 -- A reunion with an old friend stirs up memories. Don't get stuck in "what if." Stay in "what's happening now."

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** -- Today is a 7 -- The textbook seems to include an error. Don't get stuck. Find someone with more experience to tell you what to do.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Today is a 7 -- The job's a mess, but you can clean it up. Make sure the others know what they're doing.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- Today is a 6 -- Your loved ones have some suggestions about how to spend this evening. Remember, it's for your own good.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** -- Today is a 5 -- Take it slow and easy. Conditions are getting better. It's hard to make a decision now. Put it off for a few days.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** -- Today is a 7 -- Let your partner play the next round while you learn. You're picking up the game fast; you'll be winning soon.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** -- Today is a 7 -- Go along with a person who has big schemes, but don't get too deeply involved. Have an escape route ready.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- Today is a 7 -- The more you get into the project, the more interesting it becomes. That's because it keeps changing.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** -- Today is a 7 -- Continue to review your work before you hand it in. You want to find the mistakes before anyone else does.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** -- Today is a 7 -- Housework takes precedence over something you'd rather be doing. That's OK. You'll be glad you cleaned up the place.







**SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 828  
or e-mail [queenie@thedailyherald.com](mailto:queenie@thedailyherald.com)**

**Dear Queenie,**

My teenage daughter has been sporting some expensive items like clothes and jewellery, an iPod and other things that I'm sure she can't afford on the allowance I give her. I'm worried that she might be shoplifting them or getting them from someone else who stole them.

I'm afraid she'll get arrested for stealing or for having stolen goods, but I don't have any proof that they're stolen and I don't want to accuse her of something she didn't do.

Queenie, what should I do?—**Worried mother**

**Dear Worried mother,**

The first thing you should do is sit down and have a serious talk with your daughter. Don't accuse her of anything, but let her know that you have noticed her new acquisitions and are worried that she may be getting herself in trouble.

Of course, the items may have been gifts from a well-to-do boyfriend, but that possibility could also be unpleasant, considering the kind of boy—or man—who would give such expensive gifts to a young girl, and what he no doubt would expect in return.

If you don't feel up to having such a discussion with your daughter, get some professional help. Counseling will help you learn how to cope with the subject, and if you take your daughter with you, perhaps the counsellor's advice will make more of an impression on her than anything you can say.

**EVENTS**

Only notices of fund-raising events for non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column. Notices/Events should be sent to [notices@thedailyherald.com](mailto:notices@thedailyherald.com) in the format used on this page. Do not send fliers or press releases to this address.

Friday, September 11

Friday, September 18

Friday, September 25

**FISH FRY**

Hosted by Zion's Men with a Vision. Menu: Fried snapper or yellow tail, barbecued chicken leg, johnnie cake, all served with fried plantain and salad.

Place: Zion Methodist Church, Sucker Garden

Time: 6:00-11:00pm

Price: Chicken and johnnie cake, US \$4; fish and johnnie cake, \$6 and up; seafood special, \$6.

**Postponed from**

Saturday, September 12

BPW EXPRESSIONS

BREAKFAST SESSION

Recognizing and Coping with depression, with Dr. Judith Arndell of Ujima Foundation has been postponed until November 7. BPW members apologise for any inconvenience.

Saturday September 19

INTERNATIONAL

COASTAL CLEANUP

All groups are welcome to participate. Students can receive their community service hours. Schools may also register to participate on a school day; call Sint Maarten PRIDE foundation, tel. 523-1188, for details or e-mail [between@yahoo.com](mailto:between@yahoo.com).



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Place: Mullet Bay Beach  
Time: 7:00-10:00am

Sunday, September 20

Monday, September 21

Tuesday, September 22

FILM FESTIVAL

KidDocs Open Air Film Festival for Youths and adults is celebrating its first 5 years in Sint Maarten. Parents and children can enjoy a selection of documentaries from all parts of the world.

Place: Sunday, September 20, Ruyterplein (Square opposite Courthouse), Philipsburg (children to bring their sitting pillows); Monday, September 21, Community Centre in St. Peter's; Tuesday, September 22, Belvedere Community Centre.  
Time: 7:00-10:00pm  
Admission: FREE!

For more info call KidDocs representative Patricia Gumbs, tel. 522-3078.

**NOTICES****MPC VBSO Parents Meetings**

The Milton Peters College VBSO will hold the parents meetings for school year 2009-2010 at MPC, 7:00-9:00pm, on Thursday, September 10, for VBSO/TKL 1-3;

**Museum Closure**

The Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation hereby informs the public that the Museum will be closed for visitors September 10-15. The museum will be open during regular opening hours, 10:00am to 4:00pm, as of September 16.

**St. Maarten Day Info Meeting**

The Committee for St. Maarten Day 2009 and Commission of Culture Hyacinth Richardson request all uniformed and cultural groups to attend information meetings Dr. A.C. Wathey Legislative Hall, Government Administration Building, Thursday, September 10: Uniformed groups, 7:00pm; Cultural groups 8:00pm.

There will be two parades on St. Maarten Day: The official uniformed parade and the cultural parade. The uniformed parade is open to all uniformed groups, from the Police Force to the various Scouting groups. The cultural parade is open to all groups and/or organizations that would like to participate.

**Parents Evening**

Hillside Christian Schools will hold the first Parents Evening for the 2009-2010 school year for parents of Cycles 1 and 2 pupils at the Gym Hall on Monday, September 14, 6:45-8:30pm.

**WIEMS Course**

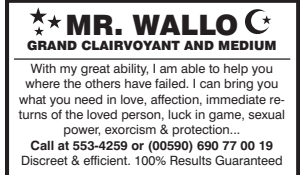
Windward Islands Emergency Medical Services (WIEMS) is organising a First Responders Course at the Dutch Quarter Community Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:00-9:00pm, starting Friday, October 2. Registration forms can be collected at Dr. Bryson Dutch Quarter Medical Clinic. Registration deadline: Friday, September 25.

**Christmas Craft Market**

All crafters, sculptors, artists, and cake and tart makers interested in participating in the Christmas Craft Market on December 13 and 18-24 should register at the Philipsburg Cultural and Community Centre. For further information, call Ursula Dormoy, tel. 580-5541, or Kaishah Peters, tel. 553-4211.

**Former Gang Leader Speaks**

Joseph Jennings will be on-island Monday to Friday, September 14-18, speaking to 12- to 18-year-olds regarding gang violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, sex, profanity and how to respect mom and dad. If your school is interested in hosting Jennings and his powerful motivational words, contact Love of Kids Foundation at tel. 554-7765 immediately.



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Fee: Corporate donated, free to your school.

**Driving Lessons**

Belvedere Community Centre is now registering interested persons for driving lessons, Monday-Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm. Deadline for registration is October 2. Lessons begin on October 12. Belvedere residents with proof of such are given preference and discounted prices. For more information, call 524-5499, 547-0239, 547-0157 or 547-0150.

**Girl Power Volunteers**

Girl Power St. Maarten is looking for more female volunteers to be trained as facilitators to help run workshops for teenage girls in our high schools. For more information, go to [www.smaidsfoundation.org](http://www.smaidsfoundation.org) and follow the Girl Power link at the bottom of the page, or email [jbgp1power@gmail.com](mailto:jbgp1power@gmail.com), or call tel. 557-8700 9:00am to 5:00pm.

**After School Assistance**

J&D Educational Foundation is accepting registration for after-school assistance for pupils of grades 1-6. We offer tutoring in English, Dutch, math, arithmetic, and computer. We also are accepting registration for English as a second language and GED tutorials. We are also accepting registration for children in grades 1-3 starting October 15. Register at Pondfill 55c or call tel. 553-7187.

**Learn to Paddle**

Learn to Paddle foundation is starting its beginners' kayaking classes for 2009-2010. Registration is at Kim Sha Beach on Saturday mornings starting 8:30am. For more information contact Stuart Knaggs 580-4657.

**Nursery/Playschool Registration**

Jubilee Joy Nursery and Playchool, Meadowlands Drive #3, Retreat Estate, is now registering children ages 0-4 years for the school year 2009-2010 and the after school activity programme for ages 4-12 years, for homework assistance in both Dutch and English, swimming on Fridays. Opening hours Monday-Friday, 7:00am to 5:00pm. Call Loecann Thompson, tel. 548-3964 or 553-2046.

**Football Players**

St. Martin Soccer Educational Foundation is looking for youth football players at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex, ages 13-18 on Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30pm; ages 4-12, 5:30-6:30pm.

**Swim Classes**

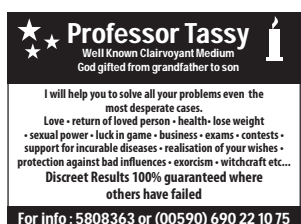
Swim coach Romain is now offering swimming lessons for children and adults at the CIA School in Cupecoy instead of at the Belair Fitness Centre. Lessons every weekday, as well as nightly Masters training, competition team training and special swim-training sessions for tri-athletes. From beginners to top athletes, all ages, all levels, private or group lessons and training sessions tailored to your specific needs. Call coach Romain for more information on 581-2625 or 00590 690 772900

**HOPE Meetings**

The HIV/AIDS support group H.O.P.E is inviting all HIV positive persons to attend their monthly meetings. For more information, please contact Dr. Gerard van Osch at telephone numbers 544-5374 during office hours.

**Riding Lessons**

Lucky Stables is registering persons interested in horseback riding lessons.  
For more information call 544-5255, e-mail to [snspactivites@yahoo.com](mailto:snspactivites@yahoo.com) or visit Lucky Stables at Seaside Nature Park in Cay Bay (behind the GEBE power plant).



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For info : 5808363 or (00590) 690 22 10 75

# Beatlemania strikes with CDs, video game launch

LONDON—A wave of "Beatlemania" struck Britain's streets as a specially remastered edition of the Fab Four's albums was released on Wednesday, complete with an interactive video game for a new generation of fans.

The Beatles collection, launched worldwide on 09/09/09 and priced at 180 pounds (\$300), is expected to dominate the charts in the United States and Britain, bringing a windfall to the group's label EMI Music and the Beatles' company, Apple Corps.

While queues formed at major music stores in London, there was also Beatles nostalgia across Europe and parts of Asia. A front page cartoon in France's *Le Monde* newspaper showed

France's divided opposition leaders dressed as Beatles. "It would be nice if we played the same music," says one. "All you need is love," replied another.

In Ireland, a radio station hosted a karaoke event with people invited to sing and play Beatles tunes on guitar.

Ahead of the launch, Beatles singer and songwriter Paul McCartney wrote a letter to Britain's biggest selling daily newspaper saying how he once imagined the band, which changed the face of popular music in the 1960s, would only last a couple of years. "Now it feels like the Beatles will go on forever," he wrote in *The Sun*, nearly 50 years after the group was formed.

While the remastered

catalogue, its first overhaul since 1987, is seen appealing mainly to Beatles' fans who would appreciate subtle variations and improvements, most excitement surrounds MTV's video game, "The Beatles: Rock Band". "I'm buying the game," said Stefan Krupicki, 32, who stayed for an hour at the launch at the HMV store in central London and declared himself more a fan of Metallica than the Beatles. "I just want to try the game and see how it is going to work."

Developed by Harmonix Music Systems, published by Viacom's MTV Games and distributed by Electronic Arts, analysts say the game could sell 2 million units in the first month.

In New York's Times Square, Ken Zemsky, 56, picked up several copies of the game for his three children aged 12 to 20. "It's going to be a Christmas present," he said, after waiting in a short line at Toys "R Us". "I thought I'd get it early in case the game sold out."

Although Zemsky said he rarely played video games, "I may play this one a little, but I'll really enjoy listening to the music while I watch them play."

The new music collection—with its hefty price tag—comprises 16 Beatles albums in stereo, with track listings and artwork as originally re-



People play "The Beatles: Rock Band" game during its launch in New York, on Wednesday.

it's free," said Robert Gold, 21, who works at a clothing store in central London.

Fans of arguably the world's most successful pop band, with album sales of more than 600 million worldwide, have waited for years to be able to download the Beatles' coveted body of work, but have been frustrated partly by a trademark dispute. The game, which offers 45 songs from the band's catalogue, has won rave reviews from critics.

Gennaro Castaldo of HMV

said the significance of the Beatles release was the introduction of a new generation of fans worldwide to the group's music. "Music-based franchises such as Rock Band and Guitar Hero now sell in the tens of millions and have huge family appeal," said Castaldo, "which is why the release of Beatles Rock Band, combined with the simultaneous release of the remastered Beatles albums, promises to be such a global event."

tv 15

TV 15 (local)

St. Maarten Cable TV

#### Thursday, September 10

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| 8:00am  | Replay AVS News                  |
| 8:30am  | Replay GIS Bulletin              |
| 9:00am  | Caribbean Newsline               |
| 9:30pm  | Caribbean Workout                |
| 5:00pm  | Music Videos                     |
| 5:30pm  | Caribbean Newsline               |
| 6:00pm  | GIS Productions                  |
| 6:30pm  | Caribbean Workout                |
| 7:00pm  | Profiles of the Windward Islands |
| 7:30pm  | AVS News                         |
| 8:00pm  | Oral Gibbs Live                  |
| 9:00pm  | Caribbean Passport               |
| 9:35pm  | Robbie's Lottery                 |
| 9:55pm  | The Law in Focus                 |
| 10:00pm | St. Maarten Lottery              |
| 10:05pm | All Access                       |
| 10:30pm | Music Videos                     |
| 11:00pm | AVS News                         |
| 11:30pm | Caribbean Newsline               |



BVN (Dutch/Flemish) TV

Channel 46 St. Maarten Cable TV

#### Thursday, September 10

|         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 12:00pm | VRT Journaal          |
| 12:30pm | De rode loper         |
| 12:50pm | Lingo                 |
| 1:10pm  | Link in natura        |
| 1:40pm  | Palingaop             |
| 2:15pm  | Tijd voor Max         |
| 3:00pm  | NOS Journaal          |
| 3:05pm  | Tik tak               |
| 3:10pm  | Scaumstraat           |
| 3:35pm  | Het klokhuis          |
| 3:50pm  | Jeugdjournaal         |
| 4:55pm  | Blaas                 |
| 4:25pm  | Thuis                 |
| 4:50pm  | ONM                   |
| 5:10pm  | Regioned              |
| 5:20pm  | Eerovondag            |
| 5:50pm  | Sportjournaal kort    |
| 6:00pm  | VRT Journaal          |
| 6:40pm  | De wereld draait door |
| 7:30pm  | NOS Journaal          |
| 7:55pm  | Weerbericht           |
| 8:00pm  | Boer zoekt vrouw      |
| 9:05pm  | New York 400          |
| 9:30pm  | Nova/Den Haag vandag  |
| 10:00pm | Sportjournaal         |
| 10:25pm | Pauze & Witterman     |
| 11:15pm | Terzake               |
| 11:55pm | Man bij hond          |



#### Programmes Radio Netherlands

St. Maarten:

\* Pearl FM (98.1 FM).

Monday-Friday:

6.30am-7.25am **Linea Recta** (live), nieuws & actualiteiten 'special' voor de Nederlandse Antillen & Aruba in DUTCH (7.15 in Papiaementu)

\* Radio Sautaria (99.9 FM)

Dutch and English items from RNW (no fixed time)

St. Eustatius:

\* St. Eustatius Broadcasting Corporation (91.5 FM)

Monday-Friday:

7.45am-8.00am **Linea Recta**, nieuws & actualiteiten 'special' voor de Nederlandse Antillen & Aruba in DUTCH (from 8.30am in Papiaementu)

6.00pm-7.00pm **Newsline**, news & current affairs in English + Daily special

7.00pm-8.00pm **Linea Recta** (repeat)

\* **Statisia-Cable (Channel 2)**

Monday-Sunday (24 hours):

- Dutch programme, including 6.30am-7.25am **Linea Recta** (Monday-Saturday)

Saba:

\* **Voice of Saba (QFM 93.9)**

Monday-Friday:

6.30am-10.15am Dutch programme, including 6.30am-07.25am **Linea Recta** (live), nieuws & actualiteiten 'special' voor de Nederlandse Antillen & Aruba in DUTCH (7.15am in Papiaementu)

2.00pm-2.30pm **Newsline**, news & current affairs in English

\* **Saba-Cable (Channel 2)**

Monday-Friday:

6.30am-10.15am Dutch programme, including **Linea Recta** (see Voice of Saba)

Monday-Friday:

2.00pm-2.30pm **Newsline** (see Voice of Saba)

See also: www.caribiana.nl



Tele 2  
St. Martin Cable

#### Thursday, September 10

|         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 6:00am  | Caribbean Workout           |
| 6:30am  | Speak the Ministry-Word TV  |
| 7:00am  | AVS News (r)                |
| 9:00am  | In Depth with Andrew Bishop |
| 11:00am | Music Videos                |
| 11:50am | AVS News                    |
| 3:00pm  | Music Videos                |
| 4:00pm  | Island Neighbours           |
| 6:00pm  | Oliver-at-Large             |
| 6:30pm  | In Depth                    |
| 7:30pm  | Prime Time with Beverly     |
| 8:00pm  | All Access                  |
| 8:30pm  | AVS News                    |
| 9:00pm  | Regional Programming        |
| 11:50am | AVS News (r)                |
| 10:30pm | Westwood Park               |



TeleCuraçao  
Channel 30 St. Maarten Cable TV

#### Thursday, September 10

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 6:30am  | Mona Bondis                   |
| 9:30am  | Mi Salu, Bo Salu, Nu Salu (r) |
| 10:00am | Lingo                         |
| 10:25am | Bo Salu den Balama (r)        |
| 11:30am | Telcel                        |
| 11:50am | Musika Varia                  |
| 12:00pm | Al Dia                        |
| 1:00pm  | Bo Trai Merdia                |
| 3:30pm  | Telcel                        |
| 3:45pm  | Astard Huben!                 |
| 4:00pm  | Youth Experience              |
| 5:00pm  | Musika Varia                  |
| 6:00pm  | TBA                           |
| 7:00pm  | K-Concho di Minister          |
| 8:00pm  | Televisia Prinsipal           |
| 9:00pm  | Wega di Number Korsou         |
| 9:10pm  | Participashon di Morto        |
| 9:15pm  | Glamur                        |
| 10:15pm | Kontakto                      |
| 11:00pm | Telentisita (r)               |
| 12:00am | Estreno                       |

## Hugh Hefner files for divorce from wife

LOS ANGELES—Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner, host to an ever-changing coterie of scantily-clad young women at the Playboy Mansion, has filed for divorce from the estranged wife who many people forgot he had ever married.

Hefner, 83, filed court documents last week seeking to end his marriage to former Playmate Kimberly Conrad, 47, citing irreconcilable differences.

The documents, obtained by celebrity website TMZ.com on Wednesday, said the pair were married in July 1989 and have been separated since January 1998.

Conrad and Hefner have two sons. Since their separation, Conrad and the boys have lived in the house next to the famed Los Angeles Playboy Mansion where Hefner resided with several girlfriends and stars in the TV reality show "The Girls

Next Door".

"I am happy to be out of the marriage. I only remained married (to Conrad) for the sake of the children, at her request. I am happy to have this behind me," Hefner told TMZ in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

Hefner's decision to seek a divorce follows court action in August by Conrad, who filed a \$5 million lawsuit against the Playboy founder relating to the sale of a house they owned together. Hefner told TMZ.com he owed nothing to Conrad, saying he had been "generous to a fault."

The documents obtained by TMZ.com give a glimpse into the life of Hefner, who earlier this year installed 19-year-old twins into the mansion as his girlfriends at the end of the fifth season of "The Girls Next Door". According to the documents, Hefner has assets of more than \$43 million, excluding Playboy stock and property, and spends about \$43,000 a month on food and entertainment.

Hefner has asked for spousal support for Conrad to be set at \$20,000 a month, saying he has already given his estranged wife close to \$12 million since their separation 11 years ago.

Hefner began publishing Playboy magazine in 1953. Profits from the adult entertainment business, which includes TV networks and licensing deals for pink bunny cars, have declined in recent years due to competition from free adult material on the Internet and a drop in advertising revenue.

Playboy Enterprises appointed a new chief executive in June to replace Hefner's daughter Christie, who left after two decades. Hugh Hefner remains editor-in-chief of Playboy magazine and retains overall control of the company.

## Ellen DeGeneres joins Idol as fourth judge

LOS ANGELES—Comedian Ellen DeGeneres, one of the top U.S. talk show hosts, was named on Wednesday as the new fourth judge on "American Idol", replacing Paula Abdul who quit the most-watched American television show last month.

Fox television executives and the producers of the hit singing talent show had been searching for a permanent, new judge to sit in Abdul's seat when the ninth season of the show returns to TV in January 2010.

"As the new judge, Ellen will offer her own unique perspective to the contestants throughout the competition," Fox said in a statement.

DeGeneres, whose award-winning talk show "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" is in its seventh season, described herself as a longtime fan of the show. "So getting this job is a dream come true, and think of all the money I'll save from not having to take my vote," she said in the statement.

"American Idol" has become an audience juggernaut for News Corp's Fox network, with an average 26.3 million

viewers per episode, and has grown into an estimated \$1 billion-plus brand that is aired in about 100 countries.

Abdul abruptly quit the show after seven years when she failed to secure a new contract with a big enough pay raise. After her departure, the show's producers said they would bring in several pop stars and performers to fill guest judge spots on "Idol". Fox said this list included Katy Perry, former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham, Shania Twain, Mary J. Blige, Joe Jonas, Neil Patrick Harris, Avril Lavigne and Kristin Chenoweth.

DeGeneres will take her seat at the judge's table after the audition rounds start. "Idol" producers have renewed the contract of songwriter and record producer Kara DioGuardi, who was added to the judging panel this year to help boost their viewership. The two other judges—the often-acerbic Briton Simon Cowell and the laid-back Randy Jackson—are still under contract and host Ryan Seacrest also will be returning.

## Madoff's penthouse could fetch some \$10 million

NEW YORK—The New York City penthouse where imprisoned fraudster Bernard Madoff spent his last days of freedom with his wife Ruth will go on sale later this week.

The seven-room duplex with wraparound terrace on Manhattan's east side is expected to fetch \$8 million to \$10 million, which will be used to reimburse victims of Madoff's \$65 billion Ponzi scheme.

The co-op apartment, to be listed by Realty's International Realty, contains the Madoffs' Persian rugs,

chandeliers and baby grand Steinway piano, according to a press pool video released by the Marshals Service on Tuesday.

Except for FBI labels on each piece of furniture and dozens of cardboard boxes filled with designer clothing and kitchen wares, it looks as if the Madoffs could return any minute. Art adorns the walls and Baccarat crystal glasses are in the cupboards.

But Roland Ubaldo, the deputy U.S. Marshal who showed the apartment to the media this week, said the penthouse had a much more

"personal touch" than it was seized in July.

Federal marshals took possession of the penthouse on July 2, forcing Ruth Madoff to leave and surrender nearly all her belongings. She was allowed to keep a few personal effects and a "reasonable" amount of clothing, Ubaldo said.

Bernie Madoff did not need anything from the apartment because "he is given everything by friends," the Bureau of Prisons' Ubaldo said, referring to the 150-year prison term Madoff began serving this summer.



Director Shirin Neshat attends the "Zanan Bedoone Mardan" (Women Without Men) photocall at the Palazzo del Casino during the 66th Venice Film Festival on Wednesday.

## Iranian artist denounces lack of freedom in film

VENICE—Iranian video artist Shirin Neshat has made her first feature film about women's lack of freedom and growing political involvement in 1953 Iran, but she said the story had strong parallels with the situation today.

"Women Without Men" chronicles the intertwining lives of four women from different walks of life at the time of the U.S. and British-backed coup which deposed a democratically elected prime minister and reinstated the Shah to power. Against the backdrop of political turmoil in the streets of Tehran, the film follows each woman's struggle for freedom—be it from a loveless marriage, seclusion imposed by a religiously conservative family, or prostitution.

Neshat, whose film is in competition at the Venice film festival, said that the battles for democracy and women's rights in Iran went hand-in-hand, and were central to street protests which followed a presidential vote in June.

"The images of the uprising in the summer of 1953 have so much resemblance to what is going on this summer in Iran, and I think symbolically this film represents the Iranian struggle over time for democracy and freedom," she told reporters. "People have changed, the dictators have changed in form and shape and ideology but the struggle continues."

Only one of the four women in the film, Munis, is interested in what is going on in the streets of the capital where people are marching against the coup. But her wings are clipped by her conservative brother, who wants her to marry and stay at home. Neshat drew comparisons between Munis and Neda Agha-Soltan, the slain woman who became a martyr for this year's protesters.

"Both of them were not really actively involved but somehow they became the symbolic characters of this movement for democracy," she said.

At the film's press conference, several of the actresses

and producers wore green scarves—the colour adopted by the demonstrators.

The film is an adaptation of Shahrnush Parsipur's novel of the same name. The Iranian writer has been jailed on two occasions for referring to virginity in the book, which is banned in her homeland like all of her works.

Parsipur and Neshat both live abroad. Neshat, 52, is best known for her video installations, which have been exhibited in New York, Berlin and London.

"This film speaks to the Iranian people and to the world: for over 100 years we have been constantly fighting for democracy and we will not give up," said Neshat. "It's a very important message for people who are in Iran today and sometimes lose hope that change will arrive. We will get there one day."

Two other Iranian films at the Venice festival, "Green Days" and "Behrouz", explore the current situation in the Islamic Republic.

all access  
with Audrey Jack

Mondays @ 6:00 p.m. & Thursday @ 10:00 p.m.  
ON tv 5 OR Check us out on [www.av5news.com](http://www.av5news.com)  
e-mail us at [audrey\\_rjack@hotmail.com](mailto:audrey_rjack@hotmail.com)



Liverpool football fan Michael Shields reacts during a news conference in Liverpool, northern England September 9. Shields, who was jailed for 15 years in Bulgaria in 2005 for an attack on a barman, was pardoned on Wednesday by Britain's Justice Secretary Jack Straw.

## Jailed Liverpool fan pardoned

LONDON—Liverpool soccer fan Michael Shields, who was jailed for 15 years in Bulgaria in 2005 for an attack on a barman, was pardoned on Wednesday by Justice Secretary Jack Straw. The 22-year-old was convicted of the attempted murder of Bulgarian Martin Georgiev in the resort of Varna when violence flared after Liverpool's victory in the Champions League final.

Shields was originally sentenced to 15 years in prison, but had his term reduced to 10 on appeal. In 2006 he was returned to England to serve out the remainder of his sentence.

Straw told reporters at a press conference he believed Shields to be "morally and technically innocent" of the crime and that it was not for him to judge who was responsible for the "brutal and vicious attack" on Georgiev.

Liverpool Labour councillor Joe Anderson, who has long campaigned for Shields' release, said it was "great news for the family and great news for Michael."

He spoke to reporters shortly after Shields was driven away from Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute in Warrington.

"It's four-and-a-half years he has been incarcerated for a crime he didn't commit. It is the most serious miscarriage of justice in modern history," he told the BBC.

"Part of it over, we've

reached a milestone, but the fight goes on to clear young Michael's name."

In a statement Straw said a decision was made to release him after "important new evidence came to light" during a meeting in August with the Shields family who have campaigned for his release.

At the meeting, Straw was told for the first time about a visit by two members of the Shields family to the home of a man they believed to be responsible for the crime.

"I was told that in the course of the visit that man made an oral confession to the crime in front of several other people," Straw said.

"This episode, I was told, happened on 22 July 2005, a day after the start of Mr Shields' trial in Bulgaria," he added.

"When looked at alongside all the previously available evidence, (it) has now satisfied me that Mr Shields meets the high test set by the court."

Shields had applied for a free pardon under the Royal Prerogative of mercy, which was initially rejected.

That decision was challenged in a judicial review, but in July Straw turned down his application for a free pardon.

However, Straw said at the time it was a provisional decision.

## Clark strikes gives below par U.S win in Trinidad

MIAMI—Ricardo Clark struck a 62nd minute goal as the United States laboured to a 1-0 win away to Trinidad and Tobago in their World Cup qualifier on Wednesday.

The result sends the U.S. three points clear at the top of the qualifying group for North and Central America and the Caribbean, at least until the group's other two games are played later on Wednesday.

With their loss, Trinidad's hopes of qualification formally ended as they remain routed to the bottom of the table on five points with two matches remaining.

The U.S. survived some

scars during a scrappy first half - most notably when Cornell Glen struck the cross-bar with a lob in the 29th minute.

Jozy Altidor responded with a fierce strike from distance which Trinidad keeper Clayton Ince did well to keep out.

But the home side continued to press forward and Trent Noel twice went close with free kicks just before the interval.

The U.S. who had lacked fluency and purpose in a ragged first half display, produced a sterner performance after the interval and grabbed the lead with Clark's powerful

## Bolt undecided on Asia trip, agent says

RALEIGH, North Carolina—A fatigued Usain Bolt will wait until this weekend to decide whether or not to compete in China and South Korea later this month, his agent told Reuters on Wednesday, re-buffing media reports of the world's fastest man had canceled his Asian trip.

"I have informed both organizers in Shanghai and Korea (Daegu) that I will continue to analyse his performance until after the world athletics final (in Thessaloniki, Greece on Sunday), and see how he is," Ricky Simms said in a telephone interview from London.

Triple Olympic and world champion Bolt is scheduled to run 100 metres races in Shanghai on Sept. 20 and Daegu on Sept. 25 after competing in a 200 metres at Thessaloniki.

The 23-year-old Jamaican said after recent meetings in Zurich and Brussels the long season in which he broke both his 100 and 200 metres world records has left him fatigued.

"He's a jewel in the crown of athletics... he's the golden man... and hopefully can run for 10 years, so we don't need to over race him this year," Simms told Reuters.

"Yes, he could earn good money (in Asia) but it is very important that he not over-do it this year."

"It will be pretty much after Sunday, when we make a decision," Simms said.

The trip to Asia, if he makes it, would be Bolt's

first since his eye-catching, triple gold performance at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in which he set world records in the 100 and 200 metres and led Jamaica to a world mark in the 4x100 metres relay.

Bolt shattered both individual world records with another stunning performance at last month's world championships in Berlin, running 9.58 seconds in the 100 metres and 19.19 in the 200. He also led Jamaica to the world 4x100 metres relay gold.

"We have been analysing his performances and everything since the world championships - Coach (Glen) Mills and myself - and everyone saw he was

very, very tired in Zurich," Simms said.

Bolt needed a late surge to win the 100 metres in 9.81 at Zurich on Aug. 28, but looked much stronger a week later in racing 19.57 seconds over 200 metres in Brussels.

"He ran well in Brussels, but was also complaining that it was very tough, he was getting tired," Simms said. "So we are analysing what he does the rest of the season."

Bolt made obvious after Brussels what he would like to do.

"Oh my God, I can't wait. I'm really looking forward to going home," said the sprinter, who has been on the road since July 1.

## Pantophlet pitches Antilles to 10-8 victory over Sweden

SWEDEN—Simon Pantophlet from the Cay Hill Tigers Double A team, St. Maarten was on the mound as the Netherlands Antilles faced Sweden in the first game of the 2009 World Baseball Cup yesterday.

Pantophlet threw 114 pitches as he faced 28 batters in six innings of work. He gave up two runs on five hits and Netherlands Antilles won the game 10-8. Pantophlet struck out three batters and walked six.

A total of 20 teams are competing in the first round of the Cup. Fourteen teams will advance to the second round in which Netherlands and Italy have already been seeded.

Netherlands Antilles is in group C which is playing in Sweden. In addition to the hosts, Netherlands Antilles are joined by Canada and South Korea. Netherlands Antilles face Canada Friday and South Korea Saturday.

The competition is being hosted in five countries. Group A consisting of Czech Republic, Australia, Chinese Taipei and Mexico are playing in Czech Republic. Group B are playing in Spain and consists of the hosts along with Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Republic of South Africa.

Croatia is hosting group D. The other teams in the group are Great Britain, Japan and Nicaragua. The fifth and final group playing in Germany consists of Germany, China, USA and Venezuela.

Yesterday in Sweden 1,223

people watched the Netherlands Antilles play under partly cloudy skies. The game lasted 3:25 minutes.

No runs were scored in the first two innings. In the third game Netherlands Antilles scored first off a double from right fielder Luisgado Averez who drove in two runs. In the bottom of the inning Sweden replied with one run.

Neither team scored in the fourth, fifth or six. In the seventh Netherlands Antilles had two more runs cross the plate and Sweden one.

Netherlands Antilles looked like they were going to break the game wide open in the ninth when left fielder Jair Josepita hit a grand slam. The team continued to rack up two more runs in the inning.

However, when Sweden came to bat they scored six runs to end the game with just a two run deficit.

In addition to Pantophlet Netherlands Antilles used three other pitchers. Orsendo Clemencia worked two innings. He faced 13 batters throwing 55 pitches. He allowed three runs off four hits.

Johannes Gregorius did not last an inning. He faced two batters, threw seven pitches and gave up two runs.

Ludwin Bispo pitched one inning. He threw 10 pitches to a total of three batters. He gave up one hit and one run.

In other games yesterday, Australia crushed Czech Republic 17-4, Spain blasted South Africa 15-0 and Germany beat China 14-1.

# Beijing winner Thomas joins new British Team Sky

LONDON-- Beijing Olympic gold medalist Geraint Thomas was among six British riders signed by the new Team Sky when the first members of the squad were announced on Wednesday.

Thomas, 23, who won team pursuit gold 13 months ago and was the youngest rider in this year's Tour de France, is joined by Barloworld team mates Steve Cummings and Chris Froome plus Ian Stanard, Peter Kennaugh and Tour of Ireland winner Russell Downing.

## Williams and Force India reinjoin teams association

LONDON-- Williams and Force India have rejoined the Formula One Teams' Association as full members after being suspended earlier in the season, FOTA said on Wednesday.

The association, which represents the teams as a united body in talks with the governing FIA and commercial rights holder, said in a statement after an executive committee meeting it had welcomed them back while also remaining open to new entrants.

Williams were suspended in May after they broke with the other teams and formally submitted an entry to the 2010 championship.

Force India's membership was put on hold in June after they did the same. All the teams have since signed up to a new commercial Concordo agreement binding them to the championship until 2012.

FOTA said they were now looking at extending that agreement beyond 2012, as well as looking at ways to "develop the show" for fans.

"The FOTA Executive Committee looks forward to working with the FIA and commercial rights holder to promote a healthy, dynamic and sustainable sport," said the statement, released after the executive committee meeting at Monza ahead of this weekend's Italian Grand Prix.

"To this end, FOTA intends to now enter into open discussion with the commercial rights holder with the wish to confirm arrangements beyond 2012."

expected 25-strong squad to be led by British cycling's performance director Dave Brailsford, the man behind their unprecedented cycling success in Beijing.

"It gives me huge satisfaction to announce these first riders and, as a British team, I am proud that the first on our roster are British," Brailsford said on the New-British Cycling website ([www.new-britishcycling.org.uk](http://www.new-britishcycling.org.uk)).

"We bring experience of the Tour de France, honours from the Olympics and world championships, and exciting talent."

"We can help them continue to develop in this new environment and I know that they can help Team Sky take on the best on the road and win."

Speculation continues that Bradley Wiggins, fourth in this year's Tour, might also

join in the post-season team merry-go-round but Isle of Man super sprinter Mark Cavendish looks certain to remain with his Columbia team.

Wiggins's manager at Garmin, Jonathan Vaughters, repeatedly denied during the Tour de France that the Briton would leave to join Sky in 2010.

Brailsford added on Wednesday: "...we will continue to respect all riders' arrangements with existing teams and only comment on the riders we have signed, as and when we do."

The formation of the team was announced in February with the aim of producing a British winner of the Tour de France within five years.

The team will begin racing at the start of 2010 and hopes to get an invitation to next year's Tour.

### EuroBasket preliminary group stage results/standings from Poland on Wednesday:

| Group A   |  | 71 Croatia | 81 |  |    |
|-----------|--|------------|----|--|----|
| Macedonia |  | 80 Greece  | 1  |  | 06 |
| Israel    |  |            |    |  |    |

|              | P | W | L | F   | A   | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Greece    | 3 | 0 | 0 | 268 | 202 | 6   |
| 2. Croatia   | 3 | 2 | 1 | 235 | 226 | 5   |
| 3. Macedonia | 3 | 1 | 2 | 207 | 246 | 4   |
| 4. Israel*   | 3 | 0 | 3 | 238 | 274 | 3   |

#### \* Eliminated

#### Played on Monday

|           |    |        |    |
|-----------|----|--------|----|
| Macedonia | 54 | Greece | 86 |
|-----------|----|--------|----|

|         |    |        |    |
|---------|----|--------|----|
| Croatia | 86 | Israel | 79 |
|---------|----|--------|----|

#### Played on Tuesday

|        |    |           |    |
|--------|----|-----------|----|
| Israel | 79 | Macedonia | 82 |
|--------|----|-----------|----|

|        |    |         |    |
|--------|----|---------|----|
| Greece | 76 | Croatia | 68 |
|--------|----|---------|----|

#### Group B

|        |    |        |    |
|--------|----|--------|----|
| Russia | 64 | France | 69 |
|--------|----|--------|----|

|         |    |        |    |
|---------|----|--------|----|
| Germany | 62 | Latvia | 68 |
|---------|----|--------|----|

|            | P | W | L | F   | A   | Pts |
|------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. France  | 3 | 3 | 0 | 199 | 180 | 6   |
| 2. Russia  | 3 | 1 | 2 | 218 | 213 | 4   |
| 3. Germany | 3 | 1 | 2 | 203 | 211 | 4   |
| 4. Latvia* | 3 | 1 | 2 | 187 | 203 | 4   |

#### \* Eliminated

#### Played on Monday

|        |    |        |    |
|--------|----|--------|----|
| Russia | 81 | Latvia | 68 |
|--------|----|--------|----|

|        |    |         |    |
|--------|----|---------|----|
| France | 70 | Germany | 65 |
|--------|----|---------|----|

#### Played on Tuesday

|         |    |        |    |
|---------|----|--------|----|
| Germany | 76 | Russia | 73 |
|---------|----|--------|----|

|        |    |        |    |
|--------|----|--------|----|
| Latvia | 51 | France | 60 |
|--------|----|--------|----|

#### Group C

|        |    |          |    |
|--------|----|----------|----|
| Poland | 90 | Slovenia | 84 |
|--------|----|----------|----|

|         |    |        |    |
|---------|----|--------|----|
| Britain | 59 | Serbia | 77 |
|---------|----|--------|----|

|             | P | W | L | F   | A   | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Slovenia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 236 | 218 | 5   |
| 2. Serbia   | 3 | 3 | 0 | 212 | 196 | 6   |
| 3. Spain    | 3 | 2 | 1 | 231 | 226 | 5   |
| 4. Britain* | 3 | 0 | 3 | 194 | 233 | 3   |

#### \* Eliminated

#### Played on Monday

|         |    |          |    |
|---------|----|----------|----|
| Britain | 59 | Slovenia | 72 |
|---------|----|----------|----|

|        |    |       |    |
|--------|----|-------|----|
| Serbia | 66 | Spain | 57 |
|--------|----|-------|----|

#### Played on Tuesday

|       |    |        |    |
|-------|----|--------|----|
| Spain | 80 | Serbia | 69 |
|-------|----|--------|----|

|        |    |         |    |
|--------|----|---------|----|
| Poland | 84 | Britain | 76 |
|--------|----|---------|----|

#### Group D

|        |    |        |    |
|--------|----|--------|----|
| Poland | 69 | Turkey | 87 |
|--------|----|--------|----|

|           |    |          |    |
|-----------|----|----------|----|
| Lithuania | 84 | Bulgaria | 69 |
|-----------|----|----------|----|

|              | P | W | L | F   | A   | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Turkey    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 265 | 211 | 6   |
| 2. Poland    | 3 | 2 | 1 | 245 | 240 | 5   |
| 3. Lithuania | 3 | 1 | 2 | 225 | 239 | 4   |
| 4. Bulgaria* | 3 | 0 | 3 | 213 | 268 | 3   |

#### \* Eliminated

#### Played on Monday

|        |    |           |    |
|--------|----|-----------|----|
| Poland | 90 | Lithuania | 78 |
|--------|----|-----------|----|

|        |    |          |    |
|--------|----|----------|----|
| Turkey | 84 | Bulgaria | 76 |
|--------|----|----------|----|

#### Played on Tuesday

|           |    |        |    |
|-----------|----|--------|----|
| Lithuania | 75 | Poland | 86 |
|-----------|----|--------|----|

|          |    |        |    |
|----------|----|--------|----|
| Bulgaria | 66 | Turkey | 94 |
|----------|----|--------|----|



India's captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni catches a ball during a cricket practice session in Colombo September 9. India will play New Zealand on Friday in the tri-nations one-day international cricket series.

# Kirsten urges India to target top ODI ranking

CHENNAI, India-- India coach Gary Kirsten has urged his players to focus on becoming the top one-day side, which they can do by winning every match in the one-day tri-series in Sri Lanka.

New Zealand and hosts Sri Lanka are the other teams in the event ending on Monday, a warm-up ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy starting in Kirsten's native South Africa on Sept. 22.

"We've set our goals for the next eight months on what we want to achieve but one of them is to become the best cricket team in the world," he said before the team's departure on Wednesday.

"We are headed that way and we are very excited."

Second-ranked India can overtake South Africa, one rating point ahead, if they win all the games in Sri Lanka.

However, India will be without explosive opener Virander Sehwag and bowling spearhead Zaheer Khan. Both are recovering after shoulder surgery and will be sidelined until after the

Champions Trophy. India, as holders, were knocked out in the first round of the Twenty20 World Cup in England, although they won a low key one-day series against hosts West Indies before taking a break.

Their main worry is finding the ideal opening partner for Gautam Gambhir. "We are not sure about the combination," Kirsten said. "But obviously, missing Sehwag is huge, he is a high quality player."

He welcomed back Rahul Dravid, the 36-year-old batsman who last played a one-day in October 2007 but has been recalled for the Champions Trophy after young team mates fell to short-pitched bowling at the Twenty20 World Cup.

"It's great to have him," Kirsten said. "With the sort of experience he brings, it's going to help the team, it's great."

India play New Zealand in their first game on Friday.

# Harbhajan courts punch controversy

NEW DELHI-- Indian bowler Harbhajan Singh spun into fresh controversy on Wednesday after angrily punching a hand-held television camera after the cameraman brushed against him while filming.

Indian television channels showed Tuesday's Harbhajan

in the central figure in two on-pitch rows in the last two years, hit the camera after the cameraman pushed forward while the player was retrieving luggage from a car at Bangalore airport.

India's second most successful bowler has often come under the spotlight for the wrong reasons.

Last year he was initially found guilty of racially abusing Australian all rounder Andrew Symonds before the charge was downgraded on appeal to using abusive language. A few months later he was suspended for slapping bowler Shanthakumar Sreesanth during a domestic Twenty20 league match.

There was no comment from the cricket board or Harbhajan, who was on his way to Sri Lanka for a one-day series, and then Detroit.

# Iverson heading to Memphis

MIAMI-- Ten-times NBA All Star guard Allen Iverson, currently a free agent, says he is moving to the Memphis Grizzlies.

"God chose Memphis as the place that I will continue my career," said Iverson on his Twitter account, adding that he had met with Memphis officials and head coach Lionel Hollins. "I feel they are committed to developing a winner (sic) and I know that I can help them to accomplish that. I feel that I can trust them," added Iverson who was with the Detroit Pistons last season.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal newspaper reported

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Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return shot to Fernando Verdasco of Spain during their match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, September 9.

## Wickmayer rolls into semis, Djokovic wins

NEW YORK-- Unseeded, overlooked and largely unknown on the international stage, Yanina Wickmayer moved into the semi-finals of the U.S. Open on Wednesday.

Wickmayer, who has been Belgium's top player since Kim Clijsters left the game in 2007 to start a family, bounced Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko 7-5 6-2 on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

On the men's side, Novak Djokovic edged his way into the semi-finals with a 7-6 1-6 7-5 6-2 victory over Spain's Fernando Verdasco in just over three hours amid swirling winds on the stadium court.

Danish teenager Caroline Wozniacki ended the Cinderella ride of 17-year-old American Melanie Oudin with a decisive 6-2 6-2 victory on Wednesday that propelled her into the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

Wozniacki, 19, belted deep groundstrokes off both wings and waited for Oudin to make mistakes, and the diminutive Georgian complied with a count of 43 unforced errors.

The 70th-ranked Oudin, who had won her last three matches after dropping the opening set including a third-round ouster of former champion Maria Sharapova, could not work her magic against Wozniacki, rated eighth in the world. Wozniacki, who has won three tournaments this year including the New Haven warm-up to the Open, became the first Danish woman to reach the semi-finals of a grand slam tournament since tennis professional since tennis turned professional in 1968.

As comeback mum Clijsters waltzes through the draw in her first grand slam since ending her retirement last month, Wickmayer is even taking a back-seat in her own country.

The 50th ranked Wickmayer, who has failed to advance past the first round in five of her six previous career grand slam appearances, admits to being amazed at her run.

"Before this, my best result was second round," she said. "So of course when you get to the third, fourth round, you start surprising yourself."

"But actually, I've been staying pretty calm. I've worked really hard for this."

The rash of upsets among the women has left only number two seed and three-times champion Serena Williams left in the draw among the top eight.

Djokovic, a finalist here in 2007, had 10 aces and landed 67 percent of his first serves to reach his third consecutive U.S. Open semi-final.

The fourth seeded Serb broke crucially at 5-5 in the third set and cruised through the fourth set as number 10 seed Verdasco appeared to struggle with a stomach muscle injury.

In doubles, top seeds Bob and Mike Bryan were sent off by Leander Paes of India and Czech Lukas Dlouhy, 6-4 3-6 7-6 in the semi-finals, while Serena and Venus Williams advanced to the last four in the women's draw with a 7-5 6-4 triumph over the Chinese duo of Jie Zheng and Zi Yan.

## Feldman shines as Rangers sweep the Indians 10-0

CLEVELAND-- Pitcher Scott Feldman earned his seventh consecutive victory, and 16th of the season, while Marlon Byrd and Ivan Rodriguez each homered as the Texas Rangers routed the Cleveland Indians 10-0 Wednesday.

Right-hander Feldman went seven scoreless innings at Progressive Field on the way to his 12th road win of the 2009 campaign, a club record.

He gave up five hits and two walks while striking out five to help Texas complete a three-game sweep of the Indians within 24 hours.

"I'm not doing anything different on the road than I am at home," Feldman told reporters after extending his win-loss record this season to 16-4. "The preparation is the same."

"This game can be humbling, so you try not to get too high or too low. I just go out and pitch and hope we keep playing good baseball, keep this going and keep playing into October."

The commanding win by the Rangers keeps them right on the heels of the Red Sox for the American League's wild-card berth into the playoffs, Boston having started the day two games up.

Boston were hosting the



Texas Rangers' Julio Borbon, right, slides safely into third base as Cleveland Indians third baseman Jhonny Peralta tries to make the tag in the first inning in a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 9, in Cleveland. Andrus advanced to third base on a single by Elvis Andrus.

Baltimore Orioles later on Wednesday.

The Rangers staked Feldman to a 5-0 lead in the first inning after Byrd hit a three-run home run and Rodriguez added a two-run homer to knock Indians starter Fausto Carmona out of the game.

Feldman went on to win his eighth consecutive road start, also a club record, to earn generous accolades from his team mates.

"When you have your ace on the mound, you expect to win," outfielder Byrd said. "You get a couple of runs early and you feel you have a 'W' in hand."

"He has been unbelievable

this year when he steps on the mound. He started the season in the bullpen and now he has 16 wins. He just keeps getting better."

Catcher Rodriguez added: "He's good, man. I think I've caught him three times since I've been here. He keeps the ball down, uses his breaking ball and change-up and throws everything in the strike zone. He's doing a great job."

The three-game sweep was the first by Texas in Cleveland since May 1992.

| National League |   |         |   |  |
|-----------------|---|---------|---|--|
| Cubs            | 8 | Pirates | 5 |  |
| Cards           | 5 | Brewers | 1 |  |
| Padres          | 4 | Giants  | 2 |  |

## Paraguay reach World Cup with win over Argentina

ASUNCION-- Paraguay qualified for their fourth successive World Cup finals with a 1-0 win over 10-man Argentina on Wednesday.

Striker Nelson Haedo scored just before the half hour to secure Paraguay's place in South Africa next year, sending Diego Maradona's team crashing to a third successive qualifying

defeat and their fourth loss in six qualifiers.

Paraguay climbed to second in the South American group on 30 points, with only goal difference separating them from leaders Brazil, who have a home game against Chile later on Wednesday.

Argentina, in grave danger of failing to qualify,

dropped out of the top four automatic berths, their place taken by Ecuador. They occupy fifth place which would send them into a two-leg playoff against the CONCACAF's fourth-placed team.

Haedo exchanged a one-to with midfielder Edgar Bonet in a flowing attack that scythed through the Argentina defence before fellow striker Salvador Cabanas set him up to score with a low shot past diving keeper Sergio Romero and inside the far post.

Argentina lost midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron, one of their better players in a poor team performance, eight minutes into the second half when he was sent off for a high tackle, his second bookable offence.

### World Cup South American qualifying results on Wednesday

| Paraguay    | 1  | Argentina | 0 |    |    |    |     |
|-------------|----|-----------|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Uruguay     | 3  | Colombia  | 1 |    |    |    |     |
| Bolivia     | 1  | Ecuador   | 3 |    |    |    |     |
| Standings   |    |           |   |    |    |    |     |
|             | P  | W         | D | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
| 1 Brazil    | 15 | 8         | 6 | 1  | 28 | 7  | 30  |
| 2 Paraguay  | 16 | 9         | 3 | 4  | 22 | 13 | 30  |
| 3 Chile     | 15 | 8         | 3 | 4  | 25 | 16 | 27  |
| 4 Ecuador   | 16 | 6         | 5 | 5  | 21 | 23 | 23  |
| 5 Argentina | 16 | 6         | 4 | 6  | 20 | 19 | 20  |
| 6 Uruguay   | 16 | 5         | 6 | 5  | 26 | 18 | 21  |
| 7 Colombia  | 16 | 5         | 5 | 6  | 10 | 12 | 20  |
| 8 Venezuela | 15 | 5         | 3 | 7  | 19 | 26 | 18  |
| 9 Bolivia   | 16 | 3         | 3 | 10 | 20 | 34 | 12  |
| 10 Peru     | 15 | 2         | 4 | 9  | 8  | 29 | 10  |



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### World Cup European qualifying collated standings after Wednesday's matches:

| Group One | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Moldova   | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 15 | 4  | 18  |
| Albania   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3  | 15 | 3   |
| Hungary   | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 7   |
| Portugal  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9  | 5  | 13  |

| Group Two   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Denmark  | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 4  | 18  |
| 2. Sweden   | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9  | 3  | 15  |
| 3. Portugal | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 13  |
| 4. Hungary  | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9  | 5  | 13  |
| 5. Albania  | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5  | 9  | 7   |
| 6. Malta    | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 0  | 22 | 1   |

\* Group winners qualify for 2010 World Cup finals.

\*\* The eight best runners-up across the nine groups enter the two-legged play-offs.

| Group Two      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Switzerland | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 8  | 17  |
| 2. Greece      | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 7  | 14  |
| 3. Latvia      | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 8  | 14  |
| 4. Israel      | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 17 | 12 | 12  |
| 5. Luxembourg  | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 5  | 5   |
| 6. Moldova     | 8 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 3  | 12 | 3   |

| Group Three         | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Slovakia         | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 8  | 19  |
| 2. Slovenia         | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 14  |
| 3. Northern Ireland | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 14  |
| 4. Czech Republic   | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 6  | 12  |
| 5. Poland           | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 11 | 11  |
| 6. San Marino       | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1  | 44 | 0   |

| Group Four       | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Germany       | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 4  | 22  |
| 2. Russia        | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 4  | 21  |
| 3. Finland       | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 14  |
| 4. Wales         | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 6  | 10 | 9   |
| 5. Liechtenstein | 8 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 2  | 19 | 2   |
| 6. Azerbaijan    | 8 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1  | 13 | 1   |

| Group Five | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. Turkey  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3   |
| 2. Belgium | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3   |
| 3. Estonia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0   |

| Group Six  | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. * Spain | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 2  | 24  |
| 2. Bosnia  | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 8  | 16  |
| 3. Turkey  | 8 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 8  | 12  |
| 4. Belgium | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 11 | 18 | 7   |
| 5. Estonia | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7  | 22 | 5   |
| 6. Armenia | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5  | 18 | 4   |

| Group Seven   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. * England  | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 5  | 24  |
| 2. France     | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 8  | 15  |
| 3. Ukraine    | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 6  | 15  |
| 4. Belarus    | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 10  |
| 5. Kazakhstan | 8 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 23 | 6   |
| 6. Andorra    | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3  | 33 | 0   |

| Group Eight   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Italy      | 8 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 3  | 20  |
| 2. Ireland    | 8 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 6  | 16  |
| 3. Bulgaria   | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 7  | 11  |
| 4. Cyprus     | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8  | 12 | 6   |
| 5. Montenegro | 8 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 7  | 13 | 5   |

| Group Nine       | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. * Netherlands | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2  | 24  |
| 2. Norway        | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 9  | 7  | 10  |
| 3. Scotland      | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6  | 11 | 10  |
| 4. Macedonia     | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 5  | 11 | 7   |
| 5. Iceland       | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7  | 13 | 5   |

# Impressive Spain, England seal World Cup places

BERNE-- Spain and England reached the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa on Wednesday with the sort of commanding home victories their fans have become accustomed to in qualifying.

European champions Spain maintained their perfect record with a 3-0 victory over Estonia in sweltering Merida, while England got their eighth win from eight games, 5-1 against Croatia, to join the Netherlands as qualifiers from Europe.

France had to show grit to stay in contention, holding Serbia 1-1 away despite playing for more than 80 minutes with 10 men, while Cristiano Ronaldo's chances of playing in South Africa were boosted by a 1-0 win for Portugal in Hungary.

World champions Italy need one more point after beating Bulgaria, while Scotland and Belgium were among the countries eliminated.

The winners of the nine European groups qualify directly for South Africa and the best eight runners-up play off among themselves for four more places.

England were eliminated from Euro 2008 qualifying after a 3-2 defeat by Croatia at Wembley almost two years ago but under Fabio Capello they look a different side and



Spain's Fernando Torres (L) kicks past Estonia's Tiitohh Sisov during their World Cup 2010 qualifying soccer match at the Romano stadium in Merida, September 9.

they had little trouble maintaining their 100 per cent record in Group Six.

Two goals each from Frank Lampard and Steven Gerrard and one from Wayne Rooney saw them through at Wembley, while Eduardo da Silva scored a second-half consolation for the visitors, who stayed second.

Spain have swept all before them since their win at Euro 2008 and they secured progress from Group Five with their customary clean

and goals from Cesc Fabregas, Santi Cazorla and Juan Mata.

The Dutch were the first nation to qualify but they were in no mood to take it easy against Scotland, a late goal from Eljero Elia sealing the fate of the Scots.

Serbia, needing a win in Belgrade to qualify for their first World Cup as an independent nation, were gifted a goal and one-man advantage after only 10 minutes against France but they could not get the win they needed to secure qualification.

French goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was given his marching orders after appearing to make little contact with Serbia striker Nikola Zigic in the penalty area before Nenad Milijas drilled in the penalty. France regained their composure and Thierry Henry equalised in the 31st minute. The hosts had ninth Danilo Lazovic sent off in the 90th minute for dissent.

Serbia stayed four points clear of their opponents at the top of Group Seven with two games each left. France are second with a four-point advantage over Austria and so stand a good chance of making the play-offs.

Superb goals from Fabio Grosso and Vincenzo Iaquinta gave a much-improved Italy a 2-0 win over Bulgaria in Turin and sent them four points clear of Ireland at the top of Group Eight. A draw in Ireland next month would be enough for them

to qualify. "In the first half it was a spectacle and it was entertainment," said coach Marcello Lippi, under fire for the team's recent lacklustre performances.

Germany stayed one point clear of Russia at the top of Group Four after both won to set up a Moscow showdown next month.

Miroslav Klose came on as a second-half striker for Germany and scored twice in 10 minutes in their 4-0 win over Azerbaijan after captain Michael Ballack had converted a penalty.

Lukas Podolski added a fourth while Azerbaijan had Samir Abasov sent off. Russia beat Wales 3-1 away.

Norway took advantage of Scotland's defeat in Group Nine to beat Macedonia 2-1 and sneak into second place.

Group One leaders Denmark were held 1-1 in Albania and had their lead cut to three points by Sweden, who won 1-0 in Malta.

Portugal revived their hopes with a 1-0 win in Hungary after Brazilian-born Pepe scored with a 10th minute header. That took them above their opponents on goal difference and into third place, two behind the Swedes.

"This result re-launches our campaign for the World Cup," said Pepe.

Group Two leaders Switzerland were held 2-2 in Latvia but stayed three points clear when Greece were held 1-1 by table-topper Moldova.

## ENGLAND

Continued from page 48.

ity of the passing was very, very good.

"We trained very well yesterday and the faces of the players were different," said Capello, who's team looked very fit in last Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Slovenia.

"The spirit, the concentration -- I was happy with everything," he said.

Having won all eight qualifying games to date, scoring 31 goals in the process, the inevitable question about England's chances of winning the World Cup soon came up.

"It will not be easy, I know the problems of playing in a World Cup, but we have time," he said.

"The important thing is that the physical condition is the same as it is now and we have to always play with the spirit of tonight but the expectation is always the same with England."

Croatia coach Slaven Bilic did little to dampen it when he said England could win it.

"I would like to congratulate them on a fantastic performance and, based

on tonight, then of course," he said when asked if they could go all the way.

"Even before the first goal they looked the sharper, more aggressive side and the two early goals lifted them and we became even more insecure."

Bilic said he knew his side faced a tough task without "three or four key players" but was still stunned by the apparent glint in class.

"Not in our worst nightmare were we expecting this kind of defeat," he said.

"The atmosphere in our dressing room is down, this was not a normal defeat... we simply can't find anything to hold on to."

Croatia still have a chance of finishing second in Group Six and earning a place in the play-offs. They have 17 points from nine games ahead of Ukraine on 15 from eight.

"Luckily our next game is not in three or four days," Bilic said. "Our players have good character, that has lifted us to become what we have become but we are going to come back for the game against Kazakhstan."

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# SPORTS ARENA



England's Wayne Rooney challenges Croatia's Ognjen Vukojevic (L) during their World Cup 2010 qualifying soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London September 9.

## Capello happy at last as England cut loose

LONDON— Fabio Capello said the opening 20 minutes of England's 5-1 demolition of Croatia on Wednesday was the team's best spell of the entire qualifying campaign.

England tore out of the blocks at Wembley, with and without the ball, and took an immediate stranglehold on the game.

A Frank Lampard penalty after seven minutes and a header by Steven Gerrard

effectively settled the match and secured qualification for the World Cup with two games to spare.

Another goal apiece for the two midfielders and a late one for Wayne Rooney completed the job and, following the 4-1 victory in Zagreb a year ago, brought ample revenge for Croatia's victory here in 2007 which took them to the European championship at England's expense.

That defeat spelt the end of Steve McClaren and opened the door for Capello, who has created an entirely different attitude within largely the same group of players.

"That was the best 20 minutes of the qualification games, fantastic," the Italian told reporters.

"We pressed a lot when the opponents had the ball and when we had it the goal

*Continued on page 48*



Netherlands' Dirk Kuyt (L) challenges Scotland's Steven Whittaker for a header during their World Cup 2010 qualifying soccer match at the Hampden Park stadium in Glasgow, Scotland September 9.

## Dutch complete perfect campaign

GLASGOW— A late goal from substitute Eljero Elia ended Scotland's World Cup hopes and maintained Netherlands' 100 per cent record in qualifying Group Nine with a 1-0 victory on Wednesday.

Elia pounced on a slip by defender David Weir to close in on goal, round keeper David Marshall and stroke the ball into the middle of the net eight minutes from time.

The Dutch made an impressive start with Dirk Kuyt crashing in a shot from the left which thudded high against the right post.

But Scotland responded strongly in an exciting first half with Kenny Miller coming close on two occasions.

## Farrar takes first stage of career, Valverde leads

CARAVACA DELA CRUZ, Spain— Promising American sprinter Tyler Farrar made a long dash for the line to win the 11th stage of the Tour of Spain on Wednesday.

It was a first Grand Tour stage win for the 25-year-old Garmin-Slipstream rider who crossed the line ahead of Belgian Philippe Gilbert and Italian Marco Marcato.

Spain's Alejandro Valverde remained in the overall lead as the race reached its second rest day but acknowledged his seven-second advantage on Australian Cadel Evans and 36 on third-placed Dutchman Robert Gesink was no guarantee of final victory.

"We've got three really difficult mountain stages starting Friday and I'm worried about all of them," Valverde told reporters.

"The race is entering its crucial phase and I'll have to watch Evans and Gesink like a hawk."

"I know I'm ok, but I'm sure I'm going to face some very serious attacks," added the Caisse D'Epargne rider who was born in the region of Murcia where stage 11 was held and received huge cheers as he climbed on to the winner's podium.

Farrar told reporters that given the 200-km stage's

mountainous first half, he had thought his chances would be limited.

"We had more than 3,000 metres of climbing today, but after the last ascent I was able to get back into the bunch."

"I have to thank (teammate) David Millar for the hard work he did for me throughout the stage.

"Winning today means I've fulfilled my big objective for the race, from now on anything is a bonus.

"I've been on the hunt all

season for a stage victory in a major Tour," added Farrar, who took part in the Giro d'Italia and Tour de France this year.

"I didn't win in the Tour de France, but I finished it with good form, that's why I'm winning now."

Luxembourg's Frank Schleck, fifth in the Tour de France, did not start the stage because of knee pains.

The Tour of Spain finishes on Sept. 20 in Madrid.

## White inspires Australia to six-wicket win over England

SOUTHAMPTON, England— Australian batsman Cameron White scored a trouble-free century to consign England to a six-wicket defeat in the third one-day international in Southampton on Wednesday.

Chasing England's 228 for nine, White (105) put on 143 for the third wicket with captain Michael Clarke (52) to take Australia to the brink of victory and the tourists rounded off the win with nine balls to spare.

Australian opener Tim Paine contributed with 29 and Calum Ferguson (20 not out) sealed the result as England's bowlers struggled to capture

wickets under the floodlights.

England captain Andrew Strauss once again led from the front with a solid 63 though he was poorly supported by the top order, and only Eoin Morgan (43) batting at six and Tim Bresnan (31 not out at eight) really took any fight to the Australian attack.

Mitchell Johnson bowled a controlled 10 overs, taking two scalps for 39 runs, while Shane Watson picked up three wickets later on in England's innings.

The tourists now lead the seven-match series 3-0 and a win in the fourth one-day international on Lord's on Saturday would clinch the series.



Australia's Mitchell Johnson bowls to England's Tim Bresnan (R), watched by umpire Peter Harley (C), during the third one-day international cricket match at the Rose Bowl, Southampton, Hampshire September 9.