

Crucial 'Kartel' ruling today

JUSTICE Bryan Sykes will today rule on a crucial application from the prosecution in the murder case of entertainer 'Vybz Kartel' and his two co-accused.

The prosecution yesterday made an application for the statement of its missing main witness to be read into evidence, under section 31(D) of the Evidence Act.

The application was made outside the presence of the 12 jurors, whom Sykes sent home with instructions for them to return to court today.

The entertainer's attorney, Tom Tavares-Finson, and his son Chris are representing the entertainer. Tom Tavares-Finson is to start his cross-examination of a police witness in an effort by the defence to keep out the statement.

The other lawyers —

Michael Deans (representing Lenburgh McDonald) and Tamika Harris (Nigel Thompson's attorney) — will then begin their challenge of the application.

Kartel, whose real name is Adidjah Palmer, Thompson and McDonald are being tried in the Home Circuit Court for the July 12, 2011 shooting death of Portmore, St Catherine resident Barrington 'Bossie' Bryan.

A police officer testified yesterday that he attended a post-mortem during which bullet fragments were extracted from the body of the deceased.

A civilian witness testified to identifying Bryan's body at the morgue.

The 12 jurors started hearing evidence in the case on Monday after being selected last Friday.

— Paul Henry



FAO director general visits

Director General for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Jose Graziano DaSilva (second right) and his advisor Carlos Hartog (third right) are greeted by Jamaica Agriculture Society President Senator Norman Grant (right) ahead of a special meeting hosted by the FAO with civil society partners on Monday at the Spanish Court Hotel in Kingston. Sharing in the moment is the FAO's representative in Jamaica, Dr Jerome Thomas. DaSilva, in the meeting, highlighted the need for partnerships and dynamism in Jamaica's food production and agriculture sector. The FAO director general and his advisor travelled from Rome for a 15-day Caribbean mission.

Thwaites, teachers resume monthly meetings

THE Ministry of Education and the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) have agreed to resume their regular monthly meetings which were suspended more than two months ago following comments by Education Minister Ronald Thwaites about study leave arrangements for teachers.

Thwaites and his permanent secretary, Elaine Foster-Allen, yesterday met at the ministry's head offices in Kingston with a JTA team, led by its president, Clayton Hall, during which it was agreed that the monthly talks would resume.

"Both organisations have agreed that respectful relations are the basis for collective bargaining and healthy discourse. We also recognise the need for this partnership in advancing the interest of Jamaica's children and the society at large," the ministry said in a late afternoon press release yesterday.

Hall said yesterday's discussions were very fruitful, as both groups were able to

talk about a number of matters that were played out in the media over the past two months.

"We articulated concerns from both sides and agreed on a modus operandi for future discussions and declarations," Hall told the Jamaica Observer.

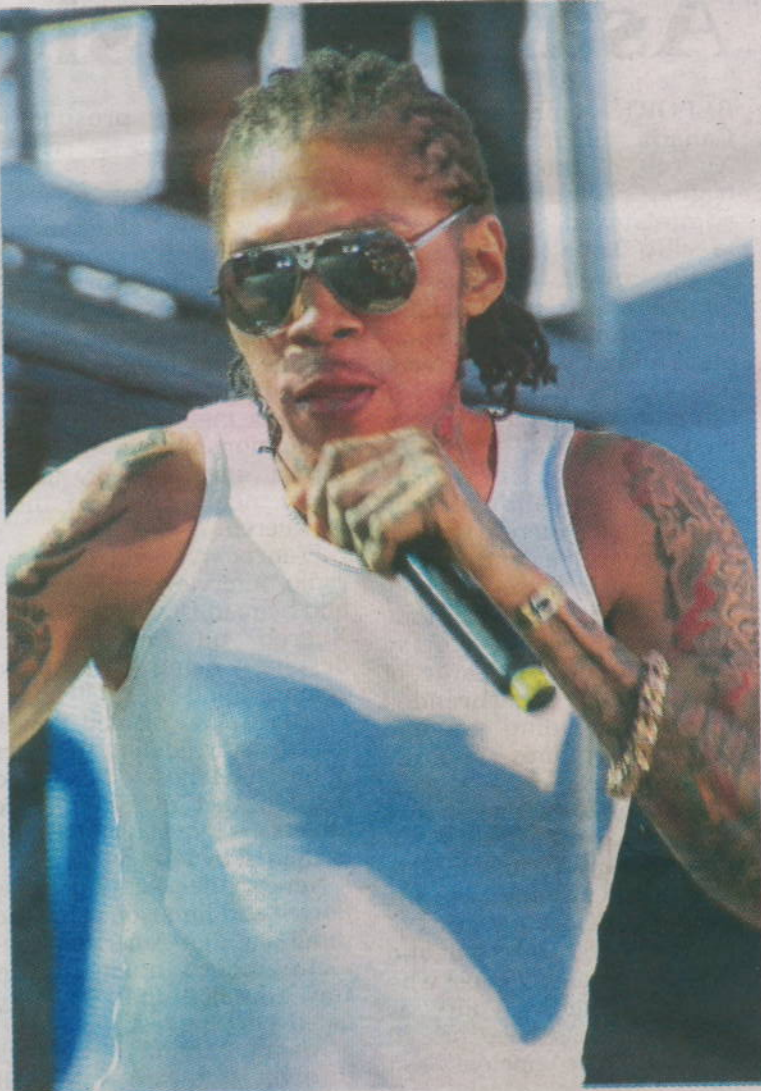
"We basically determined how we approach the resumption of the talks and how we will have these meetings conducted going forward," said Hall, who pointed out that the JTA was able to complete its parish meetings during the suspension of the meetings with the ministry.

Meanwhile, the education ministry, in its press release, said that it acknowledged the zeal exercised by the JTA in defending the interests of teachers.

"The JTA also acknowledges the serious economic constraints affecting all elements of the Jamaican economy and the need for fundamental reforms. However, the JTA

still pledges to ensure that teachers rights are met and maintained," the ministry said.

The ministry, at the same time, re-affirmed its commitment to focus on early childhood and special education, teacher quality, ICT and media in communication, as well as tertiary education as policy priorities for 2013.



KARTEL... on murder trial

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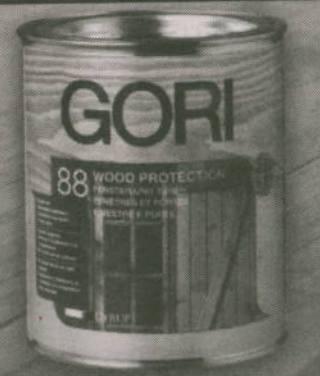


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