



Old houses in Muharraq, Bahrain's cultural treasure

The old houses in Muharraq, the Kingdom of Bahrain, are considered as a cultural treasure for the island nation. An extension of the Sheikh Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al-Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, the area includes many important structures such as the Abdullah Al-Zayed house, which was the location for the first Bahraini newspaper in the beginning of the 20th century. — KUNA



'Death ticket': More lawsuits filed over Travis Scott concert

Prominent US attorney Ben Crump announced the filing on Friday of dozens more lawsuits on behalf of people who attended the disastrous Travis Scott concert, including a woman who said she didn't know she was buying a "death ticket." Crump told reporters in Houston, where nine people died during the November 5 concert by the hip-hop artist, that he and affiliated attorneys had filed 93 lawsuits against concert promoter Live Nation and others.

"We represent more than 200 victims who were injured mentally, physically

and psychologically at the Astroworld festival," Crump said. "Some of these victims have been catastrophically injured. They witnessed people being killed. They witnessed people in agony," he said. "People were literally fighting for their life just to get out of there." "We're not going to let anybody off the hook," said Crump, who has represented the family of George Floyd and a number of other African-Americans killed by police.

At least nine people died during the crush at the concert attended by some 50,000 people at NRG Park in Houston.

Lawsuits have been filed against Live Nation; Scoremore, a Texas concert group; ASM Global, an international venue group; and others including Scott and fellow singer Drake, who took to the stage in the final 15 minutes of the concert, well after authorities had declared an emergency. Also attending Crump's press conference were several people who had gone to the concert.

"It was a nightmare day," said Gertrude Daugherty, a 59-year-old grandmother. "I never thought that going to an entertainment would turn

out to be such a disaster. "Never know that you will buy a ticket and it will be your death ticket," Daugherty said. Dishon Isaac, 31, described the scene at the concert as a "war zone." "Fights were breaking out. People were throwing water bottles," Isaac said. "We were like sardines in a can," he added. "I realized I had to get out of there or I was going to get crushed to death. "I'll never forget the look of terror on people's faces," Isaac said. — AFP



This combination of file pictures shows (left) US rapper Travis Scott arriving for the 2021 MTV Video Music Awards and (right) US rapper Drake attending the Los Angeles premiere of the new HBO series 'Euphoria'. — AFP

The Spice Girls are in confidential talks about a 2023 world tour

Mel B, Emma Bunton and Geri Horner were spotted arriving at the Mandeville Hotel in London for a meeting last week and bandmate Mel C reportedly joined in from Los Angeles via Zoom. An insider told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "The four girls have been discussing a world tour for a while, and this - very confidential - meeting was put in the diary so they could iron out the final details."

"The current plan is the tour will begin

in Australia and go from there. They are all very excited that the wheels are now in motion, and are hoping to give their fans a 2023 tour bigger and better than 2019." The group were reportedly encouraged to reunite by superfan Adele, who attended one of the concerts from their previous world tour. The insider added: "One person who will definitely be in the audience is Adele. "She is a real superfan, and told Mel seeing the girls in 2019 made her year."

Victoria Beckham did not attend the meeting but her bandmates are reportedly trying to convince her to perform during one of the concerts. Fashion designer Victoria didn't take part in the 2019 world tour and said at the time: "It took me a lot of courage not to go on tour with the Spice Girls again, but to be the one who says, 'You know, I'm not doing it because things feel different now than they used to'. "I'd rather concentrate on my family and my company." — Bang Showbiz



Spice girls

Japan's former princess Mako moves to New York with husband

Japan's former princess Mako Komuro departed for the United States yesterday with her husband, swapping ancient imperial rites for the bright lights of New York after leaving the royal family. The pair tied the knot in Tokyo last month in muted fashion, following years of tabloid gossip and online sniping over their union that Komuro said caused her "sadness and pain".

A move to the United States had long been rumored. The two 30-year-olds finally boarded a commercial flight yesterday from Tokyo to New York, where Kei Komuro attended law school and now works. Heavily guarded by police and airport officials, the couple passed before some 100 journalists and cameramen without responding to questions. Mako, the niece of Emperor Naruhito, lost her royal title when she married a commoner under post-war succession laws that also only allow male members of the imperial family to ascend the throne. After announcing their engagement in 2017, the Komuros were confronted with a barrage of reports alleging that Kei's family had run into financial difficulties.

Japan's royals are held to exacting standards, and the Imperial Household Agency said Mako developed complex post-traumatic stress disorder because of

the media attention. "I have been scared, feeling sadness and pain whenever one-sided rumors turn into groundless stories," Mako said at a press conference after their marriage. Kei said he felt "very sad that Mako has been in a bad condition, mentally and physically," declaring: "I love Mako. We only get one life, and I want us to spend it with the one we love." The

Apple. The original plan had been for Kei to travel to the United States ahead of Mako, with the former princess joining him after she got her first passport, reports said. But Kei stayed in Japan longer than expected to attend the funeral of Mako's grandfather. Japan's emperor holds no political power, but is an important symbolic figurehead. With a dwindling supply



Japan's former princess Mako Komuro (center), the elder daughter of Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko, and her husband Kei Komuro (second right) walk to their departure gate for their flight to New York at Tokyo's Haneda international airport yesterday. — AFP

controversy surrounding the pair, and their US move, has drawn inevitable comparisons with another royal couple: Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

Japanese media said the Komuros, who met at university in Tokyo, have already secured a place to live in the Big

of male royals, there has been some debate over changing the rules in Japan, with polls showing the public broadly support women being allowed to rule. But any change is likely to be slow, with traditionalists vehemently opposed. — AFP