



A Nepalese Muslim boy reacts to the camera as he waits to offer prayers on Eid Al-Fitr at a mosque in Kathmandu, Nepal, Saturday. Millions of Muslims across the world are celebrating the Eid Al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan. — AP

AC/DC's Phil Rudd accused of breaking court booze ban

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd was back in court in New Zealand yesterday, accused of ignoring an alcohol ban imposed when he was convicted earlier this month of threatening to kill an employee. The 61-year-old rocker appeared in Tauranga District Court after spending most of the weekend behind bars following his arrest on Saturday night at his North Island mansion. He entered no plea to a charge of breaking the conditions of his home detention sentence by allegedly possessing and consuming alcohol.

Rudd was granted bail to reappear on August 3 and ordered to undergo random drug and alcohol testing. During his sentencing on July 9, judge Thomas Ingram warned Rudd he would be jailed if he did not curb his wildman ways. "I stone cold guarantee that's where you'll end up.

I'm not your headmaster, I'm not your father, I'm a judge," Ingram said at the time.

He added: "The temptations of the rock star lifestyle have caused your downfall." Rudd made no comment to reporters as he left the court wearing a leather jacket with AC/DC emblazoned on the back. However, his position with the legendary band appears tenuous as he has been replaced on the current "Rock or Bust" world tour by Briton Chris Slade. His conviction also means Rudd will face difficulty travelling internationally once his sentence is complete.

Rudd's legal woes stem from threats made to his former security chief last year. He was allegedly upset about poor organization at a function to launch his solo album "Head Job" in August, calling an associate four weeks later to say he wanted the ex-employee "taken out", then phoning the man

and threatening his life. He allegedly offered the associate "NZ\$200,000 (\$130,000), a motorbike, one of his cars or a house". When police raided Rudd's waterfront mansion in November, they found 0.478 grams (0.017 ounces) of methamphetamine and 91 grams (3.21 ounces) of cannabis.

He pleaded guilty to drug possession and threatening to kill, receiving a sentence of eight months home detention, which he is appealing. Australian-born Rudd initially faced another charge of "attempting to procure murder", but it was dropped after prosecutors decided there was insufficient evidence. Rudd first joined AC/DC in 1975 and left in 1983, only to return 11 years later. He was part of the AC/DC lineup inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003 and that won a Grammy for best hard rock performance with the band for "War Machine" in 2010. — AFP



File photo shows former AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd leaves the District Court after being sentenced to 8 months home detention in Tauranga, New Zealand. — AFP



Perry "Buddy" Buie

Songwriter, music producer 'Buddy' Buie dies in Alabama

Perry "Buddy" Buie, a songwriter and producer who helped form the Atlanta Rhythm Section and then fuel its success with the lyrics he wrote for the band, has died. He was 74. Buie died Saturday, said Chip Chapman, owner of Chapman Funeral Home in Eufaula, Alabama, which is handling arrangements. A memorial service is planned for 1 pm CDT today at First Baptist Church in Eufaula, the funeral home said.

Singer Rodney Justo, one of the band's original members, remembers how Buie brought him and other musicians together to form the Atlanta Rhythm Section in the early 1970s. "He calls me one day, and he says 'I have an idea Rodney, and I'd like you to be a part of it,'" Justo recalled on Sunday. "He said 'I want to get all the top musicians in the South, put them together and build a super group.'"

"Atlanta Rhythm Section was Buddy's dream," Justo added. "He wanted a band that he could produce, manage, write songs for and to be a vehicle for his songs." The band had wide influence, and "they helped define the Southern Rock genre with other bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd," according to Buie's biography in the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Though Buie is known for his work with the Atlanta Rhythm Section, he has also written or co-written numerous hits performed by artists such as Carlos Santana (the song "Stormy"); Gloria Estefan ("Traces"); and Garth Brooks ("Mr. Midnight"), according to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

Buie, a native of Dothan, Alabama, was once Roy Orbison's road manager, Justo said. Over the years, Buie created many of his songs in a small fishing trailer on a creek in the Eufaula area, according to the biography, which credits him with writing or co-writing hundreds of songs. Eddie Owen, a longtime music promoter in the Atlanta area, said "I don't think there are many 'native' Atlantans over 40 that weren't influenced by his songs and work." Though he was involved in many aspects of the music business, "Buddy wanted to be a songwriter—that's his thing," said Justo, 70, who first met him more than 50 years ago.—AP

Meet the women from 'U.N.C.L.E.'

You might say Alicia Vikander and Elizabeth Debicki danced their way into "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." Both are former ballerinas who drew on dance backgrounds for their roles in Guy Ritchie's latest action romp. "I know I used it when I was creating my character," Debicki said. "She's a villain, but I always had this idea that she sort of almost floated." Vikander, 26, and Debicki, 24, star alongside Henry Cavill and Armie Hammer in "The Man From U.N.C.L.E.," Ritchie's slick take on the beloved 1960s TV series. Vikander is a feisty car mechanic who gets caught up in a caper with a CIA agent Napoleon Solo (Cavill) and KGB operative Ilyia Kuryakin (Hammer). Debicki is the villainess they're trying to take down.

Both actresses said Ritchie's film set was a collaborative and relaxed environment, though Debicki is convinced "Guy's brain works at a different pace (than) most human beings." She and Vikander were both surprised by the final film. "He cut it in a way that only Guy can, and he added a soundtrack that only Guy could imagine," the French-born Debicki said. "So we both had the same experience when we watched the film, like, 'Oh, that was what we made.'"

The actresses made their first trip to Comic-Con in San Diego earlier this month to promote the film and Vikander was taken by the enthusiastic fandom. "That's what I love about this place!" said the actress, who was born in Sweden. "Because everyone is the sweetest. Everyone is walking around with smiles on their faces, and so passionate. Dedicated fans. It's really amazing being here and seeing that." Asked what kind of convention might lure her across the world, Vikander laughed. "I'm such a nerd when it comes to interiors, so I would probably go and look at chairs in another country," she said. "But I don't think that a chair convention would be with as much passionate people as Comic-Con." "I'd be at the refrigerator convention," Debicki joked. "Coming from a dance background, I would probably travel out really far and wide to see a company I really wanted to see. If Pina Bausch's company were in a forest somewhere..." "I'm there!" Vikander said. "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." opens Aug 14. — AP



This photo provided by Warner Bros Pictures shows Henry Cavill, left, as Napoleon Solo, and Elizabeth Debicki as Victoria in Warner Bros Pictures' action adventure 'The Man from U.N.C.L.E.', a Warner Bros. — AP

Want to speak Australian? Just abbreviate

Travelling to Australia and want to fit in? Or just trying to understand your mates from Down Under? The Sydney pastor behind a video that has gone viral explaining the local lingo might be able to help. Josh Hawkins put the three-minute clip entitled "How to speak Australian: Abbreviate Everything" on YouTube a week ago and since then it has been viewed more than 130,000 times and even drawn praise from former Australian prime minister Julia Gillard.

Hawkins said yesterday the key to speaking Aussie is to shorten words where possible—a practice which means that even Australia itself is condensed to "Straya". "There wasn't a lot of thought behind it to be honest," he told AFP of the video. "I just thought that it would be interesting to see how many abbreviations we could come up with ... that everyday Aussies use." Simple words such as football, biscuit and chocolate become "footy", "biccyy" and "choccy"—and the general response has been amazement at how many common words are shortened in everyday use.

"For anyone who's visiting, an essential is 'G'day, how ya going?'. You can have a full conversation with just that," said

Hawkins, a pastor who works with young adults. Another essential would be understanding what Australians call a pub. "There's a few options; you can just call it 'the local'. So, 'Heading down to the local for a bevvy' (that's a beverage)," said Hawkins.

"But also you can call it the 'tav', that's short for tavern, the 'bowl', that's short for bowling club, or the 'arrie', that's short for the RSL," he added in reference to the Returned and Services League of Australia, which has hundreds of establishments around the country that serve the country's veter-

ans. There is less confusion with the word beer, but as he notes that "if you drink it out of the tin can, it's a 'tinny'".

Hawkins said he had been surprised by the huge response to the video, which was retweeted by Gillard who described it as "hilarious!" However, she noted it omitted "chuck a sickie" which means to take a sick day off work. "She's probably the queen of Aussie slang actually," he admitted. "Some of the stuff that she comes out with is what we like to call a bit bogan (uncouth). I think she's said in the past... 'Yeah, come down with the family, have a gawk, have a gander at what's going on.' "So that basically means have a look and enjoy whatever it was she was talking about." Hawkins said there were many words he had to leave out, and obviously swear words were not acceptable. But for their next video he's considering names. "We don't call anyone by their actual name. It's either a variation of their last name or something out of left field. So I would be known as 'Hawko' because my last name is Hawkins." — AFP

