



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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# BODY FOUND IN BURNT HOUSE

*believed to be owner's son; police investigating*

*Story on Page 2*



In the glory days of LIAT, the De Havilland Canada DHC-8-311 Dash 8 was a fixture in the Caribbean skies. We all knew the distinctive sound of its engines as they passed overhead. Despite the airline's many issues over the decades, everyone in the Caribbean took pride in the fact that LIAT was our own. It was how families stayed connected, how we roamed the region for our beloved festivals and carnivals, how we did business. LIAT is more than an airline. It made the region smaller. LIAT truly made us One Caribbean People.

With the arrival of the pandemic in 2019, the cracks in the operational structure of the company, which had since 1974 been held together by the sheer will and determination of the people of the region and its shareholder governments, were laid bare. Antigua and Barbuda's bold intervention in 2020 may have saved LIAT, but what is the airline without the men and women who have made it the symbol it has become? Its staff.

We can't dispute that LIAT has been given a second chance at survival, but it would be foolhardy for any of us not to acknowledge that our beloved regional airline is far from being out of the woods. (Photo credit: Konstantin von Wedelstaedt)

**Page 4 - Mary John supporter begs public to help with her legal expenses**

## Body found in Nutgrove rubble believed to be teenaged son of homeowner

The body discovered in the rubble of a burnt-out house in Nut Grove is believed to be that of a young adult male.

The discovery was made yesterday morning among the rubble, two days after an early morning blaze destroyed three houses.

Acting Superintendent of Police, Frankie Thomas who heads the communications department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (STRATCOM), confirmed, "A human body was discovered among some rubble. The discovery was made around 8:43am on Wednesday 12th January."

While the body is yet to be identified, a family member believes it may be that of 17-year-old Dequan Cummins who may have perished in the inferno.

The relative said the three houses are owned by one family. Dequan Cummins and his father Michael occupied one of them.

Dequan has not been seen or heard from since Monday morning.

DNA tests will likely be needed to confirm the identity of the body and a post mortem examination carried out to determine the cause of death.

The family member stated initially, the body was believed to be that of an animal that died in the fire, but it was quickly determined that the remains were human.

Police officers descended on the scene of the fire yesterday morning, cordoned off the area and commenced investigations.

Fire Chief Elvis Weaver said earlier this week the St. John's Fire Station received a call for response to a fire in Nut Grove at 3:40am on Monday 10th January, 2022. Upon arriving on the scene,



they discovered three wooden structures engulfed in flames. The structures affected were 21 by 13 feet, 32 by 17 feet and 10 by 10 feet in size.

He said all the structures were supplied with electricity, but the family member

said there was no electricity connected to one of the houses, where a differently abled man lived and where the fire is believed to have started.

Now two investigations are being conducted simultaneously.

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **HECTOR A. CARBELLEA RICARDO** of **Brownes avenue St Johns Antigua** is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

<p>Thu 13   Day</p> <p><b>82°</b> </p> <p>13%  SE 10 mph</p> <p>Partly cloudy skies. High 82F. Winds SE at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	<p>Thu 13   Night</p> <p><b>74°</b> </p> <p>11%  SSE 6 mph</p> <p>Mostly clear. Low 74F. Winds light and variable.</p>
<p>Humidity <b>66%</b></p> <p>UV Index <b>8 of 10</b></p>	<p>Humidity <b>75%</b></p> <p>UV Index <b>0 of 10</b></p>
<p>Sunrise <b>6:39 am</b></p> <p>Sunset <b>5:52 pm</b></p>	<p>Moonrise <b>2:28 pm</b></p> <p>Moonset <b>3:01 am</b></p> <p>Waxing Gibbous</p>

# A&B ranks 30th on 2022 Henley Passport Index

Antigua and Barbuda has ranked 30th on the 2022 Henley Passport Index, a fall of one place since 2021.

The Henley Passport Index, prepared annually by Henley & Partners, is widely accepted as the global authority on passport ranking based on how many destinations their holders can access without the need for a visa. The index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.

“The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world’s largest and most accurate database of travel information, and is enhanced by the Henley & Partners Research Department.

“The index’s scoring system was developed to give users a nuanced, practical, and reliable overview of their passport’s power. Each passport is scored on the total number of destinations that the holder can access vi-

sa-free. For each travel destination, if no visa is required, then a score of 1 is allocated for that passport. This also applies if passport holders can obtain a visa on arrival, a visitor’s permit, or an electronic travel authority (ETA) upon entry,” Henley & Partners explained.

Antigua and Barbuda’s fall this year is the result of the country’s passport giving its holders access to 150 countries in 2022 as opposed to 151 in 2021.

Among nations in the region that offer a Citizenship By Investment Programme, Antigua and Barbuda comes in second to St. Kitts and Nevis which ranks 24th on the index with visa free access to 157 countries.

It is followed by St. Lucia in 31st place (146) with Grenada and Dominica tying at 33 (144).

Overall however, among CARICOM nations Barbados leads in 23rd place with visa free access to 161 countries.

The introduction of Residence By Investment by many countries has increased the importance of strong passports which in turn make them more attractive to potential investors.

According to Henley & Partners, “For individuals, the key benefits of holding an alternative passport include expanded travel mobility, access to business and educational opportunities on a global scale, ease of asset diversification, and improved safety and security in a rapidly changing world.

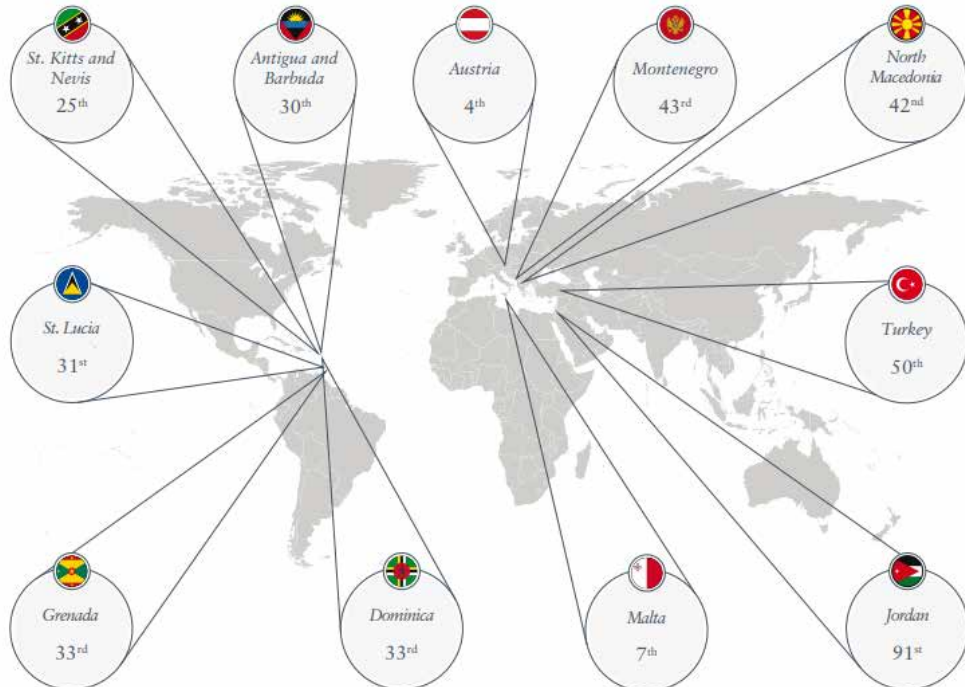
For host countries, the foreign direct investment secured through investment migration programs creates both sovereign and societal value. Debt-free liquidity is injected into the economy, resulting in additional capital flows both to the public sector — encouraging fiscal autonomy, diversifying the economy, and creating employment opportunities — and to the private sector, in the form of investments in existing enterprises, infrastructure, start-ups, and real estate.”

For several years running, Japan and Singapore have tied for the top spot on the Henley Passport Index offering their citizens access to the strongest travel document in the world. Their holders can travel to 192 nations without a visa.

Germany and South Korea are second with visa free travel to 190 countries while Finland, Luxembourg, Spain and Italy are in third place with access to 189 nations.

Ranking 95th, Haiti has the weakest passport in the Caribbean with visa free access to only 48 countries.

The weakest passports in the world belong to Yemen 107th (33) Pakistan 108th (31) Syria 109th (29) Iraq 110th (28) and Afghanistan 111th (26).



Passport rankings of countries hosting citizenship by investment programmes (Credit: Henley & Partners)

# Mary John supporter begs public to help with her legal expenses

David Boyd, a Canadian supporter of self-proclaimed social activist Mary John, has launched a GoFundMe campaign to help with her legal troubles.

John is presently on bail, charged with an offence under the Electronic Crimes Act in connection with a social media post she made on 4th October, 2021.

Following the homicide of Piccadilly resident, Jane Finch, in October 2021, John posted the name, personal details and photo of a woman whom she alleged was responsible for the crime. Minutes after it was published, John removed the post when she apparently learned that the person she accused was not the person ultimately implicated in the crime. But the damage was done as the original post went viral.

John's victim claims that she received threatening messages and was the target of other forms of intimidating contact from people who believed Mary John's inaccurate post.

The woman John blasted and the woman now in police custody share similar names.

John did issue an apology to the wrongfully implicated woman, however it was followed by another very defiant post in which she accused her victim's aunt, Eurenda Jeremiah, of being "unfair" to her when

the family responded in their own social media post to John's error.

In an attempt to minimise the damage she caused, John said she removed the post after "30 seconds", used the word "allegedly" and issued an apology.

She continued that she offered to pay legal fees for the victim to consult with lawyers she recommended to them and tried to convince Jeremiah that "she has no grounds for a lawsuit."

In her post on 5th October, John openly stated that she told Jeremiah that she could lodge a complaint against her with the Criminal Investigation Department as comments under Jeremiah's post in defence of her niece, John's victim, were in violation of the Electronic Crimes Act which "will drag her into a long drawn out back and forth with CID and the Magistrates' Court."

John also accused the victim of having an "agenda".

In what turned out to be the mother of all Uno reverse cards, John ended up being the one to run afoul of the Electronic Crimes Act.

In a Magistrate's Court appearance on 4th January Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh revoked John's station bail and ordered new bail conditions which increased John's bail to \$10,000, requires her to report to the



Mary John

police station three times per week where she must sign in, and as a further condition of her bail, she was required to surrender her passport.

Chief Magistrate Walsh also warned John not to use her social media pages to commit any offence in contravention of the Electronic Crimes Act or her bail will be revoked.

It is these circumstances that led Boyd to launch the GoFundME which has a goal of CAD\$31,500 (USD\$25,184.56) which he

says will be used to help John cover her legal expenses. Boyd also wagged a finger at authorities who he suggested were out to get John.

"Law enforcement and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), with whom she has had a rocky relationship in recent years, has thrown the book at her," Boyd wrote.

So far the fundraiser has received CAD\$900.

Mary John returns to court on 24th March for committal proceedings.

## Stand and deliver

By *Tony Deyal*

Robin Williams, the actor/comedian asked, “Why do they call it ‘rush hour’ when no one moves?” I use his line frequently, especially when I am at a standstill on the highway leading into any of the major Caribbean capitals, especially Kingston, Bridgetown or Port-of-Spain. Generally, I always have time for stand-up when its told but not when it takes too much of a toll on my patience, time and temper. This is why, in moments like these, I revert to my memory and pull out some of the greats like George Carlin who asked, “Would a fly without wings be called a walk?” or Ellen DeGeneres who advised, “Go to bed in your fireplace, you’ll sleep like a log.” I love the opposing views of Chris Rock who was adamant, “There are only three things women need in life: food, water and compliments” versus Trevor Noah who recalled, “When I asked my trainer at the gym which machine I should use to impress beautiful women he pointed outside and said the ATM machine.” I think of just leaving the car on the road and walking out like Tommy Cooper who boasted, “You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen, it said ‘Parking Fine.’”

Rodney Dangerfield was one of my favourite stand-up comedians with lines like “I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous... everyone hasn’t met me yet.” and “I was so depressed that I decided to jump from the tenth floor. They sent up a priest. He said, ‘On your mark...’”. I loved George Burns as well, especially his warning to old men, “Sex at age 90 is like trying to shoot pool with a rope.” However, my favourite from that time and genre of stand-up was Henny Youngman who had lines like, “Someone stole all my credit cards, but I won’t be reporting it. The thief spends less than

my wife did.” and “I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back.” He also revealed, “I’ve been in love with the same woman for forty-one years. If my wife finds out, she’ll kill me.” There were also others like, “My wife dresses to kill. She cooks the same way.”; “My wife is a light eater. As soon as it’s light, she starts to eat.”; “My wife and I went to a hotel where we got a waterbed. My wife called it the Dead Sea.”; and “I bought my wife a little Italian car. A Mafia. It has a hood under the hood.”

Interestingly, stand-up was not always comedy. It started with British Highwaymen who, with a gun pointed at you, either demanded your money or your life, or told you to “Stand and deliver.” This is why I disagree with comedians like Dangerfield and Youngman when they follow a line like, “No respect, no respect!” with “Take my wife. Please!” In their place I would say, “Take my Prime Minister, please!”

The American-based “Economist” magazine recently pointed out that the boundaries between politics and stand-up comedy are crumbling and while comics are running for office, politicians are trying to be funny. In the Caribbean, they don’t even have to try especially since most of them seem to be neck deep in funny business. Freedom House, a group which believes that freedom flourishes in democratic nations where governments are accountable to their people, have found the same problems over several years in three Caribbean countries- Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago. Jamaica is the same since the 2017 report, “Corruption remains a serious problem, and long-standing relationships between officials and organized crime figures are thought to persist. Violent crime remains a concern...” In Trinidad and Tobago for the same period, “organized crime contributes to high levels of violence, and corruption



*Tony Deyal*

among public officials remains a challenge...” The Barbados overview for 2018-2021 reads, “Challenges include official corruption and a lack of government transparency...” In other words, the problem in the Caribbean with political jokes is that they often get elected.

Fortunately, Freedom House is not the only place where freedom reigns. It is very much alive and kicking in the stand-up comedy world. Jon Stewart asks a question that resonates in the region, “You wonder sometimes how our government puts on its pants in the morning” or, as the social commentator and comedian Will Rogers explained, “I don’t make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.” I like the view that “the word ‘politics’ is derived from the word ‘poly’, meaning ‘many’, and the word ‘ticks’ meaning ‘blood sucking parasites’.” There are two other observations that I find relevant, “When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators” and “Politics make strange bedfellows RICH.”

I was considering the situation in Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean and compared it with a comment made by the Canadian/American comedian Mort Sahl. He believed, “Reagan won because he ran against Jimmy Carter; if he ran unopposed, he would have lost.” Is there any Caribbean coun-

*cont’d on pg 6*

## Man accused of causing 2017 dangerous driving death freed

A High Court Judge has upheld a no-case submission filed on behalf of a man who was charged approximately four years ago with causing death by dangerous driving.

Charles Powell was freed of the charge after the judge ruled in favour of his Attorney Warren Cassel who filed the no case submission on his client's behalf.

Powell was charged with the offence in 2017 after the garbage truck he was driving struck and killed a 17-year-old youth on July 6 that year.

The truck crushed Stephen Perez while he was working with Powell in the



Scotts Hill area.

Reportedly, Powell, who was 59-years-old at the time, lost control of the truck when another vehicle sped past him over the hill toward Potters.

Powell's garbage truck was be-

ing sub-contracted by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) to collect refuse in Scotts Hill. Perez, who was residing at Tindale Road, was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Representing the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in the matter was Crown Counsel Radisda Jonas. Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Anthony Armstrong has hinted at an appeal in the matter.

The DPP's office will begin working on the grounds of appeal once it is in receipt of the judge's reasons for the exoneration.

*cont'd from pg 5*

try where this is not also a very strong possibility, especially given the Freedom House reports and the certainty that if the same people do the same things the same way, nothing will change? But then, as George Carlin warned, don't expect too much, "Just because you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town." In other words, when you ask how many Caribbean politicians it takes to change a light bulb the answer is, "Two: one to change it and another to change it back again."

There is even more concern when lawyers are either candidates or brought in through the back-door of the Senate of some countries and then become Ministers of Government. This goes way back in time. An old joke starts with, "What do you call a lawyer with an IQ of 100?" The answer is, "Your Honour." Then it goes, "What do you call a lawyer with an IQ of 50 or less?" The most recent answer in Trinidad is, "Attorney General". I heard another one that can apply in these COVID days. One person called me and said, "If ignorance, like oil prices, goes to seventy US dollars a barrel, I

want the drilling rights to the head of the Minister of Health."

The interesting thing is that these very negative comments about politics and politicians are not new. Around 425BC the Greek philosopher Plato warned, "One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors." Aesop was not telling a fable when he pointed out, "We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office." And George Will, the American political commentator, made it clear many years later, "Voters don't decide issues, they decide who will decide issues." Or, as Emma Goldman the political activist stressed, "If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal." If you're still not with me, go with the advice of actress and activist, Shirley MacLaine, "Never trust a man when he's in love, drunk, or running for office."

\*Tony Deyal was last seen saying that we should learn from Freedom House and British Highwaymen. Stand up and demand our rights, and then force our politicians to deliver.

## Jury trials adjourned due to COVID-19

Jurors who were summoned to appear before the High Court of Justice on 18th January are being advised that this date has been adjourned to 21st January, 2022. This decision applies only to jury trials as the Court has indicated that judge only trials will proceed as scheduled on 18th January.

The notice was issued by the High Court this week to jurors who have been asked to serve during the upcoming Criminal Assizes.

According to a statement from the court on Tuesday, the decision was taken "due to the recent outbreak in COVID-19 cases and the difficulties associated with preventing the spread of the very contagious Omicron variant."

The statement continued, "The situation will be assessed during this time and new directives will be issued advising of any further changes to be made."

## More than 100 new COVID-19 cases reported

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment is reporting 111 confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda.

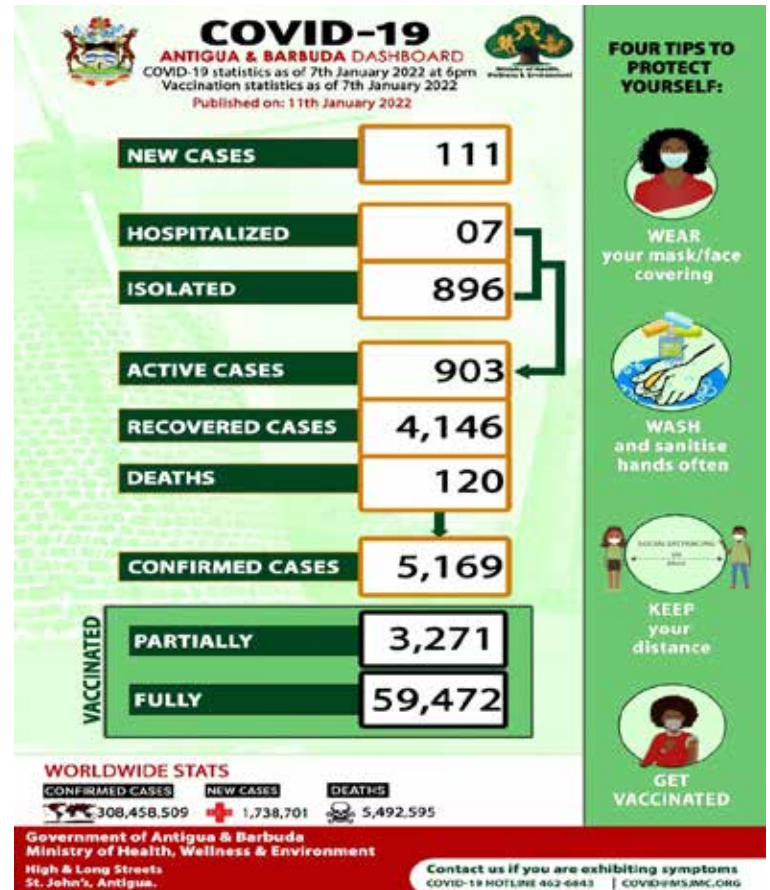
This brings the number of active cases to 903.

This information was made available in the latest COVID-19 dashboard published on 11th January, 2022, however, the statistics are those as of 7th January at 6pm.

The ministry further revealed 128 samples were processed while 28 recovered cases were recorded.

As a result, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is 5,169.

There are 7 hospitalised cases; 4 of which are exhibiting moderate symptoms of the disease with the remaining 3 considered mild.



**ICC U19 MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP WEST INDIES 2022**

**BE THERE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

**SUPER LEAGUE**

Quarter-final 1	January 26	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Quarter-final 4	January 27	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Quarter-final 3	January 28	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Quarter-final 2	January 29	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Loser QF 2 v Loser QF 3	January 30	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Loser QF 1 v Loser QF 4	January 31	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
<b>Semi-final 1</b>	February 1	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
<b>Semi-final 2</b>	February 2	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
5th / 6th Play-off	February 3	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
7th / 8th Play-off	February 3	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
3rd / 4th Play-off	February 4	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
<b>Final</b>	February 5	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

\*QF = Quarter Final

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## HRPAB celebrates 11th anniversary

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is celebrating its 11th anniversary this year, albeit in a very scaled back manner due to the pandemic.

In an appearance on Pointe on De Streetz on Pointe FM on Wednesday, Miguelle Christopher Ed.D., who is one of the organisation's fifty-five members, explained that the group is made up primarily of HR professionals operating in Antigua and Barbuda.

HRPAB also welcomes persons in organisational leadership positions from both the private and public sectors who may not have formal human resources training to become members of the group in order to draw upon the support and wealth of knowledge and information shared among its members.

Dr. Christopher explained the HRPAB's goals for its membership and the community.

"Our main aim really is to build the profession in Antigua and Barbuda and to do that we attempt to build the skills, the level of professionalism, of our members so that they can in turn go back to their organisations and really ensure that the human resource function has a positive impact on the organisation.

"But we also raise awareness of the profession, of the HR function. A lot of people don't always

understand the range of responsibilities that an HR professional has," she outlined.

A part of their public effort to raise awareness, while also sharing valuable information comes in the form of a bi-monthly written feature which is published online and in news publications including Pointe Xpress.

Dr. Christopher continued that the group spends considerable time working with young people, many of whom are preparing to enter the workforce or who are new to the world of work.

"We also spend a lot of time with young people because as HR professionals, we are the ones who see the new hires, the new employees coming into the organisation and we want to give our young people here in Antigua and Barbuda that edge, that advantage, to be able to impress us when they come to the organisation," she said.

Dr. Christopher also clarified some common misconceptions about HR professionals including that they are only there to be wardens of a company's employees or the disciplinarians.

To the contrary, she noted that an HR professional's job is to see to the needs and wellbeing of a company's most valuable resource; its staff. In fact she explained that in a healthy organisation, while disciplinary ac-



*Dr. Miguelle Christopher*

tion is at times necessary, it should never be the first course of action taken.

"One of the roles of the profession is to recognise and understand that people are whole people. When you come to the organisation, you're not just coming as a worker. You're not leaving your other roles at the door. There are some there running around in your head. So we provide that kind of support to employees to ensure that when they do come to work that they are coming balanced and in a frame of mind to work.

"The human resource role within the organisation is about ensuring that the values of the organisation are upheld. If honesty and integrity and accountability and all of those things are important values in the organisation, part of our role is to ensure that persons understand the importance

of those values and that in their everyday work experience they are reflecting those values," she said.

HRPAB can be found on Facebook and Instagram by searching for "HR-PRO268". They can be contacted via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com.

As part of the activities marking their 11th anniversary, HRPAB will visit Wallings at 6am this Saturday where they will plant trees.

Next Wednesday, the organisation will stage a virtual meet and greet. This route was taken as HRPAB has suspended face to face meetings due to the pandemic.

During the virtual meet up however, they are welcoming persons who may be interested in joining the organisation to participate. The link to the meet and greet will be published later this week.



## Why workplace frenemies are our most stressful colleagues



By David Robson

*You and your colleague have a love-hate relationship. Why does this friendly-ish, ambivalent grey area make you so anxious?*

Among immediate colleagues, it's easy to spot two groups of people: genuine friends, who make each workday a little brighter; and sworn enemies – the people who will deliberately make your life hard for no reason. But what about all those people in the middle?

These colleagues may offer a sympathetic ear to your woes, but then go and gossip about them behind your back. Or they'll defend you from criticism, but then take sole credit for a joint project, erasing your contributions without a backward glance. They help and they hurt in equal measure; they are frenemies, or "ambivalent relationships".

In the past, workplace psychologists had tended to take a black and white view of our relationships with our colleagues, while ignoring the many grey areas of our social networks. Yet the latest research shows that our frenemies are equally, if not more, important than the people at either extreme of the spectrum – with unique consequences for our health, wellbeing and our behaviour in the workplace. And by understanding their complexities, we can all learn to navigate office politics

more wisely – as well as potentially reduce the stress they cause.

The good, the bad and the ugly

There is no doubt true friends bring enormous benefits to our overall health and wellbeing. A huge scientific literature now shows our social connections can raise our self-esteem and help us to recover from stress more quickly. This not only reduces our risk of mental illness, but also reduces risk of physical disease and death. Unsurprisingly, the wholly negative relationships in our lives have the opposite effects: research shows that psychologically abusive colleagues or family members can be enormously detrimental to our overall health.

It is only within the past decade or so that scientists have started to look at those people in between – the ambivalent relationships that may have good and bad sides – and the effects that they have on our lives. To do so, they have developed simple questionnaires that ask participants to rate how helpful, and how upsetting, their friend is on a scale of 1 (not at all) to six (extremely).

Depending on the answers to each question, the researchers can establish whether the relationship is supportive, aversive or ambivalent. According to Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, US, a supportive friend would score 2 or more on the positive trait, and 1 on the negative trait, where an aversive friend would be the opposite. An ambivalent relationship – or frenemy – would score at least 2 on both measures.

Using these categories, researchers like Holt-Lunstad have then been able to identify how our reactions to frenemies differ from the other kinds of relationships.

Naively, you might expect the effects of ambivalent friendship to fall between the supportive and aversive relationships: the good and bad simply cancel each other

out, so that the overall impact is neutral. But this is not the case. In multiple experiments throughout the past 10 years, Holt-Lunstad has shown that interactions with frenemies can heighten our stress responses – compared to both supportive and aversive relationships. And over the long term, that seems to provoke worse cardiovascular health.

The problem lies in the inherent uncertainty of their responses. We may crave their approval or support, but we know it may not be forthcoming – so we are constantly on tenterhooks. And if they do respond badly, their offensive behaviour – or their simple lack of interest – will hurt us so much more than the behaviour of someone we simply dislike.

Holt-Lunstad estimates that the average person has as many frenemies as friends. Despite this research, however, many sociologists and psychologists continue to ignore them. "While there is greater recognition of the importance of relationship quality, there is still the perception that it is just about negativity versus positivity," says Holt-Lunstad, who recently published a review article outlining her findings. "But there is still underappreciation of how relationships with both positive and negative aspects can influence health and wellbeing."

Frenemies at work

If frenemies, in general, have been understudied, then their role in workplace politics is even less well understood. This is a shame, since many job environments may be particularly ripe for the creation and maintenance of ambivalent relationships.

"Organisations often force us into interactions with people we wouldn't choose to have in our social networks," says Shimul Melwani, an associate professor of organisational behaviour at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US.

*cont'd on pg 10*

*cont'd from pg 9*

In some cases, it is the sense of professional competition that injects negativity into the working relationship. You may find your colleague to be very likeable, for example, and you would happily go for a drink with them. Yet you feel betrayed when they apply for the same promotion as you. “It’s normal that people want to get ahead but also get along with their colleagues at the same time,” says Naomi Rothman, an associate professor of management at Lehigh University at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, US.

Melwani and Rothman recently teamed up on a series of studies that examined these dynamics in more detail, the results of which were published in September 2021.

For one experiment, they first asked participants to engage in a “Fast Friends Procedure” that involve answering a series of personal questions to a complete stranger, such as listing their proudest achievements.

Previous research had shown that this procedure can quickly build feelings of emotional connection. After a few minutes, however, Melwani and Rothman spiced things up. While a third of participants could continue in a purely positive vein – describing what they liked about each other – another third had to say what they didn’t like about the other person, inserting some distinct negativity. The rest were given a more ambiguous task – to evaluate each other’s achievements and compare them to their own – which created a sense of competition.

After these initial conver-

sations, the participants were asked to write a blog post about their institution, which their partner then edited. They were then given the opportunity to provide written feedback about the partner’s performance – both to that person directly, and privately to the researchers.

As expected, the initial conversations shaped the nature of the fast-formed relationships. The questions that encouraged positive or negative talk created supportive or aversive relationships, while the competitive interactions triggered ambivalent feelings between the partners.

And that, in turn, shaped their behaviour in interesting ways. The “frenemies” made more effort with the editing of each other’s writing than both the aversive groups and the supportive groups, for instance. “They really went above and beyond what they were asked to do,” says Melwani. Yet they were also more likely to pass on negative feedback to the researchers – essentially tarnishing their partner’s reputation in the eyes of the scientists.

It’s easy to understand why aversive partners made the least effort to edit each other’s work – they simply didn’t care – whereas the frenemies had at least formed some feelings of goodwill. The fact that the ambivalent partners also made more effort than the purely supportive partners is surprising, however. Surely the newly-formed BFFs should have been the most co-operative?

Melwani suspects that the extra helpfulness may help the frenemies to resolve the inherent tension in the ambivalent relationships – the wish to



maintain cordiality even in the face of annoyance and upset. “They don’t want this relationship to become entirely negative,” she says, and so they make up for their bad feelings by making the additional effort to improve their partner’s work.

Melwani and Rothman’s next study questioned US retail employees about their colleagues. She found that the nature of the ambivalent relationships depended on people’s desires for closeness. The more people wanted to establish a connection with their frenemy, the more likely they were to both help and hinder their partner in their work.

In other words, the positive intentions meant that every element of the relationship – good and bad – was more intense. “It makes the ambivalence more salient,” explains Melwani.

**Clearing the mess**

Managers might take note of these findings, says Melwani. Bosses could look for measures to reduce the feeling of competition among colleagues, for example, which may root out one of the causes of ambivalence, and ensure that relationships remain more

supportive.

For the individual, Melwani hopes greater awareness of these dynamics could help us to manage our more difficult colleagues. We have quite short memories, she says, which means our feelings for our work frenemies can be easily swayed by our colleague’s latest actions, without necessarily recognising that the ambivalence is a long-lasting pattern and one of the core characteristics of the relationship. Once we realise this, we might then assess whether the benefits outweigh the potential for upset, and whether we are perhaps being a bit too needy for their respect or affection.

Remember that Melwani’s research shows that your desire for closeness will amplify the ambivalent feelings. And so, if you are starting to feel too stressed by the relationship, you might aim to become a bit more realistic in your expectations of what your frenemy will provide, without necessarily cutting them out of your life altogether.

Sometimes we have to accept that while someone will never be a close friend, they are worth holding onto nonetheless – at a distance. (BBC)

## Guyana increases rice exports, over US\$201 million earned

CMC - Guyana says it has been able to expand its market share in the sale of rice overseas with the country being able to sell the product in three new countries including two in Europe.

Agriculture Minister Zulfikar Mustapha said that Guyana is now providing the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Estonia and Slovenia with rice since last year and remains optimistic that the demand for the product will heighten this year as the government intends to increase investments in the sector.

“We have increased our market to those three countries, we now have close to about 42 countries where we are exporting rice and we are looking to improve on that,” Mustapha said.

Guyana said that notwithstanding the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic



Rice being harvested in Guyana (Photo: Guyana Rice Development Board)

as well as the devastating floods in May and June, revenue from the industry was estimated at US \$201 million with approximately 434,535 tons of rice being exported.

A government statement said that the agriculture sector was also able to contribute some GUY\$2.6 billion (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.004 cents) to the country's Gross Domestic

Product (GDP) in 2021 from the exportation of non-traditional crops.

“The other crops sector has made a significant contribution to the country's GDP... when I mean other crops, things that people look forward to, like small crops, they call it cash crops... we have seen a contribution of \$2.6 billion,” Mustapha added.

Mustapha said the floods

had prevented the sector from contributing more to the country's GDP.

“But I think that we are moving aggressively now, and we are more on the verge of making our contribution and our mark in the Caribbean market.”

The government said it had distributed GUY\$7.8 billion in assistance to more than 50,000 farmers affected by the floods.

## SKN Labour Party leader Drew, calls for Tourism Minister Grant to resign

Loop - Leader of the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party, Dr Terrance Drew, has ramped up calls for the resignation of government Minister Lindsay Grant with the staging of a one-man protest outside government headquarters in St. Kitts on Wednesday.

Armed with a placard with the printed words “RESPECT THE RULE OF LAW. RESIGN NOW MR.

GRANT! ...GUILTY OF LAWLESS CONDUCT! GUILTY OF STEALING! LEAVE OFFICE NOW!”, Dr Drew stood at the entrance of government headquarters garnering attention from passersby and government officials whose offices are located within the building.

The protest comes following Dr Drew's written statement calling for

Grant's resignation following an altercation that took place on the weekend between the government minister and officers of the St. Kitts Nevis Covid19 Task Force. In videos circulating on social media, Grant's voice can be heard threatening to 'wrought up' police officers as they ask him to excuse himself. The video also shows

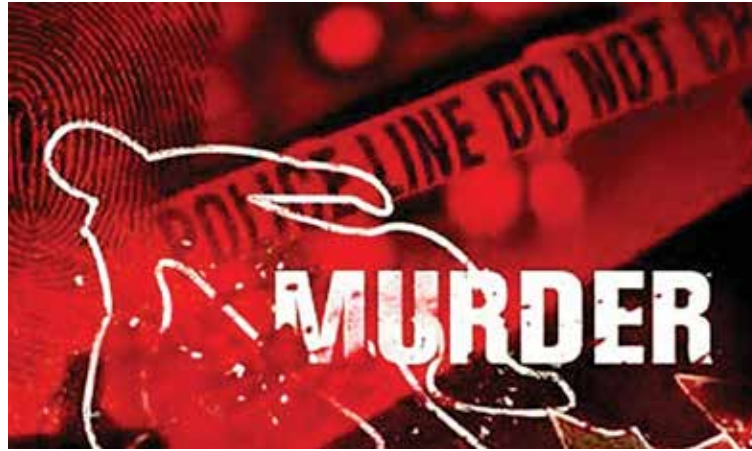
*cont'd on pg 12*

# Over 90 People Awaiting Trial For Murder In Saint Lucia

St. Lucia Times - As Saint Lucia continues to experience the impact of COVID-19, the office of Saint Lucia's Director of Public Prosecutions has not prosecuted a single murder case since January 2020.

"There are over 90 persons awaiting trial for the offence of murder while we continue to struggle with the difficulty of finding appropriate housing for our courts," DPP Daasrean Greene disclosed.

His remarks came in an address Tuesday during the virtual launch of the 2022 law year.



Greene explained that COVID-19 pandemic restrictions constrain jury trials.

He disclosed that none of the courtrooms could accommodate the number of jurors required to try mur-

der offences while observing physical distancing measures.

Saint Lucia is experiencing the pileup of murder cases against the backdrop of a record number of homicides in 2021.

"I remain hopeful that the difficulty in providing suitable housing for the court will not continue this year and that my office will be in a position to significantly reduce the number of pending murder trials," the DPP said.

And he explained that it was a matter of great concern that the remand population at the Bordelais Correctional Facility (BCF) 'significantly surpasses' its penal population.

According to the DPP, the BCF currently has 327 individuals on remand compared to 127 in its penal population.

*cont'd from pg 11*

a blurred image of Grant stepping toward the camera forcing an end to the video. A female police officer has alleged that Grant hit her during the same altercation.

The news of Drew's protest has been met with positive and negative opinions on social media with one person posting "Yeah, if you want people to follow you, you must show the way! I like this."

Another said, "It's a vexing issue for real. Thank you Drew for standing up for our women."

"One shall lead thousands. It shows that he doesn't need a crowd to do anything. He believes in principle and does what is needed to see that people do what is right and just," another posted.

There were some persons who were not impressed.

"Drew should concentrate on getting respect from his party and leave this Grant story alone. Truth be told by the weekend this story will be history but the majority of his party members will still not respect his leadership."

Another said "So wait... where the supporters? This is not a good look Drew. Douglas would never. So no Curtis? No Shack? All dem other ppl home nar do nutting. Big labour leader n you alone dung dey..."

One supporter replied with "How ain't a good look??? He standing for what he believes is right... He go with a crowd den oru go say how he breaking covid regulations... WORRY ABOUT GRANT... Drew is and will always be fine!"



SKNLP Leader, Dr. Terrance Drew

## Prince Andrew rejected in effort to get US sexual abuse case dismissed

The Guardian - Longtime Prince Andrew accuser Virginia Giuffre's sexual abuse lawsuit against him can move forward, as a New York judge rejected the royal's efforts to dismiss her civil claim on Wednesday.

Giuffre, who has alleged that the late financier Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell sexually abused her, said they forced her into sex with the Duke of York at age 17. She filed suit against the royal on 9 August, citing battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Prince Andrew's legal team had argued in court papers and proceedings that Giuffre's 2009 settlement with Epstein shielded him from her lawsuit. The settlement, which was unsealed on 3 January, awarded Giuffre \$500,000.

Their agreement contained a provision that stated: "Second parties and any other person or entity who could have been included as a potential defendant ... from all, and all manner of, action and actions of Virginia [Giuffre], including state or federal, cause and causes of action."



Prince Andrew last year. Virginia Giuffre alleges Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell forced her into sex with the duke when she was 17. Andrew denies the allegation. (Photograph credit: Reuters)

Andrew was not mentioned by name in this settlement.

Kaplan's decision deals yet another blow to the embattled British prince, whose reputation and standing within the royal family has been saddened by his ties to Epstein and Maxwell.

High-profile criminal proceedings against Epstein and Maxwell over the past two years have further damaged his reputation.

Maxwell, the daughter of the late British press titan Robert Maxwell, was found guilty of five counts for luring girls as young as 14 into Epstein's

world for him to sexually abuse.

Epstein, a convicted sex offender who in addition to Prince Andrew, counted former presidents Bill Clinton and Donald Trump in his circle, killed himself in a Manhattan jail about a month after his July 2019 arrest on sex trafficking charges.

Giuffre has claimed that Prince Andrew was "sweating profusely all over me" at a London nightclub on a night when they allegedly had a sexual encounter.

Prince Andrew said in a disastrous BBC interview that Giuffre's statement about his perspiration could not be true, claiming: "I have a peculiar medical condition which is that I don't sweat or I didn't sweat at the time."

Prince Andrew also maintained that on the evening cited by Giuffre, he went with his daughter, Beatrice, to a late-afternoon children's party at a Pizza Express in Woking. After the party, Prince Andrew claims he was at home with his children all night.

As part of Giuffre's suit, her legal team has requested documents that would prove whether or not Prince Andrew can sweat.

## Russia and NATO talks on Ukraine crisis were 'not an easy discussion,' NATO chief says



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko, right, and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, center, arrive at the NATO-Russia Council at the Alliance's headquarters in Brussels, on January 12, 2022 (Photo: CNN)

(CNN) - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday that the meeting between NATO and Russia over the situation in Ukraine was "not an easy discussion" and that "differences will not be easy to bridge," but added that NATO allies and Russia "expressed the need to resume dialogue."

"This was not an easy discussion but that is exact-

ly why this meeting was so important," he told reporters in Brussels.

"We had a very serious and direct exchange on the situation in and around Ukraine and the implications for European security. There are significant differences between NATO allies and Russia on these issues. Our differences will not be easy to bridge but it is a

*cont'd on pg 14*

## Oil prices could hit \$100 as demand outstrips supply, analysts say

Reuters - Oil prices that rallied 50% in 2021 will power further ahead this year, analysts predict, saying a lack of production capacity and limited investment in the sector could lift crude above \$100 a barrel.

Though the Omicron coronavirus variant has pushed COVID-19 cases far above peaks hit last year, analysts say oil prices will be supported by the reluctance of many governments to restore the strict restrictions that hammered the global economy when the pandemic took hold in 2020.

Brent crude futures traded above \$84 on Wednesday, hitting two-month highs.

“Assuming China doesn’t suffer a sharp slowdown, that Omicron actually becomes Omi-gone,



Experts predict oil could hit \$100 a barrel this year

and with OPEC+’s ability to raise production clearly limited, I see no reason why Brent crude cannot move towards \$100 in Q1, possibly sooner,” said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, are gradually relaxing the output cuts implemented

when demand collapsed in 2020.

However, many smaller producers can’t raise supply and others have been wary of pumping too much oil in case of renewed COVID-19 setbacks.

“We don’t want to see \$100 a barrel. The world is not ready for that,” Omani Oil Minister Mohammed Al Rumhi was quoted as saying by Bloomberg on Tuesday.

Morgan Stanley predicts that Brent crude will hit \$90 a barrel in the third quarter of this year.

With the prospect of depleting crude inventories and low spare capacity by the second half of 2022, and limited investments in the oil and gas sector, the market will have little margin of safety, the bank said.

Standard Chartered, meanwhile, has raised its 2022 Brent forecast by \$8 to \$75 a barrel and its 2023 Brent forecast by \$17 to \$77.

J.P. Morgan analysts also expect oil prices to rise as high as \$90 by the end of the year.

Current demand strength is acting as a near-term tailwind, having proved largely immune to surging coronavirus infections, the bank said.

*cont’d from pg 13*

positive sign that all NATO allies and Russia sat down around the same table and engaged on substantial topics.”

Representatives from Russia and NATO met in Brussels on Wednesday for high-stakes talks aimed at defusing growing tensions over Russia’s military buildup near the Ukraine border.

The talks ran about four hours long -- roughly an hour longer than expected, a source with knowledge of the talks told CNN.

The meeting of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) comes as the two sides are stuck in deadlock, with fears mounting that Russia could launch an

invasion into Ukraine.

Moscow has dismissed such claims. However, Russia has been amassing as many as 100,000 troops near the Ukrainian frontier, and on the eve of the talks, the military began live-fire drills in regions close to the border.

The United States, NATO and their allies are pushing Russia to de-escalate the situation. Moscow has demanded security guarantees from the US and NATO, including a binding pledge that NATO won’t expand further east and will not allow Ukraine to join the military alliance -- something NATO is not willing to do.

“At this point, let me be very, very clear -- no one is suggesting that we alter NATO policy on enlargement,” US Ambassador to NATO Julianne Smith told CNN on Tuesday.

Rather than being framed as a bilateral NATO-Russia meeting, Wednesday’s gathering saw each of NATO’s 30 member states and Russia represented equally, in a forum of 31. The meeting is the second of three key engagements between the West and Russia this week.

On Monday, representatives from the US and Russia sat down in Geneva for more than seven hours of discussions.

# CHEERS 2022



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

# West Indies in the spotlight for ICC men's Under-19 World Cup

Countries hosting the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022 are set to receive priceless global exposure with 20 of the 48 tournament matches being broadcast to almost 200 nations.

Additionally, ICC Head of Events Chris Tetley says the 16-team event, starting in Guyana on Friday, will have greater digital reach which will make it easier for fans worldwide to follow.

"We'll have coverage of this event on a larger scale than for any previous Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup. There's over 175 territories around the world that will be receiving the broadcast of matches on television," he revealed, speaking to Trinidad and Tobago media on Monday.

"We've got a digital workforce that's expanded significantly in recent times (as seen by) the amount of coverage online on the official event website (u19cwc.com).

It will be the place to see all the digital content we capture from broad-



ICC Head of Events Chris Tetley (ICC)

cast games, and importantly from the games that we're not able to cover live on television. It's a large digital footprint."

Highlighting ESPN as the tournament's exclusive broadcaster in the Caribbean, Tetley added the International Cricket Council (ICC) is "finalizing radio (and streaming) coverage arrangements" which will bolster the options for cricket's international audience to engage with the event digitally.

Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's Local Organising Committee for the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World

Cup, Douglas Camacho, agreed, reasoning that the demographic which organisers are seeking to attract "live in the digital world.

"A lot of young people follow sport digitally...so we can reach them through video, streaming, etc. People will have the opportunity to follow their teams, their players, their stars."

On a related note, Chief Executive of Tourism Trinidad Limited, Kurtis Rudd, acknowledged the unique circumstances of hosting sporting events during the COVID-19 pandemic, has opened officials' eyes to "the potential reach of faraway markets...millions of people that we possibly wouldn't have tried to reach if not for us operating in a virtual environment.

"One of the learnings would be to find a hybrid approach, where we can still capture that vibe – because that's our differentiator as a country – and broadcast that throughout the world to millions of people that we could reach virtually," he said.

# Djokovic acknowledges error on Australian travel declaration

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Novak Djokovic acknowledged yesterday that his Australian travel declaration form contained incorrect information, and he also confessed to an "error of judgment" in taking part in an interview and photo shoot in Serbia last month after testing positive for COVID-19.

In a statement posted to his social media accounts, the tennis star blamed "human error" by his support

team for failing to declare that he had traveled in the two-week period before entering Australia.

Giving false information on the form could be grounds for deportation, the latest twist in a saga over whether the athlete should be allowed stay in Australia despite not being vaccinated.

The initial news that Djokovic was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules was met with surprise. **cont'd on pg 17**



Defending men's champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic practices on Rod Laver Arena ahead of the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022. (AP Photo/Mark Baker)



## Man charged with giving Olympic athletes performance drugs

NEW YORK (AP) — US prosecutors charged a Texas man yesterday with providing performance-enhancing drugs to athletes competing in last summer's Olympics in Tokyo, including the star Nigerian sprinter Blessing Okagbare.

Eric Lira, 41, of El Paso, is the first person to be charged under a new US anti-doping law governing international sports competitions. The US Attorney's Office in Manhattan said Lira distributed the drugs, including human growth hormone and erythropoietin, a blood-building hormone, "for the purpose of corrupting" the 2020 Games, which were held in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Lira also is accused of conspiring to violate drug misbranding and adulteration laws. It was not immediately clear whether he had an attorney who could comment on the charges.

"It's not winning if you take illegal substances - it's cheating," FBI Assistant Director Michael J. Driscoll said in a statement.

The criminal complaint identifies Okagbare only as "athlete 1," but it includes details, including her performances in specific races, that make it clear she was one of Lira's clients. A text

message was sent to Okagbare seeking comment.

Okagbare had been provisionally suspended for testing positive for human growth hormone in July 2021 - in an out-of-competition test - just hours before the former world championships silver medalist was due to run in the semifinals of the women's 100 meters at the Olympics.

A criminal complaint unsealed yesterday in Manhattan federal court described that suspension.

The Athletics Integrity Unit last year said Okagbare also had tested positive for a blood booster in Nigeria in June.

She was charged with failing to cooperate with the investigation after she disobeyed an order to produce "documents, records and electronic storage devices" in relation to the other charges, the AIU said at the time.

"When it's time to say anything, I will and it will be worth the wait," Okagbare tweeted last year.

The criminal complaint alleges that Lira, a kinesiologist and naturopathic doctor, brought "misbranded" versions of the drugs to the United States from Central and South America before dis-



*Blessing Okagbare, of Nigeria races in a women's 200 meter heat at the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar, Sept. 30, 2019. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty, file)*

tributing them to athletes.

Federal authorities searched Okagbare's cellphone as she was returning to the United States from Tokyo and found she had frequently communicated with Lira over an encrypted app, according to the complaint.

The charges against Lira were brought under the Rodchenkov Act, a law signed in 2020 that prohibits "any person, other than an athlete," to knowingly influence any "major international sports competition" with the use of prohibited substance.

### *cont'd from pg 16*

tion rules to enter the country provoked an outcry and the ensuing dispute has since overshadowed the lead-up to the Australian Open.

Djokovic acknowledged the lapses when he sought to clarify what he called "continuing misinformation" about his movements after he became infected last month - though he did not spell out what inaccuracies he was referring to.

The statement was posted while the men's tennis No. 1 was in Rod Laver Arena holding a practice session, his third on the tournament's main court since being released from four nights in immigration detention.

The nine-time and defending Australian Open champion remains in limbo before the year's first tennis major starts Monday. The stakes are particularly high since he is seeking a men's

record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

His visa was canceled on arrival last week when his vaccination exemption was questioned, but he won a legal battle on procedural grounds that allowed him to stay in the country.

He still faces the prospect of deportation - a decision that is entirely at the discretion of Australia's immigration minister if deemed to be in the public interest for

health and safety reasons.

Deportation could result in sanctions ranging up to a three-year ban from entering Australia, a daunting prospect for a player who has won almost half of his 20 Grand Slam singles titles here.

If Djokovic's visa is canceled, his lawyers could go back to court to apply for an injunction that would prevent him from being forced to leave the country.

# Refereeing blunder, security concerns mar African Cup

LIMBE, Cameroon (AP) - A major refereeing blunder and serious security concerns overshadowed yesterday's games at the African Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

The referee in charge of the Mali-Tunisia game caused chaos by twice blowing the final whistle too early, incensing coaches on the losing team and causing a lengthy debate about whether the match would have to be restarted.

Mali was ahead 1-0 when referee Janny Sikazwe of Zambia ended the game early in the western city of Limbe.

But it was Tunisia that refused to come back out 30 minutes later when officials tried to restart the match, with the coach saying his players were already in their ice baths by then.

While the farcical scenes created more negative headlines for the tournament, there were more serious concerns away from the matches.

The Cameroon news agency reported that a gun battle between separatist rebels and government soldiers left two dead and five injured in Buea, a city 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Limbe and where the Mali squad is based.

"Heavily armed" rebels fired guns indiscriminately near a training stadium used by the Mali squad, the Cameroon news agency said.

The fighting was a stark reminder that Cameroon's African Cup is not just unfolding under the shadow of the coronavirus, but also during a far less publicized but violent rebellion playing out in the western part of the country.

The fighting is precariously close to where Group F teams Mali, Tunisia, Mauritania and Gambia will operate.



Tunisia's head coach Mondher Kebaier, center left, gestures to the referee Janny Sikazwe of Zambia, during the African Cup of Nations 2022 group F soccer match between Tunisia and Mali at the Limbe Omnisport Stadium in Limbe, Cameroon, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022. (AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

And if that wasn't enough problems to contend with on Day 4, the sound system temporarily failed at Limbe Stadium before the day's second game, causing Mauritania and Gambia players to stand around waiting to sing their national anthems.

But there was one feel-good moment at least when Gambia's Ablie Jallow sent a shot arrowing into the top corner from outside the penalty area to give his country a 1-0 victory in their first appearance at the continent's soccer showpiece.

Max-Alain Gradel scored with an equally-good long range shot in the sixth minute to give 2015 champion Ivory Coast a 1-0 win over Equatorial Guinea in yesterday's last game. It meant nine of the first 12 games at the tournament have ended 1-0.

But there's no doubt which incident was the talking point of the day. With Mali leading Tunisia 1-0, referee Sikazwe first blew for full time after

only 85 minutes. He seemed to realize his big blunder and restarted the game.

He then sent off Mali substitute El Bilal Touré in the 87th minute for a rash tackle - also a questionable decision.

But Sikazwe blew full time again about 20 seconds before the 90 minutes were up, according to the clock at the stadium and on TV broadcasts. About three minutes of added time had been expected.

The second early whistle infuriated Tunisia coach Mondher Kebaier and other members of the coaching staff.

Kebaier ran to confront the referee while pointing angrily at his own watch and Sikazwe had to be escorted from the field by security officials. One of the match officials shoved a Tunisian official during the commotion, stoking the situation.

There were then suggestions that

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Maginley continues rehab ahead of return to pro tennis circuit

Antigua and Barbuda overseas-based professional men's tennis player, Jody Maginley, is continuing his rehabilitation in an effort to return to the ATP Tour later this month.

Maginley, who is currently undergoing pre-season training in Florida, is preparing to return to the circuit where he will participate mostly in the third-tier ITF Men's World Tennis Tour and second-tier ATP Challenger Tour.

He is expected to return to the circuit at the end of this month to contest two tournaments in Florida.

Maginley is also recovering from a hip injury and treating a COVID-19 infection, which forced him to miss all of last season's professional circuit.

"What had happened is I was in Texas at the time and I lived about a few minutes away from my coach at the time and the courts that we trained on. So for the few months when there was the lockdown, I was actually able to use the courts. We were training really hard and I improved a lot in those

### *cont'd from pg 18*

the game would be restarted and reports that organizers had burst into Mali's post-game news conference and told coach Mohamed Magasouba that his players had to get back on the field to play another three minutes.

Officials gathered on the field about 30 minutes after the game ended and were seen in discussions. Mali players also came back out but Tunisia refused to re-start the game.

There was no official word from the Confederation of African Football on any decisions made over the game and it appeared the 1-0 win for Mali would stand.



*Antigua and Barbuda's overseas-based professional men's tennis player, Jody Maginley, is continuing his rehabilitation in an effort to return to the ATP Tour later this month. (Photo courtesy Jody Maginley)*

times.

"But unfortunately, it was around that time when I got hurt. So the first year of COVID-19 (2020) I played hurt and then last year I actually didn't play a tournament until November because I had surgery," Maginley said.

"Initially, I thought it was good for me just to settle down and identify some of the areas that I need to work on, but later on, like I said, I really hadn't been able to play that much because of my injury."

The former graduate of the Antigua Grammar School said he has been conducting his pre-season with training exercises both in the gyms and on the tennis courts.

"I changed coaches last year, we are re-setting my goals and figuring out where I want to take my career this year.

"Right now I am doing my pre-season. I do two sessions a day. So it is basically three hours of tennis and an hour and a half of gym work and then in the evenings I will do rehab and recovery. A few days a week I also go to my physio to do rehab and recovery as well," Maginley said.

"Also because I took a break at

home, I am not hitting the ball as good as I was when I was in season, so I do some skills building in the mornings.

"We do more work on my drills, working on my movement and that sort of stuff.

"The practice in the afternoons is used to do situational stuff. They would identify the areas that I need to work on, how I need to play, and then we will structure some points with some game-time situations. So that's what the afternoon sessions are mostly like.

"In the gym I do six days a week; three days or more of stability, core and cardio and three days of strength and power."

Due to the pandemic and his back injury which required surgery, Maginley was only able to play in six tournaments in 2020.

Last year he was only able to play in three tournaments, which were held in Colombia, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

Maginley currently has an ATP men's singles ranking of 1326 and 1025 in doubles and is ranked 967 in ITF Men's World Tennis Tour singles and 205 in doubles.

# Cricket legend Clive Lloyd finally receives knighthood

itv - Cricket legend Clive Lloyd has finally received his knighthood on Wednesday after the ceremony was delayed due to Covid.

The Guyana-born batsman, 77, was honoured for his service to the game, and played for Lancashire from 1968 until 1986, as well as captaining the West Indies from 1974 until 1985.

He made a huge contribution to Lancashire's one-day successes and went on to win two One-Day League titles in 1969 and 1970 and four Gillette Cups between 1970 and 1975, with a memorable 126 against Warwickshire in the 1972 final at Lord's.

After retiring Lloyd, who is a huge Everton fan, coached the West Indies and worked for the International Cricket Council before settling in Greater Manchester.



Sir Clive Lloyd, right.

The Lancashire legend is a Vice President at Emirates Old Trafford and was on the Club's Committee from 1993 until 2012.

Lloyd, a left-handed batsman, played in 110 Tests and 87 One-Day Internationals, making his Test debut in

December 1966 against India.

He captained the West Indies between 1974-84 and is one of the most successful Test captains of all time. During his captaincy the side had a run of 27 matches without defeat, which in-

cluded 11 wins in a row.

He was also the first West Indian player to earn 100 international caps.

In 1971, Lloyd was also named as Wisden's Cricketer of the Year, while in 2009 he was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

## cont'd from pg 21

year. I think at the end of December last year we had about 60 yachts already registered to take part in Sailing Week.

"We have the Talisker Whiskey race already on its way. It started on December 12th, last year and so we have 37 teams rowing across the Atlantic.

"So we are confident that in all the areas, cruise, yachting and stayover visitors we have laid the groundwork and we are pushing forward very, very strongly into 2022," James noted.

As the name hints, the RORC Ca-

ribbean 600 is a 600-mile race around the Caribbean. The RORC Caribbean 600, which starts and finishes in Antigua, will cover a route that will see the competing yachts journey past 14 magnificent islands in the central Caribbean.

Some of the best sailing grounds in the world are blessed with stunning scenery, including the remote cliffs of Saba, the pink sand beaches of Barbuda and the twisted, volcanic rock faces of Montserrat.

The turquoise sea, blessed by the Trade Winds, produces exhilarating sailing conditions and whales, dol-

phins and turtles are a common sight.

By night the competitors race in warm breezes under a canopy of stars which are seldom seen with such clarity. The race was first held in February 2009 and attracted worldwide interest.

The RORC Caribbean 600 Race will begin off Fort Charlotte, English Harbour.

The course takes the fleet north passing a mark off Barbuda, past the islands of Nevis, Saba and St Barts, then circling St. Martin before heading to Guadeloupe, its most southerly point, then back up to Barbuda before returning to Antigua via Redonda.

# Sports

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
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THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022

## RORC Caribbean 600 returns to Antigua

The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) Caribbean 600 will be returning to Antigua & Barbuda's yachting and sailing calendar next month.

After consultations with the government of Antigua and Barbuda, it was decided that RORC had no option but to cancel the RORC Caribbean 600 last year because of the pandemic.

But the hiatus is over and the RORC Caribbean 600 is back and set to start in Antigua on February 21st, 2022.

News of the return of the RORC Caribbean 600 race has been welcomed by the government of Antigua and Barbuda, and in particular, officials in the Ministry of Tourism.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Colin James, has said the RORC 600 will remain part of the national sailing calendar for at least the next four years.

James said the RORC 600 and Antigua Sailing Week, which will be staged from April 30th to May 6th, 2022, are two major



*Crossing the finish line in Antigua at full speed - Multihull Line Honours in the RORC Transatlantic Race for Oren Nataf's Multi50 Trimaran Rayon Vert, skippered by Alex Pella. (© Ed Gifford/RORC)*

sailing and yachting events that contribute significantly to the twin-island nation's tourism based economy.

"We have the RORC 600 coming back in 2022, which is a prestigious race. Let me tell you, there are several races in the Caribbean yachting races that are part of what is called the IMA (International Maxi Association), which looks at races that are high caliber that they recommend. And out of their four races on that circuit, Antigua and

Barbuda has two, Antigua Sailing Week and the RORC 600," James said.

"That tells you something. That tells you there is confidence in this destination. The RORC is back and they are going to be here for the next four years.

"We are working with them to ensure that it continues so that lucrative part of our tourism sector, the yachting sector, gets that support and has that impact on the country and our economy."

James added that the return of the RORC and Antigua Sailing Week to the nation's calendar of international sporting events, is part of the groundwork that has been laid by the ABTA to ensure that the tourism sector continues to rebound from the economic hardship brought on by the pandemic.

"From cruises right over to yachting, we are seeing the confidence coming back in the destination. Sailing Week will be back this

*cont'd on pg 21*