

THURSDAY 11TH AUGUST 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 152 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# ROAD ACCIDENT CLAIMS 22-YEAR-OLD'S LIFE



*Story on Page 2*

*Ti-Jon James, inset, of English Harbour died early Wednesday morning following a traffic accident in which his vehicle crashed violently into a wall late Tuesday night on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway.*

# Local News



## 22-year-old is the country's latest road fatality

A 22-year-old man has become the fifth this year to die as a result of a traffic accident.

Yesterday, police confirmed that Ti-Jon James of English Harbour died early Wednesday morning following a traffic accident in which his vehicle crashed violently into a wall late Tuesday night on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway.

James was rushed to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where doctors reported that he arrived in "critical and unstable condition".

Medical personnel fought desperately to revive him, but their attempts were unsuccessful. James was pronounced dead at 3:33am on Wednesday.

The police reported that James was driving a white Honda Integra motor car that was travelling from west to east on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway at what they believe was a very fast speed, when he lost control of the vehicle in the vicinity of the Dog Farm. The vehicle flipped several times before colliding with a concrete wall.

At this time last year, the country had recorded four traffic fatalities.

The so-called 'Dog Farm' area has been the location of fatal accidents over the years. There have been suggestions that the Ministry of Works and the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board ought to consider placing signs in the area urging drivers to slow down and proceed cautiously.





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## Antigua and Barbuda stands in solidarity with Cuba following lethal disaster

Following a deadly explosion and fire at an oil facility in eastern Cuba, government, opposition and civil society groups have expressed condolences and words of sympathy to the government and people of Cuba.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, Tourism Minister, Charles 'Max' Fernandez, Leader of the United Progressive Party, Harold Lovell and the Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee are among those who have dispatched messages of empathy to the Cuban Embassy in St. John's.

In his message to the Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Prime Minister Browne wrote, "I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the explosions at fuel storage tanks in the city of Matanzas, which have sowed devastation, with 17 firefighters being missing, 121 persons injured, and 1 death.

"The Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda stand in solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba during this difficult hour.

"Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of the victims and the people of the Republic of Cuba, and we wish a

speedy recovery to the injured.

"Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Minister Greene also expressed similar sentiments in his message to the Cuban president.

"I was shocked to learn about the devastating explosions which took place at the fuel storage facility in the city of Matanzas, which have to date resulted in 17 firefighters missing, 121 persons injured and 1 death, and have caused extensive damage to property.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I would like to convey my deepest condolences and solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Cuba."

In his message, tourism minister Fernandez noted Cuba's long history of coming to the aid of countries in need and he applauded those countries that have stepped forward to assist Cuba at this time.

"The Government and People of Cuba have always taken the lead to assist whenever there has been a need for any country - anywhere in the world. This is especially so with countries most in need.

"At this time, I applaud the countries that have



come to the assistance of Cuba with regards to this disaster. We in Antigua and Barbuda will never forget the assistance Cuba has given and continues to give our people.

"I continue to monitor this situation and hope for a speedy resolution to this tragic fire."

Meanwhile, the UPP's Political Leader Harold Lovell, wrote, "The Leadership and members of the United Progressive Party extend our condolences to our brothers and sisters in Cuba, and in particular, the families of those who perished in this catastrophic explosion.

"The fire in Matanzas is a major disaster and we join in solidarity with the other nations who have stepped up to see that the city returns to a level of normalcy in the shortest possible time.

"Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes continue to be with the Government

and people of Cuba at this very difficult time."

The Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee referenced its close ties with the Cuban government and people noting that this recent tragedy calls for renewed support for the courageous Cuban people.

"The Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Committee (LTHMC) is saddened by your losses, including the lives of dedicated and heroic firefighters. The LTHMC embraces the government and people of Cuba as family. And as good family, you have done so much for us in Antigua and Barbuda."

The latest updates provided by Cuban Ambassador Maria Esther Fiffe Cabreja, reported that three people have died and at least 14 persons have disappeared. These figures are likely to change as more information comes to hand.

# Local News



## Support grows for LIAT (2020) Ltd.

There is growing support among Caribbean governments and travellers for the further development and expansion of LIAT (2020) Ltd.

Following a recent meeting of the shareholder governments of LIAT (1974) Ltd., a decision was made to move ahead with liquidating the airline.

“Commitments were given in support of a new, efficient, and expanded LIAT 2020 instead, which heads attending the meeting believe will satisfy the immediate regional travel demand,” Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne said.

PM Browne revealed that the immediate step was the decision to engage the services of an aviation consultancy firm – as had been previously touted – to develop a long-term plan to ensure the sustainability of LIAT and the provision of affordable air transportation. Reports are that a consultant has already been appointed.

Browne added that the shareholder governments also agreed that LIAT is considered a public and so-



cial good that contributes significantly to regional connectivity and makes a net positive economic contribution to Caribbean economies. “This will necessitate a reduction in regional travel taxes to reduce the costs of operations for airlines in the region,” according to Browne.

Meanwhile, plans to establish “LIAT 2020” as the solution to regional travel woes continue to attract support, which is vital following the decision to liquidate the beleaguered LIAT 1974 Ltd.

Grenadian Prime Min-

ister Dickon Mitchell, said that his government is already assessing the possibility of reintroducing LIAT – through its new operations – as the country’s main bridge to the rest of the region.

Several countries in the sub-region, including St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia, have voiced their frustration with the lack of adequate air transport and resulting prohibitive cost of travel.

The LIAT shareholders’ meeting was held virtually with the prime ministers of Antigua and Barbuda, Bar-

bados, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines attending.

The vexing issue of the millions in severance pay owed to former LIAT workers did not feature on the agenda.

The workers, through their unions, have been agitating for the money owed to them after the airline took a nosedive during the coronavirus pandemic.

Antigua and Barbuda has made what it called “a compassionate payment” offer to ex-workers. This included the offer of scholarships for their children, government backed bonds, land and a cash payment.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not yet said whether they will help ease the burden on LIAT’s former employees.

Barbados offered workers a one off payment of BDS\$2000 with additional short-term social support.

Thu 11   Day		Thu 11   Night	
<b>87°</b>	7% E 13 mph	<b>80°</b>	14% ENE 10 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High 87F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low near 80F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity <b>68%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>78%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:49 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:34 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>6:38 pm</b>	Moonset <b>5:09 am</b>
		○ Full Moon	



## Leaders call on international community to support SIDS recovery

His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, called on the international community to strengthen its commitment to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Shahid opened the Wadadli Action Platform, which took place on August 8th and 9th, 2022, in St. John's, Antigua, hosted by Antigua and Barbuda in its capacity as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), in partnership with the governments of Denmark and the United Kingdom.

With the 4th International Conference for SIDS



From left: Ms. Rebecca Fabrizi – SIDS Envoy from the United Kingdom; H.E. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly; E. P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade; Dr. Hyginus 'Gene' Leon - President of the Caribbean Development Bank; Tomas Anker Christensen – Denmark Prime Minister's Climate and Ocean Envoy; H.E. Conrod Hunte, AOSIS Deputy Chair and Lead Climate Change Negotiator. Photo: UN\_PGA

on the horizon, the Wadadli Action Platform brought to-

gether over 100 participants including high-level SIDS

leaders, international part-  
*cont'd on pg 6*

  
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# Local News



*cont'd from pg 5*

ners and institutional officials to take stock of SIDS critical issues, identify developmental gaps, and raise consensus on initiatives aimed to advance recovery and meet Sustainable Development Goals.

“SIDS must remain a priority for the international community, including partner governments and the UN system,” said Shahid. “SIDS are at the frontline of multiple global crises – from climate change to food security, from challenges to

our marine environment to exorbitant debt. Compounding crises have heightened our debt burden. The need for a long-term solution to the debt crisis we face, is critical. The debt-obligations faced by SIDS globally are unsustainable and immoral.”

Shahid emphasised the importance of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), which is being developed by an UN expert panel co-chaired by Prime Minister Browne of Antigua and Barbuda.

The MVI will better capture the vulnerabilities of countries beyond their GDP and will include environmental and social considerations. This would make it a vital tool to enable SIDS to access the financing needed to adapt to climate change and strengthen long-term resilience.

He called for the support of the international community, including international financial institutions, and public and private creditors in its implementation.

Dr. Hyginus Leon, President of the Caribbean Development Bank, reiterated the need for use of the MVI.

“Access to finance is existential for SIDS. There is a need for an integration of the debt sustainability framework of the International Monetary Fund, the investment-growth nexus of the World Bank, and the SDG-resilience building framework of the United Nations,” he said.

“A key element of that integration is the need for a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI). It has the scope to provide an effective and equitable mechanism for determining access to adequate and affordable finance, to achieve the SDGs.”

Sessions also focused on Loss and Damage, climate change, promoting gender parity and inclusion for people with disabilities, data challenges, and leveraging indigenous intellectual capacity to build solutions,

among other topics.

“With just over seven years remaining for the conclusion of the SDGs and one and half for the SAMOA Pathway, we are still facing startling challenges,” said The Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Antigua and Barbuda. “If we fail to act, if the international community continues to fail us, we will soon see unprecedented scales of movements of people forced to flee their homes because of climate change, because of poverty and economic hardship.”

“In Pacific atoll nations, typhoons have already unearthed sacred ancestral burial grounds, with young men having to relocate remains of their forefathers on higher land.

“The science reinforces our demands that the UNFCCC must address loss and damage now. This is THE political priority for AOSIS and vulnerable nations across the world at COP27 in November. The lack of adequate funding arrangements to address loss and damage is a destabilising force in the world.”

“We take away invaluable exchanges which will be critical for the 4th SIDS Conference,” noted His Excellency Conrod Hunte, AOSIS Deputy Chair, at the close of the sessions.

“The progress we have made here is a step in the right direction to achieve the sustainable development our SIDS deserve.”

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## ABWU seeking meeting with court appointed LIAT administrator

General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU), David Massiah, says he is seeking a meeting with Cleveland Seaforth, the court-appointed administrator for the cash-strapped regional airline, LIAT.

He said among the issues to be discussed will be the decision by the shareholder governments to liquidate the company that owes millions of dollars to former employees who were dismissed last year.

Earlier this week, Massiah claimed that the administrator has kept the employees and their bargaining agent in the dark on relevant issues regarding the airline and the company.

"What is very interesting, we have not heard from the administrator for quite a while," Massiah said.

"It has been literally, a total disrespect as far as we are concerned. So, when this information would have hit the news media, I would have used the opportunity...to more or less write to Mr. Seaforth to seek an audience and to remind him of the legal obligations that are there for all of the employees that need to be handled."

The ABWU General Secretary also claims the union is also unaware of the present status of Seaforth's status as LIAT's steward.

With respect to LIAT's recent liquidation, Massiah said that the administrator must explain to the union what this development means to former and present employees of the airline, in addition to the way forward.

"So, people could understand exactly what it is the liquidation would mean for us. What it is we are going to get from the liquidation. Nothing has been said and we have been ask-

ing for an update. There was some information that was provided but let us reflect on this administration process when it started in 2020, it was initially for four months.

"It has been extended over a period of time and we do not as bargaining agents on behalf of the workers had an opportunity to even go before the court to understand or know when he is making these presentations in the past...to under-

stand exactly what is that he was doing and asking or where he has gone."

The trade unionist said there is need for "some clear understanding" amidst concerns that the workers are continuing to be disregarded.

"There seems to be this disengagement with the unions...we did not accede to what I considered what the Antigua government wanted when they deliv-

*cont'd on pg 8*



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# Local News



*cont'd from pg 7*

ered the funds to some of the employees last year and we did not think it was in the best interest of most of the people.

"Here it is everything has just gone quiet and as the court appointed administrator I think the obligation and the onus is on him to also keep us abreast, but he has not been doing that.

"At this particular time, we are trying to be more reasonable in the process in making sure that we follow and carry out all the due processes that are necessary to get a reasonable and a fair chance as to what will happen to the workers that we represent," Massiah said.

Last week, regional leaders met to discuss

the situation regarding air transportation in the Caribbean amidst concerns that both regional and international travellers are finding it very expensive and difficult to commute.

"It was agreed that we would retain a consultant to provide advice to the heads of the region as to how we can address the critical need to have, particularly air

transportation resumed at a level that existed prior to COVID-19," said the newly elected Grenada Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell.

LIAT is owned by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne said previously that a decision had been taken that would allow Barbados and SVG to turn over their shares in LIAT to St. John's for a consideration of EC\$1.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Browne appealed to Caribbean trade unions to reconsider their positions regarding the latest offer made to the airlines' laid-off workers.

Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell told reporters that LIAT (1974) Limited "is bankrupt and that has been made clear and it is in receivership.

"Where we are now is finding appropriate air travel for the OECS in particular and whether it is LIAT, a new version of LIAT or any other carrier we are really interested in finding appropriate air travel for the OECS.

"I can certainly say it will not be LIAT (1974) because obviously that entity is bankrupt and no one is reviving that entity. As you may be aware, I think there is LIAT (2020) which currently operates out of Antigua and has two planes in service," Mitchell said." (CMC)

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# AstraZeneca vaccine available once again

The Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment is once again offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to the population.

Recently, Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, indicated that supplies of the AstraZeneca vaccine were temporarily out of stock.

Last weekend, the government of the United Kingdom donated 5,040 doses of the popular COVID-19 vaccine to Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Health following bilateral discussions.

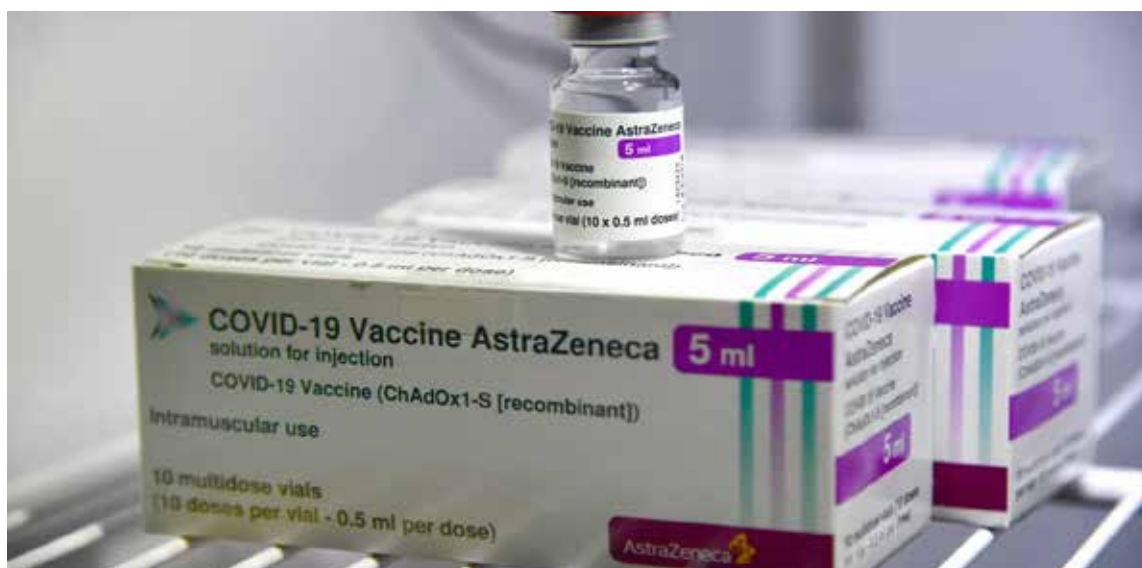
Persons seeking to inoculate with first, second or booster doses will be able to do so by visiting the Villa Polyclinic, effective 9th August, 2022.

The vaccine will also be made available at other health centres at dates to be announced.

The Villa Polyclinic will be available to serve the public on Saturday 13th August 2022, from 9am to 3pm.

Meanwhile, the MoH has announced that the Pfizer vaccine is now unavailable. The ministry is in the process of procuring additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine for those who prefer this brand.

The COVID-19 vaccines currently available are AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson, Moderna and Sinopharm.







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# Environment

## New species of Cone Snail found in Aruba

Aruba has cemented itself as an “evolutionary hot-spot” in the Southern Caribbean as researchers from Florida Atlantic University and the University of California recently discovered a new species of cone snail off the island’s coast.

Researchers said the new snail is one of over 180 species of mollusks found during a recent field survey.

The researchers noted that Aruba’s “species richness is actually so high in the shallow neritic environments around the island that levels of endemism of



Endemic *Jaspidiconus* species from Aruba. A - D: the new species *Jaspidiconus hendrikae*, E -H: *Jaspidiconus vantwoudti* (Source: Petuch and Berschauer)

several gastropod families approach or exceed 50 per cent.”

David Berschauer, a researcher from the University of California, found the

cone snail in the shallow waters of Malmok Beach on the northern tip of Aruba.

He named the cone snail “*Jaspidiconus hendrikae*” in honour of Hendrika Wendriks, who is the mother of well-known Aruban diver and amateur malacologist, Jordy Wendricks.

This new species averages around 14 millimetres in length and is tapered at both ends. It bears a similar appearance to the species *J. vantwoudti*, but *J. hendrikae* has a vivid yellow colour and tiny rows of brown dots.

*J. hendrikae* lives in fine sand pockets at a depth of seven metres.

Cone snails are predatory and they prey on worms, other molluscs and fish.

Their venom is prized in the pharmacological community as it is used to make a number of drugs including pain blockers.

Habitat loss and over collection for the shell trade are major threats to cone snails globally.



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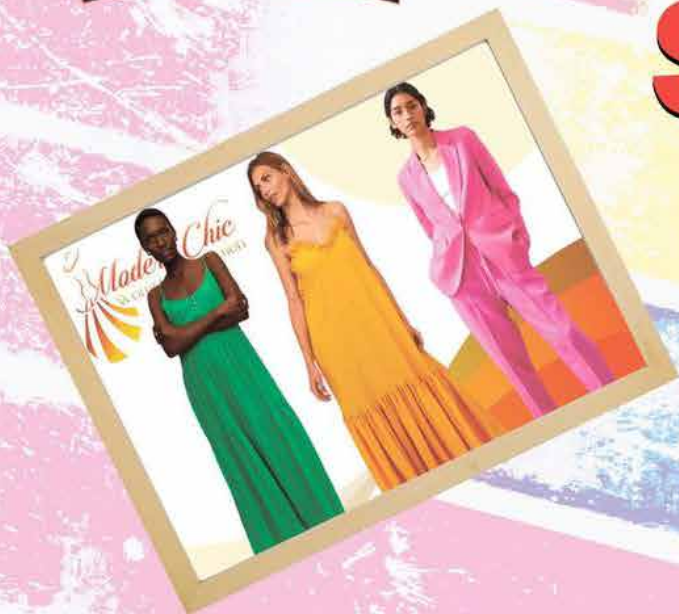
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# The deadliest garden in the world

By Chris Griffiths

The Poison Garden at the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland, England, is home to more than 100 toxic, intoxicating and narcotic plants...and it's open to public.

The sign on the black iron gate says, "These plants can kill", and it's emblazoned with a skull and crossbones for good measure. The warning isn't a joke – the plot sealed off behind these black iron bars is the deadliest garden in the world. And it's open to the public.

Established in 2005, the Poison Garden at the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland, England, is home to more than 100 toxic, intoxicating and narcotic plants. "Before visitors are allowed to enter, they must have a safety briefing," said Dean Smith, a guide at the Poison Garden. Visitors are instructed that they're not allowed to touch, taste or smell anything – nevertheless, as the website notes, guests have still occasionally fainted from inhaling toxic fumes as they walk through.

One of the dangerous plants cultivated here is monkshood, or wolf's bane, which contains aconitine, a neurotoxin and cardio toxin. But that's not the worst one: "Probably the most poisonous plant we actually have here is ricin [which contains the toxin ricin] better known as the castor bean or castor oil plant," Smith said. "The Guinness Book of World Records considers that to be the world's most poisonous plant."

Surprisingly, a lot of the things that grow in the garden are quite common. "Many of the plants in here do grow wild in the UK, and most of the plants are alarmingly easy to cultivate," Smith said. Even popular home-garden bushes like rhododendrons are accounted for here. Those leaves contain grayanotoxin which will attack a per-



son's nervous system if eaten. "You're not likely to eat the leaves, though, because they taste disgusting," Smith said reassuringly.

And then there's the laburnum tree, the second most poisonous tree in the UK (only the yew tree is more dangerous). Many people have them around their homes because of their beautiful yellow flowers, but they contain a poison called cytisine. "The tree is so poisonous," said Smith, "that if one of the branches was to fall to the floor, lay there for several months and the dog later comes along, picks it up to hold as a stick on a walk, chances are the dog won't finish the walk. It's that poisonous."

Poison plants don't only direct their venom at humans and dogs, though. As Smith explained, if enough rhododendrons grow near each other, they'll poison the soil – making it so that the only things that can grow there are other rhododendrons. And if bees gather honey exclusively from rhododendrons, the liquid takes on a red colour and, in small doses, hallucinogenic properties. "But larger doses would be fatal," he warned.

Some plants don't have to be eaten, touched, smelled or turned into psychedelics to kill you. There's one plant in the garden that can kill you

just by trimming it. The leaves of the *Prunus laurocerasus* (also known as the cherry laurel or English laurel) contain two components (cyanogenic glycosides and cyanide ions) that, separately, won't harm you. But if an animal was to mash up the leaves by chewing them – or if a human was to take a hedge cutter to them – they produce cyanide gas.

"Normally you're in this outside, well-ventilated space, and on a windy day, it's probably not going to be an issue," he said. "Until you put the cuttings into the boot of your car to take to the tip [the garbage dump] – you're now in a confined space [with] poor ventilation and cyanide gas."

Hellebores, like the Christmas Rose, are another dangerously common plant here. The root has a cardio-toxin that will stop your heart, and the sap has a strong skin irritant. So always wear gloves, and Smith warned, don't remove them by pulling them off with your teeth.

That's something the gardeners here would never do. As head gardener Robert Ternent said, the staff here take a variety of safety steps. "Some of the beds, you don't have to take any precautions at all, whereas you'll get to, like, the giant hogweed bed and

*cont'd on pg 15*



## CCJ judge authors book on the law of the sea in the Caribbean

Justice Winston Anderson of the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), has released his latest publication, titled "The Law of the Sea in the Caribbean".

The book is published by Brill Academic Publishers, a Dutch international publisher founded in 1683 in Leiden, the Netherlands which prides itself on producing, "Over three centuries of scholarly publishing."

"Using the lens of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted in Kingston, Jamaica, on 10 December 1982, the book examines the possibilities for contribution by the Law of the Sea to economic and social development in

the Region," according to a statement the US-based A Global Internet Learning Experience (AGILE) Learning Inc.

It said that the topics covered in the publication include maritime jurisdiction, fisheries, offshore oil and gas, marine scientific research, peace and security, navigation, pollution, the deep seabed, maritime boundary delimitation, and dispute settlement.

"The book is premised on the fact that a generation of legal pioneers imagined a decisive role for the Law of the Sea in the advancement of developing states, and it attempts to give an account, in the fortieth year of the adoption of the Convention,



*Justice Winston Anderson*

of the reach of the Law of the Sea into Caribbean development.

"The Law of the Sea in

the Caribbean argues for greater regional cooperation as a means of achieving the promise of truly significant participation by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in Caribbean development," according to the statement.

It said the Law of the Sea in the Caribbean is the latest academic text authored by Justice Anderson, who has written several other leading texts including Caribbean Private International Law (2014) and Principles of Caribbean Environmental Law (2012).

The Jamaican born justice Anderson is also editor of the Eminent Caribbean Jurists Series published by the CCJ Academy for Law, of which he is Chairman. (CMC)

### *cont'd from pg 14*

then you have a full hazmat suit on, face-mask, gloves."

Gardener Amy Thorp is not rattled. "I don't think it concerns me because I feel like we're in their spaces," she said. "A lot of these plants, I think, might have been there before we came along. So, it's up to us to learn and educate ourselves about all of their uses, because a lot of the plants in here are used for good. They're not all bad."

In fact, some of the deadliest plants here are the sources of great cures, like the yew, which is used in the treatment of breast cancer. And periwinkle is also double-edged: its ingredients can be fatal, but if processed correctly, it produces beneficial medicines.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the garden is part of a drug education programme.

As Claire Mitchell, head of community and education, explained, "The north-east of England has the highest rates of drug deaths in England and Wales. Something needs to be done in terms of actually getting information to young people out there. So, the drug education programme stems from the Poison Garden tours, where we do have drug plants, and the whole idea behind it is to prevent drug-related harm."

Indeed, the garden cultivates "the ABC of drugs", as Smith put it: they grow opium poppies (a Class A drug), cannabis (a Class B drug) and catha edulis, commonly known as 'khat' (a Class C drug). But visitors shouldn't get any ideas. As Ternent explained, the staff at the Poison Garden are mandated by law to meticulously monitor, count and file reports on their drug plants – and then submit proof that they've destroyed them at the end of every season.

# Regional News



Convicted paedophile, Bairo Gomez

## Belize: 15-year sentence for man guilty of raping 5-year-old child

CMC - A Salvadoran national has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to raping a five-year-old child in 2018.

Bairo Gomez, who pleaded guilty to the crime committed in October 2018, begged the court for leniency, apologising for his action.

Justice Susan Lamb in passing the sentence on Tuesday took into consider-

ation the years Gomez has served on remand. The judge used the new sentencing guidelines from the Crown which was represented by attorney Rome Wade, leaving Gomez with 11 years and two months to remain in jail.

Fifteen years is the minimum mandatory sentence that can be handed down by law for the offence of rape of a child upon conviction.

## Industrial action looms at Argyle International Airport

Loop - The threat of industrial action at the Argyle International Airport (AIA) in St Vincent and the Grenadines looms due to a number of concerns affecting AIA staff, chief among them, the issue of sick leave and the slow pace of negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement submitted since the year 2020.

In a news conference Tuesday, President of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Public Service Union, (PSU) Elroy Boucher, said AIA staff have been holding back from taking industrial action, but they are impatient.

Boucher said on August 29, 2022, the Union should commence negotiations on the collective bargaining agreement. He said if their various issues are not addressed there will be industrial action at the Argyle International Airport, that is, the airport will be shut down at certain points in time and



Argyle International Airport the public will be affected.

The union president explained that taking industrial action is always a last resort, noting the PSU has been patient to the extent that the workers themselves think the union was not doing enough on their behalf.

He said AIA workers wanted to take industrial action a long time ago but were asked to be patient with the union as it wanted to give the new Chairman of the Board of Directors enough time to address their problems.

"If they are not addressed to our satisfaction, we will call industrial action

and shut down the airport on certain days."

Boucher told the media he wanted to get all the issues out there so that when the time comes the public will understand that the issues of workers have been pending for a number of years.

He explained what those issues are. Giving some background, the Argyle International Airport has been in operation for five years now and the PSU is recognised as the body representing workers since 2019.

On September 18, 2020, Boucher said the PSU submitted a collective bargain-

ing agreement for negotiation on behalf of the workers at AIA, however, over two years have passed and the AIA has not responded favourably to the call to negotiate.

The PSU union leader said since 2017 a number of issues affecting workers were brought to the attention of management. He claims the PSU has experienced resistance from the management of AIA.

One of the major issues the union has tried to address is the issue of sick leave and COVID-19. The PSU said workers only have 14 days sick leave and COVID leave is being taken out of this leaving them with little to no sick days left, causing persons to now lose vacation days.

The PSU said there are also concerns with compassionate leave. The AIA manual says three days of compassionate leave is to

*cont'd on pg 17*



## Firefighters subdue deadly blaze at key oil facility in Cuba

AP – A deadly fire that consumed at least half of a large oil facility in western Cuba and threatened to worsen the island's energy crisis has been largely controlled after nearly five days, authorities said Wednesday.

Flames that recently consumed the fourth tank in the eight-tank facility in Matanzas were almost quelled, although the third tank remained on fire and surrounded by smoke, said an unidentified Cuban firefighter.

"We can't go in for now," he told Cubavisión, a government TV channel.

The blaze killed at least one person and injured 128 others, with 14 firefighters still reported missing and 20 people hospitalized.

The fire also forced officials to evacuate more than 4,900 people and shut down a key thermoelectric plant after it ran out of water, raising concerns about a new round of blackouts in addition to the ones the government announced last

week for Havana.

Arturo López-Levy, a politics and international relations professor at Holy Names University in California, said the fire will complicate an already difficult scenario in Cuba.

"I think any realistic forecast would point to more blackouts and more difficulty in carrying out the minimum economic activity in the country," he said.

López-Levy also warned that it would be difficult "to lift up this country after this triple tragedy," referring to the U.S. sanctions, the pandemic and now the fire.

Some Cubans worry the blaze could become a convenient excuse for a government that has been implementing power outages.

"That gives way to more justification of blackouts that are going to occur," said Pedro Pozo, a 56-year-old state worker.

Col. Daniel Chávez, second in command at Cuba's firefighting department, said the fire could keep burning



*Smoke continues to billow from a days-long, deadly fire at a large oil storage facility in Matanzas, Cuba, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. The fire was triggered by lighting at one of the facility's eight tanks late Friday, Aug. 5th. (Yamil Lage, Pool photo via AP)*

for the next couple of days but doesn't expect it to grow in size. He said the next step is to cool the area.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel cautiously celebrated the work by local firefighters and special teams that Mexico and Venezuela sent that employed boats, planes and helicopters to fight the blaze whose billowing, toxic smoke could be seen from the capital of Havana.

"(Tuesday) was a vic-

tory day, but we cannot be overconfident," he tweeted on Wednesday as he warned about a possible switch in the wind direction. "Danger is lurking."

The fire at the Matanzas Supertanker Base began Friday after lightning struck the key infrastructure, which operates an oil pipeline that receives Cuban crude oil that powers thermoelectric plants. It also serves as the unloading and transshipment centre for imported crude oil, fuel oil and diesel.

The government has not provided an estimate of damages or said how much it has lost overall in key fuel supplies.

The first tank was at 50% capacity and contained nearly 883,000 cubic feet (25,000 cubic metres) of fuel. The second tank was full.

### **cont'd from pg 16**

be granted, however, the union discovered there's a demand that if there is a death in the family, a death certificate has to be produced. He expressed concern about the lack of trust being exhibited.

Boucher said there are issues with working conditions related to health and safety as well as the compensation package of AIA workers, who he said have not received an increase since the operation of the international airport began.

There are also concerns about the reclassification of the job of aviation security.

Boucher said there are a lot of issues occurring and the union has been patient with management because the airport at the time was new and they wanted to give time for the teething problems to be dealt with.

The PSU head said they did not want to create any major issues, but that time has since passed.

## Anxiety rises over claims in Kenya's close presidential vote

AP – Human rights groups on Wednesday warned anxious Kenyans over “rising levels of false or misleading information being shared on social media” as the country awaited results of a close presidential election. The electoral commission indicated it would be at least Thursday before a winner is declared.

High-profile supporters of the two leading candidates were tweeting claims of victory, citing counts based on more than 46,000 results forms posted online by the electoral commission in a gesture of transparency. Kenyan media raced to do their own tallies, but their differing, incomplete results added to confusion. The government-created Media Council of Kenya said it was consulting with editors for an “urgent solution to ensure Kenyans receive synchronised results.”

A day after Tuesday's election in which turnout was notably lower than in recent years, interest in the winner was sharpening in a country often held up as an example of a relatively strong democracy in Africa.

Amnesty International Kenya and other groups in a statement urged Kenyans to consider all results as provisional until the electoral commission announces the official results to reduce the risks of violence or claims of



*An electoral worker offloads ballot boxes from a minibus transporting electoral workers to a collection and tallying centre in Nairobi, Kenya Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022. Kenyans are waiting for the results of a close but calm presidential election in which the turnout was lower than usual. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)*

rigging. But tensions in some places were already high. In the Nairobi neighbourhood of Mathare, an angry crowd formed after seals on a few ballot boxes at a tallying centre were found broken.

This election is likely the final try by longtime opposition leader Raila Odinga, who on his fifth attempt is backed by former rival and outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta. The other top contender is Deputy President William Ruto, who fell out with the president earlier in their decade in power.

Voters have expressed little hope of real change and frustration with rising prices and widespread corruption in East Africa's economic hub.

The electoral commission said turnout was at least 65%, far lower than the 80% in the previous election in 2017. More than 22 million people were registered to

vote, but some told The Associated Press they doubted they would bother, dispirited by economic challenges including high national debt and widespread unemployment.

Both top candidates are long known to Kenyans, Odinga as a democracy campaigner and former political detainee and Ruto as a wealthy populist who plays up his humble youth as a contrast to the dynasties that produced Odinga and Kenyatta.

The president's backing of Odinga cut across the usual ethnic lines that have long defined elections and contributed to violence. This time there is no candidate from Kenya's largest ethnic group, the Kikuyu, though both top candidates chose Kikuyu running mates.

Official election results must be announced within a week of the vote. More than

99% of results forms had been electronically submitted by polling centres to the commission on Wednesday, but it still must verify them with the physical forms.

“The issue of saying that we should declare results today (Wednesday), that will not happen today,” commission chair Wafula Chebukati told journalists, but he said the aim is to conclude the process “at the earliest possible time.” He said polling went smoothly.

“It's not done till it's done,” Odinga's running mate Martha Karua tweeted, as other top candidates were publicly silent.

A runoff election will be held if no candidate receives more than 50% of votes.

On the eve of the vote, Kenya's government reminded people that “this will be a CONTEST, not a FIGHT. A contest must have a winner, and a loser. In a fight, life can sometimes be lost.”

More than 1,000 people were killed after 2007 election results were announced and Odinga alleged massive rigging. In 2017, the high court overturned the election results, a first in Africa, after Odinga alleged irregularities. He boycotted the fresh election and declared himself the “people's president,” drawing accusations of treason.

A handshake with Kenyatta calmed that crisis, set up their unusual alliance and an-

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Beluga whale lost in French river euthanized during rescue

AP – A beluga whale that became a French celebrity after a wrong turn took it up the Seine River had to be euthanized Wednesday after experiencing health complications during an urgent rescue operation, authorities said.

The sparkling white marine mammal appeared deep inside France last week, having accidentally veered off the normal ocean migration route that takes belugas to and from Arctic waters.

Fearing the malnourished creature would not survive in the Seine much longer, a wildlife conservation group and veterinarians planned to move the lost whale to a saltwater port in Normandy, from where they hoped to return it to the open sea.

A team of 80 people assembled to try to save the animal's life, and it was successfully moved Tuesday night from a river lock in Saint-Pierre-la-Garenne, west of Paris, into a refrigerated truck for the 160-kilometre (99-mile) journey to the port in Ouistreham.

But during the drive, the 4-metre-long (13-foot-long) whale started to breath with difficulty, according to Florence Ollivet Courtois, a French veterinarian who worked on the rescue operation.

"During the journey, the veterinarians confirmed a worsening of its state, notably in its respiratory activities, and

at the same time noticed the animal was in pain, not breathing enough," Courtois said.

"The suffering was obvious for the animal, so it was important to release its tension, and so we had to proceed to euthanize it," she added.

Environmentalists had acknowledged the plan to move the beluga risked fatally stressing the mammal. But marine conservation group Sea Shepherd said that it couldn't have survived much longer in the Seine's fresh water.

The group and veterinarians noted the whale had responded to a cocktail of antibiotics and vitamins over the last few days, making them hopeful it would recover once it was back in a saltwater environment.

A necropsy is planned on the whale, which weighed about Olivet 800 kilograms (1,764 pounds).

Rescuers had hoped to spare the whale the fate of an orca that strayed into the Seine and died in May. In 2006, a bottlenose whale — nicknamed "Willy" — swam up the Thames River as far as London and died during its attempted rescue.

Another complicating factor during the beluga's rescue attempt was the extreme heat gripping France. Authorities tried to keep it cool and wet with soaked towels and moved it at nightfall when



*The Beluga whale swims in the lock of Notre Dame de la Garenne prior to being moved, in Saint-Pierre-la-Garenne, west of Paris, France, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. French environmentalists tried to move a Beluga that had strayed into the Seine River last week to a salt-water river basin to try and save its life. Lamya Essemli, president of Sea Shepherd France, said the ethereal white mammal measuring 4-metres will be transported to the salty water for "a period of care" by medics who suspect the mammal is sick. (AP Photo/Aurelien Morissard)*

temperatures are at their lowest.

The sad end to a saga that gripped France in recent days came after experts determined the whale "was too weakened to be put back into water," Guillaume Lericolais, the sub-prefect of France's Calvados region, said.

Rescuers tried to feed the whale fish without success since Friday. Sea Shepherd France said veterinary exams after the beluga's removal from the river showed it has no digestive activity.

**cont'd from pg 18**

gered Ruto, who still accuses the president of betrayal.

Both Odinga and Ruto have said they will accept the results as long as the vote is free and fair.

Already, reported troubles include the failure of about 200 voting kits out of the more than 46,000. The

electoral commission called it "not widespread" and "normal" for technology to break down at times. But some local reports also cited people saying they were unable to vote when polling workers wouldn't use the paper voters' register as a backup, which was allowed.

Such frustrations oc-

curred even after Kenya budgeted \$347 million, or more than \$15 per voter, for one of Africa's most expensive elections.

The wait for a winner was bringing anxiety and fatigue. "Everybody is very exhausted, everybody is eager to give out the ballot boxes and go back home because we have

not even slept for the past two days," said Loice Wanjiru, a deputy presiding officer at a tallying centre in Nairobi.

Kenyans have a week from the announcement of official results to file any court challenges. The court has two weeks to rule. A fresh election would be held within 60 days.

## Chinese envoy tells Australia to show 'caution' over Taiwan

AP – Australia's recent change of government was a chance to "reset" its troubled relationship with China, but the new administration must "handle the Taiwan question with caution," a Chinese envoy said on Wednesday.

Chinese Ambassador to Australia Xiao Qian said he was "surprised" that Australia had signed a statement with the United States and Japan that condemned China's firing of missiles into Japanese waters in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan last week.

"We hope that the Australian side could take China-Australia relations with serious attitude. Take the 'One China' principle seriously, handle the Taiwan question with caution," Xiao told the National Press Club.

Xiao would not say when the live-fire military exercises near Taiwan might end. He said an announcement would be made at a "proper time."

China wanted a peaceful reunification with Taiwan, which Beijing considers a self-governing province, but Xiao did not rule out use of force.

"We can never rule out the option to use other means. So, when necessary, when compelled, we are ready to use all necessary



Chinese Ambassador to Australia, Xiao Qian, speaks at the National Press Club in Canberra, Australia, Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022. Australia's recent change of government was a chance to "reset" its troubled relationship with China, but the new administration must "handle the Taiwan question with caution," a Chinese envoy said on Wednesday. (Mick Tsikas/AAP Image via AP)

means," Xiao said. "As to what does it mean by 'all necessary means?' You can use your imagination."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin this week said Australia had "wantonly criticised China's legitimate, justified and lawful measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Wang urged Australia to "stop interfering in China's internal affairs."

"In the past few years, China-Australia relations have experienced serious difficulties for reasons caused by the Australian side," Wang said.

Beijing has eased a ban on minister-to-minister contacts with Australia since

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's government was elected in May. The two countries' defence and foreign ministers have since had face-to-face meetings.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang wrote to congratulate Albanese on his election and Albanese had replied.

China would discuss with Australia whether conditions were right for a meeting between Albanese and Chinese President Xi Jinping in November when the leaders are in Indonesia for a Group of 20 summit.

Xiao said the new Australian government had made a good start to its relationship with China after a "difficult time for a couple of years."

"But it's a good start

only. There's a lot to be done to really reset this relationship," Xiao said.

Albanese has urged China to demonstrate good faith toward the new government by lifting a series of official and unofficial trade barriers that is costing Australian exporters tens of billions of dollars.

Xiao defended the barriers and pointed to the economic damage Australia had caused Chinese-owned telecommunications giant Huawei by banning it from rolling out the country's 5G network due to security concerns.

Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles, who is filling in while Albanese is on vacation this week, was undeterred by the hostile Chinese reaction to Australia's criticisms of the military response to Pelosi's visit.

"China is going to say what China says. We control our end of this equation. And in describing that end, it's this: We will engage with the world with respect, with professionalism, with sobriety, with a faith in diplomacy," Marles said Wednesday.

"And we will continue to do that. While the government has changed, our national interest hasn't. We will also speak to our national interest and we will speak to it with vigour," Marles added.



## Real Madrid beats Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 for UEFA Super Cup

AP — This time, there were only two goals.

David Alaba and Karim Benzema scored in each half for Real Madrid to win the UEFA Super Cup with a 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt on Wednesday.

Alaba prodded the opener home from close range in the 37th minute when Casemiro cushioned Benzema's header back after a corner. The French star then sealed Madrid's record-equaling fifth Super Cup title in the 65th thanks to an assist from the lively Vinícius Júnior.

It was Benzema's 324th goal for Madrid, overtaking club legend Raúl. Only Cristiano Ronaldo has more after scoring 450 goals for the club between 2009-18.

Benzema, who also joined Madrid in 2009, lifted the trophy for Madrid, his first as captain after taking over from Marcelo.

Barcelona and AC Milan are the only other clubs to have won the Super Cup five times.

But the game between the Champions League winners, Madrid, and Europa League champions, Frankfurt, failed to match the spectacle of their previous meeting.

Their only other competitive game was the 1960 European Cup final, when Alfredo Di Stéfano scored three goals and Ferenc Puskás chipped in with four to give Madrid a 7-3 win and fifth consecutive European crown.

Frankfurt goal-scorer Erwin Stein and teammate Dieter Stinka were in Helsinki for the rematch 62 years later, but it was the 93-year-old José Santamaría — the only remaining Madrid player from that final in Glasgow — who celebrated another win. The three veterans embraced warmly when they met



Real Madrid's David Alaba celebrates with Real Madrid's Karim Benzema after scoring his side's opening goal during the UEFA Super Cup final soccer match between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt at Helsinki's Olympic Stadium, Finland, Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022. (AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

before kickoff.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti started with his established players, forcing new signings Antonio Rüdiger and Aurelien Tchouameni to watch from the bench.

Frankfurt was keen to make amends for a 6-1 rout at home to Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga opening game last Friday.

Frankfurt's Jesper Lindström drew a save from Thibault Courtois early on, though the flag went up for offside, giving the Danish midfielder the distinction of being the first in a European club competition to force UEFA's new semi-automated offside technology into action.

Lindström then set up Daichi Kamada, who was onside before Courtois blocked his effort. They were to be Frankfurt's only real chances.

Vinícius Júnior had Madrid's first

big opportunity, but Brazilian compatriot Tuta slid in to deny him.

Frankfurt keeper Kevin Trapp produced a fine save to stop the next Vinícius Júnior effort in the 37th, but Madrid scored from the resultant corner when Benzema and Casemiro combined to give Alaba an easy finish.

Benzema went close shortly afterward as Madrid ended the first half in the ascendancy, and Vinícius Júnior tested Trapp again early in the second.

The Brazilian cut inside to set up Benzema's goal, when the French forward let fly with a direct shot past Trapp.

Comforted by the two-goal cushion, the Spanish champions began turning on the style with intricate passing combinations — albeit without adding to their tally.

"We didn't play a spectacular game, but we were really solid. Our usual," Ancelotti said.

# Sports News



## Kobe Bryant crash photos lawsuit to be heard by LA jury



Firefighters work the scene of a helicopter crash where former NBA basketball star Kobe Bryant died in Calabasas, Calif., Jan. 26, 2020. Bryant's widow is taking her lawsuit against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department to a federal jury seeking compensation for photos deputies shared of the remains of the NBA star, his daughter and seven others killed in a helicopter crash in 2020. (AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, File)

AP – Kobe Bryant was one of the most photogenic sports figures in Los Angeles, and images of him seen by millions around the world — smiling in victory, grimacing in agony — keep his memory alive.

But some photos of him should never be seen, his widow says, and she's seeking unspecified millions in compensation for snapshots taken of the NBA star's corpse that were circulated after he was killed in a helicopter crash with their daughter and seven others in 2020.

Vanessa Bryant's invasion of privacy trial against the Los Angeles County sheriff's and fire departments began Wednesday in a U.S. District Court just over a mile from where Kobe Bryant played most of his career with the Lakers. A jury was promptly seated in the case, and opening state-

ments were scheduled to start in the afternoon.

Vanessa Bryant claims deputies did not take the photos for investigative purposes and shared them with firefighters who responded to the crash scene. The lawsuit said a deputy showed the photos to bar patrons, and a firefighter showed them off-duty colleagues.

"Mrs. Bryant feels ill at the thought that sheriff's deputies, firefighters, and members of the public have gawked at gratuitous images of her deceased husband and child," according to the lawsuit. "She lives in fear that she or her children will one day confront horrific images of their loved ones online."

Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and other parents and players were flying to a girls' basketball tournament when their char-

tered helicopter crashed in the Calabasas hills west of Los Angeles in fog. Federal safety officials blamed pilot error for the wreck.

Vanessa Bryant has also sued the helicopter charter company and the deceased pilot's estate.

The county has argued that Bryant has suffered emotional distress from the deaths, not the photos, which were ordered deleted by Sheriff Alex Villanueva. They said the photos have never been in the media, on the internet or otherwise publicly disseminated and that the lawsuit is speculative about any harm she may suffer.

A law prompted by the crash makes it a crime for first responders to take unauthorised photos of deceased people at the scene of an accident or crime.



## Nick Kyrgios beats top-ranked Daniil Medvedev in Montreal

AP – Nick Kyrgios beat top-ranked defending champion Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-2 on Wednesday in the National Bank Open.

Kyrgios, the Australian ranked 37th, won last week in Washington for his seventh ATP Tour title. Medvedev won last week in Los Cabos, Mexico.

“Today I had a very clear objective of how I was going to play, a lot of serve-and-volley, a lot of aggressive play from the back,” Kyrgios said.

“I executed better than he did, that’s all it comes down to. He won the first set and I feel like I had opportunities there as well, so



Nick Kyrgios of Australia serves to Daniil Medvedev during second round play at the National Bank Open tennis tournament Wednesday Aug. 10, 2022, in Montreal. (Paul Chiasson/The Canadian Press via AP)

hopefully I can just keep this rolling.”

Kyrgios is 3-1 against Medvedev and has won 14 of 15 matches, with the loss

coming to Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

“This is the fourth meeting we’ve had and I’ve had some success against him in

the past,” Kyrgios said. “But he’s beaten me before. I feel like we know each other’s games well. I’m not the type of player that goes into this match looking at rankings or anything like that, it’s just who I’m playing and what kind of ball they’re giving me.”

Earlier, American Tommy Paul beat second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz of Spain 6-7 (4), 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Also, fourth-seeded Casper Ruud of Norway topped Alex Molcan of Slovakia 7-6 (3), 6-3 and eighth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland beat Emil Ruusuvuori of Finland 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-2.

## Activist pushing to ban cockfighting in the French West Indies

Loop – petition has been launched to abolish cockfighting in French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and 33 other municipalities where the practice is legal.

The petition filed by animal rights activist Gabrielle Paillot calls for the abolition of gallodromes, where cockfighting takes place.

The petition is written to French President Emmanuel Macron and the prefects of the municipalities.

“We ask the recipients of this petition for the permanent closure of the still existing gallodromes in the name of animal welfare,” Paillot wrote in the petition.

Paillot noted that cockfighting is prohibited in most parts of France and offenders risk a three-year prison term



and a fine of 45,000 euros.

Article 521-1 of the French Penal Code makes an exception for cock and bullfighting where an “uninterrupted

local tradition can be invoked”.

Paillot is seeking 50,000 signatures and she has received a total of 39,220 as of August 10.

# Sports News



## Mourillon expects Police to remain strong in domestic cricket

Captain Derek Mourillon said Police will be a strong force to reckon with on the domestic cricket scene.

Mourillon made the prediction after Police defeated All Saints Pythons by 35 runs in the Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League final on 28th July to capture three of the four titles on offer during the just ended 2022 Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League domestic season.

“Going forward, we will get stronger and we will get better and we will be a strong team to reckon with. I can honestly say that from how we have been growing from strength to strength,” Mourillon stated.

“We have been challenged a lot in the Thursday League competition. When we played Pigotts, we were bowled out for 135 and we came back and won the game by bowling them out for 125.

“So at the end of the day, the team keeps getting stronger and stronger as a unit. I am not saying that we will not have bad days because we will and we have had bad days, but at the end of the day, we are a very good team.”

Police also captured the Dave Joseph one-day crown on 9th April and Sir Richie Richardson one-day championship on 21st May, defeating Freetown by six

wickets on both occasions in the finals, which were played at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Freetown got a little revenge by romping to a 49-run win over Police in the final to win the Sir Curtly Ambrose one-day competition at Freetown on 24th July.

Looking back, Mourillon said it was a culmination of approximately five months of hard work, not only on the cricket field, but also performing their regular duties as police officers.

“It could have been better, but it was a very hard and challenging season. It was about five months of hard cricket we have been playing.

“We played on a Saturday and a Sunday and still train in the week, plus still doing our regular duties as police officers,” Mourillon stated.

“Then outside of that we still come to the cricket matches and putting out our best in each and every game so it has been an extremely hard season. But in the end, I must say, the guys keep giving their full support and we did our best.”

Mourillon also showered some praise on the Police batsman Malique Gerald, who has been one of the team’s outstanding players during the just ended season.

“He is a very special



*Captain of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Derek Mourillon. (File photo)*

person to work with. Some may wonder why I keep him there, but the skill that he has in changing the game at the start, it is tremendous. He reminds me of Brendan McCullum at times, he is not easily tamed,” Mourillon stated.

“For example, in a match against Newfield, Police chased down 121 runs in 10 overs to win the game and he batted not out because we did not lose a

wicket.

“So that should give you an idea as to the kind of player he is. It is just for him to keep in remembrance that every ball doesn’t have to get the same treatment and play each ball on its merit.

“He just needs to work on his shot selection and that will be better for the team, but he is a great asset to the Police team in bowling, batting and in fielding especially.”



# Sports News

*cont'd from pg 26*

His media relations skills are not surprising, since he also made his sterling contribution to the profession to the extent that he was appointed Sports Editor at ABS Radio in 1973.

He also made his mark on the field of cricket, performing significant administrative roles in the refurbishing of the Antigua Recreation Grounds to host international cricket in the 1990s. Whyte was also a devoted and long-standing member of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA).

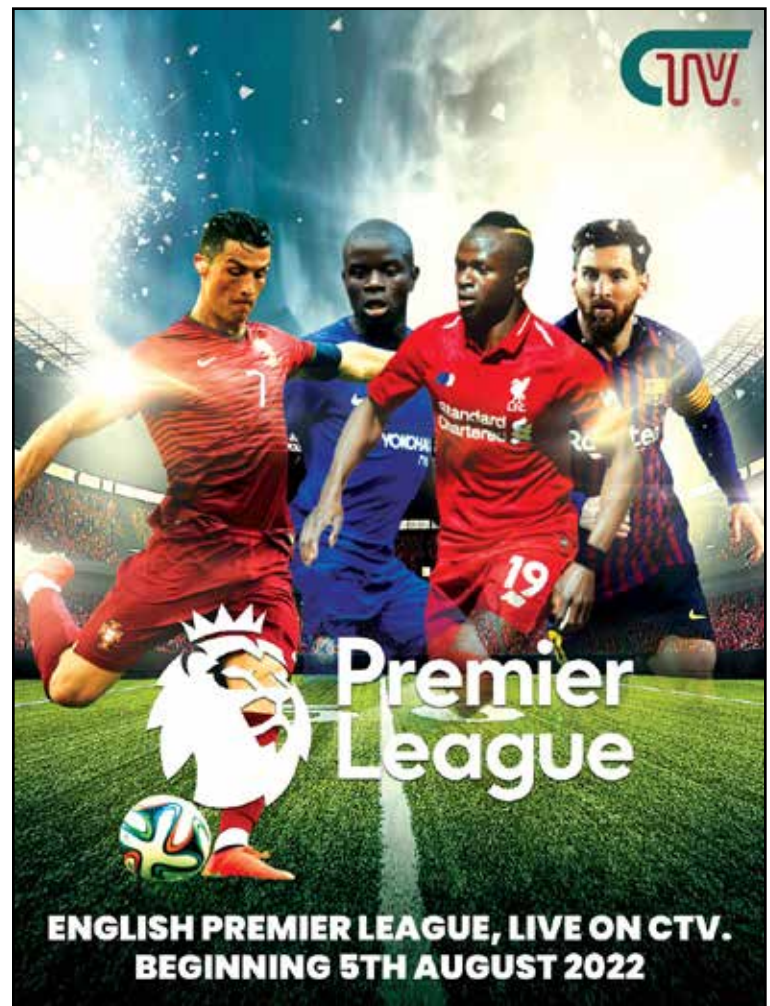
He was also a cricket umpire who stood in four One-Day International games between 1983 and 1988 as well as officiating in the regional first class,

Leeward Islands and domestic matches.

Whyte also served at the executive level on the Antigua and Barbuda and the Leeward Islands cricket umpires associations. He also served as President of the West Indies Cricket Umpires Association from 2001 to 2007.

He also devoted some of his time to cricket and football commentary in which he is renowned for giving his careful, thoughtful and insightful match analysis.

The nation of Antigua and Barbuda is now left to mourn the loss of one giant of a man in Patrick Whyte, who will be fondly remembered as a politely stern, no nonsense administrator that is also known to share quite a bit of humor.




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## Antiguan & Barbudan sports administrator Pat Whyte has died

Native son of the soil, Patrick “Pat” Whyte, one of Antigua and Barbuda’s top sports administrators, passed away on Tuesday, 9th August.

Whyte, who was born on 13th January, 1945, as a native of Villa, died at the age of 77.

During his life, Whyte made positive impacts on many areas of the Antiguan and Barbudan society, arguably, the most significant being in the field of sports administration.

Whyte was appointed as an assistant in the newly created Sports Division in the Ministry of Education in 1973 and he went on to serve as the Director of Sports for over 15 years before retiring in 2003.

While working in the Ministry of Sports, Whyte was instrumental in organizing inter-schools’ sports to a high level. This is no mean accomplishment, since the Ministry of Sports is often reported to be operating on very scarce financial resources.

However, Whyte was instrumental in securing funding and sponsorships to help offset expenses in executing the inter-schools’ sports programmes.

One can recall sponsors such as United Insurance having a long partnership with inter-schools’ cricket with Bata Shoes Store and Milo being associated with schools’ football for many years under Whyte’s stewardship as Director of Sports.

He also made significant contributions in facilitating other sporting organisations to receive much needed departure tax waivers from the government’s treasury whenever they would embark on overseas tours.

Whyte also played a pivotal role in assisting sporting organisations in hosting overseas teams that would travel to Antigua and Barbuda on goodwill tours as well as international, sub-regional and regional tournaments such as the Keithley “KS” Sheppard youth football championship.

Whyte, in conjunction with the late Director of the Community Development Sports and Games Department (CDS&GD) Fitzroy Brann, would have also played a great part in assisting several Antiguan and Barbudan athletes to attain athletic scholarships to overseas colleges and uni-



Former Antigua and Barbuda Director of Sports Patrick Whyte

versities. Although Whyte and Brann did have their differences, they were quite formidable in working together for the betterment of sports in Antigua and Barbuda.

He was also instrumental in creating a national sports policy draft document, which is yet to be implemented.

Whyte also invested a lot of his time and effort into reviving the National Sports Awards in 1992 in

which legendary basketball icon Carl “Bolie” Knight was the proud recipient of the award, which has since become an annual fixture on the nation’s sporting calendar.

Whyte also had an outstanding working relationship with journalists and media workers, not only in his native Antigua and Barbuda but also internationally and right across the Caribbean region.

*cont’d on pg 25*