

DROWNING VICTIM IDENTIFIED

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Governor General Sir Rodney Williams (centre), Prime Minister Gaston Browne (left) and Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin (right) were among those to join in worship at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church as the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) began a week of activities to celebrate the organisation's 41st anniversary. From its pre-independence beginnings as a paramilitary group known as the Trail Blazers, the ABDF has now grown to include along with regular military officers, the Coast Guard Service, Air Wing Division and Cadet Corps.

Drowning victim identified by Coast Guard

The young man who died in a kayaking accident over the weekend has been identified by the Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard as Alon Malcolm Cornelius.

His family and friends are reeling from Sunday's tragedy that began as an afternoon of fun and relaxation.

The young man was one of two people who were kayaking in the same vessel in the vicinity of Runaway Bay.

In a statement, the Coast Guard explained that the kayak overturned and the individuals on board were not wearing life jackets.

They received a call at



Malcolm Cornelius

7:54 pm stating that a man named Malcolm Cornelius was missing after falling off the kayak.

The other individual who was aboard the vessel was in distress but was assisted back to shore by people who were present.

The Coast Guard immediately deployed a vessel, which departed at 7:55pm, and commenced a search of the area.

Their search was assisted by a private vessel, M/V CURSILA.

Following an extensive

search, Cornelius' body was found by M/V CURSILA at 8:58pm and was retrieved by Coast Guard personnel.

His body was taken to the Coast Guard Base at Deep Water Harbour where it was turned over to the police who confirmed his identity.

The district doctor pronounced the 21-year-old dead at 9:53pm.

In its condolences to the Cornelius' family, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard urged people who operate in or near the water to exercise extra care and caution and employ safe practices at all times.

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PM Browne expresses confidence in Yida Project

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says he is quite impressed with Yida Zhang’s economic investment into Antigua and Barbuda.

Zhang, the principal of Yida International Investment, has spent more than US\$200 million on various projects in the country.

Prime Minister Browne was responding to the insinuations of UPP operatives who have attempted to paint the Yida project as a failure.

Quite the opposite, the prime minister said the investor has shown a deep commitment to both the project and to Antigua and Barbuda and added that the public should wish the investor well.

“Yida has invested over US\$200 million in the country’s economy making it one of the most significant investments to date.

“Where the project has not made the kind of progress envisaged is that it is intended to be a free trade zone/special economic zone where Yida is trying to attract foreign direct investment in various sectors, both in services as well as the production of physical goods,” he explained.

Browne said the investor has “done his part” by developing important infrastructure for the project including roads, walkways, a concrete plant, a window

factory, a steel fabrication plant and administrative buildings.

“There’s no doubt that Yida has shown a significant amount of commitment and I see him as one of the most committed investors to the country.

“He gave up his Chinese citizenship and now fully resides in Antigua and Barbuda. He is well vested in this project and his heart is in this project and for him to continue to stick to it, as well as to invite prospective investors, I think we should all wish him success,” Browne declared.

Of the money he invested into the country, the prime minister said that US\$75 million went toward the purchase of the land and offshore islands that comprised the former Dato Tan Kay Hock Guiana Island project. Based on current market value, the estimated worth of the land is about US\$185 million.

PM Browne said it was bewildering that the oppo-



Yida Zhang and Prime Minister Gaston Browne in 2015 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Yida project at Guiana Island. When completed, the development will consist of two five-star hotels, 1,300 residential units, a casino and conference centre, a 27-hole golf course and a marina, among other features.

sition UPP would brand the Yida project a failure when it has already injected \$200 million into the economy and still has the potential to attract US\$2 billion in investment which was projected at the launch of the development.

According to Browne, he met with Zhang last Friday to discuss upcoming investments in the project. Based on those discussions, the prime minister said there will likely be a major announcement in the coming weeks.

Tue 30 Day 88° Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 88F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.		Tue 30 Night 80° A few clouds. Low near 80F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.	
6% 	ENE 12 mph 	10% 	NE 10 mph
Humidity 67%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 75%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:53 am	Sunset 6:22 pm	Moonrise 8:34 am	Moonset 8:42 pm
Waxing Crescent			

COSIS approves Plan of Action

Three Heads of Government met virtually on 26th August, 2022 to pursue ways by which international law could be utilised to secure compensation for damage caused to small island states by Climate Change.

The Heads of Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Tuvalu and Palau gathered under the umbrella organisation, the Commission of Small Islands States on Climate Change and International Law, which was established last November prior to the opening of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow.

Reaffirming their determination to pursue climate justice for their countries and other small island states, which are amongst the greatest victims of Climate Change, the Co-Chairs of the Commission conferred with a group of 14 international lawyers who are highly experienced in matters related to loss and damage, sea-level rise, marine environment, and human rights.

The distinguished group of lawyers reported to the leaders on their research activities and a plan of action that is being developed.

The leaders, Prime Minister Gaston Browne (Antigua and Barbuda), Prime Minister Kausea Natano (Tuvalu) and President Surangel Whipps Jr. (Palau), welcomed the report of the expert group of lawyers and approved their recom-



On 31st October, 2021, at the opening of COP26 in Glasgow, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime minister Gaston Browne and Prime Minister Kausea Natano of Tuvalu concluded a historic Agreement establishing the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change & International Law. Palau was the first to join the initiative on 4th November, 2021.

mendations.

The Commission also expressed full support for the separate, parallel initiative of Vanuatu to request an Advisory Opinion on climate change from the International Court of Justice.

Noting that other small island states have indicated interest in joining the Commission, the leaders encouraged all affected states to join their effort to address the urgent and fundamental injustice in which they bear a disproportionate and overwhelming burden resulting from climate change.

The leaders also decided to establish three working groups, comprising members of the groups of expert international lawyers and representatives of member governments, to advance the objectives of the Commission.

Dean, University Professor & James Marshall Tory Dean's Chair, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto; Associate Member of the Institut de droit international.

5. Eden Charles (Trinidad and Tobago)

Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority for the Enterprise; Former Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the UN General Assembly on Development of an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction; Former Chairman of the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the UN General Assembly; Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN; Lecturer, University of West Indies, Faculty of Law.

6. David Freestone (UK)

Adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar, The George Washington University School of Law, Washington D.C.; Co-Rapporteur of the International Law and Sea Level Rise Committee of the International Law Association; Executive Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission.

7. Vaughan Lowe QC
cont'd on pg 5

The members of the COSIS Committee of Legal Experts are:

1. Payam Akhavan (Canada) (Chair)

Professor of International Law; Senior Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto; Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

2. Catherine Amirfar (USA)

Co-Chair, International Dispute Resolution & Public International Law Group, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York; President, American Society of International Law.

3. Alan Boyle (UK)

Emeritus Professor of International law, University of Edinburgh; Barrister, Essex Court Chambers, London.

4. Jutta Brunnée (Canada)

Duo appear in court to answer drug, ammunition charges

The couple who were arrested and charged over the weekend with possession of drugs and ammunition appeared in court on Monday.

Dane Airall Jr. and Merlyn Richards, both of Golden Grove, were taken before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh in the St. John's Magistrates' Court.

Richards, who was jointly charged with her partner, pleaded not guilty and prosecutors moved to withdraw the charges against her.

Airall, however, pleaded guilty to the charges and will return to court today when he's expected to be sentenced.

His attorney, Wendel



Robinson, requested time to review certain aspects of the case relating to the possible forfeiture of the money that was discovered during the search of the couple's home.

During their search last

Thursday, the police discovered cannabis, drug paraphernalia, local and foreign currencies and ammunition.

They were arrested and charged with possession of 1.641kg of cannabis; pos-

session with intent to sell; being concerned in the supplying of cannabis; unlawful possession of five .38 rounds of ammunition, and unlawful possession of one .45 round of ammunition.

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(UK)

Emeritus Chichele Professor of International Law and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford University; Barrister, Essex Court Chambers, London; Member of the Institut de droit international.

8. Makane Möise Mbengue (Senegal)

Professor of International Law, University of Geneva and Sciences Po Paris, School of Law; Member of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law; Associate Member of the Institut de droit international.

9. Phoebe Okowa (Kenya)

Professor of Public International Law, Queen Mary, University of London, Faculty of Law; Member of the UN International Law Commission; Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration; Public International Law

Advisory Panel, British Institute for International & Comparative Law.

10. Nilüfer Oral (Turkey)

Director of the Centre for International Law and Senior Fellow, National University of Singapore; Member of the UN International Law Commission and Co-Chair of the Study Group on Sea-level Rise in Relation to International Law; Member of the Steering Committee, International Union for the Conservation of Nature World Commission on Environmental Law.

11. Shaista Shameem (Fiji)

Professor and Vice Chancellor, University of Fiji; Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts; Former Director and Chairperson of the Fiji Human Rights Commission and Former Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Council.

12. Jean-Marc Thouvenin (France)
Professor of International Law,

University of Paris Nanterre; Secretary-General of The Hague Academy of International Law; Associate Member of the Institut de droit international.

13. Philippa Webb (Australia)

Professor of Public International Law, King's College London; Barrister, Twenty Essex Chambers, London; Public International Law Advisory Panel, British Institute for International & Comparative Law.

14. Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh (Netherlands)

Assistant Professor of Public International Law, Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University; Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Environmental Law, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, University of the South Pacific, Fiji; Attorney, Blue Ocean Law, Guam.

Young adults gravitate to YEEP

A growing number of young adults are turning to the government's Youth Education and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) to complete their secondary education.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel 'Max' Hurst said this is evidenced by the growing number of people who have signed up for the programme whose new academic year begins next week.

Hurst has reported that approximately 500 students have registered.

"This new batch of students largely comprises young people, many of whom entered into the workforce without fully completing their secondary education. They have now found out that completing their education and getting certification is critical for upward mobility and for earning better salaries and

wages. This has served as a strong motivator for these young people," Hurst explained.

In the coming academic year, YEEP's students will receive lessons at the Youth Department's Building adjacent to the Office of the Prime Minister or a second facility in Casada Gardens #2.

The director, teachers and other YEEP staff have been applauded for their dedication to the success of this programme.

The registered students are all persons who have indicated a desire to improve their chances of promotion in their current jobs or increase their employment opportunities by acquiring CSEC and CAPE subjects.

YEEP also is involved in preparing students to enter university.

Last Saturday, Prime Minister

Gaston Browne addressed the importance of a solid secondary and tertiary education.

To make his point, he compared the quality of the candidates presented to the public by the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) with that of those persons nominated by the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) to contest the upcoming general elections.

According to the prime minister, many of the UPP candidates lack a sound education and the experience required to effectively run the country.

"It's chalk to cheese when you compare the ABLP candidates with their UPP opponents. Our candidates are better educated and are more rounded on a whole compared with those of the UPP," Browne declared.



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JCI makes significant donation to SLBMC Oncology Department

JCI Antigua - a youth development organisation - has made a significant donation to the Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC).

A spokesman for the group said the latest donation to the department came from the proceeds of a “Colour Run and Fitness Jam” held in June this year.

“We will be making donations throughout the year to various groups from the proceeds of this event. Our first donation to the Oncology Department of \$5,000.00 was done last Friday. It’s

the latest donation to the department as, over the past several years, JCI has made annual donations to the department,” the spokesman revealed.

The donation forms part of the JCI Senator Leandra James’ Cancer Awareness Campaign.

Meanwhile, JCI Antigua has confirmed that it will be sending a delegation to the Commonwealth of Dominica to participate in the JCI West Indies 62nd National Convention from 16th to 23rd October, 2022.

According to the organisation, the annual confer-



ence allows JCI members from across the region to “share ideas and experiences on creating positive change in the region”.

“Convention is a time for us to reconnect with old col-

leagues, meet new friends and expand your network in a remarkable way!” a statement said, adding that training and other opportunities will also be made available to participants.

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Jasper (Bobby) Scotland – His life and service

By H.E. Sir Rodney Williams

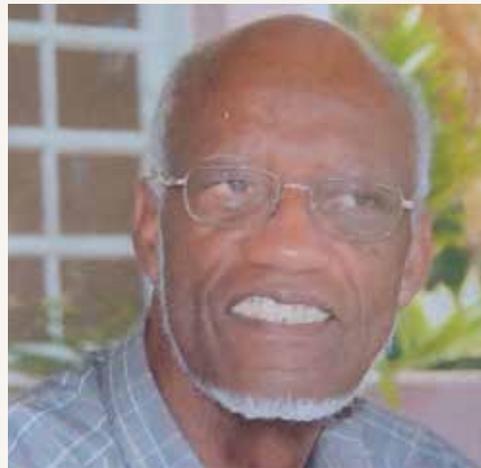
Jasper (Bobby) Alexander Scotland was a son of the soil who dedicated his life to public service both nationally and regionally.

Born on May 7, 1938 in Antigua to Canegata Robert Scotland and Victoria Scotland (né Grant), he attended the Green Bay Moravian School. He grew up on the All Saints Road in Ottos, where many of his friends resided. Bobby described his youthful “gang” as the “Regular Ottos Fellows” – Lester Bird, Vere Bird Jr., Jacob David, Eustie Mondesir, Beres DeFreitas and Peter Merchant. He would later add Milton Benjamin, Freddie Jarvis, Charlie Greer, George Pigott, George Richards, Reginald Peterson and Ickford (Coco) Warner to his list of close pals.

Bobby was the eldest boy, preceded by two sisters in a family of ten siblings. His father was a carpenter and painter, and his mother was a housewife who ensured that he and his siblings received a solid education. He was awarded a scholarship to attend the Antigua Grammar School where he was, on average, two years younger than the students in his class. He completed his Higher School certificate (the equivalent of “A’ Levels) at 15 years old, and then worked as a Junior Clerk (afterwards promoted to Senior Clerk and Executive Officer) in the Antigua Civil Service. He gained valuable public sector experience in various departments, including the Peasant Development Office (PDO), the Administrator’s Office (Registry, Financial Secretary’s Office and Social Welfare Unit), and Holberton Hospital.

After receiving a scholarship to study Management, Accounting and Auditing in Trinidad in 1960, he was appointed as Executive Secretary to the Antigua Industrial Development Board (IDB) in 1962 – with responsibility for managing the corn meal, cotton, ginning, cotton seed oil and arrowroot factories. Bobby said, “At that time, nearly one million pounds of cotton was being produced in Antigua.” He had earlier left the Ministry of Trade and Production, headed by Mr. James Carrott, in order to assume office at IDB.

He was a keen sportsman. In a recent conversation, he reminisced: “My father took me to learn boxing. I was taught



to box by Joe Mercier, the then Caribbean Heavyweight Boxing Champion. As youngsters, we indulged in outdoors small level cricket for fun – ‘Lilliputian’, as it was called. We binged on marbles, spun tops, and flew kites in season. We spent many blissful days on Side Hill Beach diving for conchs, chilibis (small crabs), cockles, and mussels – and occasionally shot birds with our catapults. I played football, lawn tennis and table tennis. In 1967, I took up golf – and although work schedules did not always permit frequent participation, I managed to maintain a respectable handicap. I also used to play second class cricket at King George V, and Turbut’s Saturday Cricket at the Recreation Ground. At times, I was being compared to Andy Roberts. I later played quite a lot of cricket in Canada on West Indian teams.” He exclaimed: “My teen exercise lasted me up to the day I passed seventy, without having any pain”.

Bobby was also very instrumental in organizing the first Carnival in Antigua. He said: “In 1957, Carnival was formally established – headed by John “Ferdie” Shoul. Entertainment wise, it was a hit with the Antiguan public. I served on the publicity committee along with Louis Lockhart and Gerald Price, with responsibilities including the creation of the first Carnival magazine. It was all about helping to popularize Carnival and its events.”

Carnival was dear to his heart. Bobby continued: “In those days, the Carnival Committee would be meeting on “Shoul’s Gallery” until two o’clock in the morning – from February right down until August 2nd. And then maybe one or two after-Carnival meetings to wrap up.

The following year, when I attended the general meeting of the Committee, somebody identified me as a young fellow who was studying accounting. They needed a Chairman of the Finance Committee – and so I was seconded to the Tourist Board, headed by Yvonne Maginley, as Chairman of the Carnival Committee. This was a voluntary role – and of course, one of the things I am proud of is that my financial report was distributed very promptly after Carnival”.

In 1963, he was granted a scholarship to Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada to pursue a degree in Commerce. Upon graduation in 1967, he joined Clarkson and Gordon --a firm of public accountants in Toronto-- and proceeded to certify as a Chartered Accountant via the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. He adds, “I was the only black person in the 200-strong accounting firm”.

In Bobby’s own words, “Two years later, the then Chief Minister of Antigua came to Toronto and advised me that the Financial Secretary (FS), an Englishman by the name of Mr. Gibbs, was returning to London. He asked if I would venture back to Antigua to become the FS, and I readily agreed. My job in Canada was very interesting and well paid, but I just put everything aside and came back home right away. I came because I was resolute about helping my country, Antigua, to improve. I consequently served as Financial Secretary (the titular head of the then civil service) from 1970-1973”.

Bobby had a sincere love for country and did not become side-tracked by political bias. “I made it my business not to be too carried away by the politics of any situation. I saw myself as a professional, and throughout my whole civil service life then and subsequently, I have stuck to those guns.”

In 1971, he was one of approximately 100 voluntary workers who took to the fields to cut 160 tons of sugar cane. This action was undertaken in response to an appeal from the Ministry of Agriculture, with expectations for Antigua to meet the projected yield that had since been diminished due to a shortage of cane cutters. For Bobby Scotland, service to country was --at all levels-- both a privilege and an

cont’d on next page

honour.

By 1973, when Bobby thought that his professionally planned progress was being stifled and he was “not getting enough done in a revolutionary enough fashion to shape the way in which Antigua was going in fiscal terms”, he was recruited by the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana as Chief of Finance on the team of Finance and Administration.

By 1975, he was awarded a British Commonwealth Scholarship and took leave from CARICOM to go to University of North Wales (United Kingdom) to pursue a Master of Science degree in Financial Economics. While at university in Wales, he was presented with the Adam Smith Economics Award for best student of the year. (Adam Smith was an eighteenth-century economist and philosopher who is regarded as the ‘Father of Modern Economics’.)

Bobby Scotland returned to CARICOM in Guyana in 1978, and remained there as Director of Trade, Economics and Statistics until 1982. He joined the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) as Senior Manager of Economics, Chief of Corporate Policy and Planning and Deputy Director. He remained at CDB for 16 years until he retired and “came home”.

He was an avid reader, and has written short stories, poetry and plays – some of which were produced for local radio broadcast. In his earlier years, he was charitably involved in the Young Christian Workers, raising funds for hundreds of needy children across the island.

Reflection on the history of Antigua during his lifetime was also something that Bobby did often. He spoke about the locomotives and how they transported cartloads of sugar cane. He relayed stories of Christmas Day and Boxing Day in the 1940’s. “There were women with trays of peppermint, and sugar baby, and sugar cake, and peanut candy, and ginger sticks, and chocolate sticks. Christmas was really for the children – and of course, if you got a little toy truck to push (maybe in later years, you got one that could be wound up), you’d better bet your life you’d have it for five years after! And maybe pass it on to a brother as well...”

His recollection of childhood days is a peaceful one. “I have pleasant memories of the Piddocks – Geoffrey and his brother – with whom I was friends in the early years. My father was their paint-

er and carpenter, and we got along very well together. The same could be said of my other friends, Derek and Trevor Evelyn. Children of different shades, playing without prejudice.”

Bobby Scotland took extremely good care of his family. He recently mentioned: “Wherever I went, I had my family with me. Someone was remarking to me the other day how incredible it is that wherever I went to study or work, I took my young family. But I like to think I am a family man. It wasn’t easy – but I made sure that my family accompanied me. I recognize the importance of being an all-rounder – an accomplished professional; a family man.” He is survived by five children, eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

With a tinge of sentiment caressing his voice, he said: “I was lucky to find Mary Royer-Dublin, who I met in the 50’s teaching at the Green Bay Primary School. The support-- the push and the pull -- that she gave me over the years [prior to her passing] was irreplaceable. It was just unbelievable. I couldn’t tell her that enough.”

In 2001, following his retirement from the Caribbean Development Bank in Barbados, Bobby served as a Director of Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) and its subsidiary, ACB Mortgage and Trust Co. Ltd, where he was Vice Chairman from 2005 to 2008. He was also a Director representing ACB’s interests in the Jolly Beach Hotel and Jolly Harbour (BVI) Limited for two years, from 2006. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Antigua and Barbuda Development Bank from 2004, for approximately nine years. In his latter stages of his life, he undertook pro bono consultations for several private individuals and micro-companies in Antigua concerning financial aspects of their businesses to include accounting, mortgages and financial analysis.

Bobby understood the struggle that our country had endured over several generations. In his words, “I was aware of the efforts that VC Bird was making in the society, in terms of financing in particular, and that was very necessary because our people worked for so little”.

Just prior to his death, he remarked on the future of our great nation. “By and large, more or less, Antigua and Barbuda has come a very long way in terms of economic development. We are well poised to take off, but we have to reme-

dy some of the deficiencies. We must focus on efficiency and productivity because there’s no such thing as a free lunch. In Economics, every benefit has its cost, and we disregard high cost at the risk of losing ball, bat and bat stick – everything – if we’re not careful. We also have to keep contact with, and learn as much as we can from, the outside world. But we cannot afford to be indifferent to the possibility of being overwhelmed by hoards and high numbers. So we need to increase our own skills – and get properly trained. All in all, it is necessary to keep good balance. We cannot lose sight of our culture or relinquish hold on our job opportunities. We cannot assume pure altruism or philanthropy on the part of others. We must be watchful, prudent and skilful. It is imperative for us to be industrious, in its real sense.”

His parting words were: “Be proper. Recognize value. Understand that civilization brings with it, a huge amount of morality that we cannot afford to discard. We cannot just pick up all bad habits and spoil ourselves. Hundreds of societies have melted away due to atrophy. They’ve fallen out of line. They’re not moving forward in any way. We cannot allow ourselves to follow such a path”.

Jasper (Bobby) Scotland -- my dear father-in-law –departed this life on August 11, 2022. After the death of his religiously devout wife, Mary, in January 2021 he became even more resolute in his belief in God and his devotion to prayer. He repeatedly reminded me that he was “not afraid to die” – that he had read his bible, interpreted it, and understood the message; that he had done the best possible-- under the circumstances -- for his family, the country and the Caribbean; and that one of the important missions in life was the acceptance of and preparation for the hereafter.

He was indeed a gentleman, a scholar and great contributor to national and regional economic development. Two sayings come to mind when I recall the sterling contribution that he has made. Russell Conwell, an American Baptist Minister, once said that “True greatness is often unrecognized.” And author Mark Twain is known to have remarked, “It is better to deserve honours and not have them, than to have them and not deserve them”.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Nations fail to reach deal on UN treaty to protect sea life

Diplomats from around the world have failed to reach agreement on a United Nations treaty designed to protect marine life on the high seas, after a fifth round of talks ended in impasse.

Negotiations at U.N. headquarters in New York were suspended early Saturday following two weeks of talks that environmentalists had hoped would close a gap in international marine protection measures.

A proposed treaty would set rules for protecting biodiversity in two-thirds of the world's ocean areas that are outside of national jurisdictions.

Less than 1% of the high seas are protected without a new treaty, and "pockets of marine protection are not enough" for threatened species, said Maxine Burkett, the United States deputy assistant secretary of state who was involved in negotiations.

The global goal is to set aside 30% of ocean area as some kind of marine sanctuary.

Ocean health is also key to combating climate change because more than 90% of the excess heat from climate change is absorbed by the seas. Marine heat waves are getting longer and more frequent.

"The ocean cannot afford further delay," Burkett said earlier in the week,



Secretary of State John Kerry stands onstage against a video backdrop of ocean life during the *Our Ocean, One Future* conference at the State Department in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016. Diplomats from around the world have failed to reach agreement on a United Nations treaty designed to protect marine life on the high seas. A fifth round of talks ended in impasse early Saturday when negotiations at United Nations headquarters in New York were suspended after two weeks. Environmentalists had hoped the talks would close a gap in international marine protection measures by setting rules for protecting biodiversity in two-thirds of the world's ocean areas that are outside of national jurisdictions. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen, File)

when the negotiations looked promising.

In the Caribbean, "our livelihoods are directly dependent on the health of the ocean," said Janine Felson, Belize's ambassador to the United Nations.

Talks centred on how to share benefits from marine life, establish protected areas, prevent harm from human activity on the high seas and to help poor countries gain the skills and means for ocean exploration.

Campaigners expressed disappointment at the fail-

ure to reach a deal but said the talks produced some progress.

Laura Meller, who leads Greenpeace's ocean protection campaign, accused rich countries such as the United States of being too slow to compromise.

"Russia has also been a key blocker in negotiations, refusing to engage in the treaty process itself, or attempting to compromise with the European Union and many other states on a wide range of issues," Meller said.

The talks will resume next year unless a special emergency session is called before the end of 2022.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Monica Medina also voiced disappointment but expressed hope that the work done so far would carry forward. She said the United States remained committed to the goal of protecting at least 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

"We cannot let the tides and currents push us back. We must keep going," Medina said. (AP)

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'Man of the Hole': Last of his tribe dies in Brazil

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

The last remaining member of an uncontacted indigenous group in Brazil has died, officials say.

The man, whose name was not known, had lived in total isolation for the past 26 years.

He was known as Man of the Hole because he dug deep holes, some of which he used to trap animals while others appear to be hiding spaces.

His body was found on 23 August in a hammock outside his straw hut. There were no signs of violence.

He is thought to have died of natural causes at an estimated age of 60.

The man was the last of an indigenous group living in the Tanaru indigenous area in the state of Rondônia, which borders Bolivia.

The majority of his tribe are believed to have been killed as early as the 1970s by ranchers wanting to expand their land.

In 1995, six of the remaining members of his tribe were killed in an attack by illegal miners, making him the sole survivor.

Brazil's Indigenous Affairs Agency (Funai) only became aware of his survival in 1996, and had been monitoring the area ever since for his own safety.

It was during routine patrols that Funai agent Altair José Algayer found the man's body covered in macaw feathers in a hammock outside one of his straw huts.

Indigenous expert Marcelo dos Santos told local media that he thought the man had placed the feathers on himself, knowing that he was about to die.

"He was waiting for death, there were no signs of violence," he said,



The man's face was briefly captured on camera by anthropologist Vincent Carelli

adding that the man had probably died 40 to 50 days before his body was found.

There were no signs of any incursions in his territory and nothing in his hut had been disturbed, officials said. A post-mortem will be carried out to try to determine whether he had contracted a disease.

As he had avoided any contact with outsiders, it is not known what language the man spoke or which ethnic group he may have belonged to.

In 2018, members of Funai managed to film him during a chance encounter in the jungle. In the footage, he can be seen hacking at a tree with something resembling an axe.

There had been no sighting of him since, but Funai agents did come across his straw huts and the deep holes he dug.

Some had sharpened spikes at the bottom and are thought to have been traps for animals he hunted, such as wild boar.

Mr Algayer, the Funai agent who found his body, said that all of the huts the man had built over the years - of which there were more than 50 - also contained a 3m-deep (10 ft) hole.

Mr Algayer thinks the holes may have held a spiritual significance for the man, while others have speculated that he may have used them as hiding places.

Evidence found over the years in the area also suggests he planted maize and manioc and collected honey as well as fruits such as papaya and bananas.

Under Brazil's constitution, indigenous people have a right to their traditional land, and access to the land he inhabited, known as the Tanaru Indigenous Territory, has been restricted since 1998.

The areas surrounding the 8,070-hectare territory are used for farming and landowners have in the past expressed their anger at being

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banned from entering the indigenous territory.

In 2009, a Funai post in the area was damaged and cartridge shells were left behind in what was considered a threat to the Man of the Hole and the Funai agents protecting him.

The restriction order has to be renewed every few years and in order for it to be approved, the presence of members of an indigenous group on the land in question has to be documented.

With the Man of the Hole dead, indigenous rights groups have called for the Tanaru reserve to be granted permanent protection.

There are about 240 indigenous tribes in Brazil, with many under threat as illegal miners, loggers and farmers encroach onto their territory, warns Survival In-



Over the years, Funai found dozens of straw huts the man had built

ternational, a pressure group fighting for the rights of indigenous people.

The risks facing Bra-

zil's indigenous people were highlighted recently when activist Txai Suruí received death threats after she gave

a passionate speech at the opening ceremony of the COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow.

We're Backkkkk

The Police Drama Group is back with a play called **School call Eeeeeen**

Written and directed
By Owen Jackson
Antigua Recreation Ground

\$20.00 **8:pm** **\$20.00**

Saturday 10th September 2022

Farm worker mistreatment claims dismissed by Jamaica's Labour Minister

CMC – Jamaica's Minister of Labour, Karl Samuda, has dismissed claims that Jamaicans working under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) were subjected to poor working conditions and mistreatment in Canada.

The charges, documented in a letter by Jamaican farm workers in Canada, who wished not to be identified, described their complaints about working long hours, verbal abuse and intimidation, and bad living conditions, including rats devouring their food, at two farms in the Niagara region.

According to the workers, the letter was also sent to the minister of labour on August 11.

Samuda stated that, contrary to the accusations, he saw the opposite during a tour of nine farms in seven locations across Ontario, Canada, earlier this month.



Jamaica's Minister of Labour, Karl Samuda

He shared that the conditions were excellent.

He also noticed that many of the employees had been there for more than 30 years, which signalled to him that these people were doing well because they would not want to stay in a difficult atmosphere for so long.

The minister did not find any sign of ill-treatment during his tour, adding that

the relationship between almost 100 percent of the farm owners and workers was pleasant.

Samuda stated that the owners had gone above and beyond the regulations, noting that when he toured a farm, the owners had renovated the facilities for the workers.

He also said in another instance the farm owner had permitted the Jamai-

can workers to build a bar on the facility's veranda to serve the workers foods and drinks that reminded them of home.

In terms of housing, Samuda stated that most facilities were set up to accommodate two people cohabiting, with clean, comfortable bedding.

He acknowledged that with more than fifty people working in one area, there may be occasional problems, but he claimed that during his visit, he had not met with any employee who expressed a wish to leave the program.

However, he stated that he made it clear that the partnership between farm owners and workers was not to be recognized as a "master-servant relationship", but rather one in which everyone worked together to make the farm a success.

BVI: Commission to make recommendations to hold gov't accountable

CMC – The Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) is being tasked with making recommendations on, among other things, ways of holding the elected ministerial government accountable in the House of Assembly (HOA).

According to a post-meeting statement of Cabinet decisions, this will be part of the terms of reference for the Commission.

The Commission is also expected to make recommendations on how checks and balances and mechanisms for accountability may be employed to militate against abuse of power, the Cabinet release said.

The 16-member Commission which is being chaired by Janice Stoutt is also charged with evaluating the current Virgin Islands Constitution Order,



2007, and making a determination on whether it is a strategic fit to facilitate

the people of the Virgin Islands in achieving a revised

cont'd on pg 15

Guyana: Only high-risk people eligible for Monkeypox vaccine

CMC – Health Minister Dr Frank Anthony said Thursday that only persons considered high-risk would be eligible for the monkeypox vaccine when it arrives in the country next month.

Guyana is expected to receive its first set of Imvamune vaccines for the viral infection by the end of September from Canada, through the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO).

Imvamune protects against orthopoxvirus infections such as monkeypox and smallpox.

Speaking during his COVID-19 update, Dr Anthony explained that individuals who have been exposed to the virus will be the first to be vaccinated.

“If someone is at high-risk, meaning that you would have been in close contact with somebody who has monkeypox, then your chances of getting monkeypox would be quite high.

“The criteria to administer the vaccine would be that the person must have been exposed, and be at high risk for getting monkeypox,” he said.

Dr. Anthony explained that Imvamune is a modified vaccine and his ministry will be working to see how protective it is against monkeypox.

He said similar to the COVID-19 vaccine, there may be some temporary side effects to the monkeypox vaccine.

These include swelling



Guyana's Minister of Health, Dr. Frank Anthony

or redness at the vaccination site, headaches and some muscle pain.

Minister Anthony has urged residents to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves against

the virus.

Currently, there are roughly 45,000 monkeypox cases and 13 deaths in some 96 countries.

Guyana recorded its first case last week.

cont'd from pg 14

vision of the preamble to the current constitutional order.

This is in addition to reviewing the likely next step towards self-determination for the Virgin Islands; and considering how best the law enforcement and justice agencies can sit within the constitutional framework.

Other terms of reference for the Commission include recommendations for examining whether independent institutions enshrined in the Constitution are sufficient and effective enough to ensure good governance.

The CRC is also being asked to consider making recommendations in relation to the powers that need to be reserved to the governor, and how

issues as to the exercise of devolved and reserved powers, respectively, when they arise, are to be resolved.

Recommendations are also to be made on a mechanism for the transfer of reserved powers to the devolved BVI government, in the future, without a further change to the constitution being required.

The issue of whether the Speaker should continue to be a political appointment, or whether he or she, even if elected, should be independent of the political parties will also see recommendations from the CRC.

It will also make recommendations on the proper relationship between ministers and their departments and whether statutory boards should be embedded in the constitution and

if there should be a Statutory Boards Commission.

In the meantime, the Cabinet statement said the Deputy Chair and members of the CRC are to be paid a stipend of US\$12,000 and \$10,000, respectively, upon the submission of the CRC's final report.

This is on the provision that the amount may be prorated based on the submission of the Chairman's report and on the member's level of participation in the CRC.

Cabinet, while noting that the selected Chairman is currently a contracted employee of the central government, said she shall be contracted as the chairperson of the CRC upon completion of the current contract with the Ministry of Finance.

Clashes erupt after Iraqi Shiite cleric resigns, 15 dead

AP – An influential Shiite cleric announced Monday that he would resign from Iraqi politics, prompting hundreds of his angry followers to storm the government palace and sparking clashes with security forces and between rival militias. At least 15 protesters were killed.

Protesters loyal to cleric Muqtada al-Sadr pulled down the cement barriers outside the government palace with ropes and breached the palace gates. Many rushed into the lavish salons and marbled halls of the palace, a key meeting place for Iraqi heads of state and foreign dignitaries.

Iraq's military announced a nationwide curfew, and the caretaker premier suspended Cabinet sessions in response to the violence. Medical officials said dozens of protesters were wounded by gunfire and tear gas and physical altercations with riot police.

As night fell, a militia loyal to al-Sadr clashed with the Popular Mobilisation Forces security inside the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government, wounding at least one woman, according to two security officials. Several mortar rounds were heard, the officials said.

The crackle of machine gun fire persisted and echoed throughout central Baghdad.

The PMF is an umbrella group composed of state-sanctioned paramilitary groups, the most powerful of which are aligned with al-Sadr's rivals in the Iran-backed political camp.

Security officials said mortars and rocket-propelled grenades were used in the clashes, a culmination of intractable political impasse between the rival camps.



Iraqi security forces prevent protesters from entering the Federal Court during a demonstration in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Aug. 29, 2022. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

Iraq's government has been deadlocked since al-Sadr's party won the largest share of seats in October parliamentary elections but not enough to secure a majority government. His refusal to negotiate with his Iran-backed Shiite rivals and subsequent exit from the talks has catapulted the country into political uncertainty and volatility amid intensifying intra-Shiite wrangling.

Iraq's majority Muslim population is split into two sects, Shiites and Sunnis. Under Saddam Hussein, the Shiites were oppressed until the U.S.-led invasion reversed the political order. Now the Shiites are fighting among themselves, with the dispute centering around power and state resources but also influence over the Shiite street.

To further his political interests, al-Sadr has wrapped his rhetoric with a nationalist and reform agenda that resonates powerfully among his broad grassroots base of supporters

who hail from Iraq's poorest sectors of society and have historically been shut out from the political system.

Many were first followers of his father, a revered figure in Shiite Islam. They are calling for the dissolution of parliament and early elections without the participation of Iran-backed Shiite groups, which they see as responsible for the status quo.

During Monday's clashes, Saraya Salam, a militia aligned with al-Sadr gathered in the capital's Tahrir Square to "protect" protesters, one of its commanders said.

A senior medical official confirmed at least 10 protesters were killed by gunfire. The number was also confirmed by the Sadrist media office, which provided a list of 10 names.

Iraq's caretaker premier said he would open an investigation into the shootings and said the use of live ammunition against protesters was forbidden.

UN agency to inspect Ukraine nuclear plant in urgent mission

AP – A U.N. nuclear watchdog team set off on an urgent mission Monday to safeguard the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant at the heart of fighting in Ukraine, a long-awaited trip the world hopes will help avoid a radioactive catastrophe.

The stakes couldn't be higher for the International Atomic Energy Agency experts who will visit the plant in a country where the 1986 Chernobyl disaster spewed radiation throughout the region, shocking the world and intensifying a global push away from nuclear energy.

"Without an exaggeration, this mission will be the hardest in the history of IAEA," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Underscoring the urgency, Ukraine and Russia again accused each other of shelling the wider region around the nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, which was briefly knocked offline last week. The dangers are so high that officials have begun handing out anti-radiation iodine tablets to nearby residents.

To avoid a disaster, IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi has sought access for months to the Zaporizhzhia plant, which Russian forces have occu-



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows bush fires outside of the main power plant facilities at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Russian occupied Ukraine, Monday Aug. 29, 2022. A team from the U.N. nuclear watchdog on Monday started its journey to the Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant at the heart of fighting in Ukraine, a long-awaited mission to inspect crucial safety systems that the world hopes will help avoid a catastrophe. (Satellite image ©2022 Maxar Technologies via AP)

pled since the early days of the six-month-old war. Ukrainian nuclear workers have been operating the plant.

"The day has come," Grossi tweeted Monday, adding that the Vienna-based IAEA's "Support and Assistance Mission ... is now on its way."

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the team, which Grossi heads, was scheduled to arrive in Kyiv on Monday. In April, Grossi had headed an IAEA mission to Chernobyl, which Russian forces occupied earlier in the war.

The IAEA said that its

team will "undertake urgent safeguards activities," assess damage, determine the functionality of the plant's safety and security systems and evaluate the control room staff's working conditions.

Ukraine's nuclear energy agency, Energoatom, warned Monday of Russian attempts to cover up their military use of the plant.

Ukraine accused Russia of new rocket and artillery strikes at or near the plant, intensifying fears that the fighting could cause a massive radiation leak.

So far, radiation levels

at the facility, which has six reactors, have been reported to be normal.

Ukraine has alleged that Russia is essentially holding the plant hostage, storing weapons there and launching attacks from around it, while Moscow accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the facility.

World leaders have called on the Russians to demilitarise the plant. Satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies on Monday showed armoured personnel carriers on a road near the reactors, damage to a building's roof also near the reactors, and brush fires burning nearby.

Pakistan floods leave wrecked lives, half million in camps

AP – Nearly a half million people crowded into camps after losing their homes in widespread flooding and the climate minister warned Monday that Pakistan is on the “front line” of the world’s climate crisis after unprecedented monsoon rains wracked the country since mid-June, killing more than 1,130 people.

The rains stopped more than two days ago, and floods in some areas were receding. But Pakistanis in many parts of the country were still wading through waters that filled their homes or covered their town’s streets as they struggled with how to deal with the damage to homes and businesses.

In one of the worst single incidents of the flooding, at least 11 people were killed Monday when a boat that volunteer rescuers were using to evacuate two dozen people capsized in the flood-swollen waters of the Indus River near the southern city of Bilawal Pur, media reported. An unknown number were still missing from the capsizing.

Climate Minister Sherry Rehman and meteorologists told The Associated Press that new monsoons were expected in September. Monsoons have hit earlier and more heavily than usual since the start of summer, officials say — most recently with massive rains last week that affected nearly the entire country.



Army troops evacuate people from a flood-hit area in Rajanpur, district of Punjab, Pakistan, Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022. Officials say flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains across much of Pakistan have killed nearly 1,000 people and displaced thousands more since mid-June. (AP Photo/Asim Tanveer)

Pakistan is accustomed to monsoon rains and flooding, Rehman said, but not like this.

“What we saw recently in the last eight weeks is unremitting cascades of torrential rain that no monsoon has ever brought with it ever before,” she said.

The heavy rains are the latest in a series of catastrophes that Rehman said are exacerbated by climate change, including heatwaves, forest fires and glacial lake outbursts.

The damage reflects how poorer countries often pay the price for climate change largely caused by more industrialised nations. Since 1959, Pakistan has been responsible for only 0.4% of the world’s historic CO2 emissions. The U.S. is responsible for 21.5%, China for 16.5% and the EU 15%.

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West Ham signs Brazil's Paquetá from Lyon for \$61.6M

AP – Brazil international Lucas Paquetá joined West Ham for a club-record fee of 61.6 million euros (\$61.6 million) on Monday, ending his two-year stint at French team Lyon.

Lyon said the fee included 18.7 million euros in bonuses spread over the player's five-year contract.

The signing of Paquetá, a silky attacking midfielder who can play anywhere across the forward line or deeper in central midfield, is another statement of intent by West Ham, which has also bought Italy striker Gianluca Scamacca for 30 million

pounds (\$36 million) from Sassuolo in this transfer window.

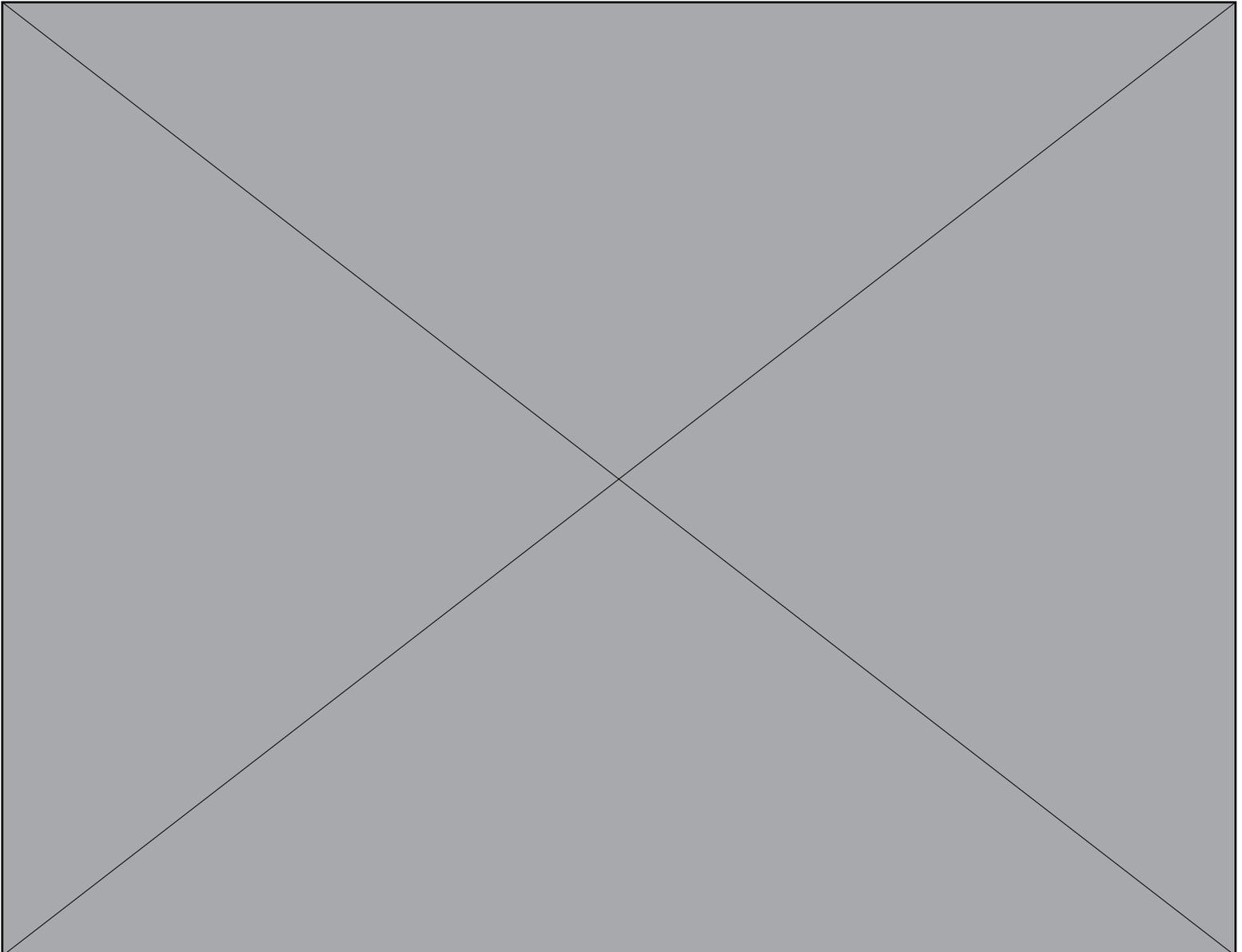
Paquetá played against West Ham in the Europa League last season. He previously played for AC Milan.

"He's a player I've admired from afar for a very long time," West Ham manager David Moyes said, "and of course, we saw him close up in our Europa League campaign last season.

"He's a very talented footballer and whilst he will need time to adapt to the Premier League, we're excited about adding another proven international to our squad."



Lucas Paquetá



Patriots Men and Royals Women lift Universe trophies

Barbados Royals Women and Saint Kitts & Nevis Patriots Men were crowned champions in the inaugural SKYEXCH 6IXTY after two thrilling matches at Warner Park.

The Universe Boss, Chris Gayle, lifted his own trophy as the Patriots won the inaugural men's SKYEXCH 6IXTY. In the poetry of cricket, Gayle was dropped twice in one over before he hit the winning runs to see his team over the line. You couldn't have scripted it better. It was written in the stars.

When put in to bat in the men's final the Trinbago Knight Riders had a tricky start to their innings losing two early wickets and finding themselves 6/2 after just nine balls. Sunil Narine, who had batted so brilliantly in the semi-final, was dismissed without scoring before some incredible wicket-keeping from Da Silva saw the back of Tion Webster.

Andre Russell looked to be the difference and was striking the ball well, but a stunning piece of fielding put an end to his efforts before Terrance Hinds and Seekkuge Prasanna were both sent packing. Resistance in the form of an unbeaten 37 from Tim Seifert meant the Patriots needed 85 to win.



The chase started with gusto from the Patriots who unlocked the extra Powerplay for the first time in the tournament and they raced to 43/0 after just 20 balls. Russell made the initial breakthrough bowling Lewis for 21 and Narine made light work of Dewald Brevis who went without scoring. But the excitement really started when the Universe Boss strolled out to bat.

With a trophy named after him and eternal bragging rights on the line, he came out with his usual intent and went aerial. This always has its dangers and with just 13 needed from 12 the ball found Jayden Seales, who dropped him before just two balls later he was

also dropped by Anderson Phillip.

With seven needed off the final over, Gayle and Fletcher rotated strike until with four required, it was the man after whom the trophy was named to face. In his usual style, he swung hard and found the boundary on the on side. As the ball raced away for four, the Patriots were already celebrating, and Gayle's wry smile was just an indication of what it meant to win the inaugural title and lift a trophy named after him.

Shakera Selman produced a magical spell to stun the Trinbago Knight Riders women and help her team become the first to lift the women's Universe Boss SKYEXCH 6IXTY trophy. With the Knight Riders already on the ropes, Selman claimed three wickets in the penultimate over to clean up the Knight Riders' batters and ensure a 15-run victory.

Batting first, Royals' openers captain Hayley Matthews and Aaliyah Alleyne set the foundations before Matthews fell for 15. Their troubles continued when the in-form Chloe Tryon was stumped without adding to the score and Alleyne not long after

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Past US Open champs Medvedev, Murray advance to second round

AP – Daniil Medvedev had an easy start to his U.S. Open title defence, beating Stefan Kozlov 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 on Monday.

On the same Arthur Ashe Stadium court where that night Serena Williams was set to begin what could be the final tournament of her career, the top-seeded Medvedev looked just as strong as he did in sweeping past Novak Djokovic in last year's final for his first major title.

Medvedev advanced to face Arthur Rinderknech of France. The Russian is trying to become the first repeat champion at the U.S. Open since Roger Federer won five straight from 2004-08.

"I need to be at my best on Wednesday and I'm going to try to make it," Medvedev said.

Andy Murray was another early winner, 10 years after winning the first of his



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, returns a shot to Stefan Kozlov, of the United States, during the first round of the US Open tennis championships, Monday, Aug. 29, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

three Grand Slam titles in Flushing Meadows. He had one of the first upsets of the tournament by beating No. 24 seed Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina 7-5, 6-3, 6-3.

"It seems like a long time ago," Murray said of his victory over Novak Djokovic in 2012. "A lot's happened since then in my career."

Djokovic couldn't travel to the tournament this year because he isn't vaccinated

against COVID-19.

Many fans arriving for the day session at the final Grand Slam event of the season were focused on the match that would lead off the action at night. Williams, the 23-time major champion who has said she is preparing to end her tennis career, was scheduled to face Danika Kovinic.

Williams figured to face more comfortable condi-

tions after a hot start under sunny skies in Flushing Meadows. Leading 3-0 in the third set, Medvedev told the chair umpire he wanted a bag of ice so he could put it on his head.

"Pretty hot and humid here," Medvedev said after the match.

No. 29 seed Tommy Paul overcame the heat to outlast Bernabe Zapata Miralles 4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-0, 7-5 in 3 hours, 10 minutes. Fellow American Sebastian Korda also got his first win at his home Slam, beating Facundo Bagnis in four sets.

Another American advanced in an upset, with J.J. Wolf ousting No. 16 seed Roberto Bautista Agut in straight sets.

Third-seeded Maria Sakkari and No. 17 Caroline Garcia were among the early winners on the women's side, with Sakkari overcoming Wimbledon semifinalist Tatjana Maria in three sets.

cont'd from pg 20

both thanks to the bowling brilliance from Anisa Mohammed in the middle overs.

Chinelle Henry put up resistance with her 15 and the batting side reached 64 before Cooper was stumped for 6 and the Royals were all out 65 off 56 balls. It had been an all-round effort in the field by the Knight Riders and with Deandra Dottin opening the batting and in fine form, they looked confident as they came out to chase the runs in pursuit of the title.

When Lee-Ann Kirby fell in the

first over it was clear the chase would not be easy. Then in a shock twist, Dottin chopped on to her own stumps in the same over and suddenly the Knight Riders were 13/2 at the end of the second. The Royals continued to keep a lid on the run chase and remained disciplined in their bowling.

The boundaries dried up and there was a spell of 37 balls before the ball found the rope.

The game was in the balance with the batting side needing 19 from 12 and it looked like a nailbiter was brewing. However, it was here that Selman

produced her incredible over claiming Jensen caught by Matthews for 7 before Luus was caught at mid-off and Kycia Knight was caught by Joseph to seal the victory.

The Barbados Royals have secured the title in the inaugural women's SKYEXCH SIXTY and the party could begin.

It truly was a ground-breaking tournament full of all the thrills and spills and everything in between and what better way for it to finish than with the image of the Universe Boss lifting the Universe Boss trophy.



Head coach Sylvester 'Bouncing' Joseph, right, and the Leeward Islands squad at the recently concluded Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship in Grenada. (File photo)

Joseph expresses satisfaction with Leeward Islands Under-15s

Head coach Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph said he is quite pleased with the way the Leeward Islands team performed at the recently concluded Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship in Grenada.

Barbados were crowned winners of the rain-affected CWI Under-15 Boys Championship when they defeated Leeward Islands in the final round of matches at the Grenada National Stadium on Friday, 26th August.

The Bajans won the 15-over-per-side match against the Leewards by 16 runs to top the table with 18.4 points. They played unbeaten throughout the tournament, which was changed from a 50-over aside event to a T20 format for the last three round of matches after rain forced the first two

rounds to be abandoned.

However, Joseph said he was quite impressed with the way the Leeward Islands players conducted themselves and performed in the six-team regional tournament.

"I think this year's Leeward Islands Under-15 team performed creditably well in terms of the preparations that we had. To see how these guys went out there and tried to execute our plans and showed their thought process and the willingness to learn with a competitive spirit, I think everyone that saw us and spoke to us, they were quite impressed with the way we operated as a team," Joseph stated.

"As I have told the players, I am really happy to be a part of their future and it is just overwhelming to see the

way that they performed."

This year's CWI Under-15 competition was the first Cricket West Indies tournament for the players and most of them will still be eligible to play in next year's regional championship.

"They are in a learning phase and I have told them to use every opportunity to learn and utilize the bit of experience they would have gained from their first Cricket West Indies tournament," Joseph said.

"I believe this will be the first of many West Indies youth tournaments for most of them from the talent that they showed and the willingness and the attitude that they would have displayed throughout this year's tournament.

"We had some difficult times in terms of the weath-

er. We never really got the opportunity in Grenada to engage in any type of proper practice session and so it is really heartening to see how they went out and played in the competition matches.

"I must give the captain Matthew Miller a lot of credit for the way he marshalled the troops on the field and the way in which he sets the field and operated. The players responded well to his leadership and that is really remarkable to see.

"We played our last game against Barbados and if we would have won that we would have won the competition, so from where we started and to see where we ended up, I think that is a great learning experience for them. So overall, I think we had a very good tournament."

Three more teams book spots in ABFA's Knockout Cup

West Ham FC, Attacking Saints and Green City FC are the latest teams to book their spots into the second round of the Cool and Smooth Jomo Caribbean Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Knock out Cup Competition.

All three teams recorded comfortable margin of victories in their first-round encounters at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday, 28th August.

Orel Edwards scored a hat-trick to lead West Ham FC to a 6-0 victory over CPTSA Wings FC in the first match of Sunday's tri-

ple-header.

Edwards scored in the 25th, 51st and 67th minute after J. Braithwaite had opened the scoring for West Ham with a strike in the 19th minute.

West Ham's other two goals were scored by A. Lightfoot in the 45th minute and D. Nicholas in the 61st minute.

Attacking Saints pulled off a 3-0 victory against JSC Progressors in Sunday's second encounter with goals by D. Geran in the 25th minute, S. Lanquedoc in the 52nd minute and M. Joseph in the 54th minute.

N. Henry scored a brace as Green City surged to a 4-0 victory over Belmont FC in the final match of Sunday's triple header.

Henry scored in the 37th and 85th minutes, while Green City's other two goals were converted by C. Warner in the 39th minute and J. Lynch in the second minute of added on time (92nd minute).

West Ham FC, Attacking Saints and Green City FC have now joined five other teams which have already confirmed their places into the second round of the ABFA Knockout Cup.

The other second round qualifiers include Mahico Stars, who got in courtesy of a first-round bye, Potters Tigers, Bolans FC, Garden Stars and Young Warriors FC.

The ABFA Knockout Cup, which is being sponsored by Joma Caribbean and Cool & Smooth, will continue this coming weekend with the remaining first round matches at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters.

Police will face Sea View Farm at 5 pm and John Hughes will take on Glanvilles at 7 pm in a double-header on Friday, 2nd September.

In a triple-header on Saturday, 3rd September, English Harbour will face Blackburn Palace at 3pm, Bendals FC will oppose Pares FC at 5pm and Fort Road FC will clash with Herberts FC at 7pm.

In another triple-header on Sunday, 4th September, Lion Hill will tackle Jennings United at 3 pm, HUFF Uprising will meet Master Ballers at 5pm and Real Blizzard FC will challenge ABAYA of Parham at 7pm.

Following the completion of the first round matches, all second round qualifiers will enter a draw with the premier division teams to determine the match-ups for the next round of the knockout competition.

cont'd from pg 24

on the track as well."

Matthew said the car sport is still a big hit with the young people who are now the main supporters of the drag racing events in Antigua and Barbuda.

"I would say 70 percent of the people who attend these events now are people between the ages of 18 and 25," Matthew stated.

"A lot of people come out for the lime and some of the people who attend don't even have any interest in drag racing, but they just come for the lime.

"Some people actually developed an interest in drag racing after coming to the event for a lime so it's all good."

Matthew said ABDRA is now focusing its attention on its continued upgrade of the North Sound International Raceway facility.

He said the portable bathroom facility being constructed by a corporate citizen as a donation to ABDRA is yet to be delivered and the local association is also anticipat-

ing some assistance from the government of Antigua and Barbuda.

"We are looking forward to our facility upgrade and mainly in the aspect of safety because we try to push safety so much at the track that it is always on the forefront of our minds and it is always on the top of our list," Matthew said.

"The upgrade bathroom facilities, that is still in the process. The last information I got was that it was near finish, however, I am not sure of what is the timeline as to when it will be delivered, but I am hoping that it will be very soon.

"There were also mentions of some form of sponsorship from the government of Antigua and Barbuda for guard rails around the track so we hope that is still something that will be happening and we are looking forward to that happening very soon as well.

"Those are the two things we are focusing on in our effort to continue upgrade of the track at the North Sound International Raceway.

Drag Racing back on track after Carnival break

Public Relations Officer for the Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association (ABDRA) Brandon Matthew said racing activities have returned to its home at the North Sound International Raceway following a break in July for the return of carnival festivities in the twin-island state.

“We took a little break during the carnival festivities to kind of just allow people to focus on that because we haven’t had carnival for a few years, so we took that time to enjoy the festivities and also to give some drag racers some time to get their cars up and running for our restart on Sunday, 7 August,” Matthew stated.

“On the 7th August, we had a re-opening event called ‘Back to School’. It was an ABDRA event and it was basically to get people back into the spirit of drag racing and to get some cars back out on the race track.”

Matthew said ABDRA also re-started its hosting of Tension Tuesdays on 9th August, which attracted crowd support similar to the turnout at its ‘Back to School’ event.

“We had a fairly good



A street car on the race track during an ABDRA test and tune event at the North Sound International Raceway. (Photo courtesy ABDRA)

turnout in terms of spectators. There are still a lot of cars that are being worked on that we expect to put on show pretty soon, but overall, it’s going well and we hope to continue the progression.

“We also had the resumption of Tension Tuesday on 9th August, so we will look to have that every other Tuesday. We had another one on the 23rd August so the next one should be on Tuesday, 6th September.

“The response to the resumption of Tension Tuesday has been pretty good actually. I haven’t seen the official numbers but looking out into the crowd, it seemed as if we had a similar amount or just a little bit more spectators that showed up to the ‘Back to School’ event on the Sunday we re-started.

“The Tuesday night lime is where people kind of get away from the daily heat because the days have been pretty hot and so the people

come out on those nights.

“We have vendors there selling food and drinks and so it can become a nice liming atmosphere as well while there is still drag racing to be seen.

“The Tuesday nights are really for people who have street cars and want to do a little thing on the race track. It is a way of getting the people to come to the track to test out and tune their cars to see what their cars can do. We even had vans running

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