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# A&B TO TIGHTEN ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR WEST AFRICANS

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**Seven to  
contest  
Labour  
Queen  
Pageant**  
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# Local News

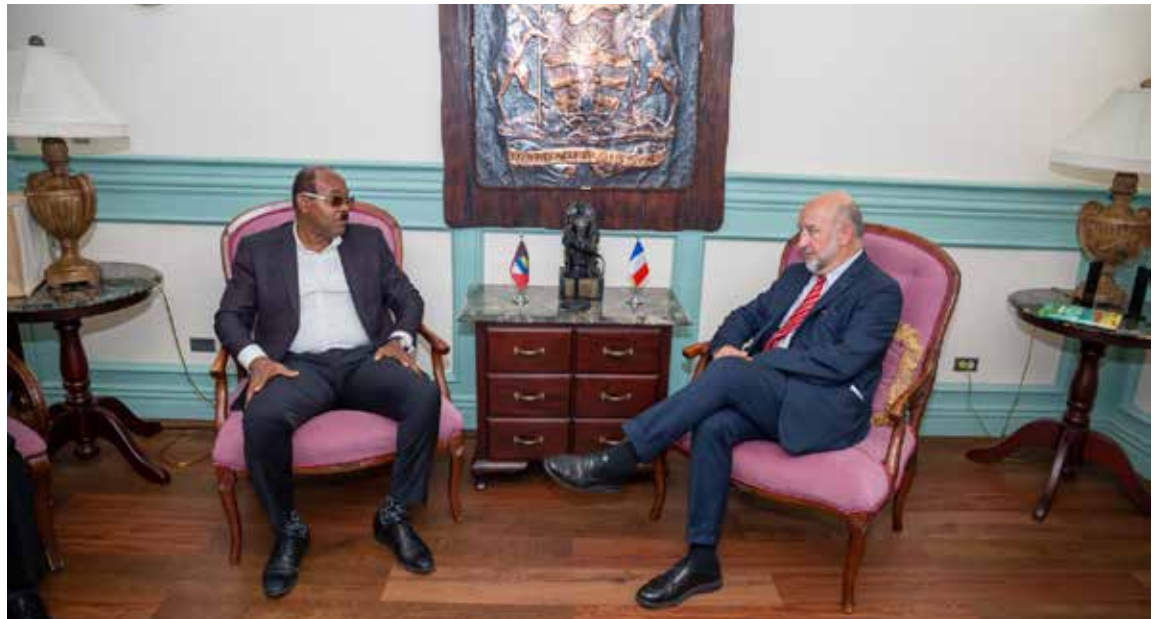
## Antigua and Barbuda to tighten entry requirements for West Africans

The Antigua and Barbuda government is to tighten entry requirements for visitors from West Africa, as the country continues to deal with the fallout from the arrival of West Africans, mainly Cameroonians, who arrived in the country last December.

The prime minister made the disclosure during a brief discussion with the new French Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Francis Etienne, as he noted that both countries face similar challenges with the issue of migrant smuggling.

As PM Browne explained, some individuals with bad intentions had exploited the government's attempt to establish an air bridge between the Eastern Caribbean and the African continent and had brought an initial figure of over six hundred West Africans to the country. It appears, according to the prime minister that these individuals who arrived here had no intention of staying in the country. Instead, Antigua and Barbuda was only the first stop in their plans to reach the United States.

Coming out of this experience, the prime minister informed the ambassador that the cabinet has since suspended the Antigua Air-



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with French Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Francis Etienne*

ways flights, but now it has decided to take further steps to prevent a reoccurrence.

“What we have decided to do going forward, is to ensure that only those who have visas to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, or the European Union and the Caribbean, before they leave, are allowed to land in Antigua and Barbuda,” he declared.

He added that the new measures are discriminatory, but an ‘unfortunate outcome’ to what the government had hoped to be a genuine outreach to establish closer links between countries in Africa and the Caribbean. “Based on what happened there, which we never anticipated, was one of the unintended conse-

quences. We recognize now that we cannot run the risk of having them opportunistically jump onto a plane and come to Antigua and Barbuda. That, unfortunately, is where good intentions were exploited by these individuals,” he remarked.

PM Browne has also signaled his intention not to accept the migrants who left the country in a small vessel, in the hope of reaching the United States via the US Virgin Islands, and he asked the French ambassador if his government will give consideration to assisting the government in this regard.

“How do you feel about us taking them back? We want to treat them in a humane way. Our challenge is

that they have claimed that sending them back to Cameroon would likely result in their death, but I am thinking, for those who have already left our shores, the question is, why bring them back when they are likely to smuggle out of the country again?” he queried.

He told the ambassador that the government is willing to work with France to get the Cameroonians back to their native land.

Ambassador Etienne said France is convening a meeting with the Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerritt early next week to look at the issue of border security and he promises that he will raise the Antigua and Barbuda overture then.

## PM Browne secures victory in the Courts against Vere Bird III

Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne, today secured a victory in the High Court when Justice Nicola Byer dismissed a defamation lawsuit brought by Chairman of the True Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, Vere Bird III.

On December 12, 2029, Vere Bird III, son of former Agriculture Minister Vere Bird Jr., filed in the High Court a suit claiming “damages for defamation against Prime Minister Browne for words published and broadcasted on Facebook on the 5th, 6th and 8th of November 2019.

The social media post concerned a Cabinet Decision giving Vere Bird III one acre of land for a purchase price of EC\$25,000, a rate reserved for members

of parliament.

In tossing out the defamation suit and awarding cost to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Justice Byer, among other things ruled that the decision to grant Vere Bird III land at the cost reserved for members of parliament, when he was not a member, was improper.

Vere Bird III lawsuit had requested aggravated and exemplary damages which are usually granted when the defendant’s willful actions were malicious, violent, oppressive, fraudulent, wanton or grossly reckless.

Vere Bird III had contended that while he did not receive the land, the decision to grant him the land was proper.

Prime Minister Browne had questioned the validity



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne of the Cabinet Decision liking it to what is known as a “Cabinet Creeper.”*

Commenting on the decision, Prime Minister Browne said that the victory in the Courts is proof that standing on the truth is always a form of defence, noting that whenever he makes statements, he always ensures that they can stand on the basis of being factual.

Vere Bird III has been a vocal opponent of Prime Minister Gaston Browne accusing him of improper behaviour in public office without providing proof of such claim.

Prime Minister Browne during the lead up to the recent general elections highlighted that the main opposition party and its agents were on a mission to defame him through lies and disinformation. He said that he

will always challenge them all the way through the courts.

Recently, the Prime Minister wrote that there is a deliberate bending of the culture of politics in Antigua and Barbuda with lies and disinformation, pointing out that those in the opposition who peddle blatant lies, whether they are incapable of any higher intellectual standard or due to the fact that they have adopted lies as a technique for national disruption, run the risk of seriously undermining democracy and the rule of law in Antigua and Barbuda.

This he said is a slippery slope to anarchy that would irreparably harm the nation and its people.

The recent victory in the courts he said is a vindication that the truth will always prevail.



*Vere Bird III*

# Antigua and Barbuda leads special appeal for SIDS

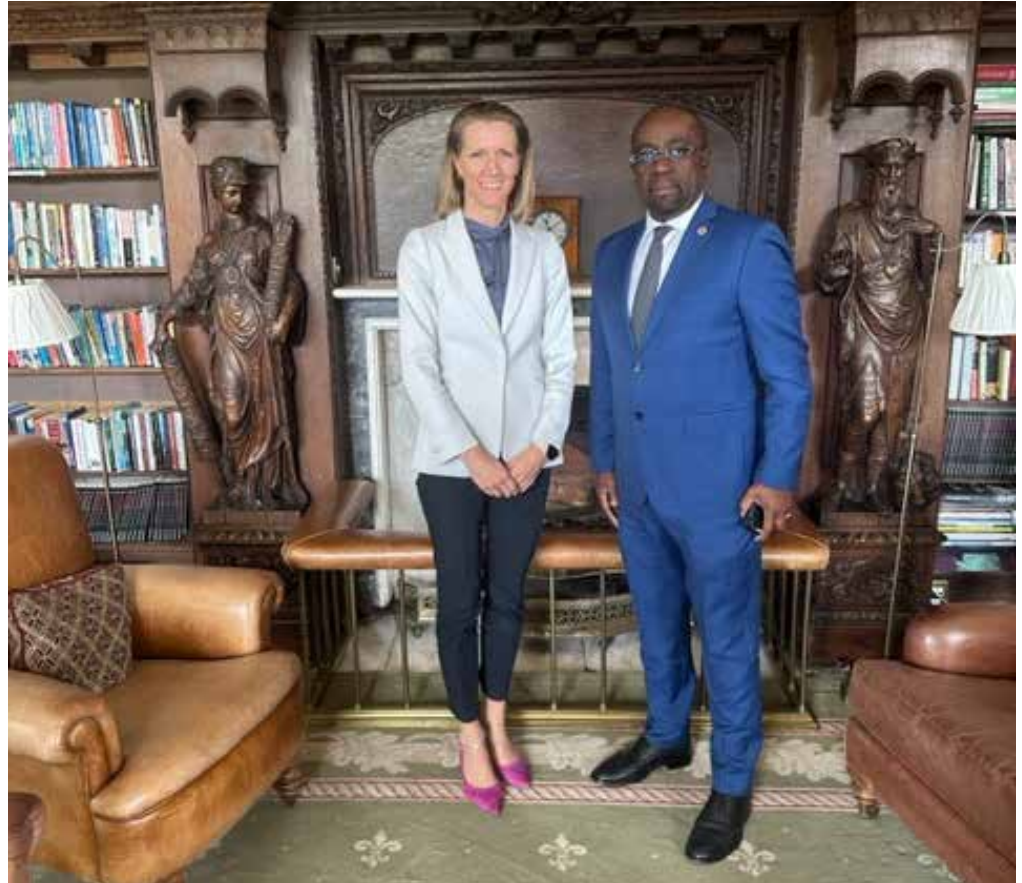
Antigua and Barbuda leads a special appeal for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at a UK meeting, as it prepares to host a major gathering of island nations in 2024.

Antigua and Barbuda has made yet another compelling case for the small and vulnerable states across the globe who grapple constantly with the climate crisis and other external economic shocks, to be given a fair chance to survive.

The appeal was underscored by Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene as he addressed a major gathering of leaders and thinkers attending a conference, themed "Small Island Developing States – Improving Finance for Resilience by 2024," in the United Kingdom. Joining Minister Greene at the conference were Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson, and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Tumasie Blair.

The meeting was convened by Wilton Park, which is an executive agency of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom. As part of its mission, Wilton Park seeks to bring together experts, policymakers, and decision-makers to solve complex global issues, such as what is being faced by Antigua and Barbuda and other small island states.

The case has long been made that these nations are limited by their geographical and socioeconomic characteristics to respond to the impact and consequences of disastrous climatic events and other global economic shocks, promptly and effectively.



*Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon EP Chet Greene in photo with the UK's SIDS Envoy and Deputy Director for the Americas and Head of the Caribbean and SIDS Department at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.*

"Limited natural capital makes us over-dependent on imports, especially of food and energy, and our heavy reliance on a single economic sector – usually tourism – makes us especially prone to supply chain disruptions and other external shocks," Minister Greene told the conference.

"Surely, we cannot fight these battles alone. We do not cause nor contribute to global shocks or the climate crisis in any meaningful way," Minister Greene stated, in building and reinforcing the case for additional and targeted support for small states. In 2024, Antigua and Barbuda will play host to the 4th SIDS Conference, a global initiative that will re-sharpen the focus on the unique vulnerabilities of small

states and invigorate the drive to devise the necessary solutions, geared at ensuring their survival and continued sustainable development.

It is for this very reason that the UK meeting was crucial in attracting and building support for what will be a major undertaking for Antigua and Barbuda as the host country. In the long term, Minister Greene, expects SIDS4 will be "a conference of change, a conference that will produce strong deliverables for SIDS." "You see friends of SIDS, our vision for SIDS4 is targeted. It calls for scaling up of activities and ensuring the necessary financial resources and commitments are made," Minister Greene appealed.

## A&B shares experiences in targeting the SDG

The 6th Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) commenced in Santiago, Chile on 25th April 2023.

This forum serves as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, including the sustainable development goals, and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

During this forum, Antigua and Barbuda's Director of International Trade, SDGs Focal Point and Technical Lead for the nation's internationally acclaimed Voluntary National Review, Joy-Marie King presented to the membership the nation's experiences in the meaningful participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In her discourse, King reaffirmed the Gaston Browne Administration's commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, given that it is a major public policy, complemen-

tary to the tenets of good governance purporting among many, the participation and inclusivity of the citizenry.

In highlighting the best practices from Antigua and Barbuda's experience, Director King indicated that "meaningful participation has to be present from inception, including the agenda-setting phase of public policy formulation.

For example, ensuring the recognition that achieving the SDGs will provide solutions to several problems identified within the society, whether related to prosperity, the planet (the need to preserve the environment), and people (the empowerment of our people, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, leaving no one behind).

Secondly, the continuous participation of stakeholders particularly within the public policy implementation stage; where within the context of Antigua and Barbuda was bolstered by the undertaking of the nation's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2021, and the recent alignment of the nation's medium-term development plan to the SDGs which was informed by the VNR.

These two examples facilitated the develop-



*Joy-Marie King for Antigua & Barbuda*

ment of local ownership of the goals.

Finally, results-oriented – heavily supported by a domestic institutional framework (the establishment of a Cabinet Subcommittee chaired by the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and an SDGs Technical Committee, chaired by the Director of International Trade) all of which foster public advocacy in complement with multilateral efforts among

others to support, monitor and surveillance accelerated implementation of the goals."

This meeting brings together UN officials, national governments, experts, and civil society to share experiences and define priorities for ensuring an inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting concludes on 28th April 2023.

# Local News



## AT&LU marks Labour Day by celebrating recent accomplishments

The executive of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) joins workers in Antigua and Bar-

buda and around the world in celebrating Labour Day 2023.

The past three years

have been some of the most difficult times for our country since the mid-20th century when the AT&LU

fought for social justice for the descendants of slavery who occupied the good land. The global health pandemic and the war in Ukraine have significantly affected lives and livelihoods.

They have tested the fortitude of economic, social, and political foundations which have been the bedrock of our people's advancements over the years. Imported inflation, job losses, and job insecurity are some of the main resultants of these scourges which our people have faced through these years to present.

As day by day, we try to recover, the AT&LU is optimistic that there is hope for the future. We have seen tangible signs of rebounding. Our union has been steadfast and diligent in restoring workplace benefits, safeguarding workers' rights, and improving livelihoods.

Between March 1, 2022, and the present, the AT&LU has concluded 31 bargaining units' negotiations resulting in wages/salary increases ranging from 5.5 percent to 12 percent. Approximately 7,739 workers benefited from the increases. In one instance, the workers at State Insurance Corporation received retroactive payments amounting to \$1.3 million which was shared among 111 workers.

Meanwhile, at the Industrial Court, the union has  
*cont'd from pg 5*



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## Two people detained by police at VC Bird International Airport

The police detained two people at V.C. Bird International Airport on Wednesday as part of an ongoing investigation.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas says the man and woman are persons of interest, but he could not disclose the details of the probe. Inspector Thomas says they

were attempting to leave the country when law enforcers detained them.

He says the detentions happened at about 3:30 in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, April 26, the police and customs departments carried out a joint drug operation at Deep Water Harbour and discovered 69 packages of cannabis

among two barrels of food items. The barrels were seized and taken to the St. John's police station.

The seized substance amounts to 80 pounds, with an estimated street value of EC \$480,000.

A 32-year-old female is assisting the police with the ongoing investigation.

## Ministry of Health steps up vaccination campaign

The Ministry of Health hosted a Community Nursing Immunization Conference on Thursday in observance of Vaccination Week in the Americas 2023.

Doctors, Nurses, and Community Health Aids gathered at the Sir John E. St. Luce conference centre, for a conference that focused on a number of areas including, the introduction of the Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Manual, Syndromic Surveillance, Vaccine and Immune Response and Immunization throughout the Life Cycle.

In addition, the healthcare professionals also benefited from an inspirational address on how to self-motivate.



*Health professionals attend one-day seminar*

*cont'd from pg 6*

been equally successful in defending workers' rights. In one of these success stories, two workers were awarded compensation of \$454,686.02 and \$130,416.76 respectively.

The AT&LU has also been successful in advocating for the govern-

ment's adoption of ILO Convention 190 – the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. This materialized in May last year, making Antigua and Barbuda the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean to do so.

The AT&LU remains committed

to protecting and enhancing the rights and benefits of workers in Antigua and Barbuda. In unity, we will continue to press on in achieving the aspirations of decent work for all workers in the country.

General Secretary  
Alrick Daniel

# Local News

## Public Service Association convenes annual conference

Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Public Service Association (ABPSA) convened their annual general meeting on Thursday under the theme: Raising the bar of excellence and stewardship in the public sector.

The meeting was held at the Villa Polyclinic conference room with opening remarks from President Joan Peters as well as brief remarks from Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Ena Dalso-Henry, who addressed the gathering on behalf of the Minister of Health and Civil Service Affairs, Sir Molwyn Joseph. The featured speaker was former Chief Establishment Officer and career civil servant, Dame Eusalyn Lewis.



*PSA members at annual conference*

The conference considered a number of matters germane to the proper functioning of the organization. There were no elections as these are held biennially.

The Executive of the ABPSA consists of President Joan Peters, Vice

President Jannelle Whenner-Watts, General Secretary Janela Evanson, and Treasurer Craig Martin with executive members Carolyn Hector, Karis George, Dawn Thomas, Sandra Benta-Richards, and Emile Floyd.

## Seven to take the stage in Labour Queen Pageant on Sunday

Seven young ladies will take the stage in the annual Labour Queen Pageant on Sunday night at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre.

The pageant is a joint undertaking of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and the Antigua Trades and Labour Union, to commemorate Labour Day, the

'worker's holiday', observed on the first Monday of May each year.

The contestants will compete in five judged categories: evening wear, question and answer, performing talent, swimwear and introduction.

The contestants are Denesha Samuel - Miss St. Mary's South; Cariesa












Corbett - Miss St. John's City West; Teresha Nanton - Miss St. John's City South; Cassie Vitalis - Miss St. Mary's North; Deleka Weste - Miss St. Paul; Mekesha Browne - Miss St. John's Rural North and Lynique Stanislaus - Miss St. John's Rural South.

This year, the contestants are competing for a

top prize of \$4,000.00 and for the first time, all seven contestants will receive scholarships to pursue higher studies.

The Labour Queen Show has been used as a 'stepping stone' for young ladies wishing to participate in pageants such as the Queen of Carnival show, which forms part of the annual events of Antigua's Carnival. Several past Carnival Queens have had their beginnings in the Labor Queen pageant.

The show is being produced by Marsh and Marsh Productions, a team jointly headed by Brucella Marsh-Sutton and Shane Marsh.

Fri 28   Day		Fri 28   Night	
<b>85°</b>		<b>75°</b>	
23%	SE 7 mph	24%	SE 4 mph
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High near 85F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low around 75F. Winds light and variable.	
 Humidity <b>72%</b>	 UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	 Humidity <b>84%</b>	 UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
 Sunrise <b>5:43 am</b>	 Sunset <b>6:26 pm</b>	 Moonrise <b>12:39 pm</b>	 Moonset <b>1:13 am</b>
 Waxing Gibbous			

## Lady Marie-Louise Shoul turns 100 years old today

Lady Marie-Louise Younis Shoul was born in Guadeloupe to Lebanese immigrants on April 28, 1923.

Family records show that her parents migrated to Dominica when she was a mere six months old, and then they moved to Antigua when she was twelve. She studied at the Convent High School and after her schooling, in 1942 she married John Ferdinand Shoul, a respected businessman.

From that union came four children: John F. Shoul Jr., Charles, Elena, and David.

She has five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Lady Shoul was a pillar of

strength and support for her husband, a close friend and confidant of the late father of the Nation, Sir Vere C. Bird, as together they discussed the country's development and the way forward.

The late Sir John Shoul was not only an outstanding businessman, he was at the helm of the committee that planned the country's first carnival and he oversaw its growth and development in its formative years.

Point Express Newspaper joins with all of Antigua and Barbuda, in extending the happiest birthday greetings to Lady Marie-Louise Shoul on this, her 100th birthday celebration.



*Lady Marie-Louise Younis Shoul*



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# Opinion

## What future, Venezuela?

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

The President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, hosted a Conference on Venezuela in his nation's capital, Bogota, on April 25. The European Union (EU) and 19 countries from the Americas, including the Caribbean, attended, but it is doubtful that they all had the same goals in mind.

For several years, under Colombia's former President Iván Duque, relations between the governments of Colombia and Venezuela were openly hostile. Immediately after his inauguration as President, Petro began to engage with Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro. Since then, relations between the two countries have significantly improved.

Despite thawing the earlier icy relations between the governments of Colombia and Venezuela, Petro remains concerned about democracy and respect for human, political and civil rights in Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Addressing a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on April 19, just 6 days before hosting the Conference on Venezuela, Petro said that now could be "Latin America's time in the world", but not "through authoritarianism [or] through dictatorships." And he restated his interest "in seeing Venezuela re-join the Inter-American Human Rights system".

In a meeting with US President, Joe Biden, on April 20, the day after his OAS address, Petro pressed an argument for removing US sanctions against the Maduro government in exchange for a return to democracy in Venezuela.

It was with that unofficial theme that Petro appeared to approach his bold initiative to gather representatives of the EU and 19 nations with diverse and - in some cases - divergent interests to discuss Venezuela. At the end of the conference, there appeared to be consen-



*President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro and Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders at the OAS on 19 April 2023*

sus - though no unanimity - on trying to promote two objectives. According to statements by Colombia's Foreign Minister, Álvaro Leyva, the first aim is to persuade Venezuela's governing and opposition political parties to set an electoral calendar for free and fair elections, which, presumably, would include the release of political prisoners, so that they could fully participate in the process.

The second is that there should be gradual lifting of sanctions directly linked to progress of negotiations between the Venezuelan political parties to reach an agreement on elections and the restoration of democratic processes.

Leyva is reported to have said, after the Conference, that countries, which attended the meeting, "will inform President Maduro and opposition parties and civil society of the results of the summit". The only official response from the Maduro government was a statement from Foreign Minister, Yvan Gill, on Twitter in which he assured that "note" had been taken "of the deliberations carried out" at the Conference

and reiterated "the prevailing need to lift sanctions".

Representatives of some of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, which were invited to attend the Colombia Conference, unrealistically focussed only on lifting the sanctions and ignored the issue of free and fair elections and the restoration of democracy through a negotiated agreement on these goals by all the Venezuelan parties.

That position was obviously untenable. There is clear need for compromise, concessions and flexibility in any negotiations between the political parties in Venezuela. There must also be agreement on absolute tolerance for political dissent; the development of constitutional guarantees for the independence of the judiciary and the media; and provision for power-sharing in the National Assembly.

Importantly, at the Colombia Conference, the US representatives said that the Biden Administration has "no desire to maintain US sanctions in perpetuity". They argued that sanctions "are

*cont'd on pg 11*

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only a tool” to urge the government to take the steps necessary for free and fair elections and the restoration of democracy. Furthermore, they undertook to the Conference that “if, and as, Venezuelan leaders take these steps, we are more than ready to reduce and ultimately end our sanctions pressure”.

Therefore, the Colombia Conference can take credit for a frank exchange of views leading to consensus on the two symbiotic paths that have emerged: the Venezuelan parties must get back to the negotiating table to agree on a process for free and fair elections, and a gradual but progressive lifting of sanctions as steps are implemented.

Significantly, the US representatives told the other nations at the Conference that all of them should encourage that “any agreement include some guarantees that the loser will not face persecution”. They said that the Biden administration “does not support regime change” and if and when there are free and fair elections, “the US will accept the outcome and work with the government they produce”.

Against this background, there is

cause for cautious optimism that there could be renewed efforts by the Venezuelan parties to achieve an agreement at revived negotiations, which, so far, have failed. However, there were some key players – at least on the Maduro side – that were not at the Colombia Conference. They include Russia, Iran, China and Turkey which have helped the Maduro government to weather the storm of sanctions. Another is Cuba which has played a key advisory role to Maduro.

It is more than likely that, for other geopolitical considerations, particularly the conflict over Ukraine embodied by Russia and the US, at least Russia and Iran might continue to embolden the Maduro government to continue the same hard-line that it has taken so far in the negotiations with the opposition parties.

If that happens, the political impasse in Venezuela could persist with all its unfortunate consequences, including an increase in the 7.2 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees of which 2.5 million are in Colombia alone; and a growth beyond the 2.3 million people who are “severely food insecure and in need of immediate humanitarian assis-

tance”, according to the UN World Food Programme.

Countries, such as the US, Canada and the members of the EU, should also make it clear to the Venezuelan opposition parties that they do not enjoy unqualified support, and they, too, are expected to work diligently toward a resolution of the political deadlock.

The countries of CARICOM have a vested interest in a politically stable region where economic progress can thrive. Consequently, CARICOM governments should urge all Venezuelan parties to negotiate their future between them and present the world with a plan, free of retribution, which would rebuild Venezuela in a democratic mould with guaranteed constitutional freedoms, based on free and fair elections.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*

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## Jerry Springer: Era-defining TV host dies aged 79

By **Steven McIntosh**

Jerry Springer, the TV presenter best known for his raucous talk shows, has died aged 79.

The Jerry Springer Show, which ran for nearly three decades from 1991, brought fights, flying chairs, and the fringes of US society to a global audience.

Springer died peacefully on Thursday at his home in Chicago, his publicists confirmed to BBC News.

Jene Galvin, a friend of Springer's and spokesman for the family, described him as "irreplaceable".

"Jerry's ability to connect with people was at the heart of his success in everything he tried whether that was politics, broadcasting or just joking with people on the street who wanted a photo or a word," he said.

"He's irreplaceable and his loss hurts immensely, but memories of his intellect, heart and humour will live on."

Springer's chat show became a symbol of low-brow television over the course of almost 5,000 episodes with its chaotic confrontation, swearing and infidelity revelations.

Fellow chat show host Ricki Lake led the tributes on social media, writing: «Just waking to the very sad news of the passing of my longtime talk show rival and friend Jerry Springer. A lovely man. May he rest in peace.»



*On his Twitter profile, Springer jokingly declared himself as "talk show host, ringmaster of civilisation's end".*

Broadcaster Piers Morgan described Springer as a «TV icon and such an intelligent, warm, funny man».

"Loved working with him on AGT [America's Got Talent], loved hanging out with him (we lived in same hotel for two years), loved arguing with him (he loved his politics), loved everything about him," he added.

Springer was born in the London Underground station of Highgate in 1944 in World War Two.

His parents, who were Jewish refugees from a region of Germany which is now part of Poland, were in the station sheltering from a German bombing raid at the time.

Springer moved to Queens, New York, aged four, along with his parents and older sister.

He started his professional life working in politics, having studied both political science and law at

university.

He was an advisor to Robert F Kennedy, and served as mayor of Cincinnati from 1977-78, but after a failed bid to become governor of Ohio he switched to a career in TV journalism.

He became a reporter at a local TV station and worked his way up to being an anchor.

Launched in 1991, The Jerry Springer Show began life as an ordinary talk show focusing on social issues and US politics, led by the then mild mannered Springer.

But in an effort to boost ratings, Springer switched things up dramatically after a few years, focusing on salacious and outrageous content.

Springer repeatedly defended his show against accusations it was too low-brow.

He told the BBC in 2014: "You could decide only to put well-scrubbed, wealthy people who speak

the Queen's English on television and just do that but that wouldn't reflect the whole society."

"If all shows were like mine, that would be wrong. But you can't just have television that is like Friends, Seinfeld, all these wealthy people, good looking people and you love it," he added.

"If some wealthy, famous person goes on television and talks about who he or she has been sleeping with, we can't get enough of it. We cheer them. But if it's some person of low income, all of a sudden we say trash."

In most episodes, guests came to talk about family problems and expose adultery and other transgressions.

Springer would supposedly try to mediate but the encounters often ended up in fist-fights, with guests being held back by security guards.

The audience would regularly chant "Jerry! Jerry!" when tensions became heightened during the episodes.

On his Twitter profile, Springer jokingly declared himself as "talk show host, ringmaster of civilisation's end".

Springer called his programme "escapist entertainment", but others saw the show as contributing to a dumbing-down of television and a decline in social values.

*cont'd on pg 13*

## Furious Microsoft boss says confidence in UK 'severely shaken'

Microsoft's president has attacked the UK after it was blocked from buying US gaming firm Activision, saying the EU was a better place to start a business.

The move was "bad for Britain" and marked Microsoft's "darkest day" in its four decades of working in the country, Brad Smith told the BBC.

The regulator hit back saying it had to do what's best for people, "not merging firms with commercial interests".

The UK's move means the multi-billion dollar deal cannot go ahead globally.

Although US and EU regulators have yet to decide on whether to approve the deal, the UK regulator the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said: "Activision is intertwined through different markets - it can't be separated for the UK. So this decision blocks the deal from happening globally."

If it had been approved, the \$68.7bn (£55bn) deal



Activision Blizzard makes hit games like Call of Duty, World of Warcraft and Candy Crush.

would have been the gaming industry's biggest ever takeover, and would have seen Microsoft get hold of massively popular games titles such as Call of Duty, Candy Crush and World of Warcraft.

Both Microsoft and Activision have said they will appeal against the CMA's decision.

In an interview with the BBC's Wake up to Money programme, Mr Smith said Microsoft was "very disappointed" with the CMA's decision, "but more than that, unfortunately, I think it's bad for Britain".

"It does more than shake

our confidence in the future of the opportunity to grow a technology business in Britain than we've ever confronted before," he said.

"People are shocked, people are disappointed, and people's confidence in technology in the UK has been severely shaken.

"There's a clear message here - the European Union is a more attractive place to start a business than the United Kingdom."

A spokesman for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Mr Smith was wrong to say the CMA's decision was bad for Britain and that the EU was a better place to do busi-

ness.

"Those sorts of claims are not borne out by the facts," the spokesman said, adding that the UK games sector had doubled in size over the last 10 years.

The government would continue to engage with Microsoft, he said, but pointed out that the CMA was independent.

For the deal to work, it has to be approved by regulators in the UK, the US and the EU.

The UK is the first to announce its decision, but the US Federal Trade Commission last year began a legal challenge to block the takeover.

In March, EU regulators delayed their decision after Microsoft proposed concessions to get the deal over the line.

The UK government has made it one of its post-Brexit goals to bring in a "light-touch" set of rules for science and technology to encourage economic growth.

*cont'd on pg 14*

*cont'd from pg 12*

He often jokingly told people he met that his wish for them was: "May you never be on my show."

In the late 1990s the show topped the daytime television ratings in the US, beating even Oprah. It ended its run in 2018 after viewing figures declined.

In 2003, a musical based on the chaotic TV series was launched. Jerry Springer: The Opera ran for 609 per-

formances in London from April 2003 to February 2005 before touring the UK in 2006.

It won four Olivier awards including best new musical. In January 2005, its UK television broadcast on BBC Two attracted 55,000 complaints.

Jerry Springer: The Opera provoked accusations of blasphemy and protests from religious campaigners. But broadcast regulator Ofcom said it did not breach its guidelines.

From 2007 to 2008, Springer hosted America's Got Talent, and in recent years he fronted the courtroom show Judge Jerry.

In June 2009, Springer made his stage debut as Billy Flynn in Chicago at the Cambridge Theatre, London.

Springer also appeared on the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? programme, tracing his family through the Holocaust to the small town of Neustettin, which is now in Poland.

# Regional News



## St Kitts & Nevis: Cameroonians escape detention facility

Loop - There is a developing situation in St Kitts... five Cameroon nationals are at large on the Caribbean Island after escaping from a detention facility where 14 were being held. Initially, nine of the nationals had escaped.

The Ministry of National Security in a statement, provided a timeline of the incident.

On April 26, 2023, nine (9) of the fourteen (14) Cameroon nationals escaped from the detention facility on St Kitts.

By the morning of April 27, four (4) of them have been found.

Five (5) are currently at large and law enforcement officials are continuing the ceaseless quest to locate them.



Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of any of the escaped detainees have been asked to contact the nearest police station or law enforcement agency.

The Ministry of National Security has explained why the Cameroonians are still in St Kitts.

It says on March 28, 2023, the St Kitts and Nevis Coast Guard (SKNCG) responded to a call for help at sea. The situation turned out to be a rescue mission

for a number of Cameroon nationals who were found alive after their boat capsized after leaving Antigua and Barbuda.

The Cameroonians were transported to St Kitts; provided with medical and psychological care; and detained at a government facility pending repatriation to Antigua and Barbuda.

A total of 17 Cameroonians were brought to St Kitts by the SKNCG on March 28. Regrettably, three

of them were deceased, having perished before being rescued.

The Ministry in a statement says that after initially agreeing to accept the repatriation of the other 14 Cameroonians, Antigua and Barbuda has now rescinded this offer, thereby cancelling the pending arrangement.

The Government of St Kitts and Nevis says it continues to pursue workable and diplomatic solutions as it is duty-bound so to do.

### *cont'd from pg 13*

However, a number of recent takeovers of British firms by overseas ones has increased concerns that the UK market is declining in importance, and is failing to attract fast-growing tech firms.

Microsoft has already said the decision may have an impact on its UK investment.

Mr Smith said that if the UK wants to bring in investment, then "it needs to look hard at the role of the CMA and the regulatory structure".

The CMA's chief executive, Sarah Cardell, told the Today programme that she did not agree with Mr Smith's comments.

"I think this decision shows actual-

ly how important it is to support competition in the UK and that the UK is absolutely open for business," she said.

"We want to create an environment where a whole host of different companies can compete effectively, can grow and innovate."

In its ruling on Wednesday the regulator said it was concerned the deal would hit innovation and give gamers less choice in the fast-growing cloud gaming market, where people buy subscriptions to access games online.

The merger is important for Microsoft because it sees cloud gaming as the future of the industry and wants to strengthen its position in the market.

The Activision deal would also give it some very popular games titles,

allowing it to compete more effectively with rivals like Sony.

Sony's position is that if the deal went ahead, Microsoft would have an incentive to restrict access to Activision's titles to PlayStation, which would be bad for gamers.

The CMA said Microsoft already had a 60-70% share of the cloud gaming market, and combining with Activision would "really reinforce... [its] strong position".

"That would be problematic because it would really harm the ability of other competing cloud platforms to compete effectively and offer the kind of innovation and product choice that we want to see in this market," Ms Cardell said.

## COI finds 'brazen' attempts were made to steal Guyana's 2020 Election

**By Dillon De Shong**

A Commission of Inquiry (COI) into Guyana's disputed 2020 Regional and General Election has found that three former senior officials of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) attempted to "derail and corrupt" the process of certifying the votes.

Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry (COI), Retired Justice of Appeal, Stanley John handed over the report to President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali yesterday.

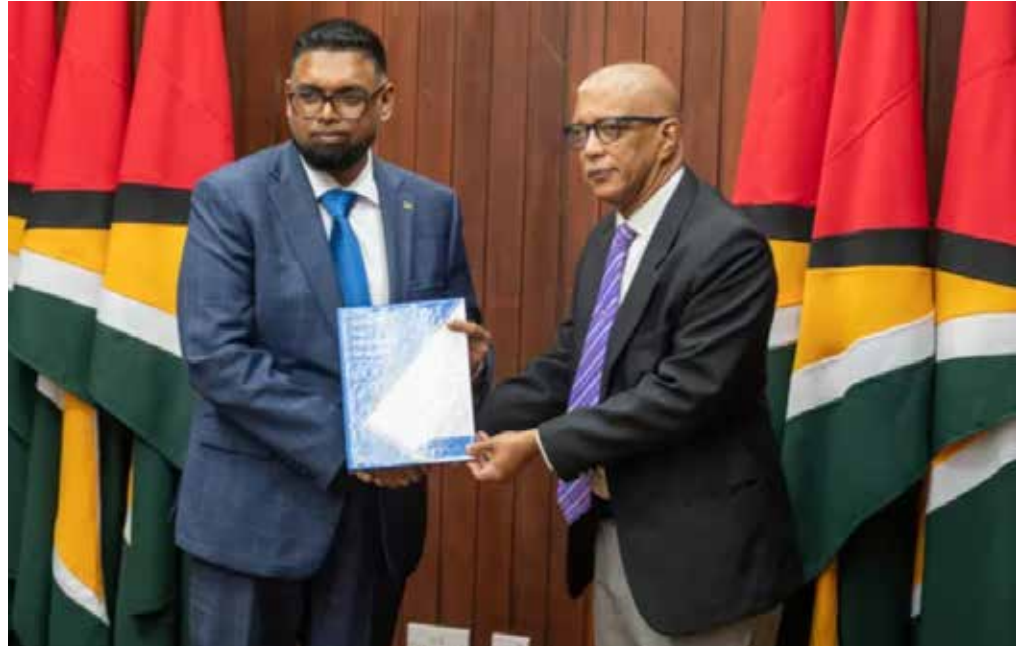
The COI, which began on November 3, 2022, and concluded on February 10, 2023, heard testimony from over 20 witnesses.

It was comprised of chairman John, Carl A. Singh; Former acting Chancellor of the Judiciary of Guyana and Justice of Appeal Godfrey Smith.

The COI report said former Chief Election Officer (CEO) Keith Lowenfield, Deputy Chief Election Officer (DCEO) Roxanne Myers and Returning Officer (RO) Clairmont Mingo made what was described as "shockingly brazen attempts...for the purpose of stealing the election" in favour of the A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change (APNU+AFC) government.

The vote rigging took place in Region Four, which is Guyana's most populous district.

Statements of Poll (SoP) prepared



*Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry (COI), Retired Justice of Appeal, Stanley John, handing the official report to President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, at the Office of the President, Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, on Wednesday. Photo: DPI*

on Election Night for the district did not match numbers on a spreadsheet that Mingo used to declare the region in favour of the APNU+AFC.

One example was the SoP for ballot box 4,062. On Election Night, the SoP showed 182 people voted for the APNU+AFC and 43 for the People's Progressive Party (PPP/C) but the spreadsheet used showed 292 votes for APNU+AFC and 33 for the PPP/C.

Ballots tabulated during the national recount of votes, which took place a few months later, matched the initial SoPs.

The commissioners said the former senior GECOM officials "aban-

doned all need for neutrality and impartiality and demonstrated a bias for a competing political party and, in the course of events over those days, showed an open connection with that party and by their efforts sought a desired result for that party".

They added Lowenfield, Myers and Mingo were "principally responsible for clear and deliberate attempts to frustrate, obstruct and subvert the ascertainment of votes in electoral district No. 4".

Lowenfield, Myers, Mingo and former Public Health Minister Volda Lawrence are currently before the court facing fraud charges.

They have been placed on bail.

## BVI: Probe launched into recent boat fires

Loop - Two fires, which were set in Freshwater Pond and Road Reef on the British Virgin Islands, have destroyed several boats.

The Royal British Virgin

Islands Police Force confirmed the damage as it announced that it has initiated an investigation into the incidents, which occurred on Tuesday night and yesterday

morning.

Police said the first fire occurred just before 10 pm on Tuesday near Big Ben's Gas Station and resulted in two boats being destroyed while

one was partially damaged.

The second incident occurred at the Road Reef Marina around 5 am and it destroyed one catamaran and four motor vessels.

# Turkey's Erdogan falls ill on TV and cancels election rallies

**By Paul Kirby**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has suspended election campaigning after he fell ill during a live TV interview in which the broadcast was abruptly brought to a halt.

After a 20-minute break, he returned to say he had “serious stomach flu” after two days of intense campaigning.

Mr Erdogan, 69, is facing his toughest election campaign so far.

The main opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu has been chosen to run for a group of six political parties.

He was among a number of opposition leaders to wish the president a speedy recovery.

Health minister Fahrettin Koca said on Thursday that the president's health was fine and that he had “infectious gastroenteritis”. He said he would resume his scheduled daily programmes as soon as possible.

Latest polls suggest a close race for the presidency, with Mr Kilicdaroglu in with a good chance of electoral victory.

The first round takes place on 14 May, with a possible presidential run-off two weeks later.

President Erdogan initially cancelled three campaign appearances in central



*During Tuesday evening's live broadcast the screen went blank as it became clear President Erdogan was unwell.*

Anatolia on Wednesday, saying he had been advised to stay home on the advice of doctors.

He then cancelled his scheduled events on Thursday, too, including the opening of Turkey's first nuclear power station at Akkuyu on the Mediterranean coast.

Instead, a pale and tired-looking Mr Erdogan joined Russia's Vladimir Putin in taking part in the inauguration online.

Akkuyu's four nuclear reactors, largely owned by Russian firm Rosatom, have taken several years to build and the opening had been timed to coincide with the election.

The two leaders also spoke over the phone before the ceremony, with Moscow saying they had agreed to deepen economic and trade co-operation.

Several journalists were seated around President Erdogan when he fell ill during the live broadcast on Tuesday evening on pro-govern-

ment channels Ulke TV and Kanal 7.

After one of the interviewers asked a question, the camera showed the journalist looking increasingly alarmed before the screen went blank.

Eventually Mr Erdogan returned to explain that he had earlier considered cancelling the programme. “Of course, we sometimes encounter such situations amid such busy work.”

Within hours of the broadcast, speculation appeared on some social media accounts outside Turkey that Mr Erdogan had suffered a heart attack.

Mr Erdogan's head of communications Fahrettin Altun took to social media to “categorically reject such baseless claims” about the president's health, tweeting screen shots of the accounts spreading the allegations.

“No amount of disinformation can dispute the fact that the Turkish people stand with their leader and

@RTErdogan and his AK Party are set to win the May 14 elections.”

Mr Erdogan has been in power for 21 years and has fallen ill before during a live TV interview.

Weeks after surviving a botched coup in June 2016, he was taken ill for several minutes before returning to continue the interview. The broadcaster cut to an ad break.

In 2011 and 2012 he had gastro-intestinal surgery that fuelled speculation about his health.

Voting in parliamentary and presidential elections takes place on 14 May. If no presidential candidate wins more than half the vote there will be a second round two weeks afterwards.

Voting has already begun for the 3.3 million Turkish citizens abroad who have until 9 May to cast their vote.

In Germany some 1.5 million Turkish citizens are entitled to vote in polling stations in all 16 states. There are also large Turkish communities in France, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Mr Kilicdaroglu and his allies have promised to return Turkey to a parliamentary system, rolling back many of the changes brought in by Mr Erdogan, who steered Turkey to beefed-up elected presidency in 2018.

## Palestinians condemn EU's von der Leyen for 'racist trope'

**By Yolande Knell**

Palestinians have described remarks about Israel by the head of the European Commission as "inappropriate, false and discriminatory".

It follows a congratulatory video message by Ursula von der Leyen on Israel's Independence Day on Wednesday.

In it she praised Israel, including for having "made the desert bloom".

It has sparked an unusual diplomatic spat between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the European Union (EU), its main donor.

A spokesperson for the commission told the BBC: "The EU is unpleasantly surprised by the inappropriate statement of the Palestinian foreign ministry accusing the president of the European Commission of racism."

"We are requesting clarification from the Palestinian authorities regarding this unacceptable reaction to her video."

The response of the Palestinian foreign ministry is a rare strong rebuke to a top figure in Brussels, with which it typically has good relations.

The PA singled out Ms von der Leyen's suggestion that Israel had cultivated barren land, calling it an "anti-Palestinian racist trope".

The phrase "making the desert bloom" is commonly used by Israel and its backers to describe what they view as the country's success in developing the land since the founding of the modern state in 1948.

However, Palestinians argue that it erases their history and suggests that the land was previously uninhabited or untended.

The PA is calling for an apology from the European Commission president.



*The PA said Ursula von der Leyen's statement "dehumanizes and erases the Palestinian people".*

"Seventy-five years ago, a dream was realised with Israel's Independence Day," Ms von der Leyen said in her message. "After the greatest tragedy in human history, the Jewish people could finally build a home in the promised land."

"Today, we celebrate 75 years of vibrant democracy in the heart of the Middle East, 75 years of dynamism, ingenuity and groundbreaking innovations. You have literally made the desert bloom, as I could see during my visit to the Negev last year."

Her video shared on the @EUinIsrael Twitter account has had more than 2.9m views.

The PA statement describes the message, addressed to Israel's President Isaac Herzog, as "propagandist discourse" and part of an "ongoing dispossession" of Palestinians.

The PA claims it "dehumanizes and erases the Palestinian people and falsifies their rich history and civilization".

In addition, it says that the European statement "whitewashes" Israel's occupation of lands Palestinians claim for their hoped-for future state and de-

nies what they call "the Nakba" (Arabic for "catastrophe") of 1948.

Some 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced to leave their homes in the war that followed the Israel's creation.

Palestinians mark Nakba Day on 15 May according to the Gregorian calendar, while the timing of Israel's Independence Day follows the Hebrew calendar.

Some Palestinians on social media have also criticised or mocked the European leader, including for her comments about shared values with Israel.

The European Commission is part of the executive of the European Union.

The spokesman for the commission stressed the EU's diplomatic ties with the PA, pointing out that Ms von der Leyen met PA Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh when she visited the region in June 2022.

They said a meeting to co-ordinate the delivery of international aid to the Palestinians was due to take place in Brussels next week.

"The EU is actively looking for solutions for the difficult situation of the Palestinian people," they added.

# Father challenges BP at meeting after son's death

BBC - A father whose son died of cancer - which a doctor said was likely caused by gas-flaring from BP's oil fields in Iraq - told the company that "cancer is so common it's like the flu" at its annual meeting.

Ali Hussein Julood documented his life for a BBC investigation which found high levels of cancer-linked pollutants in a BP oil field.

He died on 21 April of leukaemia.

BP said it offered condolences to the family.

The father, Hussein Julood, told the BBC that his son's life was sacrificed for the company's record profits.

Ali's doctor said that his leukaemia was likely caused by high levels of pollution in the local area.

Iraqi communities living close to oil fields, where gas is openly burned, are at elevated risk of leukaemia, a BBC News Arabic investigation revealed.

Gas flaring is the "wasteful" burning of gas released in oil drilling, which produces cancer-linked pollutants.

In Rumaila, flaring takes place less than 2000m from where he lived, violating Iraqi laws that state it should be at least 10km from people's homes.

BP and Eni are major oil companies the BBC identified as working on some of the country's biggest oil exploration areas in south-eastern Iraq.

Speaking at BP's annual general meeting via webcam and an interpreter from southern Iraq, Mr Julood spoke in place of his son - who had intended to ask a question himself, but died before he was able to do so.

Mr Julood described his situation to the BP board.

"From my door, you can see the black smoke from gas flaring 24 hours



*Ali Hussein Julood, who died of cancer - likely due to gas flaring from BP's oil fields in Iraq, a doctor says.*

a day, and you can smell the toxic chemicals from these flares," he said.

"Sometimes it's so bad breathing is difficult, and oil rains from the sky... cancer is so common here it's like the flu."

Ali had been suffering from the disease since he was 15.

People living in some of the world's biggest oil fields in Basra, south-east Iraq - Rumaila, West Qurna, Zubair and Nahrn Omar - have long suspected that childhood leukaemia is on the increase, and that flaring is behind it.

An official document leaked to the BBC investigation found there was a 20% increase in cancer in this region over the past five years, as gas flaring has increased.

Mr Julood explained that Ali's greatest wish was that the gas flaring and pollution would stop.

"He loved nature - his favourite place in the world was his garden. And he wished that children could enjoy playing and breathing freely outside," he said.

The oil giant said at its annual meeting that it is continuing to reduce flaring at Rumaila.

The BBC also found millions of

tonnes of undeclared emissions from gas flaring at oil fields where BP, Eni, ExxonMobil, Chevron and Shell work.

On Thursday, some of the UK's biggest pension funds voted against reappointing BP's chairman over a decision to weaken its climate plans, but the majority of shareholders backed Helge Lund.

It comes after the energy giant cut back its target to reduce emissions by the end of the decade.

As well as the dissenting votes there were also disruptions during the annual meeting from climate protestors.

BP said it valued "constructive challenge and engagement".

The five pension funds - Nest, the Universities Pension Scheme, LGPS Central, Brunel Pension Partnership and Border to Coast - are concerned that the new targets put BP financially at risk, as the company's fossil fuel projects are likely to lose value as the world moves towards net zero emissions.

Nest, one of the five pension funds that voted against the reappointment of Mr Lund, told the BBC that there were concerns over BP's actions on reducing gas flaring, after seeing the BBC documentary *Under Poisoned Skies*.

The five pension funds told the BBC that their vote was a protest against the company's actions.

The pension funds have £440m invested in BP, which represents less than 1% of the company's total shares. But they manage the pensions of more than a third of the UK's workers so are an influential voice.

Eni said it "strongly rejects any allegation that its own activities are endangering the health of the Iraqi people".

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# Sports News



## Teams select players for first Joma Caribbean T10 tournament

The six teams that will be contesting the first Joma Caribbean T10 cricket competition that is slated to take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua from 1st to 13th May, have started the drafting of players.

The Joma Caribbean T10 is a franchise tournament for local players, where team captains will form part of the management structure.

The six captains have been identified as Rahkeem Cornwall, who will lead the Rockets, Hayden Walsh Jr of the Chargers, Kofi James of the Rangers, Nino Henry of the Renegades, Justin Athanaze of the Hawksbills and Tyrone Williams Jr, who will skipper the Pacers.

Among the players already drafted by Pacers are all-rounder Karima Gore and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie. All-rounder

Matthew Miller, fast bowler Taiem Tonge and batsman Orlando Peters have been drafted by the Chargers.

Spinner Kadeem Henry and all-rounder Elroy Francis have been selected by the Renegades, while Gavin Tonge and Anthony Martin were chosen by the Hawksbills.

Left-arm Pacer Javier Spencer and batsman Shacyoy Floyd are selected by the Rockets while Rangers have drafted middle order batsman Jewel Andrew and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams.

Squads will comprise 14 players in total, while the teams will be supported by a head coach and a manager. All squad members will be paid.

The preliminary stage of the tournament will be conducted with triple headers on each match day with matches beginning at 5pm,



Kadeem Henry has been drafted by Renegades for the first Joma Caribbean T10 cricket competition that is slated to take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua from 1st to 13th May. (File photo)

7:30 pm and 10 pm at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

On the opening day,

Rangers will face Chargers, Rockets will take on Pacers and Renegades will clash with Hawksbills.

## Young Lions beat Tigers in first division affair

Young Lions recorded a 2-1 win over Potters Tigers in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Wednesday.

Conrad Willock scored the winner for Young Lions in 77th minute of the encounter, which took place at the Old Road playing field.

Ordell Samuel scored an equalizer for Potters Tigers in the 45th minute after a 17th minute conversion by Alexander Burton had given Young Lions the lead.

Young Lions have overtaken Fort Road into sixth place by advancing to 27 points with two games remaining, while Potters Tigers have slipped from 9th to 10th place as they remain on 19 points with two games left.

Jahmarley Barzey scored an equalizer in the last minute of regulation time to enable West Ham to snatch a 1-1 draw with Bolans in another first division encounter at the Bolans playing field.

West Ham was on course to slump to their 13th loss in 19 matches this

season when Barzey scored in the 90th minute to salvage the draw.

Barzey's conversion came just two minutes after Raheem Stewart had scored what appeared to have been a late winner for Bolans in the 88th minute.

Bolans have overtaken Potters Tigers into 9th place by advancing to 20 points with three games remaining, while West Ham will stay second from bottom of the 12-team round robin competition on 10 points with three game left.



See these guys plus four more go head to head on the armwrestling table this Saturday. (Photo credit: Brothers in Armz 268)

## Eight athletes to participate in first ever Inter-school Arm Wrestling Competition

**By Carlena Knight**

History will be created over the weekend as eight youngsters will be representing their schools in the first ever Inter-Secondary Arm Wrestling tournament.

The event dubbed 'Armageddon' is being put on by the Brothers in Armz 268 group and it is slated to take place on Saturday starting at 4pm at the Multi-purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre.

Brothers in Armz 268 is the first group from Antigua and Barbuda that features arm wrestling.

The group, led by

Daniel Antonio and Joshua Robinson, seeks to raise awareness about the sport in a fun way while also promoting discipline, health and fitness.

Antonio who was a guest on the Platinum Sports Center radio show on Thursday revealed that it was a long time love for him and he decided alongside his friend Robinson, to launch the club.

"I use to always do arm wrestling in primary school and then even at AGS I would beat guys in fifth form and then I realized I have a little nutshell talent.

"I found out there was a professional side to it and that they actually host tournaments overseas and I actually delved deep into until I met someone who beat me, that's Joshua Robinson.

"We decided that we then need to start looking for more people that can give us some competition.

"So, we created this rivalry through this group called Brothers in Armz 268 and that's how all of this came along" Antonio explained.

Following the launch of the group, they then set out on a number of school

tours which Antonio said garnered a lot of support.

It was for that reason that they decided to host the first edition of this tournament.

Participants from the Antigua Grammar School (AGS), Pares Secondary School (PSS), Princess Margaret School (PMS), St. Joseph's Academy (SJA), Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS), Clare Hall Secondary School (CHSS), All Saints Secondary School (ASSS) and Jennings Secondary School (JSS) will all be battling it out for bragging rights among other prizes.



The Antigua and Barbuda senior women's cricket team. (File photo)

## Antigua beat Nevis in first LICB's senior women's T20 encounter

Antigua and Barbuda won their opening match of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board's (LICB) Senior Women's T20 competition on Wednesday.

The Antigua and Barbuda women snatched a 13-run victory over Nevis in the first match of the three-team T20 competition at the Elquemedo Willett Park in

Nevis.

Antigua and Barbuda made 99 for eight off their 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. The visitors' total was built around a 51-run third wicket partnership between vice-captain Amanda Edwards and Jenisen Richards.

Edwards hit a top score of 36 off 26 balls with six fours and one six while Richards made 20 off 42 balls. Opener Kimberly Anthony scored 12 and Tonya Martin chipped in with 11.

Martha Dookhan captured three wickets for 14 runs and Rozel Liburd picked up two for 20.

In reply, Nevis, who claimed a 37-run win over Antigua and Barbuda when both sides clashed in the 50-Overs competition at the


same venue 24 four hours earlier, were restricted to 86 for nine off their 20 overs.

Opener Melisa Clarke and Liburd, who shared a third-wicket partnership of 56 runs, were the only two Nevisian batters to reach double figures.

Clarke struck a top score of 42 off 50 balls with six fours, while Liburd made 18 off 25 balls.

Antigua and Barbuda's captain Chey-Anne Moses grabbed three wickets for five runs, Edwards capped a fine all-round display by picking up three wickets for 16 runs and Martin took two wickets for 13 runs.

Antigua and Barbuda will meet St Kitts in the final T20 match at the Cona-ree Ground in St Kitts today (Friday).



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## Sir Andy says Four Knights Academy will create players with winning mentality

Developing cricketers with a winning mentality is one crucial role which the Four Knights Cricket Academy will be aiming to perform when it is finally able to commence operations in Antigua and Barbuda.

The cricket academy, established in honour of Antigua and West Indies legends Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Curtly Ambrose, Sir Andy Roberts and Sir Richie Richardson, was formally unveiled on Wednesday, 15th April, 2015, at the Jumby Bay Resort, but it has never really started operations.

Another official re-launch of the project is set to take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium during the final matches of the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at 6:30 pm on Saturday.

Sir Andy Roberts admitted that the Four Knights Cricket Academy has not been able to operate since the first launch in 2015, but is adamant the project can play a meaningful role in creating successful West Indies cricketers.

"I think this has been going on since 2015 where we had a launch over at Jumby Bay. We have had numerous meetings over the years and it came to no avail. It was like a laughing stock then, like the four



*From left to right: Sir Curtly Ambrose, Sir Richie Richardson, former WICB Chief Executive Officer Michael Muirhead, Sir Vivian Richards and Sir Anderson Roberts during the first official launch of the Antigua & Barbuda Four Knights Academy at the Jumby Bay Resort in Antigua on Wednesday, 15th April, 2015. (WICB Media)*

knights are here, but the four knights are not going anywhere," stated Roberts during an interview on Pointe On De Streetz on Pointe FM Radio 91.9.

"Enough is enough because for 49 years I have been involved with West Indies cricket, both myself and Sir Vivian Richards who came into the West Indies team shortly after me.

"We brought something different to West Indies cricket, and it was a will to win. Before us it was 'collapso cricket' and we changed that concept of our cricket. But it has since gone out of the West Indians mould.

"We were the innova-

tors, we were the leaders and what we are now, we are a bunch of followers. We are following what other people, who copies us, are doing and sell it back to us.

"We need our players to go back to the concept of West Indies cricket. We want to bring back some pride into our cricket and we believe that the four knights have something that they can pass on to the youngsters.

"I know I cannot now run to bowl a ball, but my head is still there, it's still thinking and that is what we can pass on, the knowledge of how to succeed and I believe that we can

do it."

The Four Knights Academy has the potential to play a critical role in national development.

The four knights are on a mission to create a world class cricket coaching academy with a broad range of services, including rest, recreation and wellness to professional and semi-professional cricketers, rising stars and children in every age category from every part of the world through unique coaching leadership, mentoring and personal development programme from its safe location in Antigua and Barbuda, which is blessed with 365 beaches.

## Bynoe captures the first medal for Antigua at ALBA Games in Venezuela

Antigua and Barbuda won its first medal on Wednesday at the 5th edition of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) Sporting Games, which is being held from 21st to 29th April in Venezuela.

Carol Faye Bynoe, who is part of a six-member Wadadli Warriors domino team in the 23-member Antigua and Barbuda contingent at the ALBA Games, captured a silver medal after finishing second in the women's individual domino competition which was contested by 24 players.

Fellow Antiguan female players Desiree Parker came fifth and Francine Hector finished 12th in the competition, which was won by Jiveth Yanez of Venezuela with her compatriot Jocelym Rojas taking the bronze medal.

Michael Roach, who captured fifth place, was the best Antigua and Barbuda finisher in the male individual domino competition, which was won by Pascual Darbisi of Venezuela from a field of 25 participants.

Fellow Antiguan Renfield Davis came 16th and Aldis Benjamin finished second from bottom in the 24th position.



From left to right: Carol Faye Bynoe of the Wadadli Warriors, Jiveth Yanez of Venezuela with her compatriot Jocelym Rojas on the podium during the medal ceremony for the female individual domino competition at the ALBA Games in Venezuela on Wednesday, 26th April, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

Bynoe said she and her Antiguan colleagues had to take a crash course to adjust to the ways in which the individual competitions were conducted, which are totally different to how the game of dominoes is played in her native Antigua and Barbuda.

"Their way of playing dominoes is totally different to ours. The Antigua team is small, but we had to do a crash-course to bring us up to speed. Nothing in how they play is like how we are accustomed to play," Bynoe stated.

"Their way of playing, including their rules and regulations, are just totally

different to ours. Their rules are very strict. For example, you cannot wear jewelry while playing, you are not allowed to slouch so you have to be sitting upright at all times and your hands must be kept on your lap unless you are placing or moving the cards on the table.

"The cards are turned differently, the shuffling is different and so everything is different, that is why we had to take a crash course to give ourselves a chance to try and be competitive.

"It is not easy because we only learnt of the dos and don'ts the day prior to the start of the individual competitions. The Wadadli

Warriors are at a disadvantage, but we are not going to give up. We are going to keep punching and try to bring home some more medals."

The domino competitions at the ALBA Games were slated to continue with matches in the Mixed Pairs, Male and Female Pairs yesterday. The Mixed Pairs contest will continue today (Friday) and the team domino competitions are also slated to take place on Friday.

Antigua and Barbuda is also being represented in Billiards, Fencing and Track and Fields at the current ALBA Games in Venezuela.