

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

Psychiatrist killed gay ex-lover over a cat

A psychiatrist who killed his former lover and tried to commit suicide after becoming distraught when their cat died was jailed for six years yesterday.

Dr Mohammad Younis (60) set fire to their home in Hampstead, north London, and took a cocktail of drugs.

His former lover Mr Spiros Grapsas, aged 59, received horrific injuries and died a few hours later in hospital.

But Younis was rescued and yesterday the Old Bailey heard that he had had a "brainstorm" after suffering a bout of depression following the death of Smoke.

He denied murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

He was jailed for six years with two concurrent sentences of four years on two counts of arson which endangered the lives of persons at the house.

Judge Henry Ponsonby QC, told him: "This is a desperately sad case. You have ended your friend's life and destroyed your own."

Mr John Kelsey-Fry, prosecuting, said Syrian-born Younis and Greek-born Mr Grapsas had met in London 30 years ago and had been best friends since.

In 1973, they bought the three-storey house and continued to live there and were close friends long after their affair ended.

For 20 years, Smoke, a stray rescued by Younis, shared their home until December when he died after becoming ill.

Mr Kelsey-Fry said: "Both men were absolutely devastated by the death. Smoke was buried in the garden. Christmas was cancelled and the grave was visited daily with flowers."

In their grief, each man blamed the other for what they saw as lack of treatment for the sick animal, he said.

The doctor had been under strain because his best friend who was drinking heavily and naging him about the state of the flat they shared. On March 8, Younis started 15 separate fires on landings, in the kitchen and in his own bedroom.

Mr Grapsas suffered up to 80 per cent burns after leaving his room and being unable to escape.

Pet has ears pulled off

A woman who bought a hamster "in order to harm it" pulled its ears off on her way to church, a court heard yesterday.

Linda Moyes (36) who did not appear in court, admitted through her solicitor cruelly ill-treating Peachie the hamster.

Mr Warwick Tatford, prosecuting for the RSPCA, told magistrates' court in Epsom: "Everyone in the woman had told police she had done it because it was something she had always wanted to do to her father, because he had abused her when she was a child."

Mr Tatford added: "At the end of her interview she said she had abuse counselling with the NSPCC and the counsellor had advised her not to do it but she wanted to inflict the伤害, so she thought to on and she thought that would be a good idea. This would appear to be a disturbed young woman," he added.

The case against Moyes, of Clifton Court, Hastings, was adjourned until October 5 for psychiatric reports.

Two charged over bombing

A Tanzanian magistrate's court yesterday formally charged two men with murder in connection with the August 7 bombing of the US Embassy in which 11 people died.

Muhsin Mahmood Said Ahmed and Rashid Saleh Hamed were charged with 11 counts of murder. All 11 killed were Africans, mainly Tanzanians.

In a nearly simultaneous bombing at the US embassy in neighbouring Kenya, 247 people, including 12 Americans, were killed.

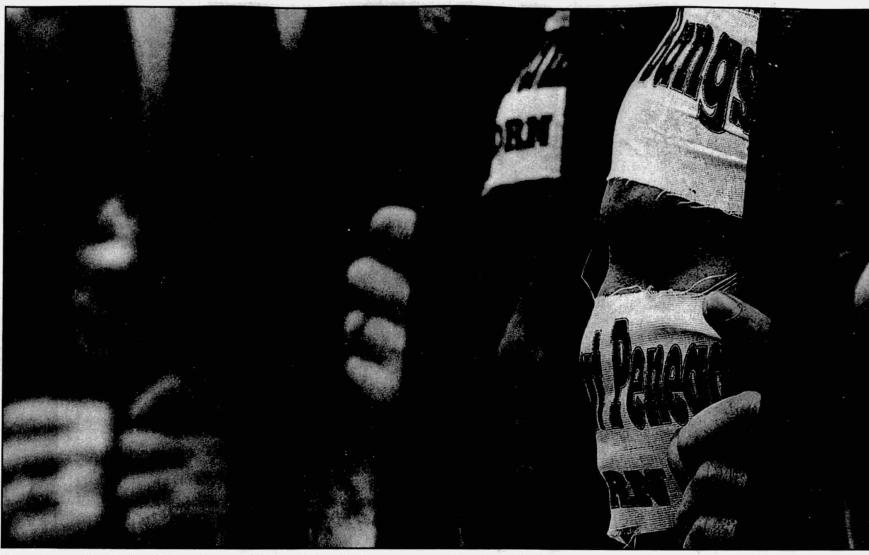
Two men have been indicted in a New York court for the murders of the 12 Americans, and several other suspects are being sought.

Caribbeans shelter from hurricane's fury

With 115 mph winds, Hurricane Georges barreled into the north-eastern Caribbean yesterday, flooding towns, knocking out electrical supplies and forcing hundreds to evacuate their homes.

More than 1,600 people sought shelter in schools and public buildings in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, where Georges is expected to strike later today.

Both US territories declared states of emergency and activated National Guard troops to help evacuations.



Mask of poor: Hundreds of Indonesians, mostly from Jakarta's slums, protest outside the national parliament, demanding lower food and fuel prices.

Keep Queen out of troubles Cook warns Malaysian PM

By PETER ARCHER

Special Correspondent

Foreign Secretary Mr Robin Cook yesterday told the Malaysian government: "Don't drag the Queen into your trouble."

Mr Cook spoke, riot police were firing tear gas and water cannon for the second day at anti-government demonstrators on the streets of the capital Kuala Lumpur.

In talks with Malaysia's prime minister Mr Mahathir Mohamad during the Foreign Office's visit, the Foreign Secretary stressed: "The state visit cannot be caught up in internal political controversy."

The civil unrest centres on the sacking of former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim who has been held under Malaysia's internal security legislation and

could be detained without charge for up to a year.

Anwar has denied allegations of gross indecency, sodomy, which is illegal in Malaysia, treason and corruption.

Mr Cook, who with his wife Gaynor is accompanying the Queen, delayed leaving the country for New York and a United Nations General Assembly, where he is attending.

He also challenged the Malaysian authorities over censorship of BBC and ITN TV coverage of riots in Kuala Lumpur in the last two days.

Footage of the anti-government riots was blanked from screens as the pictures were transmitted to London.

But the violent clashes between the authorities and many thousands of protesters supporting Anwar did not alter

the Queen's state visit programme.

"It's business as usual," Buckingham Palace said as the Queen received a rapturous welcome at the 16th Commonwealth Games.

With the Duke of Edinburgh, she took tea with athletes in the canteen of the Games Village and visited the medical centre.

As head of the Commonwealth, the Queen watched the last events and presented medals before declaring the Games closed last night.

She arrived in the stadium with Malaysia's Agong (King) Yang di-Pertuan to a tumultuous welcome from the near-capacity 100,000 crowd.

The Queen and Agong then inspected a guard of honour before the two-hour closing spectacular began.

After a thundering fireworks display, the Queen formally declared the Commonwealth Games closed and looked forward to the next Games which will be held in Manchester four years from now.

● Manchester, the host city for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, yesterday officially accepted the baton from Malaysia during the closing ceremony of the 16th Games.

Prince Edward, who opened the Games two weeks ago, joined thousands of people outside Manchester Town Hall for a stadium link to the stadium.

Manchester's favourite sporting son Sir Bobby Charlton was also in Malaysia. He read out a message beamed live on giant screens in the city centre.

He paid tribute to the athletes and said how proud he was they

were coming to Manchester. The Games will be held in a new £99 million purpose-built stadium in the east of the city.

Prince Edward gave a message of welcome from the steps of the town hall and said: "Thanks to the 16th Commonwealth Games for being such a wonderful feast of sport and you can be justly proud of yourselves."

"Amazingly England last hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1934. Now we want to invite you, the Commonwealth, to Manchester for the first games of the new Millennium."

Manchester-based pop group

New Order played one song followed by another local band, James.

As they finished their song the city sky burst to life with a huge pyrotechnic display of confetti and fireworks.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

I am determined to resist this country being bounced into European monetary union by stealth and spin.
Tory leader William Hague.

Good on Geri Spice for raising so much money for charity. But I think the right mind would pay £29,000 for a skimpy dress made out of two old tea towels.
Pop star George Michael.

Unlike the French, the English have never really considered seduction an art.
Broadcaster Jeremy Paxman.

It doesn't matter if our customers are overweight. It's feminine to bulge.
Fashion icon Tanya Burr.

Style is whatever makes you feel comfortable as you leave first thing in the morning. Unless it's your dressing gown.
Actress Elizabeth Hurley.

I find men my age very dull, and pompous and competitive and suddenly depressed and menopausal.
Novelist Carole Hayman, 53.

A woman's face is her armour. If you wear the right amount of make-up, you can survive anything.
Actress Cindy Crawford.

We are advised to go by train where it now takes 25 minutes to buy a ticket while each customer argues the toss of eight different prices for the same journey.
TV pundit Auberion Waugh.

An actor's lot is not a happy one in many ways. You are constantly judging yourself, criticising yourself, and then other people do it for you.
Actor Robert Lindsay.

We row and we fight like everyone else. We don't exactly throw saucers at one another, but occasionally you feel your fingers itching to throw one. Every relationship needs a row sometimes, but we are very, very happy.
Playwright and entertainer Ben Elton on married life.

Convict nurse will continue to work on hospital wards

Nurse Ms Deborah Parry, convicted of killing a colleague in Saudi Arabia, will return to work on hospital wards here because she had full-time job in an English hospital, the nursing governing body said yesterday.

The UK Central Council said that despite strenuous efforts it had not come up with any hard evidence to remove her from the official register.

Ms Parry, aged 40, and fellow nurse Ms Lucile McLauchlan, aged 32, from Dundee, were freed in by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia after being held for the murder of Ms Yvonne Gilford, aged 55, in Dhamar, 300 miles south of Sana'a.

Ms Parry faced beheading until Ms Gilford's brother, Frank, waived the death penalty under Saudi law in

return for a sum of money thought to be £750,000.

Director of the UKCC's Conduct Committee, Ms Mandy Lavin said: "We have made strenuous efforts to get the information we need to get this case before a professional conduct committee."

"But we have been unable to find any evidence of her conduct from the Saudi authorities."

If, in future, evidence does come to light, we can reopen the case but with what the case goes before the committee in the next two weeks it is highly likely the case will be closed.

Speaking on television last night, Ms Parry said: "I'm a brilliant nurse, she could carry on working as a nurse."

She says: "To see that (a newspaper headline), 'Angel

of death killer nurse returns to wards', it's sick."

"Can you imagine what that's like? To see it written and it's about 'you'? I didn't kill Yvonne Gilford."

The nurse, who has been working at Holy Cross Hospital, in Haslemere, Surrey, where she was employed 16 years ago, said she the only thing she was guilty of was "being a nurse" and enough to gain a confession."

In the same programme Mr George Galloway MP called for Health Secretary Mr Frank Dobson to ban Ms Parry from hospital work.

He says: "It seems to me that someone who has been convicted of an offence of her colleagues in a hospital should certainly not be let loose on the hospital wards again in our country."

Man accused of island murders

By PAUL PEACHEY

Special Correspondent

A teenager was in court

yesterday accused of murdering British schoolteacher Joanna Clarke at an exclusive Caribbean hotel.

The 18-year-old local man has allegedly confessed to killing Miss Clarke and American Lori Fogelman, aged 32, whose body was found nearby on Paradise Island in the Bahamas, and was due to start work at a school near her

home in Banbury, Oxfordshire, on her return.

Following criticisms of the investigation, a senior Scotland Yard officer and a team from the FBI flew to the Bahamas to help with the murder and other security staff were drafted in to allay the fears of tourists.

The island is popular with the rich and famous. Cindy Crawford celebrated her marriage there and Michael Jackson is a frequent visitor.

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By 7am Georges was centred about 15 miles off Antigua and travelling at 16 mph.

Georges downed lamposts and darkened all of St. Kitts which has a population of 32,000, while in Antigua families huddled in their houses as the Category 4 storm approached. It reached 150 mph but with gusts up to 138 mph the US National Hurricane Centre warned the storm was dangerous.

US Virgin Islands Governor Mr Roy Schneider imposed an 8pm curfew and

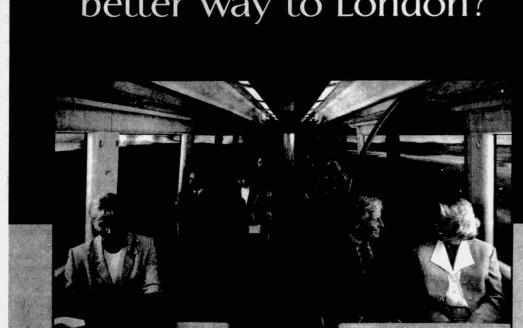
asked President Clinton to declare a federal state of emergency. By 10am, Georges was about 45 miles south of St. Martin.

"The storm really messed us. We got a pounding, a real battering," said Mr Norman Thomas, manager of ABS radio in Antigua, where 5,700 people spent the night in shelters.

In St. Kitts residents ventured out to survey storm damage as Georges' eye passed overhead, but scurried back inside as the hurricane's rear wall returned.

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