

# PM Browne chides local banks for consistent 'poor service'

*Story on Page 2*



Burials at the new public cemetery – Tranquility Park Cemetery – on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway can now commence following the official dedication ceremony

*Story on Page 16*

# Local News

## PM Browne chides local banks for consistent 'poor service'



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking at the hand-over ceremony for the chairmanship of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU)**

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is also the country's Finance Minister, is again expressing his displeasure with the level of service that is offered to customers by many of the banks operating in the country.

Speaking at the hand-over ceremony for the chairmanship of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), PM Browne noted that the level of service from some banks has been less than satisfactory and he calling them out for them to institute immediate corrective measures.

According to the prime minister service has been so bad routinely, that one bank had its customers standing in the sun for hours waiting to gain entry to conduct business. "Not even to organize a tent for the customers; this is unacceptable!" he declared.

The prime minister was especially critical of those officers in the banks who seem to enjoy their status in the banks rather than be concerned about providing good service.

"Having heard the concerns of our people about poor customer service and,

sometimes, mistreatment by these financial institutions; work will be accelerated on the establishment of an Office of Financial Conduct and Inclusion (OFCI) to address financial market conduct supervision.

It's unfortunate that in 2025; that our bankers have routinely failed to offer efficient and respectable service; but have opted instead for slow, crude and contemptuous service. I wish to make it abundantly that good service is good business and we expect to see urgent realignments in the service offered by our banks.

"All competition is global," he noted.

According to the prime minister compliance officers and others in the banking sector, who have made it extremely slow and difficult to do business, need to urgently realign, recognizing that they are inadvertently undermining our region's global competitiveness and development.

"Service is love; let's show some love and serve our people graciously and efficiently at levels of our society," he stated.



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## CIP/CBI revenues account for the 'lion share' on non-tax revenue



**Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Timothy Antoine**

The five countries in the OECS, including Antigua and Barbuda, have seen steady increases in these revenues in recent years from their Citizenship for Investment Programmes and now they account for 75 cents of every non-tax dollar for these territories.

That's the word from Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Timothy Antoine speaking at the formal handing over ceremony for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union chairmanship at AUA conference centre near Jabberwock Beach.

"When we look at revenue, CIP/CBI revenue are classified as non-tax," he explained.

The Governor outlined that the bank has been spearheading efforts to develop the legislative framework that will serve to protect these programmes and to ensure their continuity.

"Over the past few months, at the invitation of the heads of government with these programmes, the central bank has led work to establish a re-

gional regulator with the objective of

enhancing credibility, integrity and sustainability of these programmes. Following extensive consultation, a legal framework has now been prepared and it is now in the public domain for comment," he reported.

According to the governor the draft has been widely circulated and he is thanking the public for the feedback that has been received so far. "We have had very good feedback so far," he stated.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne acknowledged that the draft has been shared with the US government, the United Kingdom and the European Union among others and the feedback has been received from both within the Caribbean and outside.

He also urged support for the CIP/CBI programmes recognizing their importance to the economies of all member states within the ECCU.



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## Two public servants honoured at ECCU ceremony



**Former Financial Secretary, Whitfield Harris**



**Lynnette Thwaites, Executive Secretary and Events Planner in the Office of the Prime Minister.**

Two public servants have been singled for special recognition at Thursday's formal hand-over ceremony of the chairmanship of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union at the American University of Antigua.

Former Financial Secretary, Whitfield Harris, who served for more than twenty years as a board member of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and Lynnette Thwaites, Executive Secretary and Events Planner in the Office of the Prime Minister. Both were present-

ed with awards.

ECCB Governor Timothy Antoine said of Harris that he served as Financial Secretary of Antigua and Barbuda for twenty years and an ECCB board member for twenty-three years. "We recognize Whitfield Harris for longstanding and outstanding service to our region and our bank," the Governor noted.

In response, Harris said he is happy to have been afforded the opportunity to serve adding that if he had a chance to do it all over, he would choose a

life of service. He noted that he first served former Prime Minister Lester Bird as Financial Secretary and has worked with Dr. Errol Cort, Sir Robin Yearwood, Harold Lovell and now retired following working alongside Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

He also credited Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, for recognizing that he had something to offer in the role of Financial Secretary.

In presenting a special token of recognition to Lynnette Thwaites,

Governor Antoine noted that she has been an important *interlocutor* between the ECCB and Prime Minister Browne.

Speaking of the two, the Governor said public service is honourable as he thanked them for their service.

He also thanked Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, who has made it possible for Antigua and Barbuda to be the leader in enacting legislation emanating from the ECCB. "Thank you Sir Steadroy," he declared.

# VACANCY

## ACCOUNTANT

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated Accountant to support the timely preparation of financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), reconcile key balance sheet accounts, and enhance our financial reporting systems. Working closely and under the direct supervision of the Senior Accountant, the incumbent will be responsible for the reconciliation of key accounts, enhancement of financial reporting processes, and providing support on various finance-related special projects. This position requires a detail-oriented, analytical, and results-driven individual.

### Key duties include:

- Preparing monthly, quarterly, and annual financial statements in compliance with IFRS.
- Reconciling key accounts, including but not limited to bank accounts, payables, receivables, inventory, accruals, and other general ledger balances.
- Working closely and under the supervision of the Senior Accountant to ensure accurate financial reporting and compliance with internal policies.
- Assisting in the preparation and review of audit schedules and supporting external and internal audit processes.
- Identifying and implementing improvements to enhance and streamline financial reporting processes and applications.
- Ensuring all financial records are maintained in an organized and timely manner to support management reporting and decision-making.
- Analyzing financial data and trends to identify variances and recommend corrective actions.
- Assisting in the preparation of budgets and forecasts as needed.
- Supporting the automation of routine reports and development of financial dashboards.
- Participating in the implementation of new accounting systems or process improvements.
- Providing support for special projects, including financial analysis for capital projects, regulatory reporting, and funding applications.
- Maintaining compliance with company policies, internal controls, and regulatory requirements.

### The successful candidate **MUST** possess the following:

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- A minimum of three (3) years of experience in a similar role; utility or public sector experience is an asset.
- Minimum professional accounting designation of ACCA, CPA, or CMA.
- Strong knowledge of IFRS and financial reporting standards.
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, accounting software and ERP systems.
- Excellent analytical, organizational, and time-management skills.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work effectively within a team.
- A high level of integrity, discretion, and commitment to confidentiality.

### Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue  
St. Johns, Antigua  
**OR** Email: [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

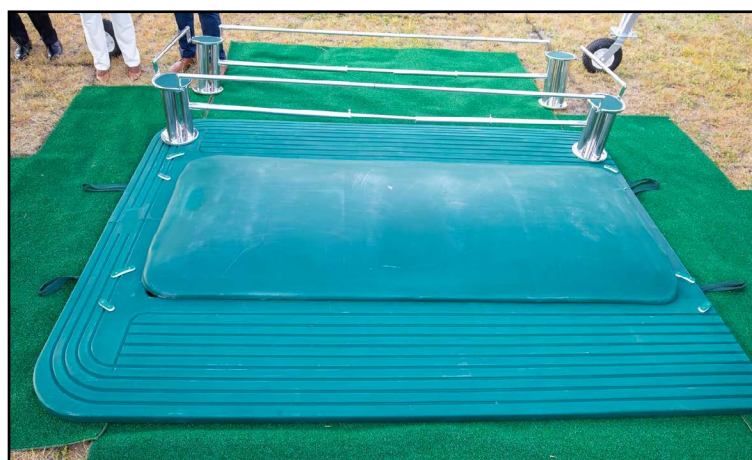
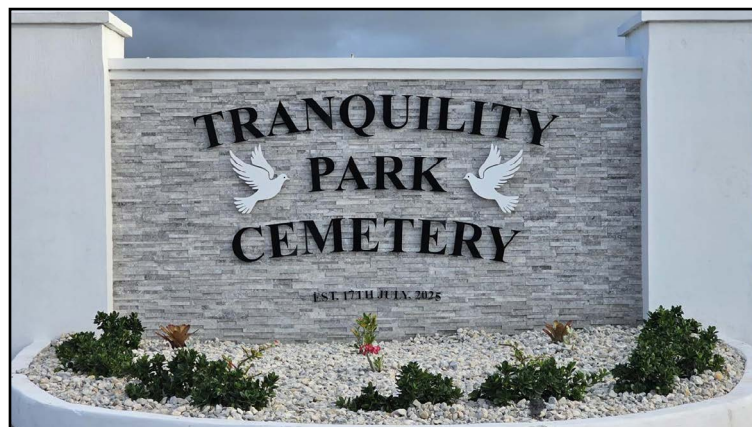
**Deadline for application is Friday 1st August, 2025**

**\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\***

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## New Tranquility Park cemetery opens on 20-acres of land... should accommodate burials for several decades into the future



Burials at the new public cemetery – Tranquility Park Cemetery – on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway can now commence following the official dedication ceremony held at the facility on Thursday.

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the facility, said he expects developments to continue over time on the twenty-acres of land that now comprise the cemetery.

Sir Molwyn foresees the cemetery's development to include a park where families can visit to reflect and to share memories of their loved ones buried within the facility.

The Tranquility Park Cemetery aims to create a suitable and dignified burial site, to replace the St. John's Public Cemetery which has been in existence since the late 1800's. The Cemetery will provide an accessible, well-maintained burial ground un-

derscoring Government's commitment to ensuring every citizen and resident of Antigua and Barbuda receives a dignified burial. This is a pivotal step in ongoing efforts to enhance end of life services in the country.

The Tranquility Park

Cemetery is situated on 20 acres of land and is to be completed in phases. Minister for Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, described the new burial grounds as a spiritual haven and a place of quietness and peace that aims to be aesthetically pleasing.

## Government sets timeline for the phased introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme

The government has set a timeline of the first quarter of 2026 for the phased introduction of a National Health Insurance Scheme for Antigua and Barbuda.

The matter has been in discussion for several years, but the initiative to a giant leap forward when the Cabinet on Wednesday welcomed a delegation comprising Professors and Researchers from the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago, along with senior government officials including the Chairman and CEO of the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS), the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, the Chairman and Medical Director of the Mount St. John Medical Centre Board, and two representatives from the Legal Department.

Cabinet spokesman, Maurice Merchant explained that the purpose of the engagement was to provide an update on the national strategy to establish a National Health Insurance (NHI) system by transitioning the current MBS into a universal, legislated health financ-



**Cabinet spokesman, Maurice Merchant**

ing model that ensures lifetime healthcare coverage for all residents.

“The Cabinet was reminded that the NHI will be a mandatory, pooled health financing system, offering a defined package of health services to all individuals—regardless of age, income, or pre-existing medical conditions. The system is intended to enhance efficiency, equity, and responsiveness while promoting sustainable and high-quality care,” Merchant told reporters on Thursday.

Accordingly, one of the critical findings presented was that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Antigua and Barbuda currently stands between 69% and 76%, indicating a coverage gap of approx-

imately 24% to 31%.

Among the anticipated benefits of implementing the NHI are:

- Broader access to healthcare across both public and private sectors
- Enhanced financial protection for families
- Improved coordination and efficiency within the healthcare system
- A strengthened national framework aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.8, which aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage

The Cabinet was informed that significant progress has been made towards implementation. A National Health Insurance Policy Framework and a Responsibility Matrix

have been developed. A completion schedule has also been outlined, detailing steps for institutional reforms, stakeholder engagement—including the Ministry of Finance, MBS, and MSJMC—and a phased implementation approach. Additionally, comparative benchmarks with other OECS countries have been analyzed to gauge national readiness.

The following actions were presented as priorities for the next phase:

- Enactment of supporting legislation and continued stakeholder consultations
- A national public education campaign and resident registration process
- A pilot phase, to be followed by full-scale implementation

The team was directed to continue its work and to provide regular progress updates to Cabinet. The Government reaffirmed its strong commitment to achieving universal, high-quality healthcare through the successful implementation of the National Health Insurance—ensuring no resident is left behind.

## Three prominent historical figures are to have streets renamed in their honour



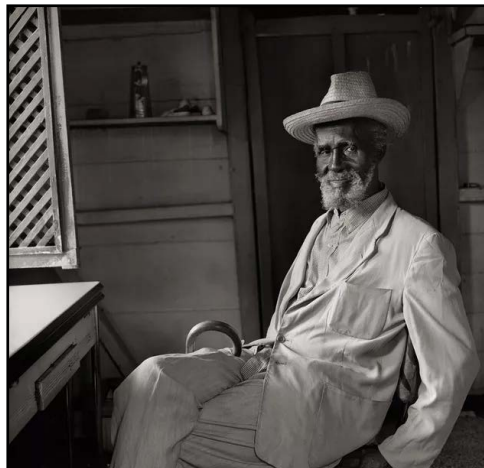
**Marcus Mosiah Garvey**

The Antigua and Barbuda government has identified three prominent historical figures who it wishes to celebrate by having streets renamed in their honour.

The Cabinet has approved the appointment of a committee whose primary task will be to conduct research and provide recommendations on the renaming of three streets in St. John's, as an initial phase of a broader initiative. The objective is to commemorate and honour the legacy of **Marcus Mosiah Garvey**, **George A. Weston**, and **George Alexander McGuire**—distinguished figures associated with the **Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)** and the **African Orthodox Church**, both in the United States and in Antigua and Barbuda.

According to government sources... Marcus Garvey visited Antigua in the **late 1930s**, likely around **1937 or 1938**, during a tour of the British West Indies. Several historical sources reference his presence and impactful public addresses during that time as leaving *an indelible mark on the consciousness of the Antiguan and Barbudan people.*

Cabinet spokesman Maurice Merchant recalled that it has been widely reported that the Father of the Nation Sir Vere Cornwall Bird was particularly impressed with Garvey and as a tribute to his visit in Antigua, Novem-



**George A. Weston,**

ber 1, was selected as the date when Statehood and later, Independence is observed.

Merchant also provided important historical facts related to **George Alexander McGuire** (born **March 26, 1866** in Sweets, Antigua — died November 10, 1924 in New York City) was a prominent Antiguan-born church leader, physician, and advocate for Black religious autonomy and empowerment.

Other facts include;

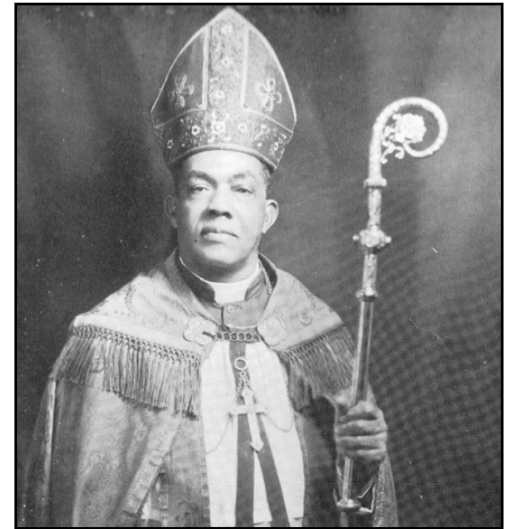
- Involved with Marcus Garvey's UNIA from 1919; appointed **Chaplain-General** at its first international convention in 1920

- On Sept 2, 1921, he established the **African Orthodox Church** in NYC—a denomination led by and for Black Christians; consecrated a bishop later that month.

- The church emphasized spiritual and racial autonomy and a return to Black-rooted religious expression: "You must forget the white gods... go back to ... your own true God."

Much more widely known was **George A. Weston** (1885–1973), originally from Green Bay, Antigua, who was a pivotal figure in Black nationalism, religious leadership, and social empowerment, both in the Caribbean and North America.

- Became a recognized leader in the



**George Alexander McGuire**

UNIA by 1924. After internal splits following Garvey's imprisonment, he led a major NYC UNIA faction.

- Later ordained in the African Orthodox Church (AOC) and, after WWII, returned to Antigua to conduct missionary work under the AOC, officially forming the African Orthodox Evangelical Mission

- In Antigua, he promoted Garvey's philosophy of racial pride and economic independence. He founded a Negro History Week, aimed at instilling African-Caribbean awareness in youth, and launched local industrial ventures including the Pro-Lad Paint Company tailored to tropical climates

- He and his wife Maudelle also established a nursery school teaching African-Caribbean history and dance.

The team comprises Chairman of the Reparations Commission, Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde, Historian Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst, Director of the National Archives, Gavin Emmanuel and Antiguan Author Cortwright Davis and a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society in New York.

The team will also be responsible for identifying other Antiguan and Barbudan unsung heroes who were never honoured or celebrated.



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## Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Rwanda sign historic visa waiver agreement and cooperation MoUs in health and tourism



**Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, H.E. Walton Webson, and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Karoli Martin Ngoga.**

Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Rwanda have scored a landmark diplomatic achievement with the signing of a visa waiver exemption agreement and two Memoranda of Understanding spanning the sectors of Health and Tourism.

The signing ceremony, which took place at the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations in New York on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, underscores the deepening ties between Africa and the Caribbean.

The historic accords were executed by Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, H.E. Walton Webson, and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Karoli Martin Ngoga.

The visa waiver agreement eliminates entry, transit, and visitor visa requirements for the nationals of the two countries on a reciprocal basis, allowing for people-to-people and cultural exchanges as well as the promotion and expansion of trade

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August 17th, 2025

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Venue: Cades Bay Agricultural Station  
St. Mary's





and business opportunities.

The exemption from visa procedures and related costs, excluding the right to work, is being seen by the two countries as a powerful expression of their commitment to advancing friendly relations, removing barriers to travel, and promoting inclusive, people-centered diplomacy.

“This agreement marks a profound step forward in forging Transatlantic alliances between two dynamic nations that share common goals in innovation, resilience, and global engagement. It opens new opportunities for tourism, trade, education, and cultural exchanges, enabling deeper connectivity between the peoples of Africa and the Caribbean,” Ambassador Webson remarked.

He also expressed the view that it establishes a model for South-South cooperation, which is rooted in mutual respect and shared development objectives.

During the signing ceremony, the two diplomats also committed their countries to two Memoranda of Understanding to expand cooperation in both the Health and Tourism sectors. Both MOU’s cover a broad range of areas and introduce considerable opportunities for knowledge sharing, capacity building and economic development that will benefit their respective nations.

In the area of health, Antigua and Barbuda can expect support in the areas of prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS Control programs, Epidemiological surveil-

lance systems, experience sharing on health insurance systems, pharmaceutical cooperation and maternal and child health enhancement among others. Ambassador Webson is also hoping that Antigua and Barbuda’s public health system, its nurses and other medical professionals can benefit from Rwanda’s successful health care delivery model.

The Tourism MOU further explores opportunity for shared development initiatives in the vital sector.

The two countries have affirmed that the multifaceted agreement not only represents a practical advancement in travel facilitation, but also a bold diplomatic signal of intent to collaborate on health innovation, tourism excellence, and sustainable development.



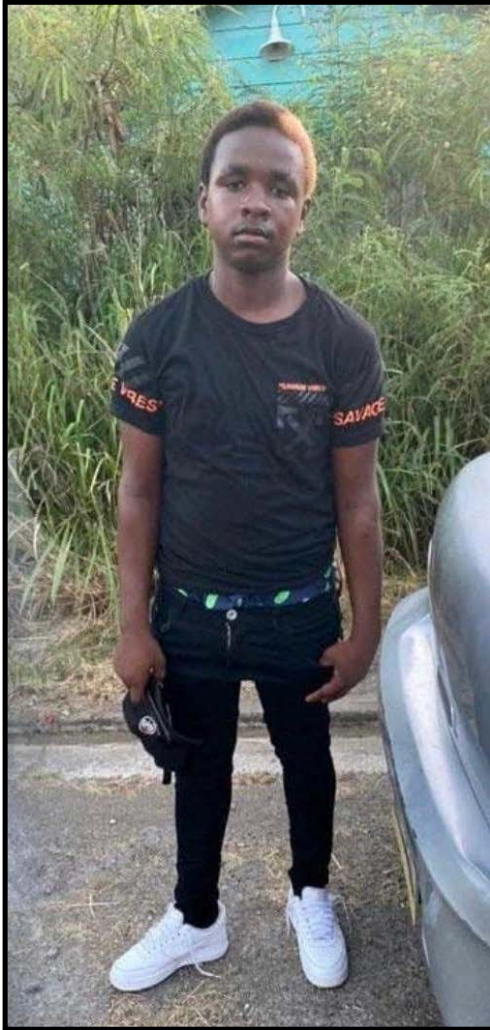
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# Local News

## Police Probe Death of 16-Year-Old



The police say they are continuing their investigation into the shooting death of 16-year of Tafari Joseph of Villa.

Reports are that several persons have been taken into custody by the police but no arrests have been made.

Joseph was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre around 10:15 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 July 2025, with an apparent gunshot wound to the left side of his chest. He was later pronounced dead by a medical doctor. The police are appealing to anyone with information that may assist in the investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477). All calls will be handled with strict

confidentiality.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne noted that he is saddened by the turn of events as Joseph was among the young people that he reached out to in his anti-gang initiative several months ago.

“We enrolled him in ABICE, bought all his tools, books, uniforms and offered him a job on the clean-up crew,

in which he doing ‘learn and earn’.

“He was the first to drop out of AB-ICE and now the first among them to be killed allegedly committing a robbery.

“Though sad; I trust this will be a wake-up call for the others,” the prime minister wrote in a social media post.

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Queen Thalia  
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Queen Singing Althea

king Zacari  
king Tian  
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Kid Fresh  
Richie Francis  
Empress.

  
Ms. Denise Gardiner 18.7.25  
Judges Subcommittee Chair  
Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission

  
Mr. Michael Freeland 18.7.25  
Deputy Chairman  
Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries  
Parliamentary Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**  
Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**  
National Festivals Director - National Festivals  
Chairperson - Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission  
Sub-Committee Chair - 2025 Calypso Monarch



# \$60,000 worth of cannabis seized at Deep Water Harbour

A joint drug interdiction operation between the Police and Customs has resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of cannabis at Deep Water Harbour on Wednesday, 16 July 2025.

Both law enforcement agencies carried out a search at the main seaport and discovered a barrel with nineteen (19) vacuum-sealed packages containing the controlled drug cannabis.

The packages weighed approximately seven and a half (7½) pounds, with an estimated street value of EC \$60,000. The barrel and its



contents were seized and taken to the police headquarters. Investigations are ongoing.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda remains committed to work-

ing collaboratively with local and regional partners to intercept and prevent the illegal importation of controlled substances into the country.

Anyone with information

related to drug trafficking or other criminal activities is encouraged to contact the Narcotics Department at 462-5150 or call Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477). All reports are strictly confidential.

# Police probe separate robbery incidents

The police are appealing to the public for information in solving two separate incidents of robbery that occurred on Wednesday, 16 July 2025.

In one incident, the proprietor of a local cook shop on Fort Road reported that at approximately 6:30 p.m., two men armed with what appeared to be firearms, dressed in black hoodies and white masks, entered the establishment and robbed an employee of a phone.

In a separate incident, the owner of a

supermarket at Sutherlands reported that around 10:02 p.m., two suspects wearing masks and armed with what appeared to be firearms entered the business place and stole a cash register containing an undisclosed sum of money. They were reportedly dressed in grey hoodies, white masks, and red and grey pants.

Anyone with information on either of these incidents is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department

at 462-3913 or call Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477). All reports will be treated with strict confidentiality.

The Police Administration continues to appeal to business owners and operators to remain vigilant, particularly during closing hours. Residents are further advised to be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity to the police without delay.



# ANTIGUA Carnival Itz A ViBe



## OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2025

**26  
JUL**

### T-SHIRT MAS 3 PM - 9 PM

**Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.N. Kirnon School**

UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Bolivar Dr. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.  
**LEFT** onto Parliament Dr. **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
**LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto  
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd.

**27  
JUL**

### Junior Carnival 2 pm

**Assembly point: Old House Of Culture ( 1:30 pm | move off at 2pm)**

Turn **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
**LEFT** on Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** on  
Independence Ave. **RIGHT** at the roundabout onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto  
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City.

Water breaks between (Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street) and (between corner ACB & Magistrate Court)

**04  
AUG**

### J'Ouvert 3AM - 10AM Steel Bands (Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** on Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.,  
**RIGHT** on Market St. **RIGHT** on High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.

### J'Ouvert 3AM - 10AM Jam Bands & Sound System (Repeat)

ARG – **SOUTH** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Vivian Richards St.  
**RIGHT** onto Market St. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St.  
**RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** on Redcliffe St.

### Judging of Bands 2 pm

**Assembly point: Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive**

**RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto  
Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave.

**05  
AUG**

### Parade of Bands 12 Noon

**Assembly point: Old Parham Road Near The T.n. Kirnon School**

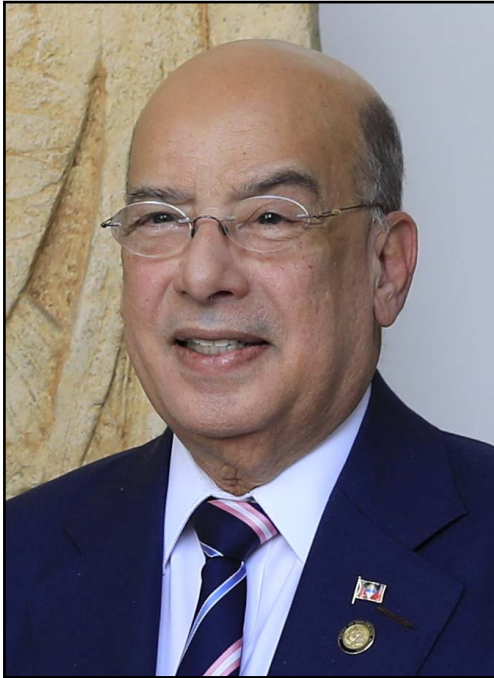
UP Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto Simon Blvd. **RIGHT** onto Factory Rd.  
**LEFT** on to Parliament Dr. and **RIGHT** onto Queen Elizabeth Hwy. **RIGHT** onto  
Independence Ave. **LEFT** onto Redcliffe St. **RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto  
High St. **LEFT** onto Independence Ave. **RIGHT** onto Old Parham Rd. **RIGHT** onto  
Coronation Rd. into Carnival City

### Last Lap | 7 pm - 10 pm

UP Old Parham Rd. turn **RIGHT** on Coronation Rd  
**RIGHT** onto Factory Rd., **LEFT** onto Independence Ave., **RIGHT** onto Redcliffe St.  
**RIGHT** onto Thames St. **RIGHT** onto High St. **RIGHT** onto Independence Ave.  
and continue until 10PM.

# Commentary

## A Stinging Slap: Did It Hurt Political Power or Press Freedom?



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

When it occurred, in the early 1970s in Guyana, it caused a serious period of apprehension. In what was seen as an abuse of power, a politician in Guyana slapped Rickey Singh, an intrepid journalist, because he was displeased with the content of a newspaper report. The incident was a watershed moment, and the resulting concern occupied politicians, journalists and the general public. Did this slap signal the end of free media and the beginning of political dictation or even tyranny?

The question reverberated around the region. Media organisations, liberal academics, and politicians were all alarmed. At that moment, Rickey Singh embodied the aspirations and rights of freedom of speech. For his part, the politician represented the coercive force of political power, suggesting that violent measures, instantly and unilaterally applied, would silence criticism in any form. Fortunately, the overwhelming response of every sector of Caribbean society was revulsion at the incident. In that moment, any worse explicit abuse of power retreat-

ed into the shadows, not to fade but to assume less vulgar forms. And legitimate media freedom breathed a sigh of relief.

This conflict between freedom of the press and political power existed before the stinging slap. It continues to be manifest today in many societies, including those that claim to be bastions of democracy. The problem has not disappeared, but in Guyana in the 1970s, a line was drawn, however faintly. The slap did not seal his lips—it magnified his message. It unveiled the fragile veneer of power impervious to principle and showcased the unyielding spirit of a journalist who refused to bow.

The region owed Rickey Singh a debt of gratitude for his courage in standing up for freedom, even, quite literally, in the face of abuse.

In that spirit, I reproduce below the

eulogy I delivered at Rickey Singh's funeral on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at the People's Cathedral in Barbados.

I am honoured to join you today to celebrate the life of Rickey Singh—a man whose pen bore the weight of our region's hopes, whose voice dared to confront power, and whose spirit embodied the Caribbean's pursuit of unity, justice, and true inclusion.

Rickey wielded truth as both a shield and a sword. In our small states, he reminded us that words based in truth could confront wrong and demand justice.

His fearless journalism came at a cost: his self-exile from his native Guyana, threats of deportation in Trinidad, and the withdrawal of his work permit in Barbados. All of these forced painful separations from his beloved wife, Dolly, and from their children, whom he supported with unwavering devo-




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# Commentary

PAGE 17

tion. His love for family and duty to them remained unshaken, a testament to his enduring integrity.

Yet, hardship only steeled his resolve. Despite the indignities he endured—including the sting of a slap from a politician—Rickey never failed to be generous to the very leaders whose actions he criticised.

The question continues to haunt politics and journalism: Who was harmed by that slap? – the perpetrator and political power, or the victim and the right of free speech? One answer is that Rickey was upstanding in his conduct and outstanding in his quiet and dignified response. So much so that many leaders honoured him with their friendship and sought political differentiation by their association with him.

Since the birth of CARIFTA in 1968 and the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973, the dream of “One Caribbean” has moved too slowly. Institutions have been formed, and committees have met, yet unity remained elusive. Rickey would not accept timid progress.

Through incisive columns and commanding commentary, he held successive leaders accountable for the promise of regional integration, urging them to dismantle the invisible walls between our countries and see our destinies as interwoven. His unfaltering advocacy ensured that the dream of an integrated Caribbean stayed alive.

In his native Guyana, detractors sought to tarnish Rickey’s reputation, branding him “racist.” Nothing could be further from the truth. His lifelong devotion to his wife, Dolly, of African heritage, and his deep brotherhood with Hubert Williams—also of Guyanese African heritage—stood as living refutations of those slanders.

Rickey yearned for the day when politically manipulated racism in Guyana would yield to a onesociety nation, where every citizen stood equal in dignity and opportunity. His pen battled the bigotry of division, always summoning the people of his native country to benefit from their shared humanity.

I count Rickey among the people I respect most in my life. His ready smile

and easy laughter were a balm, and his counsel a guiding light. He called on us to embody his principles: courage in the face of intimidation, integrity when capitulation would have been the easier path, and an unshakeable belief in social justice and the rights of all people.

Though Rickey’s voice was stilled on July 5, his words still resonate. His example will ignite the passions of younger generations. Leaders will remember his unyielding defence of right and rights and know that power divorced from principle is hollow.

And we, the peoples of this region, will hear his clarion call in the echoes of our minds: to bind ourselves closer, not by convenience, but by conviction; and that our strength lies in unity, justice, and dignity for all.

*(The author is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*



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## The Power of Partnerships: Recycling Success Stories

In towns where tides of waste would flow,  
 A seed was planted, set to grow.  
 No single hand could clear the mess,  
 But joined as one, we found success.

A bottle cast upon the ground,  
 Could lie unseen, no hope around.  
 Yet when good hearts and minds align,  
 Trash turns to treasure, by design.

From schools that teach the why and how,  
 To students making change right now.  
 From local shops who share the dream,  
 To councils shaping greener schemes.

Each bin, each bag, each sorted can,  
 A symbol of a common plan.  
 Together proving day by day,  
 That waste can find a better way.

In Antigua's sunlit island breeze,  
 We turned our eyes to land and seas.  
 With faith in youth and shared intent,  
 We measured more than pounds or cents.

A thousand bottles, then tenfold,  
 Each story stronger as it's told.  
 A record chain, a banner bright,  
 Reminding all of shared delight.

For what is glass if not reborn?  
 What is plastic but transformed?  
 A can that once lay cast aside,  
 Now gleams anew with recycled pride.



The school that taught, the shop that gave,  
 The parent, volunteer so brave.  
 Each played a part, however small,  
 And wove their thread into the whole.

We found that partnership's true might,  
 Comes not in words, but hands held tight.  
 When vision meets with local skill,  
 A stubborn mountain bends to will.

A teacher's voice, a leader's plea,  
 A child's question, "What can we see?"  
 Together sparked a movement grand,  
 A cleaner sea, a greener land.

Disabled voices joined the song,  
 Insisting all should come along.



# Feature



Access built where none had been,  
Proving inclusion starts within.

So stories blossomed, side by side,  
Of plastics saved from ocean's tide.  
Of bins installed in every space,  
A testament to shared embrace.



The numbers grew, the weight  
amassed,  
The lessons learned were built to last.  
Yet more than data, more than charts,  
The real success was in our hearts.

For every person found their part,  
A role to play, a place to start.  
Recycling bins became a sign,  
That partnership makes hope align.

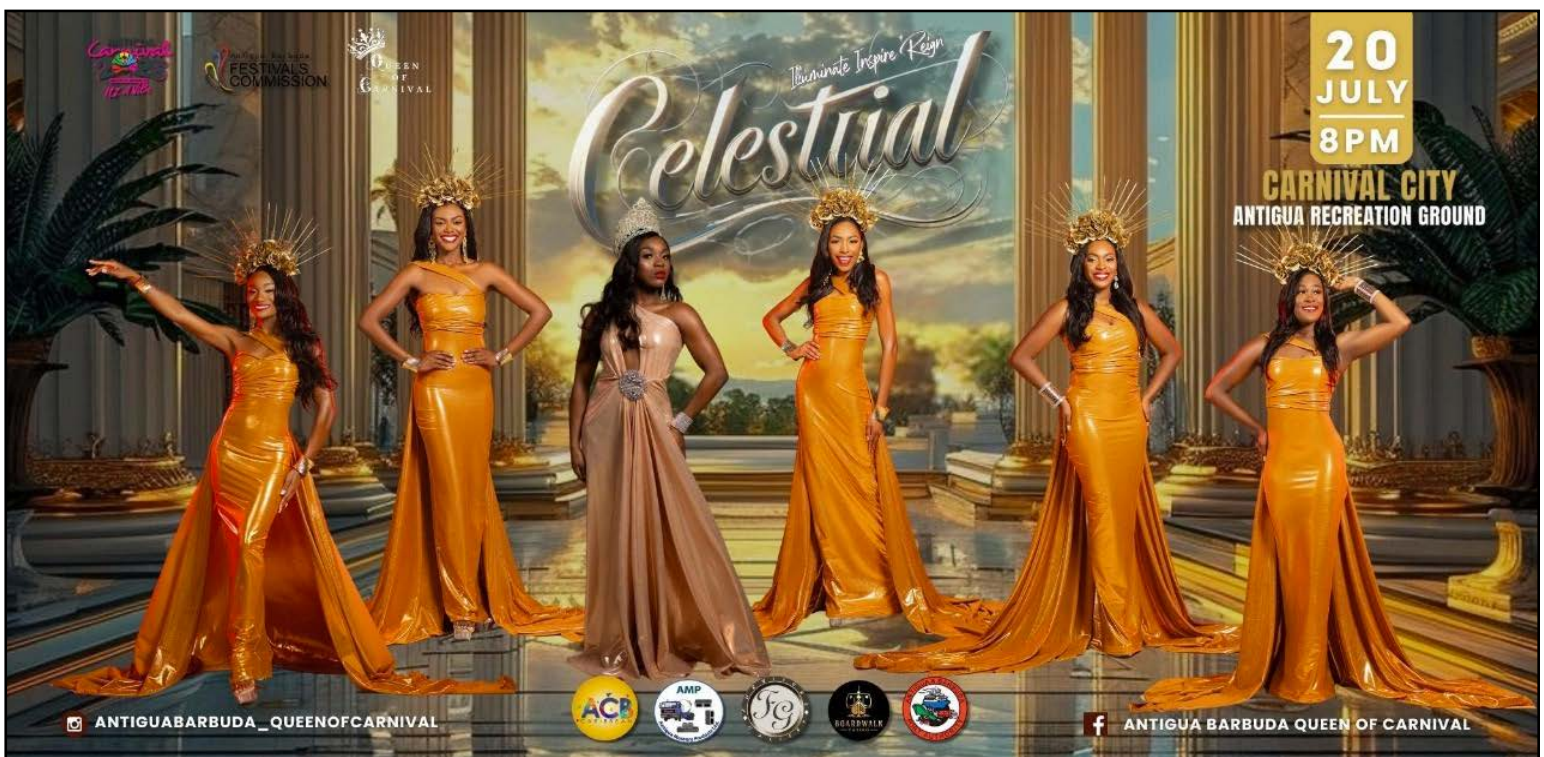
And still, new tales are yet to write,  
Of brighter days and clearer sight.  
A pledge to keep, a truth to hold,

Together, stories yet untold.

So let us lift what once was tossed,  
Restore the worth that once seemed  
lost.

In unity, there lies the key,  
To shape tomorrow sustainably.

No single hero leads the way,  
But side by side, we clear the way.  
And when we share both work and  
gain,  
We build a world where less is waste,  
and more remains.



# Regional News

## Regional ferry explores cost of less than \$US100 per trip



A ferry service that will serve islands across the Caribbean appears to be inching closer to reality as CARICOM advances the idea, and plans are being explored to keep costs per trip below \$US100.

This is according to Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, Kerrie Symmonds, who made comments on closing statements made by CARICOM Chair and Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness, following a meeting of Heads of Government of CARICOM in Jamaica last week.

“On the issue of regional transportation, we also agreed to establish a small committee led by the Prime Ministers of St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Republic of Barbados, as well as the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to review presentations

on ferries and report back to Heads,” Holness announced.

Symmonds pointed out that discussions have been held with Caribbean private sector organizations that have indicated that they are on-board with the idea.

“The discussion now [turns] on how we can drive the cost down, and the ambition is to have those costs [per] person well beneath 100 United States dollars per trip, and therefore making access between the islands far more competitive for a wider [swath] of people than there now are,” he stated.

He did not say whether the cost will include government taxes.

Symmonds said the intention is that the ferry provide more connectivity across the Caribbean island chain.

“So, for example, those products which may be

brought from Guyana to Barbados may also be carried to St Vincent and may also be carried out to Dominica,” he remarked.

“The intention, however, is to move beyond to just moving cargo, we also want to find a way of moving people and to move people at inexpensive rates.”

The idea of a ferry that will serve the Caribbean is nothing new, but that idea has never fully materialized.

Back in 2011, then Prime Minister of Barbados, Freundel Stuart had made it clear at a CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in St Kitts that he would not tolerate any obstacles to the establishment of efficient transport facilities in the region. He reiterated the call during the opening ceremony of the Caribbean Shipping Association’s 41st Annual General Meeting and Exhibition, also in 2011.

In 2012, it was announced that Barbados-based, Fast Caribbean Ltd, was selected to manage a regional ferry service scheduled to come on stream later that same year. Initially, the ferry was expected to carry passengers, vehicles and goods from its base in Trinidad and Tobago to Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, and Barbados.

As recently as January 2024, a private sector consortium, led by Upturn Funds Caribbean in collaboration with Pleion Group Inc., said it was launching a ferry service, which they called “Connect Caribe.”

It was expected to come to service by the end of 2024, offering weekly and daily round trips, linking Barbados with St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent, Grenada, Dominica, Antigua, Suriname, and Guyana.

Despite these apparent failures, Jamaica’s Prime Minister Holness believes there is a need for a regional ferry to enhance regional trade.

He said the CARICOM committee will review proposals for the ferry service, which is expected to begin in the Eastern Caribbean and include cargo capabilities.

“There is a strong basis for intra-regional trade, but there has to be public infrastructure to support that as well,” he said. (*Dominica News Online*)

## Jamaican gov't says it hasn't refused the return of any citizen from the US



The Jamaican government is denying a statement by the US Department of Homeland Security that suggested it refused to accept the return of a Jamaican man who is among five foreign nationals described by the United States as “barbaric” criminals who have been sent to the small African nation of Eswatini.

In a late-night post on X on Tuesday, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, said the men sent to Eswatini, who are citizens of Vietnam, Jamaica, Cuba, Yemen and Laos, had arrived on a plane, but didn't say when or where.

In her post, she said the Jamaican man was convicted of murder, sentenced to 25 years confinement; convicted of robbery, sentenced to six years confinement; and convicted of possession of a weapon, sentenced to six months confinement.

She said the five are all convicted criminals and “individuals so uniquely barbaric that their home countries refused to take them back.”

But in a post on X on Wednesday night, Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Kamina Johnson Smith, said “the Government has not refused the return of any of our nationals to Jamaica”.

She said her ministry was aware of reports in the public domain of the transfer of individuals, purportedly including a Jamaican national, to Eswatini.

She said the Ministry has initiated enquiries with the US authorities to ascertain the veracity of the reported inclusion of a Jamaican in the transfer.

Johnson Smith said if the reports are confirmed, the Government will continue its engagements with the US on the arrangements necessary to facili-

tate the individual's return to Jamaica. She committed to keeping the public updated as soon as further verified information is obtained.

The men were reportedly sent to the small African nation of Eswatini in an expansion of the Trump administration's largely secretive third-country deportation programme.

The US has already deported eight men to another African country, South Sudan, after the Supreme Court lifted restrictions on sending people to countries where they have no ties.

The South Sudanese government has declined to say where those men, also described as violent criminals, are after it took custody of them nearly two weeks ago. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

# Regional News

## Father's worst fears confirmed: Candace Honore found murdered



In his heart, Michael Honore knew his daughter was not alive. But when her dismembered body was found, stuffed inside a suitcase on Thursday morning, his body went numb.

"I tried to get rid of those negative thoughts. At the back of my mind I knew it was a long time she had been gone. I had a feeling something like this would happen. But I would stop myself," he said.

Honore was speaking with reporters at the scene of the gruesome discovery off Vega de Oropouche Road in Sangre Grande.

His daughter, 22-year-old Candace Honore, was found wrapped in plastic inside the suitcase submerged in a pond.

"The last time I saw my daughter was two weeks ago. I not living with her. I was only aware last Friday, days after," he said. Candace had been missing since

July 1.

Honore said he knew something was wrong, as his daughter had never left home for a long time.

"From that moment, I started looking. I even reached by a man who I thought may have information. I spoke with him. He is a suspect," he said.

Honore said his daughter's death was "unbelievable" and had left him feeling "lifeless inside".

Candace's body was found by members of the Hunters Search and Rescue Team, led by Valence Rambharat at around 6.30am. (*Trinidad Express*)



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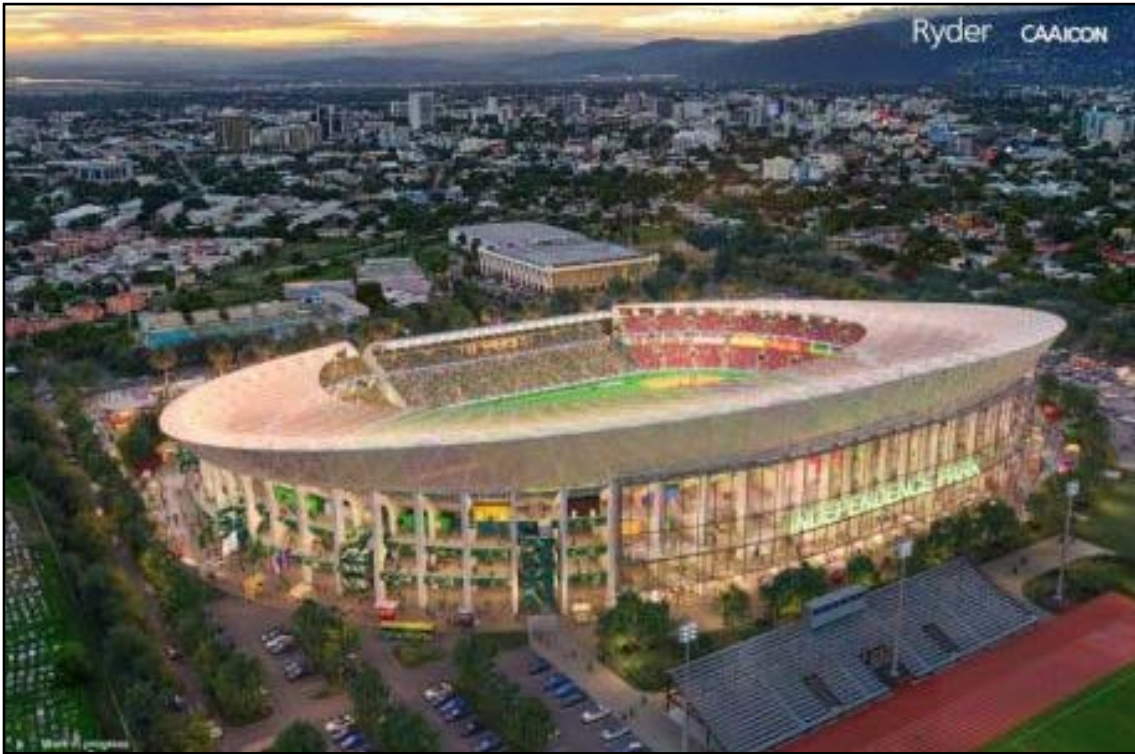



**268 7207222**

# Regional News

PAGE 23

## National Stadium redevelopment to be completed by 2029



The construction phase of the redevelopment of the National Stadium in Kingston is set to begin in 2026 with the project expected to be completed by 2029, the Ministry of Sports has informed.

The ministry says the redeveloped stadium will include seating for 37,500 patrons, 90 per cent roof coverage, tiered parking for 4,500 vehicles, upgraded health and safety standards, modern anti-doping and media facilities, a sports museum, more green spaces, and enhanced amenities, conference and meeting rooms, premium suites and lounges, 30 boxes, two VIP Zones, and two VIP lounges.

During the phased renovations, the stadium will remain operational for events, the ministry says.

Minister of Sports, Olivia Grange, says the renovation work “is designed to see us through another 30 years without the need for major upgrades. It will put us in a position to bid for international single-sport events.”

She was speaking at a press conference on Wednesday at the Ministry’s offices during which she provided an update on the final consultation closing Phase One of the project, led by UK-based firms Ryder Architecture and CAA ICON, with key support from the British High Commission in Kingston, which helped finance the feasibility study.

She says the results from this study will inform phase two, which is the project initiation, concept design and approval, and phase three will involve the detailed de-

sign and appointment of a contractor. Phase four will involve construction and phase five is the operational readiness and handover.

The project, primarily funded by the Government of Jamaica, forms part of a Framework for Cooperation with the UK and includes a thorough economic and feasibility study to identify both local and international market demand, ensuring that stadium usage and design align with long-term economic viability.

“We must ensure that our facilities are in the best state for our athletes to train and perform. We are world leaders in track and field especially and so must have in place the infrastructure and resources that will ensure us perpetuity,” she said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)




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# International

AROUND THE WORLD



## Meta investors settle \$8bn lawsuit with Zuckerberg over Facebook privacy

Mark Zuckerberg and Meta have agreed to settle a multibillion-dollar lawsuit with shareholders over how the top executives handled repeated privacy violations by Facebook, US media report.

The shareholders were seeking \$8bn (£6bn) in damages. It is unclear how much they agreed to settle for.

The settlement was announced on Thursday by a lawyer for the shareholders, just before the trial was about to enter its second day in a Delaware court. Meta declined to comment on the settlement.

A group of Meta shareholders had alleged that Mr Zuckerberg's actions led to the Cambridge Analytica scandal in which the data of millions of Facebook users was leaked and used by a political consulting firm.

The shareholders had asked the judge to order the 11 defendants named in the case to reimburse Meta for more than \$8bn in fines and legal costs, which they say Facebook has had to pay in order to resolve claims of users' privacy breaches.

The lawsuit was filed after it was revealed that data from millions of

Facebook users was accessed by Cambridge Analytica, a political consulting firm that worked for President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign.

Among the defendants is Jeffrey Zients, who served as Meta director for two years starting in May 2018, and was also former President Joe Biden's White House chief of staff.

Other defendants include Peter Thiel, co-founder of Palantir Technologies, and Reed Hastings, co-founder of Netflix. (*BBC News*)

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## Federal lawsuit seeks to stop ICE agents from arresting people at immigration courts

A group of immigrants and legal advocates filed a class-action lawsuit Wednesday that seeks to stop Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers from arresting migrants who appear at immigration courts for previously scheduled hearings and placing them on a fast-track to deportation.

The lawsuit filed in US District Court for the District of Columbia against the Department of Homeland Security, Justice Department and ICE says the arrests of thousands of people at court have stripped them of rights afforded to them under US immigration law and the Fifth Amendment.

The large-scale immigration court arrests that began in May have unleashed fear among asylum-seekers and immigrants. In what has become a familiar scene, a judge will grant a government lawyer's request to dismiss deportation proceedings against an immigrant while ICE officers wait in the hallway to take them into custody.

Skye Perryman, president and CEO of Democracy Forward, one of the groups that filed the lawsuit, said the Trump administration is "weaponising" immigration courts and chilling participation in the legal process.

"People seeking refuge,



safety, or relief should not be arrested, detained, and deported without a chance to be heard and given due process," Perryman said in a statement.

Messages seeking comment from ICE, Homeland Security and the Justice Department were not immediately returned. The Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees the courts, declined to comment.

President Donald Trump has pledged to deport the most dangerous criminals in the largest deportation programme in American history to protect law-abiding citizens, but government data on the detentions show that the majority of people detained by ICE have no criminal convictions.

The lawsuit represents 12 people who have been arrested at court hearings, along with the Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative and American Gateways, which provide

legal services to people who face potential arrest and deportation when they comply with their immigration proceedings by attending a court hearing.

Some of the immigrants have lived in the United States for years and were separated from family members, some who were US citizens, without notice, the lawsuit said. Others fled persecution in their home countries and requested asylum. But those requests were quashed when the government lawyer dismissed their case.

Priyanka Gandhi-Abriano, interim CEO for Immigrant Advocates Response Collaborative, said the arrests are a deliberate attempt to intimidate people.

"Our friends, neighbours, and families are told to 'do it the right way' — to follow the legal process," Gandhi-Abriano said in a statement. "They're doing just that — showing up to court, complying with the law.

Despite this, they're being arrested and detained."

Homeland Security officials have defended the practice, saying the Trump administration is implementing the rule of law after former President Joe Biden's "catch and release policy that allowed millions of unvetted illegal aliens to be let loose on American streets."

They said if a person has a credible fear claim, they can continue in the immigration proceedings, but if no claim is found, they'll be subject to swift deportation.

Keren Zwick, director of litigation at the National Immigrant Justice Center said, "We are witnessing an authoritarian takeover of the US immigration court system by the Trump administration."

The people are attending the hearings to seek permission to stay in the US, but they're being rounded up and "abruptly ripped from their families, homes and livelihoods."

"Meanwhile, the administration is issuing directives telling immigration judges to violate those same immigration laws and strip people of fundamental due process rights," Zwick said. "We must continue fighting to overcome the administration's escalating attacks on the US Constitution and rule of law." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

## Prosecutor in Diddy and Epstein cases fired by US justice department



The US Department of Justice has fired a veteran federal prosecutor who worked on the cases against sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, his accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell, and hip hop mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs.

It is not clear why Maurene Comey was removed from her job at the Southern District of New York, but her exit was confirmed by sources to the BBC’s US partner CBS.

She is the daughter of former FBI Director James Comey, whom President Donald Trump fired in 2017.

The justice department has been firing lawyers who worked on cases that angered the president, including a special prosecutor investigation of Trump.

Ms Comey - who had been a trial lawyer at the high-profile justice department office in Manhattan since 2015 - was given no explanation for her firing, a person familiar with the matter told Politico.

Her exit comes as Trump and the

justice department’s leader, Attorney General Pam Bondi, face backlash over the administration’s handling of files relating to Epstein.

Trump’s Epstein strategy could pit him against loyal supporters

Epstein, the well-connected convicted paedophile, died by suicide in a New York jail while awaiting trial in 2019.

Bondi appeared to indicate in February she would release Epstein’s client list, before saying last week there was no “incriminating list” and no further files would be disclosed.

On Wednesday, Trump fired off his strongest rebuke yet on social media at supporters who claim there has been a cover-up on Epstein, labelling them “weaklings” and saying he did not want their backing anymore.

Ms Comey’s firing comes after her prosecution team failed in their bid to convict Sean Combs on the most serious charges he faced of rack-

eteering and sex-trafficking. The rapper was found guilty this month of lesser counts.

According to ABC News, Trump has privately expressed displeasure about having a Comey work in his administration.

Her father, James Comey, was recently interviewed by the US Secret Service after posting - then deleting - a seashell photo on Instagram that federal officials alleged was a call for violence against Trump.

Earlier this month it was reported that the justice department had launched an investigation into the former FBI director.

Prosecutors were said to be examining Comey’s statements to Congress over an inquiry into alleged Russian attempts to influence the 2016 White House election. That probe failed to find Trump had criminally conspired with the Kremlin.

The BBC has contacted the justice department for comment.

The agency has been purging officials since the Republican president returned to office in January.

Last week Bondi fired at least 20 staff who had roles in Special Counsel Jack Smith’s twin investigations into Trump’s efforts to overturn his 2020 presidential election defeat and the alleged mishandling of classified documents found at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

A number of prosecutors who charged participants in the US Capitol riot, when Trump supporters stormed Congress, have also been sacked. (*BBC News*)

# Sports News

## Exclusive Ballaz and Earthquake draw encounter in Fort Road league



**Players of the Exclusive Ballaz football team**

Exclusive Ballaz and Earthquake are in danger of missing out on qualifying for the semi-finals of the Fort Road Community Football League.

After both teams suffered defeats in their opening matches, Exclusive Ballaz and Earthquake fought to a 1-1 draw in their second Group B encounter at the Fort Road playing field on Wednesday.

Shumba Thomas gave Earthquake the lead with a 43rd-minute conversion, and Johnathan Shoy scored the equalizer in the 59th minute to salvage a draw for Exclusive Ballaz.

The result left both teams with one point from two matches, but Earthquake remains in the cellar of the four-team Group B. Both teams must win their final match in the group stage to remain in contention to clinch the last of the two qualifying spots into the semi-finals from Group B.

Exclusive Ballaz will face Police Enforcers, who currently occupy second place, in their last Group B match at the Fort Road playing field on Saturday at 4 pm.

Earthquake will face unbeaten leaders Real Blizzard in their final group match at the same venue

on Monday at 5 pm.

Unbeaten leaders Real Blizzard have already secured one of the two qualifying spots from Group B into the semi-finals.

Real Blizzard recorded wins in their previous two matches, a 3-1 triumph against Exclusive Ballaz and a 3-2 victory against Police Enforcers.

Unbeaten leaders Villa Lions have already clinched one of the two qualifying spots into the semi-finals from Group A.

The Villa Lions crushed Blackburn Palace 8-2 and trounced West Ham 10-0 in their two matches in

Group A.

Blackburn Palace are currently in second place with three points, followed by Fort Road and West Ham with one point each from two games apiece.

West Ham will face Blackburn Palace in the final Group A match at Fort Road on Friday at 5 pm. Fort Road and Villa Lions will clash in their final Group A encounter on Saturday at 5 pm.

The two semi-finals will be contested on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final next Thursday.

# VACANCY

## PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated and creative Public Relations Coordinator to support and manage key public relations and public education initiatives. This role is essential to strengthening APUA's brand presence and fostering meaningful connections with the public, media, and key stakeholders.

### Key duties include:

- Develop and execute strategic public relations campaigns that align with APUA's goals
- Serve as a key contact for media, partners, and stakeholders, managing communications across multiple platforms
- Monitor media coverage and assess the impact of PR initiatives
- Craft and refine compelling content across formats, including articles, reports, and promotional materials
- Oversee the production of brochures, leaflets, videos, photography, and other multimedia assets
- Plan and coordinate events such as press conferences, exhibitions, and community outreach activities
- Manage APUA's website updates and support digital engagement efforts
- Conduct research to guide public relations and education strategies
- Strengthen community relations through public engagement and participation in local initiatives
- Provide communications support during crisis situations while upholding and enhancing the Authority's reputation

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

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### Key duties include:

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- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
- Deliver customised solutions that align with client needs
- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Proven track record in B2B sales, preferably in telecommunications or a related sector
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Strong understanding of sales pipelines, client relationship management, and sales software
- Highly self-driven with the ability to work independently and consistently deliver results
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Must own a reliable vehicle and hold a valid driver's license
- Familiarity with APUA Telecommunications products and services is an asset

### Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue  
St. Johns, Antigua  
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### Deadline for application is Wednesday 16th July, 2025

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# PARTY MONARCH

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## New CPL franchise for Jamaica becoming increasingly likely



***Jamaica Tallawahs celebrate after winning the CPL title in 2016.***

Jamaica is inching closer to regaining its place in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), with discussions around a new franchise reaching an advanced stage.

While the upcoming 2025 season will proceed without a Jamaica-based team, it is becoming increasingly likely that the island will return to the CPL fold in 2026.

The push follows the departure of the Jamaica Tallawahs, who were forced to sell back their franchise to the CPL due to financial constraints, including a lack of sustainable support from the Jamaican government. The team has since been relocated and rebranded as Antigua and Barbuda Falcons.

However, momentum is building for a fresh start. Reports from early suggested that the new Jamaican franchise will be backed by an Indian Premier League (IPL) ownership group, bringing renewed investment and global expertise into the CPL.

The move is seen as part of a broader strategy to strengthen the CPL's commercial model by deepening its ties with one of the world's most successful T20 leagues.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Olivia Grange, confirmed to Sportsmax TV that talks are progressing well.

"I'm in touch with CPL, I'm in touch also with our local stakeholders—the tourist board, the ministry, and local private sector individuals or companies. We are in discussion. I can only say to you it's looking good," she said.

"It's a little early for me to say anything specifically, but the intention is to ensure that we can work it out so that we can be the host."

In recent weeks, Sabina Park—long regarded as the spiritual home of cricket in Jamaica—has undergone key upgrades, including the installation of new stadium lights and a modern elec-

tronic scoreboard.

These improvements not only enhance the venue's appeal for CPL matches but also signal serious intent by local authorities to position Jamaica as a viable host for international cricket once again.

The CPL has expressed strong interest in returning to Jamaica, given its passionate cricket fan base and the island's historical significance to West Indies cricket.

However, government involvement remains critical, particularly with regard to ensuring long-term viability and infrastructural readiness.

Should all the pieces fall into place, Jamaica's return to the CPL in 2026 could mark a major resurgence for cricket on the island, reigniting fan enthusiasm and creating fresh opportunities for players, sponsors, and the local economy alike.

# Sports News

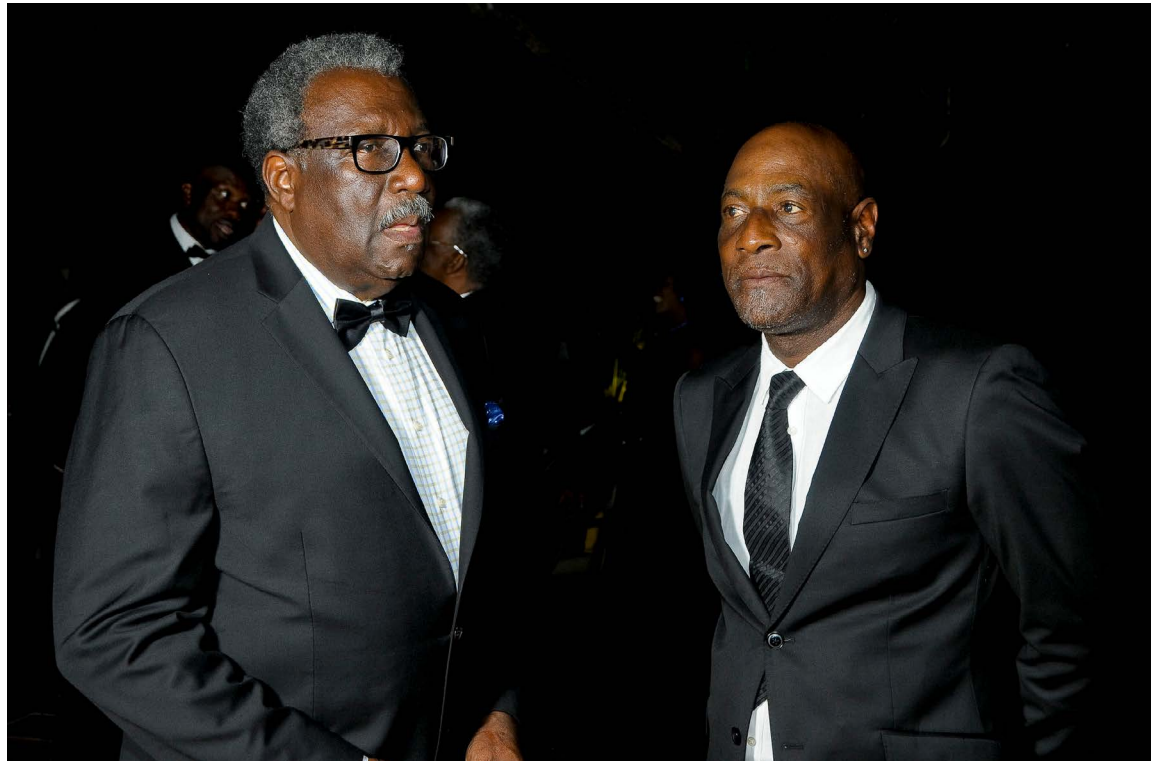
## Lloyd open to helping West Indies rebuild

After being invited to an emergency meeting by Cricket West Indies (CWI), legendary captain Sir Clive Lloyd says he is ready and willing to contribute in any way possible to help return the regional side to its former glory, especially in the longest format of the game.

The invitation, extended to Lloyd along with fellow greats Sir Vivian Richards and Brian Lara by CWI president Dr. Kishore Shallow, followed the West Indies' historic collapse at Sabina Park, where they were bowled out for 27—the second-lowest score in Test cricket history—to lose the third and final Test against Australia and suffer a 3-0 series sweep.

“I’m always available to help in any way. How we can marry the ideas we have with what is necessary and have healthy discussion on the way we move forward, that’s what I’m thinking. It has been nearly 100 years since we have been playing top-class (Test) cricket, and we have to get it right,” Lloyd said in a statement to ESPNcricinfo.

“We have to examine all aspects of West Indies cricket from grassroots to the international level. Everything must be looked at closely and carefully. West Indies cricket is an institution. It has given so much to the people of this region, and we must do all we can to revive it,” he added.



**Sir Clive Lloyd, left, and fellow legendary West Indies cricketer Sir Vivian Richards.**

The call for reflection comes at a time of deep concern for the regional game, particularly in Test cricket. Apart from debutant Brandon King and pacer Anderson Phillip, no West Indies batter managed to average over 20 during the three-match series.

King’s score of 75 in Grenada was not only his career-best but also the highest individual score of the series from either team, which highlights just how dire the batting struggles were.

Head coach Daren Sammy, who recently assumed the Test role to go with his T20 and ODI duties, has publicly addressed the team’s inability to bat for long periods, as he indicated a shift toward trying to score quicker if occupying the crease remains elusive.

But Lloyd believes a return to traditional batting virtues is essential.

“We need a couple of Larry Gomes, more batsmen like him. We need batsmen who put a heavy price on their wickets and, when they get in, look to stay in. There is nothing wrong with digging in and ‘batting ugly’. We have to find ways of fighting, occupying the crease, and staying in for long periods to wear down the bowlers. We have not been doing that,” Lloyd stated.

Lloyd, who captained the Windies to their famous 1975 ODI World Cup title—celebrated this year on its 50th anniversary—pointed out that poor pitch conditions might also be contributing to technical and mental deficiencies in

batting. It is a point Sammy himself has raised in recent weeks.

“Obviously, the mental side of our game needs to improve. We have to go back to the basics. We have to look at schools’ cricket, club cricket, and first-class cricket—are we playing enough? We also have to look at the pitches... How are we preparing them, and how they are playing,” Lloyd noted.

The Test team has struggled in the World Test Championship, finishing eighth in all three cycles since its inception. Their road does not get any easier, with away series against India and New Zealand to come in the current WTC cycle.

## Hetmyer's blitz seals Amazon Warriors victory ahead of GSL final



**Shimron Hetmyer**

Shimron Hetmyer continued his dazzling run of form this year with a breathtaking six-hitting display, as he smashed 32 runs in a single over to catapult Guyana Amazon Warriors (GAW) to a commanding four-wicket victory over Hobart Hurricanes (HH) in their final Group Stage League (GSL) clash at Providence on Wednesday night.

Hetmyer lit up the chase of 126 with a brutal assault on Fabian Allen. He launched the left-arm spinner for five sixes and a two in a single over to blow the game wide open as the Amazon Warriors were in a spot of bother at 43 for three in nine overs.

He finished with a whirlwind 39 off just 10 balls, including another big six off Usama Mir, as he transformed what looked like a nervy pursuit into a routine win with 20 balls to spare.

But it was the bowlers who laid the groundwork for the win. Left-

arm spinner Gudakesh Motie was once again clinical, as he grabbed three for nine in a miserly spell, while Moeen Ali provided early breakthroughs to jolt the Hurricanes' innings.

Opting to bat first, the Hurricanes were immediately on the back foot as Moeen struck twice in the second over, removing Bhanuka Rajapaksa (one) and Jake Doran (zero) within three deliveries.

Dwaine Pretorius then knocked over Ben McDermott, who had threatened with three early boundaries in his nine-ball 21, to leave Hobart reeling on 28 for three.

Despite some resistance from Nikhil Chaudhary, who added 29 quick runs, and Macalister Wright (16), Motie returned to spin the game back in Amazon Warriors' favour.

He had Chaudhary stumped first ball and pinned Wright lbw four deliveries later, and that trig-

gered a collapse from 65 for three to 77 for six, aided by Imran Tahir bowling Odean Smith (eight).

A 35-run stand between Allen (28) and Mohammad Nabi (21) provided brief hope for the Hurricanes, but Tahir and Motie cleaned up the tail. Tahir had 2-35, and Ali had 2-17.

Chasing what seemed a modest target, the Amazon Warriors also found themselves in early trouble. Johnson Charles (eight) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (seven) fell cheaply, and when Evin Lewis (seven) was dismissed in the ninth over with the score stuck on 43, Hobart looked to have clawed their way back.

Moeen, who came in at number four, struggled for fluency and had just eight runs off his first 17 balls. Then Hetmyer arrived. The left-hander's onslaught flipped the game on its head in a matter of minutes, as his blitz sucked the life out of the Hurricanes' defence.

Although Stanlake dismissed Sherfane Rutherford (three) and Mir eventually removed Hetmyer, the damage had been done.

Motie chipped in with a useful 13-ball 19, while Moeen steadied the ship with an unbeaten 30 off 36 to take the Warriors across the line and into the final on a high.

Scores: Hobart Hurricanes 125 all out (16.1 overs); Guyana Amazon Warriors 128-6 (16.3).

## A new winner will be crowned in national individual time trial

A new winner will be crowned when the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) stages its rescheduled Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial on Sunday.

Last year's winner, Tahje Browne, will not be defending his title at this year's time-trial, which was previously postponed on Sunday, June 28, due to inclement weather conditions.

Browne is currently in Italy, where he has taken up a professional contract with the internationally recognized European Zappi Junior Cycling Team.

The Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial and the Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race comprised the national championship, which is usually staged annually during a weekend in June.

Jyme Bridges of Team Viper continued his dominance by capturing his fourth consecutive National Cycling Championship in Antigua and Barbuda on June 29 this year.

After rain forced the postponement of the Inet Individual Time Trial, which comprised the first part of the dual national cycling championships, Bridges won the Elite Men's Class to claim the overall title by



**Local cyclists will compete in the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's national Inet Individual Time Trial on Sunday, July 20. (File photo)**

winning the Top Ranking Individual Road Race last month.

However, Bridges has not won the Inet Individual Time Trial for several years and will be hoping to secure the national cycling championship double by winning Sunday's time trial.

Bridges, who was based overseas for several years, returned to Antigua in 2022 and captured the national championship with a victory in the individual road race.

But Emmanuel Gayral dethroned veteran Robert "Ochie" Marsh to win the national individual time tri-

al in 2022.

Marsh regained the title by winning the Inet National Individual Time Trial in 2023, with Bridges grabbing second place.

Tahje Browne won the time trial in 2024, with Marsh claiming second place and Bridges taking third place.

The 2025 Inet National Individual Time Trial, which is also being supported by Gatorade, Subway Restaurant, and Paradiso Water, will commence at Paynters Corner on Sunday at 8 am.

The cyclists will proceed

eastward on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway. They will travel through Gunthorpes and continue eastward past the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The cyclists will continue their eastward journey by travelling past Parham's Corner, Vermont, and the Mount Joy Service Station.

They will move onto the Pares Village Main Road, the Glanvilles Main Road and the Willikies Main Road before turning around and travelling back along the same route to the finish line at Paynters Corner.