

# New Cruise Terminal is on target for November completion

Story on Page 3



Antigua Cruise Port – Site Delegation of Government Officials, LICCOM, GPH and ACP

## Road fatality overnight

Story on Page 2



# Road fatality overnight



Bank on Old Parham Road.

According to preliminary information one vehicle was allegedly speeding westward when the victim was exiting the bank's parking lot in another vehicle when the accident occurred. The impact reportedly sent one vehicle into the adjacent lot next to the bank.

The young woman has been identified as Huenika Benjamin and the initial information suggested that she is related to an officer of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

Details of what led to the accident will be provided later on Tuesday.



A young woman succumbed to her injuries on the way to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre on Monday night moments after she was involved in a traffic accident on the Old Parham Road.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the young woman tragically lost her life after a collision involving two motor vehicles near the CIBC FirstCaribbean

## NOTICE: SINGLE LANE TRAFFIC ON SSWH AND AR

**The Ministry of Works' Project Implementation Management Unit (PIMU) is advising the general public that single-lane traffic continues to be in effect to facilitate ongoing road infrastructure repairs on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway (SSWH).**

Junction repairs, road markings and bus lay-by installation will continue this week, from Willikies westwards, starting daily at approximately 8:00 a.m.

On Anchorage Road (AR), single-lane traffic will begin on Monday, 21st July, 2025 to facilitate concrete works. The diversion route remains in effect to continue asphalt works from Penny Lane northwards.

**All businesses remain open.**

**Flag persons will be employed, and motorists are encouraged to follow all instructions to ensure a cautious and safe passageway, as heavy-duty equipment will be operating near the works.**

**C.O. Williams Ltd. sincerely regrets the inconvenience. The road work is a part of the Second Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project being carried out by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.**

**Stakeholders are asked to adjust their travel plans to allow for delays.**

**Telephone queries can be made by calling the C.O. Williams Project office at 562-9573.**



## Antigua Cruise Port provides an update on landside development on Newgate Street



**Antigua Cruise Port – Prime Minister Gaston Browne, on-site briefing as new terminal takes shape**



**Antigua Cruise Port – Tourism Minister Fernandez expresses delight with Upland Development**

Antigua Cruise Port (ACP) provided a high-level government delegation including Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne and Minister of Tourism the Hon. Charles Fernandez, to the Upland Development site where construction is underway at Lower Newgate Street.

The site visit formed part of a scheduled update on the multi-million-dollar cruise infrastructure project currently transforming the landside area along Newgate Street.

During the tour, officials received a comprehensive walkthrough of the first phase of development, which is on track for completion by November 2025. This phase

includes construction of a world-class passenger terminal designed to support the growing demand for homeporting operations. It will also feature a vibrant array of shopping and dining options that showcase the rich culture and appeal of Antigua and Barbuda as a leading cruise destination.

The Hon. Prime Minister Gaston Browne expressed his satisfaction with the pace of construction during the site visit, stating, “I’m very pleased with the progress of the work. When I came here about three months ago for the groundbreaking; I never anticipated that you would have piled of the entire area and that a cou-

ple of the buildings would be significantly advanced. It tells me that the pace of work is extremely impressive, and we look forward to the completion of the first phase.”

Reflecting on the transformation, the Prime Minister added: “I recall eleven years ago when we assumed office, this area was littered with very unsightly sunken barges and boats. I even recall myself and Minister Fernandez actually visiting one of the largest ships at the time that was docked and we felt so embarrassed, when the captain pointed out just how unsightly the area was,” he continued “So what is happening now with the completion

of the second phase; this space in essence will be transformed into a beautiful cruise tourism facility.”

Hon. Prime Minister Browne also praised the public-private partnership with Global Ports Holding (GPH): “Today has proven that it was a very good decision to partner with Global Ports Holding, because along with the benefits to the people of Antigua and Barbuda that we have seen including the increased head tax and arrivals, I’ve also seen that this project is catalyzing local investments.”

“For example - I see a three-story building going up here to the north side of the Upland Development build out and I’m told it’s



# Local News

an Airbnb property with pool and so on. This is the kind of transformation that we are so happy about. I'd encourage more entrepreneurs to get involved in the space with the many opportunities being provided; so once again congratulations Global Ports Holding - we are very pleased, and you can be assured you have the continued support of my administration and we're looking to take our cruise tourism product to new heights." the Prime Minister concluded.

The Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism echoed similar sentiments: "What we are seeing today is a clear indication of what the Cabinet and government acquired in terms of working with GPH," he continued "Antigua and Barbuda was the first country in the region to sign with GPH and irrespective of the naysayers, they couldn't understand the vision and the concept. So everything will be first-class, the facade will be unbelievable, the whole presentation coming into Antigua will be something that is going to be the envy in my opinion of most of the Caribbean"

Also expressing his excitement on the progress and responding to the government's endorsement, Gasper George, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port, commented: "We're



**Antigua Cruise Port – Site Delegation of Government Officials, LICCOM, GPH and ACP**

proud to report that the Upland Development is progressing on schedule, with several major milestones already completed. Cruise calls last season increased by over 10% compared to the previous year, and homeporting grew by more than 20%; clear indicators of the growing demand for Antigua and Barbuda as a cruise destination. The government's confidence in our efforts speaks volumes, and we will continue to deliver results that generate lasting positive impact for the people of Antigua and Barbuda in many years to come."

Antigua Cruise Port extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for its continued partnership and support. ACP remains



**Antigua Cruise Port - Prime Minister Browne, General Manager George and Tourism Minister Fernandez**

committed to delivering a world-class gateway that will enhance the cruise experience while promoting sustainable tourism growth for the destination.





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# Local News

## The Ministry of Tourism to introduce a new sailing regatta next April

The Ministry of Tourism is announcing a new sailing regatta that will take place in April next year, that it says will complement, not compete against the more established Antigua Sailing Week.

In a media release, the ministry said following consultation with all the relevant stakeholders, it is pleased to announce the launch of The Antigua Racing Cup, a bold new addition to Antigua's yachting calendar that will take place from April 9 – 12, kicking off a month of exciting sailing events”.

According to the release, the ministry said a new vision for yachting in Antigua and Barbuda is beginning to take shape, building on the long-established brand of Antigua Sailing Week and the island's proud maritime traditions.

The Antigua Racing Cup is an event for racing purists—those who prefer high-energy, coastal racing with a fast-paced schedule and a focus on spirited competition. The event will feature 4 days of exhilarating races in conditions envied by most – balmy temperatures, trade winds, big seas at very short distances from shore. Strategically placed in the calendar to allow teams to compete and then head off to their summer events, racers can



expect finely tuned variations of the exhilarating courses they would usually associate with sailing conditions along Antigua's spectacular southern coast, and spectators will still enjoy the breathtaking views from land, sea, or air.

Onshore, English Harbour will continue to buzz with energy, and the social calendar will certainly remain packed. Local vendors and artisans will be there to excite every appetite not to mention the bars, restaurants, and beach venues in and around English Harbor. All enthused to host nightly events, including live music, themed parties, and cultural celebrations that highlight the best of Antiguan hospitality

In contrast, Antigua Sailing Week, which will take place from April 22 to 26, 2026, makes

a return to its traditional point-to-point courses, as each day's sailing will conclude at a different scenic destination. Sailors will enjoy vibrant after-race socials infused with local culture. ASW will entertain a mix of boat types and crews, and is tailored to cruisers, rally-style participants and bareboat charter groups. Courses will be point to point for ralliers, and for those who want to compete, additional marks will be dropped, tackling duels commence and courses timed as the competitors enjoy a different coastal course each day.

“The Antigua Racing Cup is for those on tight schedules who want a fast, focused, and fiercely fun regatta, while Antigua Sailing Week returns to its cruising roots. Having two separate events, each with a narrower focus, will allow us to deliver a

more immersive and enriching yachting experience to a wider audience,” said Race Manager Jaime Torres.

On the repositioning of Antigua Sailing Week and the creation of the new Antigua Racing Cup, Minister of Tourism, Charles “Max” Fernandez says, “This exciting new and strategic direction comes after consulting with all our stakeholders, both at the community level and those directly involved in the yachting sector. We anticipate a period of sailing in Antigua that better serves everyone, dedicated racers and social cruisers—while celebrating everything we love about sailing in Antigua and Barbuda”.

April 2026 will be a glorious month of sailing in Antigua and Barbuda. In addition to Antigua Sailing Week and the new Antigua Racing Cup, the sailing calendar will also feature the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta with the introduction of a Model Boat Race which will be an exciting draw for the entire family showcasing boats built by the local yachting community. Encompassing an entire month of great sailing and parties where all can celebrate our rich maritime traditions where the various events and cultural activities showcase the true spirit of our islands.

### Key highlights of The Antigua Racing Cup:

- A new platform for high-performance sailing in the Caribbean

- Convenient 4-day race schedule

- Ideal calendar position for campaigning boats, race charters, one-design racing & professional sailors as well as Corinthian crews on our core racer-cruisers and race charter-boats.

### Key highlights of Antigua Sailing Week:

- A return to destination sailing, point to point around Antigua
- A new, shorter format to better fit into people’s vacation schedules
- An option to cruise point to point or race!

- A focus on fun, fun, and more fun in the sun!

*Antigua Sailing Week* and *The Antigua Racing Cup*, together, reflect the ministry’s commitment to attending to the needs of a growing and diverse sailing audience, offering world-class options for both competitive racers and laid-back cruisers alike. Antigua and Barbuda is proud to lead the way in shaping the future of Caribbean sailing.

Further details, including registration and full schedules for both events, will be available at [www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com) & [www.antiguaracingcup.com](http://www.antiguaracingcup.com) in the coming weeks.



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## Antigua and Barbuda is updating its oil-spill contingency plan



The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is supporting the delivery of a four-day workshop to assist in the review and updating of the country's Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

The workshop, which started on Monday, is being held at the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS).

It is targeting representatives from several organizations to include the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Department of Environment, the Police

and Fire Departments, the Ministry of Health, West Indies Oil Company, the Ministries of Tourism and Agriculture, the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), among others.

The sessions aim to enhance participants' knowledge of pollution preparedness and response matters and will also confirm and clarify the roles, responsibilities and requirements for establishing an adequate command structure for the effective management of a response to a spill affecting Antigua and Barbuda.

Participants will be trained on the use of the Read-

ness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS) to efficiently enable Antigua and Barbuda to conduct its own assessment and identify gaps for further action.

Speaking on the opening day of the workshop, Permanent Secretary Sarah Stuart, spoke on behalf of the Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Hon. Rawdon Turner. She noted the importance of placing focus on oil pollution considering that the island has hundreds of beaches.

ADOM's representative Katarina Thompson says oil pollution presents a significant threat to the island

and this training serves as an invaluable resource.

Vivian Rambarath-Parasram from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) notes that the region has not had a major oil spill disaster in a while. She says we have a long way to go in terms of enhancing regional cooperation and IMO is here to support the region.

Participants would be responsible for being a part of the National Marine Pollution Committee in the event of a pollution incident.



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## Navigating the Future: Tropical Shipping, PMAC and ABPA Launch Pioneering Maritime Apprenticeship Program

Three major players in the maritime space -Tropical Shipping, the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC) and the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority (ABPA) – have announced the official launch of a Maritime Apprenticeship Programme which kicked off on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

The programme is widely seen as a landmark effort to shape the future of Caribbean logistics.

In a media release, the organisers say this initiative reflects a bold commitment to workforce development, industry safety, and youth empowerment. The programme will provide young Antiguan and Barbudans with hands-on training in port operations, logistics management, and maritime safety, preparing them for high-demand careers across the shipping and transportation sector.

“At Tropical Shipping, we pride ourselves on being more than carriers of cargo; we are carriers of potential. This program is born out of our shared belief—alongside PMAC and the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority—that true industry transformation begins with investing in people.” said Tamara Lowe-James, Island Manager of Tropical Shipping. “This is no ordinary internship. This is mentorship. Exposure. Connection.”

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, Darwin Telemaque adds, “As the industry evolves, creating new and interesting di-



mensions, so too must the workforce. At PMAC, “Humanization” is one of the key development pillars within the Port ecosystem.”

The Apprentices, selected through a vetting and interview process, will participate in a comprehensive 6-week program that includes two weeks at Tropical Shipping, two weeks at the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority and two

weeks working with one of three participating companies: Pastry’s Ltd, Go To Enterprise and Koscab Distribution. The rational structure will provide a complete 360-degree view of the port operations and logistics, giving the apprentices invaluable hands-on experience in the maritime industry.



# Local News

## Police Issue Traffic Management Plan Ahead of Official Start of Carnival 2025



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has published its official Traffic Management Plan ahead of the commencement of the 2025 Carnival Celebrations.

This comprehensive plan is designed to regulate and control the flow of vehicular traffic in and around the city of St. John's during the festive season. It aims to minimize traffic congestion, ensure public safety, and facilitate the smooth operation of all scheduled carnival activities.

As part of the implementation, several temporary traffic changes, diversions, and road closures will be put in place on key dates. These changes will affect specific routes and intersections within the city and surrounding areas, especially during major events such as T-shirt Mas, the Junior and Senior Parades, J'Ouvert, and the Last Lap celebrations.

The Police Administration is appeal-

ing to motorists, pedestrians, business operators, and the general public to strictly adhere to all traffic regulations and to follow the instructions of traffic officers on duty. The public's cooperation is essential in ensuring a safe and incident-free carnival experience for all.

A copy of the Carnival 2025 Traffic Management Plan is attached to this release to provide further details and guidance. Members of the public are encouraged to review the plan carefully and make the necessary adjustments to their travel routes and schedules.

The Police Administration takes this opportunity to extend best wishes to the entire nation for a safe, peaceful, and enjoyable Carnival 2025 season.

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#### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

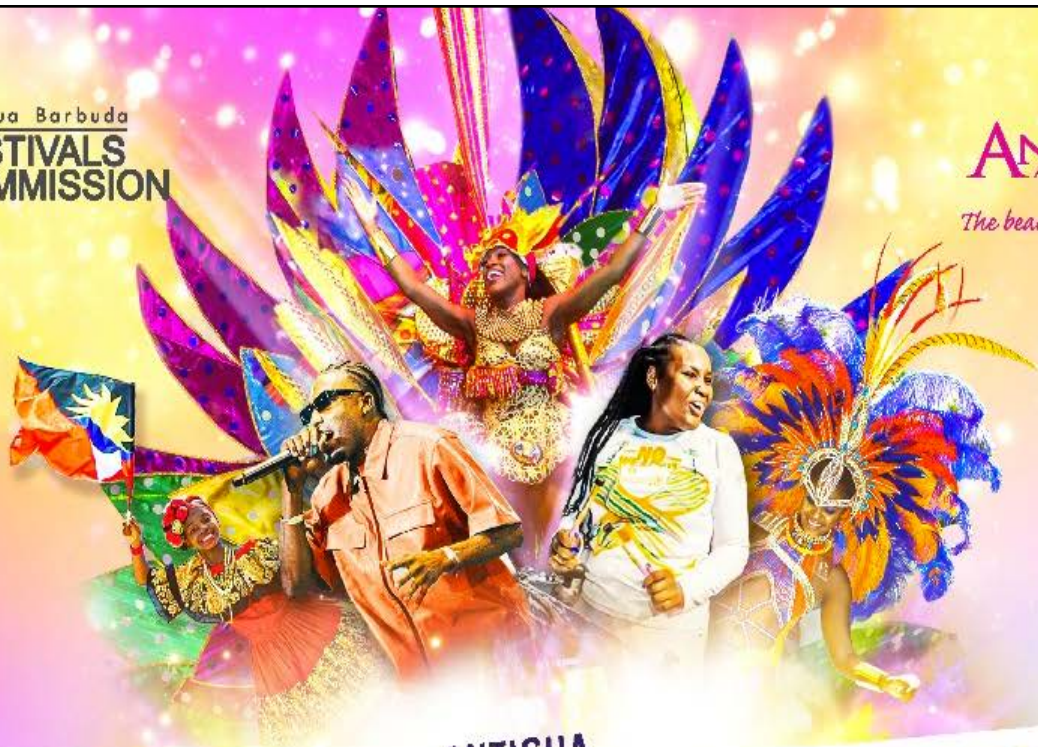
- NEVER SHARE PASSWORDS, PINS, OR OTPS
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- TURN ON ALERTS TO MONITOR ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITY

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- REPORT THE SCAM TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES
- DO NOT REPLY TO THE SCAMMER
- GET YOUR DEVICES CHECKED

**REMEMBER: YOUR BANK WILL NEVER**  
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## ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### PRE-EVENTS

**THURS  
FEB 27**

**CARNIVAL LAUNCH**

**SUN  
JULY 13**

**AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S  
KIDDIES FETE**  
CARNIVAL CITY

**THURS  
JULY 17**

**CALYPSO MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**FRI  
JULY 18**

**PARTY MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**SAT  
JULY 19**

**WITNESS YA FITNESS**  
INDEPENDENCE AVENUE

**ECAB MR & MISS  
TEENAGE PAGEANT**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 8PM | \$20

**SUN  
JULY 20**

**QUEEN OF CARNIVAL**  
CARNIVAL CITY  
\$30 (STAND) | \$50 (RESERVED)

**TUES  
JULY 22**

**THE UNIVERSITY  
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JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | FREE



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# Feature

## Asheila Pluck's Crown-Worthy Cry: A Moment of Representation That Shook the Nation

Under the glitz and glamour of Carnival's grandest stage, a moment of raw emotion and advocacy stole the spotlight. It wasn't sequins or feathers that held the crowd in rapt attention at the Queen of Carnival competition on July 20th, but the commanding voice of Asheila Pluck. Her performance left no dry eye in the house and no question about what true representation looks like.

Asheila's powerful spoken-word piece, which opened with the haunting line, *"Destinies were never theirs to choose, what of those born with a battle written in their blood?"* captivated thousands. The piece was a heartfelt tribute to her mother, a sickle cell warrior who has lived through the daily agony of an invisible disease—neglected, judged, misunderstood.

But this was more than art. This was advocacy.

On that Carnival stage, Asheila Pluck did not just perform—she testified. Through a gripping monologue that blended poetry, lived reality, and ancestral resilience, she gave voice to the thousands of people in Antigua and Barbuda and beyond who live with chronic illnesses and disabilities. It was a defining moment not only for the Carnival season but for the disability and chronic illness community—a space too often forgotten in glamorous spaces.

"This is what representation looks like," said Joshuanette Francis, founder of Good Humans 268 Inc., an advocacy organization focused on climate and disability justice. "Asheila's piece wasn't just beautiful, it was necessary. It was raw. It was real. She reminded us that advocacy doesn't only happen in policy rooms—it happens when we show up and speak truth in the spaces



Miss Antigua Port Authority  
Asheila Pluck

we're told aren't for us."

The emotional resonance of the piece came not just from its content but its context. Carnival stages have long been arenas of celebration, resistance, and visibility—but seldom have they made space for disability narratives. With trembling conviction, she re-enacted the painful experience of watching her mother be dismissed, stigmatized, and denied care by insensitive health systems. Lines like *"Miss Black, enough. We all know you're addicted to these drugs"* hit like thunder across ARG, exposing the damaging misconceptions surrounding sickle cell warriors.

The emotional performance triggered

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**Miss Antigua Port Authority  
Asheila Pluck**

an outpouring of responses on social media. The video of Asheila's piece gained thousands of shares within hours, sparking conversations about the importance of inclusive storytelling and the mistreatment of persons living with chronic conditions.

The Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act of 2017, still yet to be fully implemented in all areas, was echoed through Asheila's words. Though not directly named, the call for *respect, dignity, and access to proper health-care* resonated with the core spirit of the Act. For those pushing for better legislation, services, and inclusion for persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses, Asheila's performance felt like a rallying cry.

"We always say advocacy is showing up," said Francis. "She showed up on the biggest stage and made us all listen. She educated people who may never walk into a disability awareness forum. She created awareness without ever saying the word 'advocacy.' That's power."

Asheila's piece ended with her mother's imagined final words: "*I am a champion, not because I never fell, but because I never chose to*

*stay down.*" The crowd erupted in applause, many on their feet, some wiping away tears. This was not pity. This was admiration. This was solidarity.

For Asheila Pluck, it was a proud moment not just for herself, but for her family—and for every voiceless warrior in the shadows. The question on everyone's mind now is: will this spark more mainstream inclusion in national events?

If Carnival is truly the expression of our culture, then there must be room

for every kind of story—every kind of body, every kind of voice. Asheila didn't just compete. She redefined the Queen of Carnival stage as a platform for transformative justice and inclusive storytelling.

And as Antigua and Barbuda reflects on what was undoubtedly one of the most talked-about moments in recent Carnival history, one truth echoes loudest: *Asheila Pluck didn't just represent herself—she represented all of us.*

**Joshuanette Francis**



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# PANORAMA

COMPETITION

**SAT. AUG 2ND | 8:00PM | \$40**

**ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS**

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## Police in Trinidad say Rowley's name not on INTERPOL watch list

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) on Monday said that the name of former prime minister Dr. Keith Rowley was not placed on an INTERPOL watch list and that it remains “committed to protecting the rights and dignity of all citizens, and will continue to provide clear, factual updates as the matter develops.”

Rowley told a news conference earlier that he had been detained and questioned upon arrival in Antigua and Barbuda while en route to Montserrat last week.

“This is not just a mistake; it is a deliberate, calculated attempt to tarnish my name on an international stage,” said Rowley.

Rowley, who said he was stunned to learn that Trinidad and Tobago authorities may have caused his name to be flagged internationally, has since called on both Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro to indicate what role they played in having his name placed on the INTERPOL watch list.

In a statement, the TTPS said it had “taken note of recent public statements” by Rowley, “who alleges that he was flagged on an INTERPOL watch list during his recent travels.”

The TTPS said that Rowley’s call for an explanation from national authorities, including the Commissioner of Police, suggests “that his placement was not erroneous, but rather a calculated attempt to defame him on the international stage.”

“In light of these assertions, the TTPS, through its INTERPOL Bureau, promptly initiated a review of internal systems. Comprehensive checks were conducted across INTERPOL’s secure databases, which yielded a definitive result: Dr Rowley is not listed on any INTERPOL watch list or international



notice.

“No alerts, flags, or warrants are associated with his name in INTERPOL’s systems. Moreover, the TTPS confirms that it has not submitted, nor caused to be submitted, any information to INTERPOL that would justify such a listing. There is no record, directive, or procedural action from any department within the TTPS that supports the allegation of local involvement in the matter,” the TTPS said.

It stated that it is vital to clarify the nature of INTERPOL’s governance, noting that the organisation functions under rigorous protocols that require judicial documentation or formal prosecutorial requests for any individual to be listed.

“These procedures are managed exclusively through each member state’s National Central Bureau. The Commissioner of Police does not hold the authority to unilaterally add or remove individuals from INTERPOL systems. Such actions are governed by international legal standards, not domestic discretion.

“With respect to the suggestion of political interference or state-sponsored defamation, the TTPS firmly maintains its position as an independent and apolitical institution. No evidence has emerged indicating that the organisation, or any of its members, has participated in politically motivated conduct regarding Dr. Rowley.”

The TTPS said it “urges responsible dialogue in the public sphere, especially when reputational harm and institutional trust are at stake.

“While public scrutiny and transparency are vital to democratic processes, it is equally important that commentary is grounded in verified fact. The TTPS remains committed to protecting the rights and dignity of all citizens and will continue to provide clear, factual updates as the matter develops,” it added.

During the news conference, Rowley told reporters, “If this can be done to a former prime minister, imagine what can be done to the average citizen.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## Martinique bolsters strategic alliance with American Airlines at Dallas event

Last month, Martinique reinforced its strategic partnership with American Airlines (AA) during “Threads of Influence,” a lively celebration of Caribbean-American Heritage Month held at the airline’s Dallas-Fort Worth headquarters.

Organized by AA’s Caribbean Employee Business Resource Group, Martinique Tourism Authority shared via press release that the event united tourism professionals, airline executives, and staff to highlight the lasting cultural and economic ties between the Caribbean and the United States.

Muriel Wiltord, the Director of the Americas for the MTA, participated alongside representatives from The Bahamas, Belize, and Jamaica in a series of destination presentations that showcased the region’s variety, innovation, and worldwide appeal. Representing the French overseas department, Wiltord highlighted Martinique’s accessibility, safety, high-quality healthcare, and its three UNESCO designations, inviting attendees to “make it your own.”

According to the Association, the occasion also included a high-level panel discussion featuring CTO



Secretary-General Dona Regis-Prosper and senior American Airlines leaders — including Brian Znotins, Senior Vice President of Network Planning; Ralph Lopez Masas, Senior Vice President of Charlotte Operations; and José Freig, Vice President of International Operations. They reportedly discussed the future of Caribbean tourism, with Regis-Prosper emphasizing the importance of strategic collaborations, data-informed strategies, and sustainable tourism growth.

Martinique’s involvement

underscored its strong partnership with American Airlines, which provides direct flights from Miami and acts as a vital gateway for travelers from the U.S. As air connectivity continues to influence the region’s tourism development, the event emphasized the essential role of airline-destination cooperation in fostering growth and cultural exchange.

This participation by the Martinique Tourism Authority in a corporate-led initiative aligns with the island’s wider goal to boost brand recognition in key markets and forge

robust institutional relationships. By engaging directly with airline leadership and frontline teams, Martinique officials state that they seek to deepen understanding of its tourism offerings, support route sustainability, and enhance its presence within the Caribbean.

The event also spotlighted the rising influence of Caribbean culture, tourism, and diaspora communities within the U.S., reaffirming American Airlines’ longstanding connection to the region. (*Dominica News Online*)



## US Ambassador to Haiti ‘pleased to return’, prioritizes security from gangs

The new U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, Henry Wooster, has returned to Port-au-Prince, expressing his mission to bolster the partnership between the United States and Haiti during what he says is a pivotal period for the country. Having previously served in Haiti from 1998 to 2000, Wooster says he brings both experience and personal connection to his current role as Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Embassy.

In his inaugural address to the Haitian people, Wooster expressed his enthusiasm for returning to a country he fondly remembers. “I am very pleased to be returning to Port-au-Prince. I previously served in Haiti from 1998 to 2000, and my family and I enjoyed our time here, from the Konpa music and beaches to the country’s rich history and delicious cuisine,” he shared.

His message underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral relations amid Haiti’s ongoing challenges. “I am honored to return to Haiti and lead the U.S. Embassy at such a crucial time. I will work with the Hai-



tian people to strengthen the relationship between our two countries and address the complex challenges we face.”

A significant portion of Wooster’s address focused on security concerns. Recognizing the persistent threat posed by criminal gangs, he emphasized that tackling this issue is a top priority. “In these unprecedented times, our priority is to address the security situation. For far too long, criminal gangs have used violence to terrorize Hai-

ti for their own personal gain at the expense of ordinary Haitians,” he stated.

Looking ahead, Wooster pledged international support to aid Haitian efforts in restoring safety and stability. “Together with Haitians and the international community, we will address the security crisis and strengthen international support for the Haitian National Police and the Multinational Security Support Mission,” he affirmed.

Throughout his speech,

the ambassador highlighted the importance of listening to the Haitian people. “I want to hear your voices, your ideas, and your hopes for the future. The Embassy is here to collaborate with Haitians and our partners to build a safer and stronger Haiti. We believe in Haiti’s potential.”

Ending with a proverb that resonates deeply within Haitian culture, Wooster expressed optimism and solidarity: “Men anpil, chay pa lou !” — a reminder that collective effort can ease burdens and achieve great things.

Meanwhile, A US Department of State release issued in May, said about Wooster’s appointment: “Ambassador Wooster has had a long and distinguished career, including service at Embassy Port au Prince, as Ambassador to Jordan, and in the U.S. Army. Given his extensive background in Washington and his proven leadership record overseas, he is the right person to lead this mission at a critical time.” (*Dominica News Online*)



## Policeman involved in altercation following crash taken off frontline duty



The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) has confirmed that an individual seen in a viral video of an altercation following a motor vehicle collision is a policeman.

Noting that it takes such matters seriously, it said the policeman was removed from frontline duties pending the outcome of a thorough investigation by the

Inspectorate and Professional Oversight Bureau (IPROB).

It said all the other parties have been identified and contacted.

“The Jamaica Constabulary Force is committed to transparency and accountability in this matter,” the Force said in a statement Monday morning.

It said updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.

The JCF statement released by its Corporate Communications Unit (CCU) did not indicate the specific inci-

dent being referenced, nor did the CCU provide further clarification.

However, a video has been circulating of an incident in which an alleged off-duty policeman’s vehicle ran off the road and into a parked vehicle.

The video cuts to an argument between the alleged policeman and the occupants of the other vehicle.

The alleged policeman, who had a gun in his waistband, was also seen physically assaulting the occupants of the other vehicle. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



## DAILY PROGRAMMING



**EARLY VIBRATIONS** 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.  
WITH GREMSTA

**THE RUSH HOUR SHOW** 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.  
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

**TOUCHLINE** 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.  
WITH EPILUS

**BAD COMPANY** 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS  
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

**REGGAE INSPIRATION** 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY  
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

**JAH WADADLI** 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS  
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI



## Malcolm-Jamal Warner, 'Cosby Show' actor, dies at 54 in Costa Rica drowning



Malcolm-Jamal Warner the actor who played teenage son Theo Huxtable on "The Cosby Show," has died at age 54 in an accidental drowning in Costa Rica, authorities there said.

Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Department said Monday that Warner drowned Sunday afternoon on a beach on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. He was swimming at Playa Cocles in Limon province when a current pulled him deeper into the ocean.

"He was rescued by people on the beach," the department's initial report said, but first responders from Costa Rica's Red Cross found him without vital signs and he was taken to the morgue.

Warner created many TV moments etched in the memories of Generation X children and their parents, including a pilot-episode argument with

Bill Cosby's Cliff Huxtable about money and an ear piercing he tries to hide from his dad. His Theo was the only son among four daughters in the household of Cliff Huxtable and Phylicia Rashad's Clair Huxtable on the NBC sitcom, and he would be one of the prime representations of American teenage boyhood on a show that was the most popular in America for much of its run from 1984 to 1992.

He played the role for eight seasons in all 197 episodes, winning an Emmy nomination for supporting actor in a comedy in 1986. For many the lasting image of the character, and of Warner, is of him wearing a badly botched mock designer shirt sewed by his sister Denise, played by Lisa Bonet.

Warner later appeared on the sitcom Malcolm & Eddie, co-starring with comedian Eddie Griffin in the series on

the defunct UPN network from 1996 to 2000. And in the 2010s he starred opposite Tracee Ellis Ross as a family-blending couple for two seasons on the BET sitcom Read Between The Lines." He also had a role as OJ Simpson's friend Al Cowlings on American Crime Story and was a series regular on Fox's The Resident.

His film roles include the 2008 rom-com Fool's Gold with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. A poet and a musician, Warner was a Grammy winner, for best traditional R&B performance, and was nominated for best spoken word poetry album for Hiding in Plain View.

Warner was married with a daughter, but chose to not publicly disclose their names. Warner's representatives declined immediate comment. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)





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<b>\$80</b> REGULAR ADMISSION
<b>\$250</b> VIP

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**30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025 @ ARG**  
**FROM 8PM UNTIL**

**PERFORMANCES BY**  
**ORIGINAL BURNING FLAMES (FROM ANTIGUA)**  
**ORIGINAL WCK (FROM DOMINICA)**  
**ORIGINAL 17 PLUS (FROM USVI)**

**ALSO FEATURING**  
**DJ MERCHY + LEE P CHING**  
**ISLAND SPICE + HARDKNAXX**

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT**  
**SUPER POWER ELECTRONICS + ROTI KING**  
**COOL N SMOOTH + KENNEDY'S + LATOYA'S**



## Father arrested in New York in death of 9-year-old daughter he had reported missing



A Canadian man whose 9-year-old daughter was found dead after he reported that she had been abducted while they were vacationing in upstate New York was charged Monday with murder.

Luciano Frattolin is charged with murder and concealing of a corpse in the death of his daughter, Melina Frattolin, New York State Police Captain Robert McConnell said.

A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf at the 45-year-old Montreal man's arraignment Monday, Times-Union of Albany reported. The lawyer and the public defender's office assigned to defend Frattolin did not immediately respond to phone and email requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Luciano Frattolin called 911 Saturday night and told authorities his daughter had been abducted from a parking lot near Lake George, a resort town in the Adirondack region, authorities said. That led officials to issue an Amber

Alert to enlist the public's help in finding her.

But authorities said there were inconsistencies in the father's account, and that they concluded there was no evidence she had been taken.

Frattolin initially said he could not find his child after he stepped out of a wooded area at a parking lot near Lake George.

"During a subsequent interview, he then reports two unknown males forced her into a white van," McConnell said. "That lead was thoroughly investigated and disproven."

Surveillance video shows the father and daughter in another nearby resort town, Saratoga Springs, at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday. The girl spoke on the phone with her mother about an hour later and did not indicate she was under duress, police said.

Police believe Frattolin killed the girl after the phone call and before he made the 911 call.

Investigators found the girl's body on Sunday in the shallows of a pond about 30 miles (48 kilometres) north of Lake George, near New York's border with Vermont, authorities said.

An autopsy has been scheduled.

Police said the father and daughter had been vacationing in the US and were expected back in Montreal on Sunday. The girl lived with her mother, who has been estranged from Luciano Frattolin since 2019, police said.

Frattolin did not respond to requests for comment sent via LinkedIn, Instagram and his company website over the weekend. He described himself as a "loving father" on his Instagram profile, and on the website of a coffee company said to be founded by him, a post says that his daughter Melina is "the light of his life."

Police said Frattolin had no prior criminal or domestic violence history. (AP)



## At least 20 dead after air force jet crashes into Bangladesh school



At least 20 people died and more than 170 were injured after a Bangladeshi air force training jet crashed into a school campus in the capital, Dhaka.

Footage from Milestone School and College in the suburb of Uttara showed a huge fire and thick smoke, after the aircraft slammed into a two-storey building.

The armed forces said in a statement on Facebook that the F-7 jet experienced a mechanical fault after taking off for a training exercise just after 13:00 local time (07:06 GMT) on Monday. The pilot was among those killed, the air force added.

More than 50 people were taken to hospital with burns, many in critical condition, a doctor at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery said.

Many of the victims were

students who had just been let out of school when the plane crashed. Seventeen of the casualties were children, the health ministry said.

The age range for students attending the school is between four and 18 years old.

A teacher at the college, Rezaul Islam, told BBC Bangla that he saw the plane “directly” hit the building.

Another teacher, Masud Tarik, told Reuters that he heard an explosion: “When I looked back, I only saw fire and smoke... There were many guardians and kids here.”

A year 10 student said he had just left the building after finishing an exam when he saw the plane hit the building “right in front of my eyes”. His best friend died in front of him, he said.

The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Md. Taukir Islam, had tried to navigate the jet to a less populated area after the mechanical fault occurred, the armed forces statement said. He had only just taken off from an air force base in the capital.

An investigation committee has been formed to look into the incident, the statement added.

Images from the scene in the hours after the crash showed scores of emergency service workers sorting through charred rubble to try and find survivors, while being watched by huge crowds of onlookers who climbed on top of surrounding buildings to see.

Victims have been treated at seven hospitals across the city, the health ministry said.

At Uttara Adhunik Medical College Hospital, an on-du-

ty doctor said most of the injured were aged between 10 and 15 years old, many suffering from jet fuel burns.

Massive crowds thronged Dhaka’s National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, among them families desperate for information about relatives and volunteers who had come to donate blood.

One man’s eight-year-old nephew was among the students who died in the crash. “My beloved nephew is in the morgue right now,” he said, his hand resting on the arm of his younger brother, the boy’s father, who kept repeating: “Where is my son?”

Muhammad Yunus, the leader of Bangladesh’s interim government, said “necessary measures” would be taken to investigate the cause of the incident and “ensure all kinds of assistance”.

“This is a moment of deep sorrow for the nation. I wish the injured a speedy recovery and instruct all authorities, including the hospitals concerned, to deal with the situation with utmost importance,” he said in a post on X.

Bangladesh has announced a day of mourning on Tuesday, when the national flag will be flown at half-mast across the country. (*BBC News*)



## UK and 27 other nations condemn Israel over 'inhumane killing' of Gaza civilians seeking aid



The UK and 27 other countries have called for an immediate end to the war in Gaza, where they say the suffering of civilians has "reached new depths". A joint statement says Israel's aid delivery model is dangerous and condemns what it calls the "drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians" seeking food and water.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said more than 100 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire while waiting for food over the weekend and that 19 others died as a result of malnutrition.

Israel's foreign ministry rejected the countries' statement, saying it was "disconnected from reality and sends the wrong message to Hamas".

The ministry accused the armed group of spreading lies and undermining aid distribution, rather than agreeing to a new ceasefire and hostage release deal. There have been many international statements condemning Israel's tactics in Gaza during the past 21 months of its war with Hamas. But this declaration is notable for its candour.

The signatories are the foreign ministers of the UK and 27 other nations, including Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and Switzerland.

The statement begins by declaring that "the war in Gaza must end now".

It then warns: "The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths.

The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity. "We condemn the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food. It is horrifying that over 800 Palestinians have been killed while seeking aid.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy later told the House of Commons a "litany of horrors" was taking place in Gaza, including strikes that have killed "desperate, starving children". Announcing an extra £40m of humanitarian assistance for Gaza this year, Lammy said he was "a steadfast supporter of Israel's security and its right to exist" but the government's actions were "doing untold damage to Israel's standing in the world and undermining Israel's long-term security".

There have been almost daily reports of Palestinians being killed while waiting for food since May, when Israel partially eased an 11-week total blockade on aid deliveries to Gaza and, along with the US, helped to establish a new aid system run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to bypass the existing one overseen by the UN.

Israel has said the GHF's system, which uses US private security contractors to hand out food parcels from sites inside Israeli military zones, pre-

vents supplies being stolen by Hamas. But the UN and its partners have refused to co-operate with the system, saying it is unsafe and violates the humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality, and independence.

Last Tuesday, the UN human rights office said it had recorded 674 killings in the vicinity of the GHF's aid sites since they began operating eight weeks ago. Another 201 killings had been recorded along routes of UN and other aid convoys, it added.

On Saturday, another 39 people were killed near two GHF sites in Khan Younis and nearby Rafah, according to Gaza's health ministry. The Israeli military said its troops fired warning shots to prevent "suspects" approaching them before the sites opened.

And on Sunday, the ministry said 67 people were killed as they surged toward a convoy of UN aid lorries near a crossing point in northern Gaza. The Israeli military said troops fired warning shots at a crowd "to remove an immediate threat" but disputed the numbers killed.

Following the incident, the World Food Programme warned that Gaza's hunger crisis had "reached new levels of desperation".

"People are dying from lack of humanitarian assistance. Malnutrition is surging with 90,000 women and children in urgent need of treatment," the UN agency said.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said on Monday that 19 people had died as a result of malnutrition since Saturday and warned of potential "mass deaths" in the coming days.

"Hospitals can no longer provide food for patients or staff, many of whom are physically unable to continue working due to extreme hunger," Dr Khalil al-Daqran, a spokesperson for al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah, told the BBC.

"Hospitals cannot provide a single bottle of milk to children suffering from



# International

AROUND THE WORLD



hunger, because all baby formula has run out from the market,” he added. Residents also reported that markets were closed due to food shortages. “My children cry from hunger all night. They’ve had only a small plate of lentils over the past three days. There’s no bread. A kilogramme of flour was \$80 (£59) a week ago,” Mohammad Emad al-Din, a barber and father of two, told the BBC.

The statement by the 27 countries also says Israeli proposals to move Gaza’s entire 2.1 million into a so-called “humanitarian city” in the southern Rafah area are unacceptable, noting that “permanent forced displacement is a violation of international humanitarian law”.

They urge Israel, Hamas and the international community to “bring this terrible conflict to an end, through an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire”.

And they warn that they are “prepared to take further action to support an immediate ceasefire and a political pathway to security and peace”.

That is seen by many as code for recognising a state of Palestine, something many countries have done but not all, including the UK and France. Israeli foreign ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein rejected the criticism.

“All statements and all claims should be directed at the only party responsible for the lack of a deal for the release of hostages and a ceasefire: Hamas, which started this war and is prolonging it,” he said.

“Instead of agreeing to a ceasefire, Hamas is busy running a campaign to spread lies about Israel. At the same time, Hamas is deliberately acting to increase friction and harm to civilians who come to receive humanitarian aid,” he added.

The Israeli military said earlier this month that it recognised there had been incidents in which civilians had been harmed while seeking aid and that it was working to minimise “possible friction between the population and the [Israeli] forces as much as

possible”.

The Israeli military body responsible for co-ordinating aid, Cogat, also said on Monday that Israel “acts in accordance with international law and is leading efforts to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza in co-ordination with the international organisations”.

A spokesperson for the GHF meanwhile appealed to UN agencies to join its operation while also blaming them for “stopping” work and for failing to deliver supplies across the territory.

Chapin Fay told journalists that he had been to border crossings where he saw aid supplies “rotting” because UN agencies would not deliver them.

The Israeli foreign ministry said on

Sunday that 700 lorry loads of aid were waiting to be picked up by the UN from crossings.

The UN has said it struggles to pick up and distribute supplies because of the ongoing hostilities, Israeli restrictions on humanitarian movements, and fuel shortages.

The Israeli military launched a campaign in Gaza in response to the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage.

At least 59,029 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory’s health ministry. (*BBC News*)

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## Owen leads Australia to victory over Windies in first T20I



**Australia's Mitchell Owen, left, and Cameron Green each struck half centuries in a match-winning stand against the West Indies in the first T20 International at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday, July 20, 2025. (Getty Images)**

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Mitchell Owen marked his international debut with a half-century and a wicket to help Australia to a three-wicket win in the Twenty20 cricket series opener against West Indies at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday night.

Owen took a wicket with his medium pace bowling before returning to smash 50 off 27 balls as Australia chased down a 190-run target with seven balls to spare.

Owen shared an 80-run fifth-wicket stand off 40 deliveries with Cameron Green, who scored 51 off 26 balls, to put Australia on course to reach the victory target.

After being sent in to bat and making a flying start, the West Indies were restricted to 189 for eight off their 20 overs after losing four wickets for five runs off the last nine balls.

Australian fast bowler Ben Dwarshuis returned a

career-best four for 36, taking three wickets in four deliveries — Jason Holder blocked a hat-trick ball but was out next delivery — in the penultimate over of the West Indies innings.

The top four West Indies batters all got starts, with Roston Chase plundering 60 from 32 deliveries before he was caught in the deep off Dwarshuis' bowling to end a 91-run second-wicket partnership with Shai Hope (55) in the 13th over.

Owen, a Tasmanian all-rounder who opened the batting with success for the Hobart Hurricanes in the domestic T20 league last season, joined David Warner and Ricky Ponting as Australians who've scored a half-century on debut in the format.

"Firstly happy we got the win — it was nice to contribute," he said. "Just nice to be mentioned with those class players."

The 23-year-old allround-



**West Indies Roston Chase launches down the ground during the first T20 International against Australia at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday, July 21, 2025.**

er's first scoring shot was a six straight down the ground against Andre Russell in a contest between a player on international debut against a veteran playing his next-to-last game. He also clouted the last ball of that over for six.

Owen hit three sixes in one over from Akeal Hosein that went for 20 runs and included a dropped catch when the batter was on 26.

He survived a very narrow miss on 42. Owen was at the non-striker's end and was out of his ground when Cameron Green hit a drive straight back down the pitch and it went through spinner Gudakesh Motie's hands and hit the stumps.

After a long delay to check with ultra-edge technology, there was no evidence of any touch from Motie and umpires confirmed Owen was not out.

Green raised his 50 off 25 balls later in the same over with a six and a boundary but was out next ball, caught in the deep off Motie.

Owen was caught out in the deep off Alzarri Joseph's bowling with Australia needing 15 runs from 21 deliveries and four wickets in hand for victory.

Shimron Hetmyer swiped Owen's first delivery in international cricket — in the 16th over of the match — over his left shoulder for six in extraordinary fashion.

But the young Australian got his first wicket two balls later when Hope mis-timed a slower ball and was caught in the deep after hitting four boundaries and three sixes in a 39-ball innings.

Windies left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie claimed two for 29, pacer Jason Holder took two for 32, and fast bowler Alzarri Joseph captured two for 39.

Both teams will clash in the second T20I at the same venue on Tuesday before travelling to Warner Park in St. Kitts, where they will contest the remaining three encounters in the five-match series.





# 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.



## CWI urges early arrival for second T20I in Jamaica



**Players of the West Indies team celebrate after a dismissal during the first T20 International against Australia at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday, July 20, 2025. (CWI Media)**

Cricket West Indies (CWI) is urging all fans attending Tuesday's second T20 International (T20I) between West Indies and Australia at Sabina Park to arrive early to avoid delays and ensure a smooth entry experience.

Gates open at 5 pm, with the match scheduled to begin promptly at 7 pm. Sunday's opening match of the series saw an overwhelming and passionate turnout from Jamaican cricket fans, far exceeding expectations.

While the outpouring of support was a powerful display of national pride and love for West Indies cricket, the extraordinary crowd numbers led to significant congestion at the gates and delays in getting into the stadium.

CWI acknowledges that some patrons missed portions of the match, and others were unfortunately turned away despite their best efforts to attend.

To those affected, CWI expresses its sincerest and heartfelt apologies.

"We were both humbled and inspired by the amazing turnout. It was a powerful reminder of how deeply Jamaicans still love West Indies cricket, but more importantly, the crowd signalled by example how we should all respond to the disappointment of the recent 3rd Test match defeat," said CWI CEO, Chris Dehring.

"We understand the frustration by those who experienced challenges to enter Sabina due to the large turnout. We are truly sorry to the fans affected — your support means everything to us, and we are working hard to make things right for Tuesday."

CWI is actively working with local authorities and stadium operators to improve all aspects of Tuesday's match-day operations, including appropriate staffing, streamlined entry

protocols, and enhanced crowd control measures to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Tuesday's match is not only another key contest in the five-match series — it also marks the final international appearance of two-time World Cup champion Andre Russell in front of his home fans.

Fans are encouraged to take advantage of the "DRE DAY" Buy 1, Get One FREE Special Offer, but most importantly, to come early, secure their spot, and be a part of this historic moment in Jamaican and West Indies cricket.

CWI is calling on the fans to rally again — with Full Ah Energy — and give Andre Russell and the West Indies team the send-off and support they deserve.



## Infantino offers support to Carter over racist abuse



**England's Jess Carter vies for the ball with Sweden's Stina Blackstenius, background, during the Women's Euro 2025 quarterfinals soccer match between Sweden and England at Stadion Letzigrund in Zurich, Switzerland, Thursday, July 17, 2025. (AP)**

ZURICH (Reuters) - FIFA President Gianni Infantino offered the governing body's support to England defender Jess Carter after she revealed she has been the target of racist abuse during Euro 2025.

Carter, who is Black, on Sunday announced she is stepping away from social media for the duration of the tournament.

The 27-year-old has started all four of England's games, but struggled in their quarter-final win over Sweden on Thursday as the Lionesses conceded two first-half goals.

Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham condemned the abuse, and said the FA has been in contact with UK police, who are in touch with the relevant so-

cial media platform, to "ensure those responsible for this hate crime are brought to justice."

"We stand with Jess. We stand with every player and every individual who has suffered from racist abuse. No player should be discriminated against in any way, they should be free to be at their very best on the pitch," Infantino said in a statement.

"In this instance, we will be offering our support with any further action required, as well as sharing data for appropriate action to be taken against any perpetrators."

European soccer's governing body UEFA, Carter's club Gotham FC, the National Women's Soccer League, and the Lionesses all also posted statements in

support of the player.

Carter's teammate Lotte Wubben-Moy said in an Instagram post that she planned to come off social media as well.

FIFA and global players' union FIFPRO reported that one in five players at the 2023 Women's World Cup were targets of online abuse.

They found 152 players out of the 697 whose accounts were actively monitored through the Social Media Protection Service (SMPS) designed by FIFA and FIFPRO received targeted discriminatory, abusive or threatening messages.

Players at the women's tournament were 29 per cent more likely to be targeted for online abuse than play-

ers at the 2022 men's World Cup.

The SMPS tool was launched at the 2022 World Cup to help moderate hate speech on social media and hide harmful content. It was made available to all 211 member associations and their teams last year.

England forward Lauren James has been the target for online abuse, and told reporters recently that "the abuse never really stops. I'm used to it now so I kind of just brush it off my shoulder."

British tennis player Katie Boulter said last month that she had received death threats to herself and members of her family after matches.



# 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 \*\***

**"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"**





# Venus Williams prioritising fun as she returns after 16-month absence



**Venus Williams**

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Former world number one Venus Williams said she was embracing the challenge and joy of tennis after a difficult year marked by health concerns and time away from the court, as the 45-year-old prepares for her return at the Washington Open on Monday.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion declined wildcard entries into the tournament in the nation's capital in the past but said she felt up to the challenge this year.

"Most of the time I don't (take up the offer to play as a wildcard)," she said with a laugh on Sunday.

"But this time I had been hitting the ball. And of course I love the game and the hard courts, it's my favourite surface, what I feel comfortable on. So all those different factors."

Williams is setting new personal goals, prioritising enjoyment over results.

"My personal goal is to have fun and enjoy the moment, not put too much

pressure on myself," she said.

"I don't know if I define success at this moment in any sort of way other than believing in myself and sticking to my process. That's not easy to do, especially after a layoff. So those are my goals."

Williams has won the Wimbledon singles title five times and the US Open twice, as well as 14 Grand Slam women's doubles titles alongside her younger sister Serena.

She has not competed since the Miami Open in March 2024 and has not won a match since defeating Russia's Veronika Kudermetova in the first round of the Cincinnati Open in August 2023.

She faced fellow American Peyton Stearns in the first round of the WTA 500 tournament on Monday.

Reflecting on her future in the sport, she remained characteristically private.

"I think I know what I want to do,

but I don't always want to talk about it," she said.

"I'm just here for now, and who knows? Maybe there's more. Like I said, I hold my cards close, but at the moment, I'm focused just on this."

Williams also opened up about her health struggles including her surgery last year to remove fibroids - painful but benign tumors that grow in the wall of the uterus.

"My health journey was very scary," she said. "You know, this time a year ago I was preparing to go to surgery. There was no way for me to play tennis or play the US Open. I was just trying to get healthy."

Known for her powerful game, Williams is determined to stick to her strengths.

"I'm still the same player," she said. "I'm a big hitter... This is my brand. So it's about hitting big and actually putting it in. So this will be my effort - put it in the court. That's my main goal."



## Marsh reclaims national individual time trial crown



**2025 Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial winner Robert 'Ochie' Marsh.**

**Champion Robert 'Ochie' Marsh, center, is flanked by second-place finisher Jahiem Telemaque, left, and Delvin Peters, right, on the Elite Male winners podium at the Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial at Paynters on Sunday, July 20, 2025. (Photos courtesy of the ABCF)**

Veteran cyclist Robert "Ochie" Marsh has regained the Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial crown.

Marsh, a perennial winner of the competition, recaptured the title by winning the Elite Male Division and the overall title in the rescheduled race, which was staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) on Sunday.

Marsh, who last won the time trial in 2023 and claimed the runner-up spot last year, secured victory in Sunday's one-lap-16.1 kilometer race from Paynters Corner to Willikies and back in a time of 36 minutes and 34.45 seconds.

Jahiem Telemaque of Wadadli Cycling Acade-

my clinched the runner-up spot, and Delvin Peters of Pillars International Cycling claimed third place after both cyclists finished in second and third places, respectively, in the Elite Male category.

Telemaque crosses the finish line in 38 minutes and 37.67 seconds, while Peters clocks a time of 39 minutes and 03.51 seconds.

Last year's winner, Tahje Browne, did not defend his title during Sunday's trial, which was previously postponed on Sunday, June 28, due to rainy weather conditions.

Browne is currently in Italy, where he has taken up a professional contract with the internationally recog-

nized European Zappi Junior Cycling Team.

Four other cyclists won their respective categories in the Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial. Lone competitor Aiden Tonge won the Junior Male Division in 41 minutes and 19.26 seconds.

Wayne Henry captured the Masters Class with a time of 40 minutes and 11.65 seconds. Micah Gore claimed second place in 42 minutes and 01.51 seconds, while Randy Simon finished in third place.

Steve Scott clocked 45 minutes and 53.61 seconds to win the sports class. Kyron Thomas finished second in 47 minutes and 12.28 seconds, while Tyson Robinson claimed third place.

Jahaziel Santana won the Cadets 11 to 14 class in 21 minutes and 07.06 seconds. Alexis Bastardo came sec-

ond in 21 minutes and 53.88 seconds, while Benjamin Carr took third place in 23 minutes and 05.36 seconds.

A total of 16 cyclists participated in the Inet Nationals Individual Time Trial, which was supported by Gatorade, Subway Restaurant, and Paradiso Water.

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 by winning the Elite Men's Class to claim the overall title in the Top Ranking Individual Road Race on Sunday, June 29.