

Ambassador Dwight Gardiner elected to presidency of International Seabed Authority

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African Dress Day is Friday 25 July, 2025

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Local News

Ambassador Dwight Gardiner elected to presidency of International Seabed Authority

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador Dwight Gardiner becomes President of International Seabed Authority.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne who made the announcement in a social media post described the development as 'a major achievement for Small Island States fighting for ocean protection and marine resources critical to the survival of this and future generations'.

His Excellency Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, currently serves as Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Director and Registrar General of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS).



Ambassador Dwight Gardiner

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation

of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement).

ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-re-

sources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole. In so doing, ISA has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities.

ISA, which has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of UNCLOS. It became fully operational as an autonomous international organization in June 1996, when it took over the premises and facilities in Kingston, Jamaica, previously used by the United Nations Kingston Office for the Law of the Sea.



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Festival Commission merges Opening Parade with T-Shirt Mas



Hon. Daryll Matthew, Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries.

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has announced that it will merge the Carnival Opening Parade with the T-Shirt Mas scheduled for Saturday July 26.

This marks a change of heart by the Commissioner as it had earlier decided against having an opening parade for Carnival this year. However, it is believed that the decision to reverse course, is an indication that the Commission was responding to public sentiments regarding the opening parade. The decision not to have the opening parade was not a popular one with members of the public who saw it as part of the traditions of Carnival that ought to be maintained.

Consequently, the Festivals Commission has now announced the **Grand Masters of Antigua Carnival 2025**: they are the celebrated **Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra**, commemorating **80 years** of musical excellence, and veteran mas designer **Chandy Lewis**, marking **25 years** of visionary artistry and design.

"In a major update to this year's festivities, the **Opening Parade will now be merged with T-Shirt Mas**, creating one vibrant, unified experience

to officially **open Antigua Carnival 2025**. The change is aimed at boosting overall visibility, improving logistics, and encouraging broader participation across the board," the Festivals Commission stated in a media release.

Leading this historic parade will be Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, whose legacy as the oldest continuously running steelband in the world and **five-time reigning Panorama champions** is a source of national pride. **Chandy Lewis**, known for his innovative designs in Antigua and across the world, will also be honoured for his long-standing impact on mas making and Carnival development.

"This year's celebration is a tribute to legacy, longevity, and the unbreakable spirit of our people," said **Hon. Daryll Matthew, Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries**.

"By merging the Opening and T-Shirt Mas parades, we are creating greater space for cultural expression, youth engagement, and economic impact, especially for corporate partners who benefit from the heightened visibility."

In addition to this year's Grand Masters, the ABFC will also honour two legendary entertainers: **Burning Flames**, celebrating **40 years** of shaping Caribbean music and previously serving as Grand Marshal, and the powerhouse vocalist **Claudette "CP" Peters**, marking **25 years** of unmatched artistry and impact on the Antiguan stage.

With the theme "**It's A Vibe**", Antigua Carnival 2025 is shaping up to be an unforgettable celebration of icons, impact, and island pride.



Local News

LIAT 2020's transformation continues with new brand identity, Liat Air



The transformation that is taking place at LIAT 2020 continues with the announcement of a formal name change and brand identity for the Antigua and Barbuda-based airline.

In a statement from its corporate headquarters, LIAT (2020) Ltd., the Caribbean's preferred carrier, proudly announces its new commercial name and brand identity: 'Liat Air'. This strategic rebranding marks a major milestone in our transformation journey and reaffirms our renewed commitment to regional connectivity and operational excellence.

While our legal and corporate name 'LIAT (2020) Ltd' remains unchanged, we will operate publicly and commercially as 'Liat Air'. This evolution allows us to strengthen our identity in both existing and emerging markets, bringing clarity to who we are and what we do.

CEO Hafsah Abdulsalam commented: "The name 'LIAT' carries deep historical and emotional significance across the Caribbean. However, as we grow and expand into new territories, we recognise the importance of making our purpose unmistakably clear. The name 'Liat Air' does exactly that, it honours and reinforces our legacy while positioning us confidently in the global aviation space."

Along with its new name, Liat Air is introducing a fresh logo and visual identity, inspired by the vibrancy, diversity, and unity of the Caribbean. This is part of a broader modernization strategy that includes expanding our route network and enhancing the passenger experience at every stage of the journey.

What's Changing:

- New brand name: Liat Air
- A revitalised logo and brand

identity

What's Staying the Same:

- Our legal name: LIAT (2020) Ltd.
- Ownership and management structure
- Our unwavering commitment to safety, reliable regional connectivity and service excellence.

The rebranding is being implemented in phases; therefore, passengers and the general public may continue to see the previous 'LIAT20' logo on certain platforms, including our aircraft. The complete transition is expected to be finalised by September 2025.

"Our operations continue to run uninterrupted as we take this exciting step together 'Liat Air' remains steadfast in its mission to serve the people and Islands of the Caribbean, reconnecting families, supporting economies, and promoting tourism across the region," the statement said.



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Beautification and Environmental Stewardship: A National Mandate

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is again emphasising his desire to have an organised national plan to beautify and to enhance the physical landscape of both Antigua and sister island, Barbuda.

To this end, the prime minister has announced the government's intention to undertake what he termed 'a robust beautification programme', with Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, leading the charge.

Under the programme, the prime minister indicated that new nurseries at Paynters and Fort Road, overseen by National Housing, are now being developed to grow indigenous plants and ornamentals specifically to revitalize 'public spaces'.

"This movement is not merely aesthetic—it is about national pride, sustainability, and building a sense of place. The initiative has also become a source for renewed enthusiasm among public workers, many of whom are taking



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

personal pride in the transformation of their communities," he noted.

PM Browne celebrated this new spirit, citing a road worker nicknamed "Power Man" whose professionalism and passion reflect the broader revival underway.

Meanwhile, the prime minister is celebrating what calls 'a culture of planning and performance in Public Works'.

PM Browne praised the 'methodical and collaborative approach' that is now standard within the Ministry of Public Works. Under the leadership of Minister Marie Browne and Director Collis King, the team meets several times weekly to 'plan and review project progress'. This, he noted, has led to unprecedented efficiency and project delivery—across all communities, not just in affluent areas.

He noted that Works Minister Browne has become so well-versed in the technical language of infrastructure management that she now commands 'full confidence at Cabinet', further proof that strong leadership, combined with technical proficiency, is key to national development.

"From road patching to long stretches of new highways," PM Browne affirmed, "Progress is visible everywhere and this widespread impact is being achieved without yet exhausting the full \$100 million road infrastructure budget."



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SJRN MP Fernandez is 'very pleased and very impressed' with roadworks in constituency



The member of parliament for St. John's Rural North, Charles Max Fernandez, says he is both very pleased and very impressed with the roadworks currently being done in the constituency, particularly the Mount Pleasant area.

MP Fernandez's remarks came as he conducted a tour of the constituency on Tuesday to see the work that has been completed, the work that is being done currently and to point out areas of focus in the next round.

"I must say that I am very, very pleased and I am also very impressed with how fast they are working and how well they are working," he observed. He added that in the Mount Pleasant area, for a long time there were no roads and prior to the pandemic some work had started in the area but which came to a stop with the onset of the pandemic.

However, he noted that a team from the Ministry of Works has been upgrading roads in the area, much to the satisfaction of resident in the community. He noted that with concrete being used as the material to construct the new roads, some residents who had other types of road construction, are now requesting to have concrete roads.



"That is an indication of how impressed the residents are about the new roads and in fact, some even came out of their homes while we were doing the tour to express their satisfaction with the state of the roads in the area," he reported.

MP Fernandez is expressing his ap-

preciation to the team at the Ministry of Public Works for the excellent job they are doing in the constituency and he has expressed thanks on behalf of the constituents as well as from members of his team.



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This is an opportunity to reconnect with your African ancestry.

Police provide updated information on Monday night's fatal traffic accident

The police are continuing investigations into a fatal traffic collision that claimed the life of 30-year-old Hune-ka Benjamin of Clare Hall.

The incident occurred at approximately 7:45 p.m. on Monday, 21 July 2025, on Old Parham Road in the vicinity of the CIBC Bank. It involved a white Lexus GS350 motor car driven by Dalton Hall of Church Lane, and a grey Toyota Vitz motor car, which was being driven by the deceased.

Initial reports suggest that Benjamin was exiting the CIBC parking lot and attempting to turn onto Old Parham Road from the north heading south, when her vehicle collided with the Lexus, which was travelling westward on Old Parham Road.

The impact of the collision caused the Toyota Vitz to



come to rest on the northern side of the roadway, facing north, while the Lexus veered off to the southern side and landed on a vacant lot.

Benjamin sustained multiple injuries and was trans-


ported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where she was pronounced dead at approximately 8:16 p.m. The driver and a passenger from the Lexus were also taken to the hospital and treated for non-life-threatening in-


juries.

Both vehicles sustained extensive damage as a result of the collision.

The Traffic Department continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.







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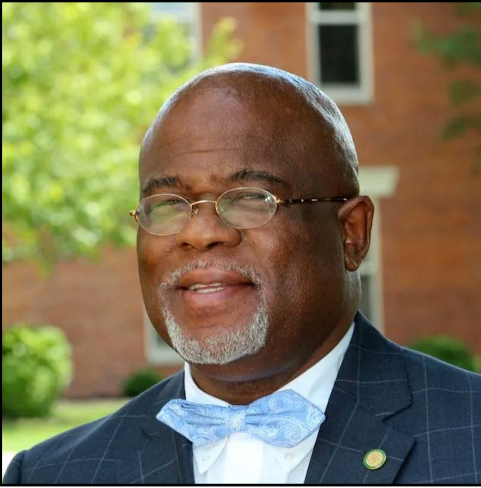
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AI Jumping Up in Carnival



By Dr. Curtis B. Charles

When people talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI), they often think of robots, Silicon Valley, and faraway tech labs. But here in Antigua and Barbuda, something exciting is happening—AI is beginning to jump up right alongside us in Carnival. From mas camps to pan yards, from marketing booths to virtual fetes, AI is quietly transforming how we design, perform, and preserve our most cherished cultural celebration.

Mas Goes Digital—But Still Keeps Its Heart

Walk through a mas camp in Potters or Liberta today and you'll still hear the rustle of feathers and the buzz of glue guns. But look again—you may also see a young designer using a laptop or mobile app to sketch out costumes. These tools, powered by

AI, can take a Carnival theme like “Queens of the Caribbean Moon” and generate full-color designs, materials lists, and 3D visuals in minutes.

It's not about replacing creativity—it's about accelerating it. Small bands now have the chance to create

high-quality presentations without large budgets or international designers. AI helps level the playing field.

AI in Soca and Pan? Believe It

Our soca stars—from Tian Winter to Claudette Peters—know how to control a crowd. Now imagine upcoming producers in Bolans using AI to test chord progressions, refine beats, and even generate riddim samples based on past Carnival hits. It doesn't replace talent—it enhances it.

And in our steelpan scene—led by iconic bands like Hell's Gate, Halycon, and Gemonites—AI is beginning to play a supporting role. Young arrangers can input a melody and hear multiple variations for pan interpretation, helping them learn faster and experiment boldly. AI offers not shortcuts, but tools for growth.

Jouvert + AI = A Safer Road

Everyone knows Jouvert in town is a mix of powder, paint, and plenty people. But crowd safety is a growing concern. With AI-powered analytics and smart cameras, law enforcement can now predict crowd movements and respond to bottlenecks before they happen. It means safer streets from Independence Drive to Thames Street—without losing the vibe.

Carnival for the Diaspora, Carnival for Tomorrow

Not everyone can make it home. Our diaspora in New York, London, and Toronto miss jumping up in the streets. But now, with AI and virtual reality, Antiguan and Barbudans abroad can design costumes, join virtual bands, and even dance along with loved ones—digitally. It's not a

replacement for the real thing, but it brings the warmth of home to those who long for it.

AI is also helping to preserve our cultural memory—digitising calypso lyrics, archiving pan performances, and translating local dialects for future generations.

Smarter Fetes, Happier Patrons

Event promoters are beginning to use AI to understand their audiences better—predicting ticket sales, optimizing sound systems, even helping food vendors estimate demand. From Dickenson Bay to Swetes Village, AI can ensure your event goes smoother and your patrons go home satisfied.

The Road Ahead

Antigua and Barbuda has never been afraid to blend tradition with innovation. We turned oil drums into musical instruments. We made poetry dance through calypso. Now, we're embracing the digital age with our feet still firmly on the road.

AI is not replacing Carnival—it's amplifying it. And as the truck rolls out next year and you feel that beat rumble in your chest, look around. Somewhere in that energy, in that rhythm, in that joy, AI might just be jumping up too.

About the Author:

Dr. Curtis B. Charles is the Dean and Director of Academic Affairs at The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus. A global expert in AI, innovation, and education, he proudly celebrates the intersection of Caribbean culture and technology.]

Housing Lessons from Bermuda: A Wake-Up Call for Antigua and Barbuda



By Garfield Joseph

Introduction:

In recent weeks, The Royal Gazette in Bermuda published a sobering article titled “The Urgency of Solving Housing Crisis”, highlighting the severe housing shortage that has gripped the island. With skyrocketing rents, limited land availability, and growing social strain, Bermuda’s housing crisis is no longer a looming threat—it is a present-day emergency. For those of us in Antigua and Barbuda, this should not be just another headline from abroad. It should be a wake-up call.

The Situation: A Region of Shared Realities

Antigua and Barbuda and Bermuda share more than just beautiful coastlines and vibrant cultures. We are both small island states with limited land mass, relatively high standards of living, and a growing demand for housing. In Antigua and Barbuda, the current administration has made commendable strides in addressing housing affordability. Initiatives such as the Construct Antigua and Barbuda Initiative (CABI), land sales through CHA-PA at below-market rates, and other housing incentives have opened doors for many families.

Yet, despite this progress, we must ask ourselves: Are we doing enough to prevent a future housing crisis?

The Complication: A Crisis That Could Be Ours

While we are not yet in the same position as Bermuda, the warning signs are there. Our population is growing. Land is finite. Construction costs are rising. And for many young people, the dream of homeownership still feels out of reach. If we do not act with foresight, we risk walking the same path—one where housing becomes a privilege for the few, not a right for the many.

Let’s be clear: housing is not just an economic asset—It’s a social foundation. It brings dignity, stability, and security. It is a safeguard against homelessness, a buffer against poverty, and a contributor to mental and physical well-being. When people are forced to live in overcrowded or unstable conditions, the stress can be overwhelming. It affects everything—from children’s ability to study, to adults’ ability to work and thrive.

The Question: What Must We Do Differently?

So, how do we ensure that Antigua and Barbuda does not face the same housing crisis that Bermuda is now grappling with? How do we protect the progress we’ve made while preparing for the challenges ahead?

The answer lies in proactive policy, inclusive planning, and a cultural shift—especially among our youth.

The Answer: A Call to Action for Citizens and Policymakers

1. Recognize Housing as a Right, not a Handout

There is a lingering misconception that social or affordable housing is a

form of welfare. This could not be further from the truth. Social housing is a prudent investment in national development. It ensures that teachers, nurses, police officers, and young professionals can live in the communities they serve. It reduces inequality and strengthens the social fabric.

2. Strengthen Legislative and Regulatory Frameworks

We must ensure that our zoning laws, building codes, and land use policies are aligned with long-term housing goals. This includes: Encouraging mixed-income developments. Protecting land for affordable housing. Preventing speculative land hoarding that drives up prices.

3. Expand Access to Financing and Land

While programs like CABI have made a difference, we must go further. This means: Creating low-interest mortgage options for first-time buyers. Offering financial literacy programs to help young people plan for homeownership. Continuing to make land available at affordable rates, especially for those under 35.

4. Inspire a Cultural Shift Among Young People

As someone who grew up in an overcrowded home, I know firsthand the challenges that come with limited space and privacy. But I also know that this experience can be a source of motivation, not a barrier. It taught me the value of planning, saving, and striving for better.

To the young people of Antigua and Barbuda: owning a home is one of the most important investments you can make. It may not happen overnight, but with vision and discipline, it is within reach. Start small. Think long-term. Talk to your parents, mentors,

Feature

and financial advisors. Make homeownership part of your life plan—not just for yourself, but for the next generation.

5. Learn from Others, Act for Ourselves

Bermuda's crisis did not happen overnight. It was the result of years of underinvestment, policy gaps, and market pressures. We have the benefit of foresight. Let's use it. Let's study what went wrong there and ensure we don't repeat those mistakes here.

6. Rethink Inheritance: Invest in the Living.

For parents who have the means and are planning to leave an inheritance for their children, consider this: the best time to give support is when it can make the greatest impact—not at the end of life, but at the beginning of adulthood. Helping your children secure a home while they are young gives them stability, confidence, and a foundation to build their future. An inheritance handed over at retirement or death may be too late to shape the life you hoped to support. Empower them now, while it matters most.

Bermuda: A Paradox of Wealth and Housing Scarcity

Bermuda, often ranked among the wealthiest countries in the world, is now facing a housing crisis that defies simple logic. Despite a declining population—now estimated between 54,000 and 56,000—and over 180 acres of developable land, housing costs continue to soar. Why? A combination of shrinking household sizes, a shift to short-term rentals, and policy inertia has created a perfect storm. This paradox—wealth without housing security—should serve as a stark warning for Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean countries.

A Shared Responsibility

This is not a task for the government alone. It requires collaboration be-

tween public and private sectors, community organizations, and citizens. Developers must be encouraged to build affordably. Employers can support housing initiatives for their staff. Civil society can advocate for inclusive policies. And each of us, as individuals, can make informed choices that contribute to a more stable housing future.

Conclusion: Building a Legacy of Stability

Housing is more than bricks and mortar. It is about belonging, security, and hope. It is about ensuring that every child has a quiet place to study, every parent has a safe place to rest, and ev-

ery citizen has a stake in the nation's future.

We are not yet in crisis—but we are at a crossroads. Let us choose the path of preparation over reaction, of investment over neglect, of vision over complacency.

Let us learn from Bermuda—not with judgment, but with wisdom. And let us build a housing future in Antigua and Barbuda that is inclusive, sustainable, and worthy of the generations to come.

Let us not wait for a crisis to act. Let us build, plan, and invest—today—for a stronger, more secure tomorrow. Yes, we can.



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OP-ED: “A MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY: SUPERCHARGING THE CLEAN ENERGY AGE”

By António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Energy has shaped humanity's path – from mastering fire, to harnessing steam, to splitting the atom. Today, we're at the dawn of a new era. The sun is rising on a clean energy age.

Last year, nearly all new power capacity came from renewables. Investment in clean energy soared to \$2 trillion – \$800 billion more than fossil fuels.

Solar and wind are now the cheapest sources of power on Earth, and clean energy sectors are creating jobs, boosting growth and powering progress -- despite fossil fuels still receiving far greater subsidies.

Countries that cling to fossil fuels are not protecting their economies, they are sabotaging them – undermining competitiveness, and missing the greatest economic opportunity of the 21st century.

Clean energy also delivers energy sovereignty and security. Fossil fuel markets are at the mercy of price shocks, supply disruptions, and geopolitical turmoil, as we saw when Russia invaded Ukraine. But there are no price spikes for sunlight, no embargoes on wind, and almost every nation has enough renewable resources to be energy self-sufficient.

Finally, clean energy spurs development. It can reach the hundreds of millions of people still living without electricity -- quickly, affordably and sustainably, particularly through off-grid and small-scale solar technologies.

All this makes the clean energy era un-

stoppable. But the transition is not yet fast or fair enough. Developing countries are being left behind. Fossil fuels still dominate energy systems, and emissions are still rising when they must plummet to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. To fix this, we need action on six fronts.

First, governments must fully commit to the clean energy future. In the coming months, every country has pledged to submit new national climate plans – known as Nationally Determined Contributions – with targets for the next decade. These plans must align with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, cover all emissions and sectors, and lay out a clear path to clean energy. G20 countries, responsible for around 80% of global emissions, must lead.

Second, we must build 21st century energy systems. Without modern grids and storage, renewable power can't fulfill its potential. But for every dollar invested in renewable power, just 60 cents go to grids and storage. That ratio needs to be one- to-one.

Third, governments must aim to meet the world's surging energy demand with renewables. Major tech companies must also play their part. By 2030, data centres could consume as much electricity as Japan does today. Companies should commit to power them with renewables.

Fourth, we must embed justice in the energy transition. This means supporting communities still dependent on fossil fuels to prepare for the clean energy future. And it means reforming

critical minerals supply chains. Today, they're riddled with rights abuses and environmental destruction, and developing countries are trapped at the bottom of value chains. This must end.

Fifth, we must make trade a tool for energy transformation. Clean energy supply chains are highly concentrated and global trade is fragmenting. Countries committed to the new energy era must work to diversify supplies, cut tariffs on clean energy goods, and modernize investment treaties so they support the transition.

Sixth and finally, we must drive finance to developing countries. Africa received just two percent of renewables investment last year, despite having 60% of the world's best solar resources. We need international action – to prevent debt repayments sucking developing country budgets dry, and to enable multilateral development banks to substantially increase their lending capacity, and leverage far more private finance. We also need credit rating agencies and investors to modernise risk assessments, to account for the promise of clean energy, the cost of climate chaos, and the danger of stranded fossil fuel assets.

A new energy era is within reach – an era where cheap, clean abundant energy powers a world rich in economic opportunity, where nations have the security of energy autonomy, and the gift of electricity is a gift for all.

This is our moment of opportunity to supercharge the global shift. Let's seize it.

Regional News



Kidnapped mom found in forest



Kidnap victim Jankie Satie Karim has been freed.

Shortly after 5 p.m. yesterday, police received information that Karim was found in a forested area off the Eastern Main Road, Matura.

Up to last night, how she was found as well as her physical condition remained unknown.

A team of officers led by Police Commissioner Allister Guevarro responded and the top cop was expected to address the media at the Matura Police Station following the discovery.

Based on initial information, around 4 p.m. yesterday, one of the vehicles used in the kidnapping of Karim was found off Cemetery Street, Five Rivers, Arouca.

Police believe it had been driven through a track on that side and then abandoned in a forested area.

On the scene were officers of the Crime Scene Unit and the vehicle was removed and taken to the Arouca Police Station to be examined. It is expected to be moved again to a facility in Cumuto where it will be examined in detail.

Relatives of Karim received a ransom demand for the Valsayn mom sometime last week. Money was paid but no-one wanted to confirm how much

was paid.

Karim was abducted on July 13 by three armed men who blocked the Toyota Hilux she was a passenger in on Bassie Street, Spring Village, Valsayn.

At the time of the incident, the Hilux was being driven by her husband, Saleem Karim, while their son was also in the vehicle.

She was bundled into the vehicle used by the kidnappers who also took the family's Hilux.

The couple's child was not harmed in the incident.

On July 14, the Hilux was recovered at Sunset Drive in Arouca by officials from the North Central Division as well as the Anti-Kidnapping Squad. *(Trinidad Express)*

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Sumfest delivers for organisers, tourism, vendors

While the organisers of Reggae Sumfest 2025 are yet to do their official post-mortem on the festival, Junior Tourism Minister Senator Delano Seiveright has declared it a resounding success in terms of its economic impact, with Airbnb hosts cashing in on the week-long festival.

“Hotels and Airbnbs across St James, Hanover and Trelawny, for the most part, were fully booked,” said Seiveright.

“Also, flights into the island were packed, and ... ground transport operators, countless small businesses, vendors and hairdressers saw increased activities and earnings,” he added, noting that events like Sumfest continue to highlight the power of entertainment and culture in driving economic opportunity and community improvement across the west.

While the economic projection for Reggae Sumfest was put at US\$12 million by the Jamaica Tourist Board, which said it was expecting some 8,000 visitors to flock to the island for the event, based on the initial reaction from Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, the numbers could well surpass the projection.

“This has been the largest crowd I’ve seen at Reggae Sumfest,” stated Bartlett, who, in a pre-festival interview, said the pulling power



of ‘Dancehall King’ Vybz Kartel, on Night One, would cause a spike in the customary numbers. “We’re [now] looking at how the surge in tourism activity, increased hotel bookings, and vendor sales translate for the economy.

Shortly after walking around the grounds at Catherine Hall Centre on Saturday night, Joe Bogdanovich, CEO of Downsound Entertainment, the promoters of the seven-day festival, told *The Gleaner* that he was quite pleased with what he was seeing.

“The people are quite happy, and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves, which is what we really want to see,” said Bogdanovich. “Sumfest is about providing high-quality entertainment to the people, and I think we are doing just that.”

However, some Friday night patrons who experienced two major stampedes, which resulted in injury to multiple patrons, want the organisers to put in measures to prevent any recurrence.

“I lost my wallet and phone in the stampede, which basically left me penniless and

without the ability to call my family or friends to explain what had happened to me,” said United States-based Jamaican George Grant, who came home primarily to attend the festival.

Like Grant, some patrons also complained about the large number of brazen pickpockets who roamed the Catherine Hall venue with impunity, even responding with violence whenever they were challenged.

“You would be standing there dancing, and you just feel someone bump into you and the next thing is, you feel hands roaming all over your body,” a female victim told *The Gleaner* on Saturday, referencing her Friday night experience. “The organiser needs to put more plainclothes police in the crowd to protect patrons.”

However, for many of the food vendors, who all but formed a ring around the outside of the venue, they haven’t had it so good in terms of earnings in many years.

“On Friday night, I had the best one-night sale since Reggae Sunsplash days at Jarrett Park. We ‘bathe’ (make money) this year,” said a food vendor, who identified himself only as ‘Stylo’. “If a Vybz Kartel really bring out this crowd, I would like to get his address, so that I can send him a postcard for Christmas.” (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Regional News

Father and 3-y-o daughter killed in highway crash, woman injured



A crash along a section of the May Pen to Williamsfield leg of Highway 2000 in Toll Gate, Clarendon on Monday claimed the lives of a father and his three-year-old daughter, a day before her birthday.

It is reported that around 2:00 p.m., the father, identified as 29-year-old Luchion Bennett, was travelling in a BMW X6 SUV with his daughter, identified as Lushana Bennett, and a female companion when the vehicle reportedly suffered a tyre blowout.

He reportedly lost control of the vehicle, which veered off the road, crashed through a fence, and reportedly rolled several times some distance away from the highway in bushes before coming to a stop.

Some 15 poles from the fence were damaged.

All three persons were thrown from the vehicle.

The father and his child died at the scene.

The woman was taken to hospital in serious condition.

Meanwhile, with damage to the fence, there is concern about cattle venturing onto the highway, posing a risk to motorists.

A worker with the highway, who turned up at the scene, told The Gleaner that work will be done tomorrow to fix the damaged fence.

He encouraged motorists to adhere to the speed limit on the highway. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

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FEST 2025

Keeping the Sector Alive:
Plant, Peel, Process





August 17th, 2025
10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Venue: Cades Bay Agricultural Station
St. Mary's










Officer convicted in Breonna Taylor raid gets 33-month sentence



A former Kentucky police officer has been sentenced to 33 months in prison after being convicted in connection with a raid that resulted in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor, a black woman, in her home.

A federal jury last year found Brett Hankison guilty of violating Taylor's civil rights by using excessive force. The maximum sentence for the charge was life in prison.

The sentencing comes days after the Trump administration asked the judge to give Hankison a one-day sentence - a position that starkly contrasts with the approach to the case under President Joe Biden.

Hankison is the only officer who has been charged and convicted directly in connection with the botched raid.

Another former officer, Kelly Goodlett, who pleaded guilty to conspiring with a colleague to falsify the affidavit used to obtain a search warrant for Taylor's home and to cover up their actions after her death, will be sentenced next year.

After his sentence, Hankison will face three years of supervised release.

Tamika Palmer, Taylor's mother, and lawyers for the family spoke after the sentencing on Monday.

"I think the judge did the

best she could with what she had to work with," Ms Palmer said, but she was critical of federal prosecutors who had argued for a lesser sentence.

Taylor's boyfriend Kenneth Walker, who was in the apartment with her the night of the raid, said he was "grateful for the small piece of justice that we got".

Taylor became a face of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 following her death and the police killing of George Floyd, who was murdered during a police arrest that same year.

She was killed after officers in plain clothes executed a "no-knock" search warrant at her home. They burst into

her apartment in the early morning hours while she and Walker were asleep.

Authorities believed Taylor's former boyfriend was using her home to hide narcotics.

Mr Walker fired a single shot when the police knocked the door down, hitting one officer, Sgt John Mattingly, in the leg. Mr Walker said the officers did not announce themselves as police, and he thought they were intruders.

The three officers returned fire, shooting 32 bullets into the flat.

Hankinson fired 10 times into her apartment, in order, he said during the trial, to protect fellow officers.

None of Hankison's bullets hit anyone, but they did enter a neighbouring property, where a pregnant woman, a five-year-old and a man had been sleeping.

Prosecutors said Hankison acted recklessly and "violated one of the most fundamental rules of deadly force: If they cannot see the person they're shooting at, they cannot pull the trigger."

Outside the courthouse, protesters waiting for the verdict blocked the streets chanting Taylor's name. Several people, including Taylor's aunt, Bianca Austin, were detained by police. (BBC News)

China finds cover-up in lead poisoning of 200 children

Dozens of provincial officials and hospital staff attempted to cover up a lead poisoning case that made hundreds of children sick in north-west China and sparked widespread outrage, an official investigation has found.

The officials tampered with the blood tests of students who were poisoned at Peixin Kindergarten in Tianshui city, Gansu provincial authorities said in a report on Sunday.

City officials also accepted bribes from an investor in Peixin while neglecting food safety inspections across several pre-schools, the report said.

In an attempt to attract more students, Peixin chefs had used inedible paint to “enhance the look” of its meals, the report said.

Food samples were later found to contain lead 2,000 times in excess of the national safety limit.

Eight people were initially detained for their involvement in producing the toxic snacks. Six of them - including the kindergarten’s principal, cooks, and an investor - have been arrested, according to the report.

Ten other officials will face “formal accounting procedures” while another 17 people are under disciplinary investigation.

Authorities revealed on 8 July that 235 children from the privately-owned kindergarten were being treated in hospital for lead poisoning after eating steamed red date cakes and sausage corn buns.

As of Sunday, 234 of them have been discharged.

The Gansu Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention was ordered to test 267 students and staff at Peixin after some showed symptoms earlier this month, but officials “did not take the work seriously”.

The person in charge of the tests “seriously violated operating procedures, which distorted the results”, according

to the report.

The report named several people under investigation and set out lead concentrations of various food samples, among other details.

It also accused staff at the Tianshui No. 2 People’s Hospital of “serious dereliction of duty” and described the institution’s management of the case as “chaotic”.

The Chinese internet paid keen attention to the report, with some commending what they see as transparent disclosure and others asking for perpetrators in this case to be held accountable.

In contrast to its chiding of provincial and city-level officials, the report said there was “quick response” from the central government, which convened

an expert panel “at the earliest opportunity” to review any gaps in procedures.

On Monday, China published a set of national guidelines for the provision of meals on campuses. Among other things, it mandates that every new batch of food must be tested, and that rice, flour and cooking oil must be bought at centralised procurement points.

Authorities in Tianshui have also announced that children suffering from lead poisoning can receive free treatment at designated hospitals and legal assistance will be made available to affected families.

Peixin will be temporarily managed by a state-owned kindergarten. (*BBC News*)

Antigua & Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION
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The heart of the Caribbean
PRESENTS

JULY 31
CARNIVAL CITY
112-A-VIBE

Caribbean
Molting
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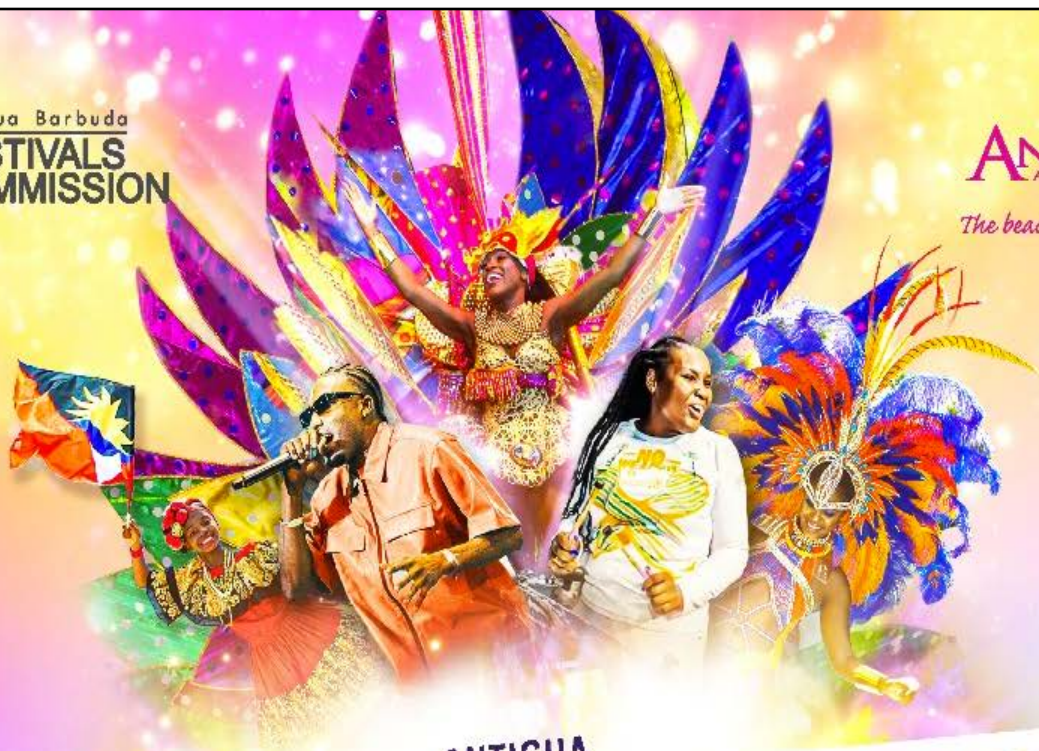
FEATURING:
YOUNG VICE
EMPRESS
KID FRESH
GE'EVE
ISLAND PRINCE
YOUNG LYRICS
PSYCHO
SOCA VILLAN
KAUTION BAND

Early Bird General | House of Vibes | Showtime
\$100 | \$350 | 8PM | [ticketing](#)

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BARBUDA**
The beach is just the beginning...



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
OF WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS
JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH**
CARNIVAL CITY | 5PM | FREE



H2 A ViBe

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 Antigua Carnival
 info.nfo@ab.gov.ag

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Iran's capital and surrounding province will shut for a day due to heat wave

Iranian government offices, banks and businesses in the capital province of Tehran will shut down on Wednesday due to an intense heat wave and the need to conserve energy, state-run media reported.

With temperatures in the capital exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), the government has advised citizens to stay indoors during peak heat hours.

IRAN daily on Monday quoted government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani urging residents to take measures to reduce electricity and water consumption.

The report said that all governmental offices, banks and businesses in Tehran



province will be closed on Wednesday.

In July 2024, Iran ordered one-day national holiday

due to high temperatures, following a two-day holiday in 2023.

Borazjan in southern

Bushehr province was the hottest city in the last 24 hours with a maximum temperature of 50 C (122 F). (AP)



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

US says it's leaving UN cultural agency UNESCO again, only two years after rejoining



The United States announced Tuesday it will again pull out of the UN's educational, scientific and cultural agency because it believes that its involvement is not in the country's national interest, and that the agency promotes anti-Israel speech.

This decision comes only two years after the United States rejoined UNESCO after leaving in 2018, during US President Donald Trump's first administration.

State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said the withdrawal was linked to UNESCO's perceived agenda to "advance divisive social and cultural causes."

She added in a statement that UNESCO's decision "to admit the 'State of Palestine' as a Member State is highly problematic, contrary to US policy, and contributed to the proliferation of anti-Israel rhetoric within the organisation."

The decision, first reported by the New York Post, will take effect at the end of December 2026.

This will be the third time that the

United States has left UNESCO, which is based in Paris, and the second time during a Trump administration. It last rejoined the agency in 2023, under the Biden administration.

UNESCO's Director General Audrey Azoulay said she "deeply" regrets the US decision but insisted that it was expected, and that the agency "has prepared for it." She also denied accusations of anti-Israel bias.

"These claims ... contradict the reality of UNESCO's efforts, particularly in the field of Holocaust education and the fight against antisemitism," she said.

The Trump administration in 2017 announced that the US would withdraw from UNESCO, citing anti-Israel bias. That decision took effect a year later. The US and Israel stopped financing UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011.

"The reasons put forward by the United States of America are the same as seven years ago, even though the situation has changed profoundly, political tensions have receded, and UNESCO

today constitutes a rare forum for consensus on concrete and action-oriented multilateralism," Azoulay added.

The decision came as no surprise to UNESCO officials, who had anticipated such a move following the specific review ordered by the Trump administration earlier this year. They also expected that Trump would pull out again since the return of the US in 2023 had been promoted by a political rival, former President Joe Biden.

The US withdrawal is likely to affect UNESCO because the US provides a notable share of the agency's budget. But the organisation should be able to cope.

UNESCO has diversified its funding sources in recent years and the US contribution has decreased, representing only 8 per cent of the agency's total budget.

Azoulay pledged that UNESCO will carry out its missions despite "inevitably reduced resources." The agency is not considering any staff layoffs at this stage.

"UNESCO's purpose is to welcome all the nations of the world, and the United States of America is and always will be welcome," she said. "We will continue to work hand in hand with all our American partners in the private sector, academia and non-profit organisations, and will pursue our political dialogue with the US administration and Congress."

The United States previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Reagan administration in 1984 because it viewed the agency as mismanaged, corrupt and used to advance the interests of the Soviet Union. It rejoined in 2003 during George W Bush's presidency. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Leewards poor run continues at regional under-19 men's tournament

The Leeward Islands continued their poor form in this year's Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Men's 50-over Championship in St. Kitts and Nevis on Monday.

The Leewards slumped to their sixth loss in seven matches with a thrilling one-wicket loss against Jamaica in their seventh and final preliminary round encounter at St. Paul's Sports Complex.

The Leeward Islands would have been disappointed to only get up to 149 all out in 36 overs after being sent in to bat. De-Antre Drew top scored with 24 and was the only batsman to make it past 20, as Roshawn McKenzie (2-11), Rhevon Morgan (2-18) and Tamarie Redwood (2-46) all took two wickets.

Tyriek Bryan then scored 41, and David Deward made 39, and Jamaica seemed to be coasting to victory at 125 for four until they shockingly lost five wickets for 19 runs to slump to 143 for nine.

However, the last wicket pair of Redwood and McKenzie saw their team over the line at 150 for nine in 39.3 overs in a tense finish. Antiguan leg-spinner Micah McKenzie took four for 35, while Amoree Jones supported with three for 25 for the Leeward Islands.

The Leewards will face USA 2 in a playoff for seventh place at the Elquemedo Willett Park in Nevis on Thursday.

USA 1 and defending champions Barbados will meet to determine the champions following the completion of the seventh and final preliminary round on Monday.

USA-1 defeated Windward Islands to end the preliminary rounds unbeaten, while second-placed Barbados



Micah McKenzie

recorded an easy victory over USA-2. Barbados and USA 1 will meet in Thursday's final, which will be held at the Conaree Sports Club.

At Conaree Sports Club, USA-1 predictably won their seventh straight match with a comfortable four-wicket victory over the Windward Islands.

Earsinho Fontaine, who made 45, and Theo Edward, who was dismissed for 43, both fell just short of half-centuries as the Windward Islands were dismissed for 209 in 49.3 overs.

Off-spinner Utkarsh Srivastava took three for 19, and he was ably supported by Sahir Bhatia (2-28), Shiv Shani (2-37) and Advait Krishna (2-37).

In their turn at the crease, USA-1 overcame some nervous moments before overhauling their target to finish on 213 for six in 44.2 overs.

Opener Amrinder Gill scored 57, but USA-1 found themselves 127 for five at one stage until Nitish Sudini (43 not out) and Shiv Shani (27 not out) guided them to safety. For the Windwards, Cody Fontenelle took three for 55, while Devonte McDowall grabbed two for 27.

At St Mary's Park, Barbados totally dominated USA-2 on their way to an easy 92-run win that saw them finish second behind USA-1.

Zachary Carter hit the top score of 79 from 74 balls, and captain Josh-



Amoree Jones

ua Dorne scored 51, as the defending champs posted 248 for nine in their 50 overs. Ritvik Appidi snared four for 61, while Adit Kappa took two for 43 for USA-2.

Opener Ansh Bhoje then struck 56 from 94 balls, and Amogh Arepally made 25, but they received little support from the other batters to be eventually dismissed for 153 in 38 overs.

Pacer R'Jai Gittens took three for 31, while Carter returned to grab two for 13 with his left-arm spin.

However, the other seventh-round contest between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago ended in a no-result. At Elquemedo Willett Park, only one innings was possible in the match before persistent showers brought an end to the contest.

Led by Jonathan van Lange's 75, Afraz Ali Budhoo's knock of 43 and Rampersaud Ramnauth, who made 36, Guyana reached 221 for eight after 46 overs. Brendan Boodoo was the best bowler for Trinidad with three for 28 in his eight overs.

However, no further play was possible, and the match was eventually called off. The two teams will meet again on Thursday to play for fifth place at St. Paul's Sports Complex.

The Windward Islands and Jamaica will clash in a playoff for third place at St. Mary's Park in Cayon on Thursday.



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.

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

Deadline for application is Friday 1st August, 2025

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

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Real Blizzard extend unbeaten run in Fort Road League



Players of the Real Blizzard football team.

Real Blizzard recorded their third win in as many games in the Fort Road Community Football League on Monday.

Following their 3-1 triumph against Exclusive Ballaz and a 3-2 victory over Police Enforcers, Real

Blizzards snatched a 1-0 win against Earthquake in their final Group B encounter at the Fort Road playing field.

Aaron Abbott scored the only goal of the match in the eighth minute of play.

The result confirmed

Real Blizzard as winners of Group B and their spot as one of the two qualifiers into the semi-finals.

Police Enforcers clinched the second qualifying spot in the semi-finals by finishing second in Group B. Police Enforcers wrapped

up their Group B campaign with six points from three matches.

Earthquake finished their campaign in Group B in third place on goal difference ahead of Exclusive Ballaz after both teams recorded one point from their three matches.

The Enforced booked their semi-final spot with a 2-1 victory against Exclusive Ballaz in the final Group B encounter at Fort Road on Saturday.

Real Blizzard will take on Blackburn Palace in the second semi-final at the Fort Road playing field on Wednesday (today).

Group A winners Villa Lions and second-place finishers in Group B Police Enforcers were slated to clash in the first semi-final at the same venue on Tuesday.

The two winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final on Thursday.

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

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VERNON A. SPRINGER



TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM

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Stokes calls for change in over rate regulations



Ben Stokes

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - The over rate regulations must be modified according to the playing conditions in different continents, England test captain Ben Stokes said on Tuesday, arguing that current rules unfairly penalise pace-heavy attacks.

England were docked two World Test Championship (WTC) points and fined 10 per cent of their match fees last week for their slow over rate in the third Test against India at Lord's.

Stokes accepted the sanction but, ahead of the fourth Test in Manchester, starting on Wednesday, he said the

rules should be different for seam-friendly conditions.

"You can't have the same rules in Asia, where a spinner is bowling 70 per cent of the overs, to have the same laws in New Zealand, Australia, England, where it's going to be 70-80 per cent seam," Stokes told reporters.

"The spinner's over takes less time than the seamer's over. So common sense would think that you should look at maybe changing how the overrates are timed in different continents."

This is not the first time Stokes has raised concerns

around over rate rules. Last year, he called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to revisit the regulations after England and New Zealand were penalised following their first Test in Christchurch.

England lost 22 points during the previous WTC cycle due to over rate violations.

"Over rate isn't something that I worry about, but that's not saying that I purposefully slow things down. I do understand the frustration around it, but I honestly think there needs to be a real hard look at how it's structured," Stokes said.

The skipper said spinner Shoaib Bashir's injury during the Lord's test forced England to rely more on pace bowlers.

"We played five days, that was our 15th day of cricket. We obviously had an injury to Bash (Bashir), a spinner, so we couldn't turn to our spinner as much as we would have liked to on day five," the 34-year-old said.

"I wonder if scoring rates have got anything to do with that as well. The ball's getting hit to the boundary more often, so it's going to take a lot longer."

Bangladesh clinches historic T20 series victory over Pakistan



Jaker Ali

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Jaker Ali struck a fighting half-century as Bangladesh clinched a T20 series victory over Pakistan for the first time with Tuesday's eight-run win.

Jaker anchored the innings with sustained aggression to hit 55 runs off 48 balls with five sixes, helping Bangladesh recover from a shaky start to post 133 before being all out on a sluggish wicket.

Chasing 134, Pakistan's top six batters were out for single digits before Faheem Ashraf waged a lone battle. He raised his maiden 50, but was out

in the next delivery with his 32 ball-51, leaving his team 13 runs away from a series-leveling victory in the last over.

Ahmed Daniyal (17) hit a four in the first ball of the last over to give Pakistan another glimmer of hope before holing out to mid-wicket on the next ball off Mustafizur Rahman as Pakistan was bowled out for 125 in 19.2 overs. Bangladesh won the first match of the series by seven wickets.

A pre-match minute's silence was held with both teams and officials wearing black armbands for victims of a plane crash in the Bangladesh capital

on Monday.

Asked to bat first, Bangladesh slumped to 25 for four with debutant Ahmed Danyal (2-23) and Salman Mirza (2-17), playing his second match, tormenting the opponents with tight line and length.

Jaker resisted with the support from Mahedi Hasan as the duo added 53 runs for the fifth wicket, giving Bangladesh a platform. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz broke the partnership with the wicket of Mahedi, who hit 33 off 25, leaving Bangladesh at 81 for five in the 14th over.

Jaker then guided the lower order astutely and raised his third fifty from 46 balls, lofting Abbas Afridi for a six over long-on region. He was dismissed in the last ball of the innings, top-edging a slower delivery of Afridi, who ended with two for 37.

Pacers Shoriful Islam (3-17), Tanzim Hasan (2-23), and off-spinner Mahedi Hasan (2-25) kept Pakistan at bay, putting a disciplined bowling.

But Pakistan batters played rash shots, much like the first T20 and found them in precarious 30 for six in 10th over, with all six batters being out for single digits.

Fahim Ashraf stood tall against a spirited Bangladesh attack, raising the prospect of an unlikely victory with Khushdil Shah (13) and Abbas Afridi (19) giving him little support.

He brought up his maiden fifty from 31 deliveries, hoicking leg-spinner Rishad Hossain over long on for a six.

However, Rishad (1-42) took the sweet revenge in the next delivery by crashing his stump as Pakistan's chance to win the game was ended. The third and final match is on Thursday.

Antiguans complete successful tour to UK and Jersey

The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Cricket Team returned home on Monday following a successful tour of the United Kingdom and Jersey Channel Island during this month.

The successful two-week tour, designed to provide high-level cricket and cultural experiences to some of the nation's most promising young cricketers, was organized by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries.

The Antiguan won five of the seven encounters, comprising T20 and 50-over matches. They ended the tour with a 10-run win via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method against ACE Academy in a T20 fixture at the Uptonsteel County Ground in Leicester on Sunday.

Michael Greaves slammed 59 to propel the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Cricket Team to 172 for six off their 20 overs. In reply, ACE Academy reached 162 for seven in 19.3 overs when the match ended. J'Quan Athanaze captured three wickets.

Antigua and Barbuda pulled off a 14-run win against the Jersey Under-19 National Team in their penultimate match, a 50-over



Some members of the Antigua Youth Cricket Team with Minister of Sports Honourable Daryl Matthew, sixth from right, head coach Winston Benjamain, fifth from left, assistant coach Dave Joseph, right, and Chairman of ADARP Aldo McCoy, left, prior to their departure for the UK on July 6, 2025. (Photo courtesy the Ministry of Sports)

encounter at Grainville Pavilion in St. Saviour, Jersey, on July 18.

Brent Joseph hit 40 as the Antiguan were all out for 177 in 32 overs. In reply, the Jersey Under-19 National Team tumbled to 163 all out.

Brent Joseph slammed a century as the Antiguan also trounced the Jersey Under-19 National Team by 172 runs in another 50-over match at the same venue on July 16.

Joseph hammered 131, and J'Quan Athanaze cracked 83 in Antigua and Barbuda's 288 for nine off their 50 overs.

The Jersey Under-19 National team was dismissed for 116. Tayari Tonge bagged three wickets, while Xaveek Toppin and William Pitman each picked up two wickets.

The Antiguan beat Rollins Cricket Academy by nine wickets in their opening match, a T20 encounter at Frenford Cricket Club Ground in Essex.

Rollins Cricket Academy made 135 for six. Antigua and Barbuda achieved victory by scoring 137 for one. Tarek Charles struck 47.

The Antiguan also notched up a 28-run victory against Weybridge Cricket Club in a T20 match on July 11. Antigua and Barbuda made 167 for seven off their 20 overs. Brent Joseph cracked 57.

In reply, Weybridge was restricted to 139 for nine off their 20 overs. Michael Greaves and Tarek Charles each claimed two wickets.

But the Antiguan suffered their first of two losses in an 83-run defeat against West Hertfordshire Crick-

et Club in a 50-over match that was reduced to 42 overs due to rain at Park Avenue in Watford.

West Hertfordshire made 327 for four off 42 overs. Despite half-centuries by Michael Greaves and Brent Joseph, Antigua and Barbuda were restricted to 244 for eight off 42 overs.

They also lost by 13 runs in a T20 match in Nottingham against AEP All Stars, which featured UK-based Antiguan cricketers Jaylen Francis, Malique Walsh, and Essan Warner.

The AEP All Stars made 173 for five off their 20 overs. In reply, Antigua and Barbuda were restricted to 160 for three, with Brent Joseph and Michael Greaves each hitting half-centuries.

The team comprises Brent Joseph Jr., Hosea Roberts, Jaylen Francis, Jared Jno Baptiste, Jayden Charles, J'Quan Athanaze, Kerique Mentore, Malique Walsh, Michael Greaves, Ozan Williams, Tarek Charles, Tayari Tonge, Vonde Bowers, William Pitman, Xanden Hobson and Xaveek Toppin.

The players were accompanied by Head Coach Winston Benjamin, Assistant Coach Dave Joseph, Physiotherapist Amy Harris, and Tour Manager Brent Scotland.