

# Large turnout celebrates Senator Clement Antonio's elevation

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# Large turnout celebrates Senator Clement Antonio's elevation



There was a large turnout of family, friends and colleagues at Government House on Monday to celebrate with Senator Clement Marley Mandela Antonio on his elevation to a Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Housing.

Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts presided at the event that saw Senator Antonio elevate

from the post of Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry to a Minister of State. The event was witnessed by members of his immediate family, fellow colleagues in the Senate, including President Senator Alincia Williams-Grant, Senior Senator Mary Clare Hurst, Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Sen. Shenella Govia

among others.

There were also members of staff from the Ministry of Works and Housing as well as from the Development Control Authority, where he served as chairman at one time. A contingent from the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Youth Arm was also on hand to congratulate Senator Antonio.

A team of Chinese technicians which has developed a course working relationship with Senator Antonio was also invited to the swearing in ceremony.

Although not present because of overseas duties, both Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister of Works, Maria Browne, the senior minister in the ministry, both conveyed their congratulations to the new Minister of State Antonio.

In his remarks, Sir Clare noted that the Ministry of Works plays a pivotal role in advancing the nation's efforts toward a sustainable development framework. "It is through this ministry that the lifeblood of our nation's infrastructure flows, our roads, bridges, drainage systems, public buildings, and countless other facilities that define the everyday experience of our citizens and visitors alike," He observed.

Sir Clare said the Ministry is also central to the country's resilience, how it responds to and recovers from disasters, how it maintains critical infrastructure, and how it adapts to climate change.

"As Minister of State, you assume your portfolio at a time marked by a surge in public expectations. Hav-



ing witnessed notable progress and positive changes in service delivery, particularly in road repair, maintenance, and housing, the public now recognises that even greater achievements are within reach. This momentum has naturally led to heightened aspirations and growing demands. I therefore encourage the Ministry to continue research into the use of environmentally responsible materials, cost-saving technologies, and design methods that respect both our climate goals and fiscal realities," he stated.

Senator Hurst also expressed words of congratulations to Senator Antonio, noting that she has watched him develop and mature to the person he is today. "I couldn't be prouder than I am at this moment," she declared.

Senator Antonio was asked to swear to three oaths; the Oath of Allegiance, the Oath of Office and the Oath of Secrecy.

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## All Saints Road rehabilitation to start before yearend



**Newly appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Works, Senator Clement Antonio**

The All Saints Road remains the last of the major road arteries into the city that has so far been untouched by the government’s intensified road construction and rehabilitation initiative...but that will change shortly.

Newly appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Works, Senator Clement Antonio said he expects work on the All Saints Road will commence by the last quarter of the year.

He said the roadway requires much engineering to ensure that when completed it will last for a long time. Senator Antonio revealed that discussions are underway with a number of contractors who have expressed an interest in securing contracts to undertake the work.

“The All Saints Road has taken a lot of design interventions and we have been looking at this and we have set a time-frame for the last quarter of the year for work to commence. We are engaging different contractors and the public will be informed as to the roll out of the re-construction of the All Saints Road,” Senator Antonio told reporters gathered at government House for his Swearing in as a Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Housing.



According to the Senator...All Saints Road remains a priority of the government and he is asking the public for

patience as the preliminary work on the roadway continues.

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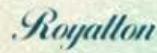
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## Antigua and Barbuda PM comments on INTERPOL “notation” involving former Trinidad and Tobago prime minister



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

(CMC): Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, Monday said that the information that resulted in immigration officers making “further inquiries” of former Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, Dr. Keith Rowley, did not originate in St. John’s.

He told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that immigration officials in Antigua and Barbuda treated Rowley with respect and acted on the information in the same way that they would have had the “notation” been about any other traveler.

On July 21, Rowley, who stepped down from active politics in April, said he was detained on July 14, during a stopover in Antigua and Barbuda because his name had been placed

on a watch list of the Paris-based International Police (INTERPOL).

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, speaking to the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) on the sidelines of the two-day Fourth AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) in Grenada (CMC Photo)

Rowley, a geologist, said that he was on his way to Montserrat to participate in activities marking the 30th anniversary of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory Scientific Opening when he was stopped at the VC Bird International Airport.

Browne, who is attending the two-day Fourth AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) taking place in Grenada, said that Rowley was not

detained in Antigua and Barbuda.

“Well, it was not a detention. My understanding is that there was certain information within our immigration portal that did not emanate from within Antigua that caused immigration officers to, let’s say, do further inquiries,” Browne told CMC.

“But, in any event, he was not detained, and he was treated with full respect as a former prime minister. But I do accept that there was certain information that was in the system, but it did not emanate within our shores.”

Rowley described the incident as a dastardly act of political persecution and accused state entities in Trinidad and Tobago of fabricating and executing a “vicious defamation campaign”.

“This is not just a mistake, it is a deliberate, calculated attempt to tarnish my name on an international stage,” Rowley told a news conference, adding “it is state-sponsored slander,” he told reporters in Port of Spain.

Rowley said he was stunned to learn that Trinidad and Tobago authorities may have caused his name to be flagged internationally.

He called on 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.

However, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service said hours after Rowley’s comments that his name had not been 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”.

On Monday, Prime Minister Browne told CMC that immigration authorities in Antigua and Barbuda had acted as they would, regardless of the person involved.

“And I think Dr. Rowley says that he was quite pleased with the level of professionalism coming from our immigration officers,” Browne told CMC, adding “he was treated with the full respect as a former prime minister, and we certainly would not have expected anything less.

“So, in any event, the information has since been removed from the system. So there is no such notation. I understand there was a simple notation. And will not get into the details, I will not speculate where it emanated, but one thing I can say, it did not emanate out of Antigua and Barbuda,” Browne told CMC.



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Attention: Mrs. Rhodette Paige  
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## Permanent Secretary O'keiffe Visits National Landfill to Strengthen Waste Management Efforts



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and the Environment, Colin Okeiffe, continues his ongoing series of visits to departments and facilities under his portfolio.

As part of these efforts, the Permanent Secretary recently toured the national landfill located at Cooks where he engaged with staff and stakeholders to assess current operations and conditions on the ground. The visit forms part of a broader strategy to evaluate infrastructure and explore opportunities for modernising waste management systems across the country.

The Ministry is cur-

rently examining ways to improve environmental and operational standards at the landfill through the introduction of updated technology, improved processes, and sustainable practices. These improvements are aimed at enhancing both environmental protection and the well-being of workers and surrounding communities.

Okeiffe reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to modernising public health infrastructure, and underscored the importance of collaborative planning in addressing long-standing environmental challenges.



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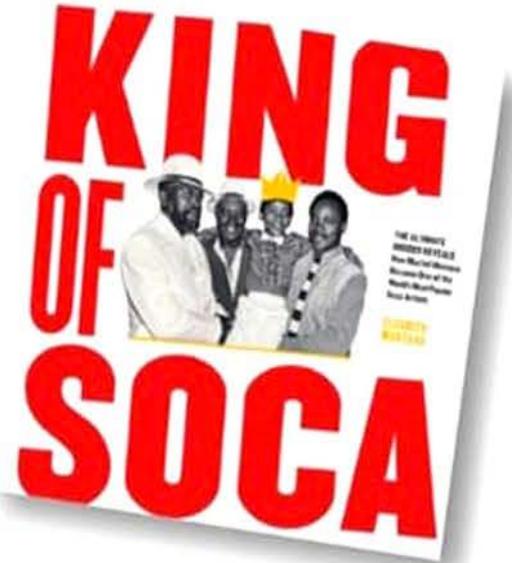
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## *African Dress Day Declared a Grand Success*

### **ABRSC Emancipation Celebrations Continue with Watchnight Gathering and Emancipation Village**



**Winners of the African Dress Day at Tourism Ministry**



**Staff at the Ministry of Tourism**



**Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre staff**

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC) is proud to declare African Dress Day 2025 a resounding success. Across the nation, scores of Antiguan and Barbudans stepped out in vibrant African prints and garments, answering the national call to honour our African ancestry

and proudly showcase our shared heritage.

This visible tribute to our roots was more than a fashion statement it was a bold affirmation of identity, unity, and reverence for the Ancestors who paved the path to freedom. The ABRSC commends the growing national consciousness and deepening

appreciation of our African heritage, calling the day “a powerful act of remembrance and pride”.

“African Dress Day is not just about wearing the clothes,” the Commission emphasized. “It’s about embracing and sustaining our heritage... visually, spiritually, and culturally.”

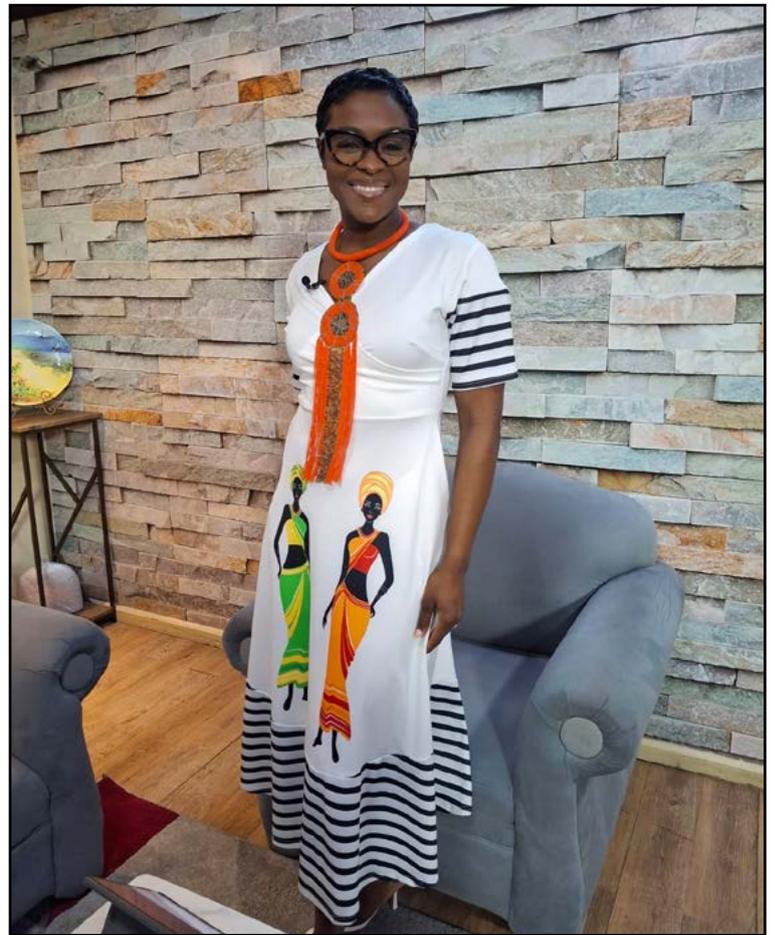
As part of this year’s wider Emancipation observance under the theme “*A Call to Consciousness and Pride*”, celebrations continue with the 17th Annu-

al Watchnight Gathering, taking place Thursday, July 31st at 8:00 p.m. in the Botanical Gardens.

Watchnight is a sacred tradition rooted in hope and resistance. For enslaved Africans, it was a night spent waiting with bated breath for the dawn of freedom. Today, it remains a cornerstone of cultural and spiritual remembrance. The evening will feature drumming, libations, iron band performances, spoken word, and messages of hope. This year’s gath-



**Ambassador Hurst and Lynetter Thwaites**



**Raynell Carroll of ABS**

ering will be especially poignant with Dr. Julius Garvey, son of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, delivering the keynote address, a powerful moment in connecting past and present liberation struggles.

The Emancipation season will culminate on August 1st, Emancipation Day, with the Emancipation Village at V.C. Bird Bust in the heart of St. John’s from 10am. The Village will transform the Market place into a lively cultural hub filled with traditional foods, local crafts, live performances, story telling and historical displays. It will serve as a space for

families, artists, historians, and community members to gather in celebration and reflection.

“The Emancipation Village is more than an event; it is an immersive journey through our heritage. A moment to honour the sacrifices of those who came before us, while celebrating the beauty, resilience, and creativity of our people,” said the Commission.

As Antigua and Barbuda marks 191 years of Emancipation, the ABRSC reminds all that emancipation is not just a moment — it is a movement

## Chinese agricultural workers immerse in local cultural traditions



**Showing off our bilateral Agricultural program with the People's Republic of China with the free distribution of vegetables in the carnival on Saturday.**

The members of the Long Ping Agricultural Company of China demonstrated their commitment to strong ties with the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda by their participation in one of the most traditional events of the country, the Carnival Opening Parade.

Owolabi Elabanjo, Chief Agricultural Extension Officer, with the strong endorsement of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and Ambassador HE Zhang Yanling, the Chinese agricultural workers who have been engaged in crop production here in the country, took time out to participate in the Carnival Parade on Saturday and to distribute vegetables to spectators along the route.



“We wanted to show the people of Antigua and Barbuda as well as our visitors that the Chinese agricultural workers are making a significant contribution to Antigua and Barbuda’s quest for food sovereignty and food security. This also provided an opportunity to showcase the variety of crops that are being produced by the workers participating in the programme organized through China Aid,” Elabanjo explained.

The participation of the Chinese agricultural workers was one of putting on display the strong ties that currently exist between the People’s Republic of China and Antigua and Barbuda.

“We want to show our Chinese agricultural workers that we welcome



them and that we are one. Their participation in an important cultural event as Carnival shows the strength of our cooperation,” he stated.

The agriculture ministry official an-

nounced that the Chinese team will also be on hand on Carnival Tuesday for the big parade; this time they will be distributing water melons.

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## Police Investigate Homicide in Browne's Avenue

The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of 50-year-old Steve Chambers of Browne's Avenue.

It was reported that around 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, 27 July, Chambers was involved in an altercation with an 18-year-old male, also of Browne's Avenue. The incident reportedly escalated into a physical confrontation, during which both individuals armed themselves with sharp and blunt objects.

Chambers sustained multiple stab wounds to his body and was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre for medical treatment.

However, he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at approximately 8:18 a.m. on Monday, July 28.

The 18-year-old male was also treated at the hospital for injuries he sustained during the incident. He is currently in police custody assisting with ongoing investigations.

The Police Administration extends heartfelt condolences



es to the family and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time.

Investigations into the matter are continuing. Anyone with information that may assist the police is urged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

*Meanwhile*, the police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the drowning of a Chinese national that occurred at Pelican Beach in Johnson's Point.

Approximately 5:10 pm on Sunday, July 27, police officers attached to the Johnson's Point Police Station responded to a report and found the lifeless body of a 47-year-old Chinese national, residing at Lower All Saints Road, lying on the sand on his back. He was dressed in burgundy shorts and a white shirt.

Reports indicate that the deceased was at the beach with friends when he went snorkeling. Shortly after, he encountered difficulty, and signaled for help, prompting his companions to pull

him from the water. CPR was administered by Emergency Medical Personnel; however, he remained unresponsive.

The District Medical Doctor arrived at the scene and pronounced him dead at 6:13 p.m.

The Police Administration extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and are continuing inquiries into the incident.

## Green Bay man charged with possession of modified flare gun

The police have arrested and charged 19-year-old Joel Isaac of Green Bay in connection with the unlawful possession of a modified flare gun and ammunition.

On Sunday, July 27, officers attached to the Criminal Investi-

gations Department executed a search warrant on a property at Nut Grove and met the accused on the said property.

During the search one modified flare gun and one round of 9mm ammunition was discovered. He

was arrested and taken into custody and subsequently charged with the offences.

Isaac is expected to appear in the Magistrate's Court on Tuesday to answer to the charges.

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# You don't have to go it alone: The Transformative Power Mentorship



By Garfield Joseph

## Introduction

In a world where the path to success can feel uncertain and overwhelming, one truth remains timeless: you don't have to go it alone. Whether you're a recent graduate, a young entrepreneur, or just stepping into your first job, having a mentor can be the game-changer that helps you navigate the twists and turns of your journey.

## What Is Mentorship, Really?

Mentorship is more than just advice-giving. It's a relationship built on trust, where a more experienced person (the mentor) supports the growth and development of someone less experienced (the mentee). This could be in business, sports, the arts, or life in general.

Think of it as having a personal guide — someone who's walked the road before and is willing to walk alongside you as you find your way.

## Why Mentorship Matters

Mentorship can open doors that might otherwise remain closed. Here are just a few of the benefits:

- **Clarity and Confidence:** Mentors help you see your strengths and navigate your weaknesses.

- **Career Growth:** They offer insights into industries, opportunities, and how to avoid common pitfalls.
- **Networking:** A mentor can introduce you to people and spaces you might not access on your own.
- **Accountability:** Regular check-ins help you stay focused and motivated.

And it's not just the mentee who benefits. Mentors often say they gain fresh perspectives, renewed energy, and a deep sense of purpose from giving back.

## But It's Not Always Easy

Despite its value, mentorship isn't always easy to come by. Some common barriers include:

- **Lack of Access:** Not everyone has someone in their circle who can serve as a mentor.
- **Time Constraints:** Both mentors and mentees may struggle to find time to connect.
- **Fear of Rejection:** Many young people hesitate to ask for help, fearing they'll be turned away.
- **Cultural Gaps:** Sometimes, generational or social differences can make communication tricky.

But these challenges can be overcome — especially when communities, schools, and workplaces actively support mentorship.

## A Tradition as Old as Time

The idea of mentorship isn't new. In fact, the word "mentor" comes from Greek mythology. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Mentor was a wise advisor to the young Telemachus. Since then, mentorship has been a cornerstone of learning — from apprenticeships in medieval guilds to today's leader-

ship coaching.

In Caribbean culture, mentorship has long existed informally — through elders, teachers, pastors, and community leaders who pass down wisdom and guidance.

## Caribbean Mentors Who Shaped Legends

Mentorship is deeply woven into the Caribbean story. Here are a few powerful examples:

Sir Vivian Richards, Antigua's cricketing legend, was not only a fierce batsman but also a mentor to younger players like Brian Lara and Curtly Ambrose. But before he became the "Master Blaster," Richards was mentored by Pat Evanson, a neighbor and former captain of the Antigua cricket team. Evanson, along with Richards' father and brothers, nurtured his early talent and instilled the discipline and confidence that would define his career. This mentorship laid the foundation for Richards' fearless style and leadership, inspiring a generation of West Indian cricketers to play with pride and purpose.

Bob Marley, the global reggae icon, was both a mentee and a mentor. As a young man in Trench Town, he was mentored by Ras Cardo (Ricardo Scott) and Junior Braithwaite, who helped shape his early musical journey. Later, Marley became a mentor himself, guiding artists like Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer, and his son Ziggy Marley, using his platform to uplift others through music and message.

Dame Eugenia Charles, Dominica's first female Prime Minister and the first in the Caribbean, was known as the "Iron Lady of the Caribbean." Her bold leadership and advoca-

cy for Caribbean sovereignty and economic independence inspired a generation of women and political leaders across the region. She mentored younger politicians and was a role model for principled governance and resilience.

These stories remind us that mentorship is not just about success — it's about legacy. Caribbean leaders have always understood that true leadership means lifting others as you climb.

### So, Where Do You Start?

If you're looking for a mentor, start by identifying someone you admire — someone whose values and path resonate with you. Reach out with humility and curiosity. Ask questions. Be open to learning.

And if you're further along in your journey, consider becoming a mentor. You don't need to have all the answers — just a willingness to listen, share, and support.

### Final Thoughts

In a time when many young people feel pressure to "figure it all out" on their own, mentorship reminds us that success is rarely a solo act. It's built on relationships, guidance, and the courage to ask for help.

So whether you're seeking a mentor or ready to become one, remember: you don't have to go it alone.

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## Green Bay man charged with possession of modified flare gun

During this Carnival season, the Teen Splash stage witnessed a performance that stopped the show—and stunned the audience. In a timely and haunting theatrical piece, contestant #4 Naja Manford from Ottos Comprehensive delivered a narrative that felt ripped from reality. Announced with the promise of “words and wonder,” Naja’s piece carried weight immediately: whispered warnings (“Who no hear will feel”) carried through duets of domestic routines and street-level bravado. From washing dishes to joining friends—“Ballo, king of the streets”—he threaded the tension between home and temptation. The twist came swiftly: “I’m dead, me dead... if I had just listened... now is too late.”

A malevolent echo followed: in villa Farm, just days before the show, a real-life 16-year-old was shot and killed during an attempted robbery. Reality and performance collided. And that collision is available for anyone to view—search our Facebook or ABS’s YouTube and you’ll see why the video is going viral.

That performance underscores why building community matters now more than ever. As Helen Keller famously said: “*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*” Volunteering builds those connections. When youth give their time, they learn empathy, gain skills, and build resilience—countering the messages that there’s “nothing to do” and no one watching.

“We often say the community has died.” It’s a sentence we’ve all heard—and probably said. We speak of how the old ways are gone, of how neighbors no longer correct children in the streets, how there’s a disconnect between generations, and how

young people today are “not like how we used to be.”

But maybe the issue isn’t that the

This is the heart behind the Student Community Service Program designed and led by Good Humans 268



community has disappeared. Maybe it’s that we’ve forgotten how to evolve it. The needs of our people have changed, the technologies have advanced, and the ways in which children grow up are fundamentally different. But our longing for connection, our need for structure, and our hope for the next generation have never disappeared.

The village is still here—but it must become a modern village.

One that includes schools, NGOs, churches, creatives, parents, government ministries, and businesses all working in partnership. One where tradition meets innovation, and where old wisdom finds new tools to survive. The idea of “it takes a village” isn’t outdated; it’s essential now more than ever.

Inc. The program isn’t just another extra-curricular activity. It’s a national blueprint for transformation. It takes students from as early as five years old and introduces them to structured community work—recycling, tree planting, visiting homes for the elderly, coastal cleanups, food drives, and more. By age sixteen, these young people have already built a foundation in volunteerism, empathy, and environmental stewardship.

We’re not stopping there. We are actively in talks to expand this program to preschools, the Antigua State College, and the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. The idea is to create a continuous pipeline of civic engagement—where community service isn’t an isolated experience but a lifestyle.

The program itself is built around

a five-part model: 1 report, 2 Trees planted, 3 locations, 40 hours and 50 recycled cans or bottles. This structure is simple, scalable, and data-driven, allowing us to track growth, measure impact, and identify challenges. We've already seen hundreds of students thrive in the program—gaining confidence, purpose, and leadership skills.

But the most exciting chapter is still to come. We are on the verge of launching a digital app to fully support this experience. The app will allow organizations to list volunteer opportunities while students can choose tasks, log hours, document their reflections, and even track skill development—like time management, communication, and empathy. It will create a real-time national dashboard of youth engagement.

This innovation turns complaints about “idle youth” into visible stories of service. It will show that our young people are willing to give back—they just need opportunity, structure, and

support. Too often we say we want change but don't create the systems to support it. This program is that system.

We are especially aware of how community failure can contribute to deeper issues—crime, school dropouts, youth disengagement. And we're not blind to the pressures young people face, especially boys. For some, gangs offer belonging, recognition, and leadership—things a healthy community *should* offer. This program provides a counter-path: one of purpose, growth, and social responsibility.

But here's the most important truth: this isn't about policing behavior. It's about nurturing potential.

Every tree planted, every hour volunteered, every bottle recycled is a seed in the soil of national transformation. It's also a reminder that community isn't a passive idea. It's something we build, protect, and evolve. We cannot wait for someone else to fix things—we must rise and be the modern vil-

lage our youth deserve.

So even while Carnival pulses through our streets, let us also dance to the rhythm of responsibility. Let's not just entertain ourselves—let's invest in ourselves. Let us honor the calypsonians and mas players who use the stage to mirror our reality. Their art tells us what we risk losing. But it also shows us what we still have time to rebuild.

Because if we truly care about our culture, we must also care about our children.

And if we care about our children, then rebuilding our village isn't optional—it's urgent.

## Joshuanette Francis

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# Carnival Corner



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## CHILDREN CARNIVAL 2025



# Carnival Corner



# Regional News



## Jamaican conjoined twins depart for Saudi Arabia ahead of life-changing surgery



### Twins-conjoined-head for Saudi Arabia for separation surgery

Conjoined twins, Azaria and Azora Elson, have departed Jamaica for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where they are scheduled to undergo life-changing separation surgery.

The 20-month-old toddlers, their mother, Iesha McMurray, and a team of medical professionals departed the island on a Medevac flight from the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA) in Kingston on Sunday.

They are expected to arrive in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Monday following a brief stopover in the United Kingdom.

The arrangement was made possible through the intervention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, which facilitated dialogue between the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), where the twins were receiving care, and officials of the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Portfolio Minister, Sena-

tor Kamina Johnson Smith; Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Dr Waleed bin Abdulrahman Alhamoudi, and the

children's father, Odane Elson, were among those present at NMIA to see off the twins and their medical team.

Azaria and Azora are Omphalopagus conjoined twins — joined at the abdomen — a rare congenital condition occurring in approximately one in every 50,000 to 150,000 live births worldwide.

The girls share a liver and have remained at the UHWI since birth, due to their condition and associated medical complications, including congenital heart abnormalities.

They will undergo extensive medical evaluations in preparation for the complex surgery, which is expected to take place within two months at King Abdullah Specialist Children's Hospital in Riyadh, under the Saudi Programme for Separating Conjoined Twins.

*Senator Johnson Smith expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Saudi Arabian Government and His Majesty, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, for facilitating the twins' surgery and generously covering all associated medical, transportation and logistical costs.*



MENTION 29072025

### APUA MOBILE PAYMENT CENTRE

On Tuesday, 29th July 2025, The Payment Centre will be located at Bailey's Supermarket from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM! Services include the payment of all utility bills and inet services including top-ups.

### APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our ongoing line upgrades, repairs, replacement of poles, and infrastructure maintenance programme, to provide a reliable and consistent service to our customers.

The following areas will experience a temporary power disruption to allow our crews to work safely.

Date: Tuesday, 29th July 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Affected areas: Section of John Hughes, in the vicinity of the Antigua Rainforest Zip line Tours

- End -

## St Vincent govt. to sign \$375M Beaches Resort deal



(St. Vincent Times): Mainland St Vincent is expected to have its first **Beaches Resort** by the end of 2027.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves stated on Sunday that an agreement paving the way for the development to move forward would be signed in August.

“This August, we are going to sign an agreement with Sandals for the **Beaches Resort**. It will be a 375-room facility costing \$375 million USD,” he said.

Speculation about the new development emerged in February after Finance Minister Camilo Gonsalves’ post on 23 February, which featured a photograph of himself alongside Terence Des Vignes, apparently at the location of the unfinished Black Sands Resort. Des Vignes is Sandals Resorts International’s regional project manager.

On Sunday, Gonsalves said:

“Once everything proceeds as planned, it should be open by the end of 2027. Because it’s Beaches, a family-oriented brand, you’re go-

ing to need four employees per key. With 375 keys – some rooms being two bedrooms or larger – that’s 1,500 permanent workers needed.”

Gonsalves added that with Marriott and Beaches on the Leeward side of the island, 2,000 additional jobs would be added to the workforce.

*St Vincent Times* understands from reliable sources that several other hotel developments are in the pipeline and will be announced soon.

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# Kamla re-elected UNC leader unopposed



Scores of UNC supporters gathered at the party's Mulchan Seuchan Road, Chaguanas headquarters on Saturday to witness the moment. Cheers erupted as veteran attorney and chair of the Election Management Committee (EMC), Ramesh Persad-Maharaj, made the formal declaration shortly after the 4 pm nomination deadline.

"We confirm that as of 4 pm today, there is no other candidate for the post of political leader of the United National Congress," Persad-Maharaj announced, as supporters clapped in celebration.

Quoting the party's revised election rules, he added: "In the event that only one candidate is valiantly nominated, the committee shall announce that candidate as duly elected unopposed to

the office of political leader and formally end this election process."

Clad in traditional African attire ahead of Emancipation Day, Persad-Bissessar took the podium to thank her supporters and reflect on her 15-year journey at the helm of the UNC. She first contested the party's leadership in 2010, defeating founding leader Basdeo Panday in what she described as a "revolutionary moment."

Since then, she has never lost an internal leadership contest—defeating Dr Roodal Moonilal and Vasant Bharath in 2015, and Bharath again in 2020. Despite losing general elections in 2015 and 2020, she retained the support of the party's base and has now secured a renewed mandate following the UNC's return to power in April.

(Trinidad and Tobago Guardian): Kamla Persad-Bissessar has created political history once again, winning her fourth consecutive internal leadership election since 2010 and doing so unopposed. The nomination-only victory comes just 90 days after she led the United National Congress (UNC) to a landslide win in the April 28 General

Election, returning the party to government with a commanding majority.

With no challengers stepping forward, Persad-Bissessar was officially declared re-elected on nomination day, effectively ending the party's internal electoral process before ballots were even printed for the August 17 poll.


 The poster for the Antigua Carnival 2025 is vibrant and colorful. It features a central figure of a woman in a traditional, ornate costume with a large, multi-colored headdress. To her right, a man in a green outfit is playing a drum. The background is a mix of bright colors and patterns. The text "ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA" is at the top, with the slogan "The beach is just the beginning...". Below that is the "Antigua, Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION" logo. The main title "ANTIGUA CARNIVAL" is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, "Itz A ViBe" is written in a stylized font. The dates "JUL 25 2025" and "AUG 05 2025" are in a pink box. At the bottom, there are social media icons and contact information: "Antigua Carnival", "@antiguafestivalsofficial", "Antigua Carnival", "info.nfo@ab.gov.ag", and "268 727 9201".

## Two Israeli rights group say their country is committing genocide in Gaza



(AP): Two prominent Israeli rights groups on Monday said their country is committing genocide in [Gaza](#), the first time that local Jewish-led organizations have made such accusations against Israel during nearly 22 months of war. The claims by B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel add to an explosive debate over whether Israel's military offensive in Gaza — launched in response to Hamas' deadly Oct. 7, 2023, attack that killed some 1,200 peo-

ple and took more than 250 hostage — amounts to genocide. The Palestinians, their supporters and international human rights groups make that claim, and the International Court of Justice is hearing a [genocide case](#) filed by South Africa against Israel. But in Israel, founded in the wake of the Holocaust, even the government's strongest critics have largely refrained from making such accusations due to the deep sensitivities and strong memories of the Nazi genocide of Europe's

Jews. Many in Israel also view the war in Gaza as a justified response to the deadliest attack in the country's history and not an attempt at extermination. The rights groups, while prominent and respected internationally, are considered in Israel to be on the political fringe, and their views are not representative of the vast majority of Israelis. But having the allegation of genocide come from Israeli voices shatters a taboo in a society that has been reticent to criticize Israel's conduct in Gaza. Guy Shalev, director of Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, said the Jewish-Israeli public often dismisses accusations of genocide as antisemitic or biased against Israel. "Perhaps human rights groups based in Israel ... coming to this conclusion is a way to confront that accusation and get people to acknowledge the reality," he said. Israel asserts that it is fighting an existential war and abides by international law. It has rejected genocide allegations as antisemitic.



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## Benin offers citizenship to the descendants of former enslaved people

U.S. singer Ciara is one of the first public figures to become a citizen of Benin under a recent law by the small West African country granting citizenship to descendants of enslaved people.

The Grammy-winning performer's acquisition of citizenship at a ceremony Saturday in the city of Cotonou is part of a broader initiative by Benin to attract the Black diaspora, acknowledge the country's role in the transatlantic slave trade, and promote tourism focused on slavery-related sites of remembrance.

"By legally recognizing these children of Africa, Benin is healing a historical wound. It is an act of justice, but also one of belonging and hope," Justice Minister Yvon Detchénou said at the ceremony.

Here's what to know about Benin's efforts to welcome descendants of enslaved people:

In September, Benin passed a law granting citizenship to those who can trace their lineage to the slave trade.

It is open to anyone above 18 who doesn't already hold other African citizenship and can provide proof that an ancestor was deported via the slave trade from anywhere in sub-Saharan Africa. Beninese authorities accept DNA tests, authenticated testimonies and family records.

Last week, the government launched My Afro Origins, the digital platform that processes applications.

While Benin is not the first country to grant citizenship to descendants of enslaved people, its citizenship law carries added significance, in part because of the role it played in the transatlantic slave trade.

European merchants deported an estimated 1.5 million enslaved people from the Bight of Benin — a region that includes present-day Benin, Togo and parts of Nigeria — to the Americas.

Beninese kings actively participated in capturing and selling enslaved peo-



**Yvon Detchénou, Benin's Minister of Justice and Legislation, (right), presents citizenship documents to singer Ciara at a ceremony in Benin last Saturday**

ple to Portuguese, French and British merchants. The former kingdoms and the communities they raided still exist today as tribal networks.

Benin has long been working to reconcile with its legacy of complicity. It has openly acknowledged its role in the slave trade, a stance not shared by many other African nations that participated.

In the 1990s, it hosted an international conference to examine how and where enslaved people were sold. In 1999, then-President Mathieu Kérékou apologized to African Americans during a visit to a church in Baltimore.



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## President Trump reduces 50-day deadline for ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine war

(BBC): Donald Trump has presented a new, shorter deadline for Russia to agree to a ceasefire over the war in Ukraine of “ten or 12 days”

Speaking after a meeting with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Scotland, Trump again expressed his disapproval at Putin’s actions in



**US President Trump felt Putin has been ‘lying’ to him**

from Monday.

The US president said there was “no reason” in waiting any longer as no progress towards peace had been made. Two weeks ago, Trump said President Vladimir Putin had 50 days to end the war or Russia would face severe tariffs.

Speaking at a news conference in Scotland, Trump said he would confirm the new deadline on Monday or Tuesday, but reiterated the threat to impose sanctions and secondary tariffs on Moscow.

Earlier in July he said those would amount to 100% tax imposed on any country that trades with Russia.

This would make the goods so expensive that US businesses would likely choose to buy them cheaper from elsewhere, resulting in lost revenue for both Russia and the country that trades with it.

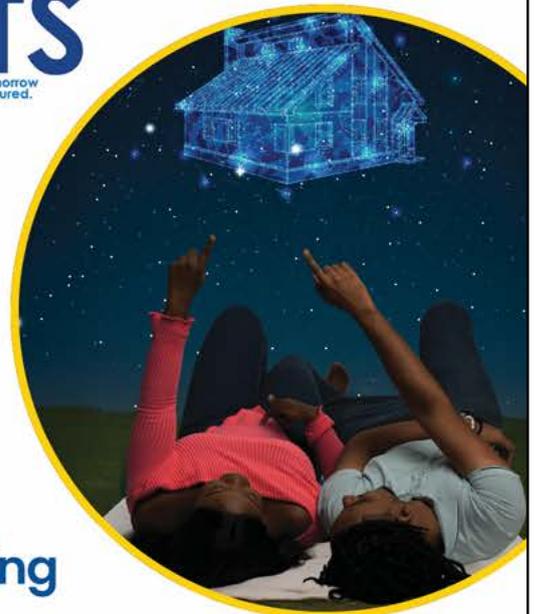
Ukraine, where war rages on three and a half years into Russia’s full-scale invasion. While he refused to say whether he felt Putin had been “lying” to him, Trump highlighted the contrast between the Russian president’s rhetoric during their one-on-one conversations and the missiles “lobbed” on Ukrainian cities on a near-nightly basis. “We were going to have a ceasefire and maybe peace... and all of a sudden you have missiles flying into Kyiv and other places,” Trump lamented, adding that he thought negotiations would be possible but that it was now “very late down the process”.

“I say, forget it. I’m not gonna talk anymore. This has happened on too many occasions and I don’t like it,” he said, though he also insisted that he and Putin always got along very well



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

## Powell becomes West Indies' second-highest run-scorer in T20Is

West Indies batsman Rovman Powell has gone past the legendary Chris Gayle to become the team's second-highest run-scorer in T20 Internationals (T20I).

Powell reached the milestone during the fourth T20I against Australia at Warner Park in Basseterre, St. Kitts, on Saturday.

After a string of low scores—1, 12, and 9—in the first three matches, Powell found some rhythm, scoring 28 off 22 balls with two fours and two sixes.

With this innings, Powell now has 1,925 runs in 99 T20Is at an average of 25.66 and a strike rate of over 141. His T20I record includes one century and nine half-centuries in 87 innings, with a highest score of 107.

Chris Gayle, who was instrumental in West Indies' T20 World Cup triumphs, had scored 1,899 runs in 79 T20Is at an average of 27.92 and



**Rovman Powell**

a strike rate of 137.50, with two hundreds and 14 fifties. His best score was 117.

Topping the chart for West Indies is Nicholas Pooran, who has amassed 2,275 runs in 106 matches at an av-

erage of 26.14 and 14 and a strike rate of over 136, with 13 fifties and a best score of 98.

The fifth and final T20I against Australia was slated to be played at Warner Park on Monday evening.

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## Doncic shows off summer shred in Men's Health

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - After plenty of attention was brought to Luka Doncic's fitness level following his shocking February trade to the Los Angeles Lakers, the five-time All-Star has been putting another surprise together this offseason.

After reports of an improved physique surfaced earlier this summer, a profile in Men's Health magazine confirmed the extent to which Doncic has gone to develop a slimmed-down look as he prepares for his first full season in Los Angeles.

Doncic, 26, has generally been listed at 6-foot-6 and 230 pounds, although opinions on the weight have varied. It did not prohibit him from scoring 28.2 points with 8.2 rebounds and 7.7 assists last season.

But reports indicated this past winter that the Dallas Mavericks had become exasperated with Doncic's lack of fitness, which might have contributed to a calf injury that the star guard had been rehabbing for a month prior to the trade that shocked the NBA.

Ankle, calf, knee and back injuries have slowed Doncic at certain times in his career, although he still managed to play at least 61 games in a season until he



**Luka Doncic**

was reduced to 50 last year with the Mavericks and Lakers combined.

Now, Doncic is visibly slimmer after an improved diet combined with a fitness program. He has been avoiding gluten and keeping sugar to a minimum, while loading up on protein to help him get through multiple workouts a day that include lifting weights along with on-court drills.

"Obviously, be the best that I can be, take care of myself," Doncic said to Men's Health. "This year, with my team, I think we did a huge step. But this is just the start, you know. I need to keep going. Can't stop."

While LeBron James exercised a contract option to return to the Lakers in 2025-26, the team also added center Deandre Ayton, guard Marcus

Smart and forward Jake LaRavia.

The profile did not men-

tion Doncic's current weight, but photographs showed off his slim look with greater muscle definition in his arms. His workouts kept him away from basketball at first, then had him return to the court in June. He will play for Slovenia in EuroBasket in August.

"So every summer I try my best to work on different things," he said. "Obviously, I'm very competitive. This summer was just a little bit different, you know. It kind of motivated me to be even better."



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## CWI pays tribute to Don Wehby



**Don Wehby**

Some people serve cricket with a bat or ball in hand. Others, like Don Wehby, serve it with quiet conviction, deep love, and the courage to help shape what the game must become.

Don never walked onto a cricket field in maroon, but he carried West Indies cricket in his heart. He was the definition of a true fan; loyal in spirit, unwavering in belief, and committed not just to the glory of the past, but to the possibilities of the future.

His love for this game was matched by his desire to see it governed with purpose and integrity. In chairing the Cricket West Indies Governance Reform Task Force, Don authored what we now call the Wehby Report (2020), a bold and necessary call to reform.

It was a framework rooted in principle, shaped by consultation, and guided by the belief that West Indies cricket, like the region it represents, deserves the very best of itself.

He believed governance was not about control, but about stewardship, about honouring the dreams of every young boy or girl who picks up a ball or watches the maroon take the field with wonder in their eyes.

Through his corporate leadership at

GraceKennedy, Don ensured that belief was backed by action. His support helped sustain the game during difficult times, and he remained a valued voice of conscience, always asking not what was easy, but what was right.

President of Cricket West Indies, Dr Kishore Shallow, said, “Today, we mourn the passing of a man who never sought recognition, only progress. Don Wehby gave to West Indies cricket not for applause, but out of deep conviction, and in doing so, he gifted us what is now regarded as a model for our future. His legacy reminds us that true leadership does not crave the spotlight; it quietly lights the path for others to follow.

“Through his authorship of the Wehby Report, and his unwavering commitment to good governance, Don challenged us to be better, to lead with integrity, and to serve with purpose.

“While we have made meaningful strides in implementing his vision, we are now bound by duty and gratitude to complete the journey he began. West Indies cricket is stronger because Don Wehby cared, and we honour his memory best by continuing the work with the same clarity, humility, and resolve he so graciously embodied.”

Chief Executive Officer, Chris Dehring, said, “As a fellow countryman and friend for over forty years, I knew Don not only as a brilliant corporate mind but as a man whose quiet strength and moral clarity left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered.

“He loved West Indies cricket with the same passion he brought to every aspect of his life, purposeful, principled, and deeply rooted in regional pride. Don was never one for fanfare, but his contributions were seismic. His work on the Governance Task Force was more than reform; it was vision grounded in courage.

“Jamaica has lost a son of distinction, and the Caribbean, a champion of progress. I am honoured to have walked alongside him in this era, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family and all who mourn his passing.”

Don Wehby served as an Independent Director on the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) from April 2013 to 2017, contributing significantly across multiple leadership roles. Notably, he chaired the Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee, ensuring robust oversight during his tenure.

In 2016, he was appointed to lead a Cricket West Indies (CWI) task force focused on corporate governance reform, where he reviewed key reports, including the Patterson and Wilkin reports.

Demonstrating continued trust in his leadership, he was reappointed in April 2019 as Chairman of CWI Governance Reform Task Force, charged with driving the implementation of landmark governance recommendations.

Cricket West Indies extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved family, friends and colleagues. May we continue the work he began, and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

# VACANCY

## ACCOUNTANT

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

### Key duties include:

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

### The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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## England greeted by fans to celebrate European title



**England's Leah Williamson, center left, and Keira Walsh lift the trophy after winning the Women's Euro 2025 final soccer match between England and Spain at St. Jakob-Park in Basel, Switzerland, Sunday, July 27, 2025. (AP)**

LONDON (AP) — The England Lionesses were greeted by cheering fans as they returned home on Monday following their Women's European Championship triumph.

England successfully defended its title by beating world champion Spain in a shootout in the final in Basel, Switzerland on Sunday.

After becoming the first England team to win a major tournament on foreign soil, the squad left their hotel in Zurich on Monday morning with captain Leah Williamson carefully escorting the trophy to the bus.

After almost a month of competition in Switzerland, the team's air-

plane branded with the word "home" touched down at Southend Airport in south east England.

Holding the trophy, Williamson was first to step off the plane alongside head coach Sarina Wiegman. Outside of the airport, crowds were lined up to welcome the team.

The Lionesses are set to celebrate their win with a reception at Downing Street later on Monday. Celebrations will continue on Tuesday with an open-top bus parade in central London, ending with a ceremony in front of Buckingham Palace.

Fans erupted with joy across England after Chloe Kelly lashed in her

spot kick to give her team a 3-1 win on penalties, after a 1-1 draw following extra time. According to the BBC, a peak live audience of 12.2 million watched the game across its platforms, making it the most watched television moment of 2025 across all TV broadcasters.

King Charles III said the team had the royal family's "warmest appreciation and admiration" following its win.

"The next task is to bring home the World Cup in 2027 if you possibly can," he added.

The reception at Downing Street, where Saint George's flags — also known as the flag of England — were on display, will be hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and sports minister Stephanie Peacock.

"The Lionesses have once again captured the hearts of the nation," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

"Their victory is not only a remarkable sporting achievement, but an inspiration for young people across the country. It stands as a testament to the determination, resilience and unity that define this outstanding team."

It was back-to-back European trophies for England and yet another final that Kelly had a huge impact on, after also coming on as a substitute during the Euro 2022 trophy match and scoring the winner against Germany in extra time to clinch a 2-1 victory.



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## All Saints United win on debut in CFU Club Shield



**Players of All Saints United participate in a stretching exercise prior to their first outing in the CFU Club Shield in Trinidad and Tobago. (Photo courtesy All Saints United FC)**

Reigning back-to-back national Premier Division champions All Saints United made a successful start to their debut campaign in the 2025 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Shield Tournament in Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday.

All Saints United launched their campaign with a 3-1 victory against SCSA Eagles of St. Maarten in the second game of a group C double-header at the Larry Gomes Stadium in Arima.

Kendukar Challenger caused the opening goal in the 10th minute, striking inside the box to force an own goal off Loxley Parker.

Tiquan Isaac doubled the

lead in the 17th minute with a right-footed finish in front of goal, and Raheem Deterville added a third in first-half stoppage time to give All Saints United a three-nil lead at halftime.

Romario Chilin cut the deficit by scoring a consolation goal for SCSA Eagles in the 63rd minute.

SV Transvaal of Suriname and Weymouth Wales of Barbados also kicked off their campaign with wins in the other two opening-round matches in Group C.

SV Transvaal of Suriname notched up a 3-0 victory against Wolues FC of the British Virgin Islands in the opening game of the

double-header at the Larry Gomes Stadium.

Weymouth Wales of Barbados recorded a 3-1 victory against Police FC of Trinidad and Tobago at Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port-of-Spain.

The 2024 CFU Club Shield champions, Arnett Gardens of Jamaica, launched their title defence with a 4-0 drubbing of Dublanc of Dominica in a Group D encounter at Ato Bolden Stadium in Couva.

All the teams in Group C will play their second and final round-robin match on Tuesday at 4 pm.

All Saints United will

tackle SV Transvaal at Larry Gomes Stadium, Weymouth Wales will take on Wolues FC at Ato Bolden Stadium, and Police FC will clash with SCSA Eagles at Hasely Crawford Stadium.

The CFU Club Shield involves 24 club teams from across the Caribbean and is taking place at three stadiums in Trinidad and Tobago from July 26 to August 3.

The clubs have been divided into four groups of six, and each team will contest two matches in the competition.

The four group winners will advance to the semi-finals, with the Group A winner facing the Group B winner and the Group C winner facing the Group D winner.

The winner and runners-up will qualify for the 2025 CONCACAF Caribbean Cup, where the clubs can continue their progress towards a berth in the 2026 CONCACAF Champions Cup.

Established in 2018, the Caribbean Club Shield has a primary objective of advancing professional football throughout the Caribbean. Participation is open to semi-professional and amateur teams holding current championship titles in their respective domestic leagues.