



**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**  
**POINTVILLE EXPRESS**  
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 58

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG



The Original Burning Flames  
Claudette Peters  
Kaution Band  
Tammy & Empress

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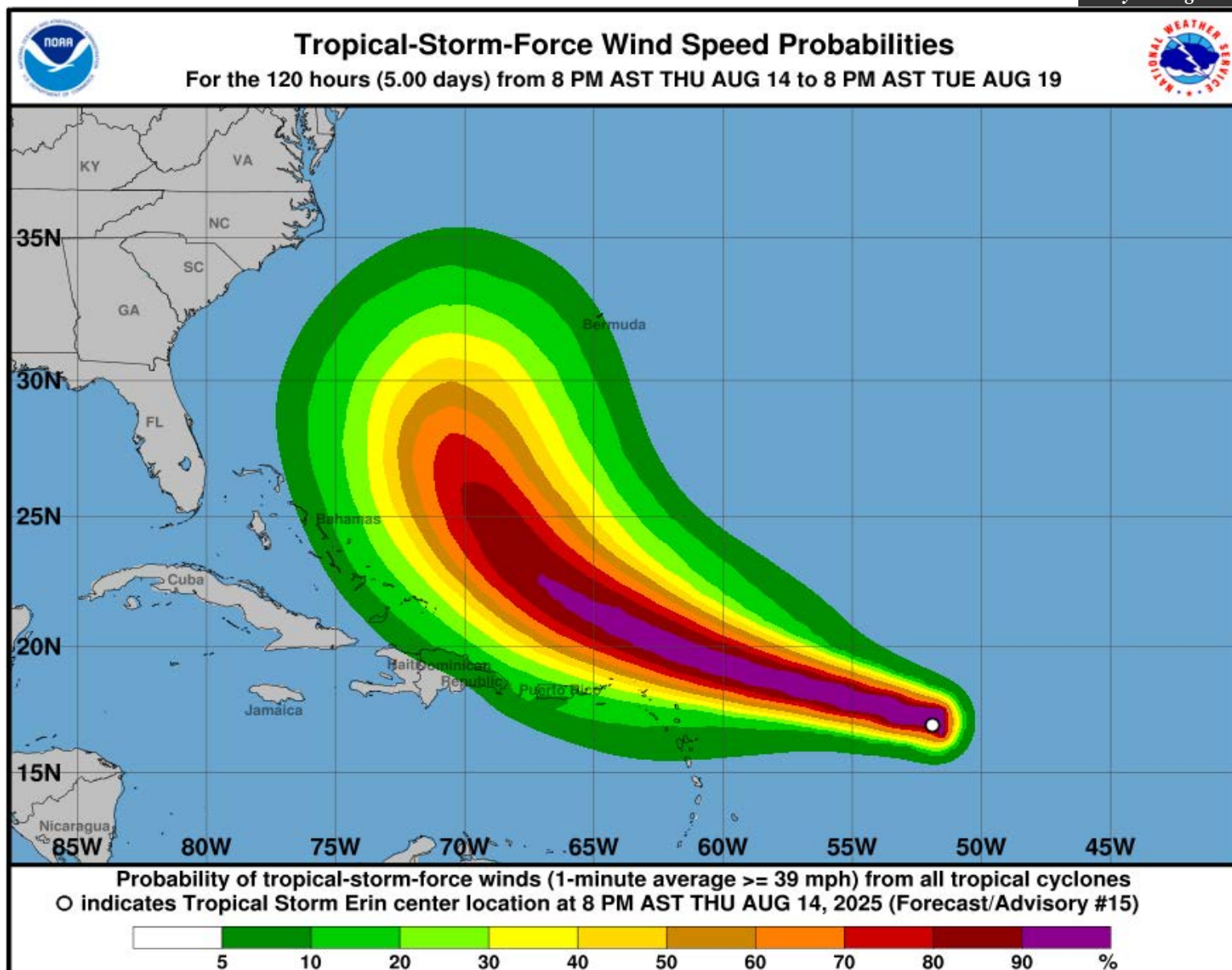
**CADES BAY  
AGRICULTURAL STATION  
AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>,  
10AM-8PM**

**Admission: FREE**



# Antigua and Barbuda on high alert as Tropical Storm Erin approaches

Story on Page 2



# Local News

## Antigua and Barbuda on high alert as Tropical Storm Erin approaches

Residents of Antigua and Barbuda are waking up to the news this morning that Tropical Storm Erin is hours away from being upgraded to a hurricane and that Barbuda has been placed on special alert as it lies closest to the expected path of the storm.

In its 11:00 pm on Thursday night, the Met Office said the storm continued its westerly trek traveling at about 17 miles per hour. The anticipated turn in a more north-westerly direction was also observed.

The Met Office said a Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect for Barbuda. This it said means that tropical storm conditions are possible with the watch area in 48 hours.

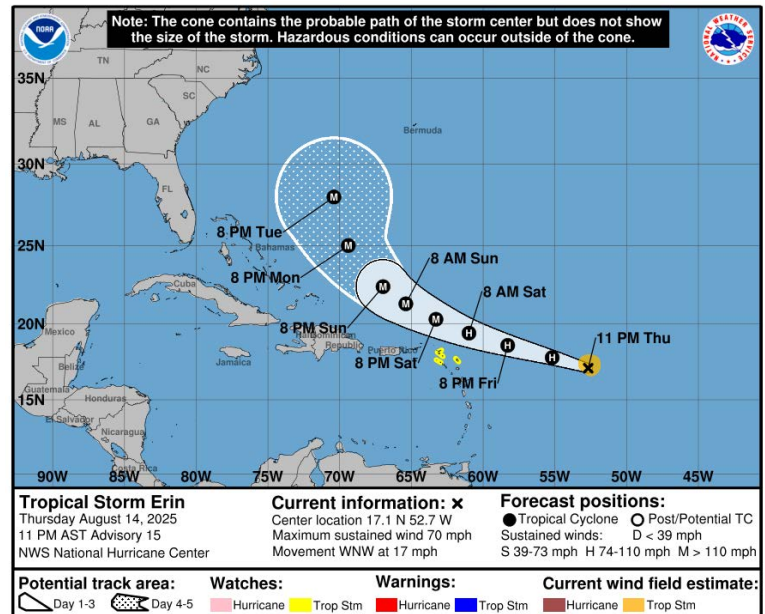
According to the Met Office the centre of Erin will likely pass within 150 miles of Barbuda on Saturday, as a hurricane with the potential to be a major hurricane. There is a medium threat from high surfs; residents should be prepared. There is a low threat from storm winds; residents should be aware.

The Met Office is also suggesting that the island may have to be closed during the passage of the storm. To be safe, resi-

dents should start to implement their storm plans

At 11:00 pm or 0300Z on Thursday, the centre of tropical storm Erin was located near latitude 17.1 north, Longitude 52.7 west or about 600 miles east of Barbuda.

Tropical Storm Erin continues moving toward the northwest at 17 miles per hour. This general motion is expected to continue over the weekend.




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Maximum sustained winds are near 70 miles per hour with higher gusts. Gradual strengthening is expected and Erin is expected to become a hurricane later tonight and could become a major hurricane by the weekend.

Tropical storm force winds extend up to 70 miles from the centre.

On the forecast track, Tropical Storm force winds are possible for Barbuda late Friday into Saturday. However, it is still possible for the island to be spared sustained storm-force winds, as most of the models still have Erin passing a safe distance away.



## Key Messages for Tropical Storm Erin Advisory 15: 11:00 PM AST Thu Aug 14, 2025

1. Heavy rainfall across the northernmost Leeward Islands, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, as well as southern and eastern Puerto Rico, may lead to isolated flash and urban flooding, along with landslides or mudslides this weekend into early next week.

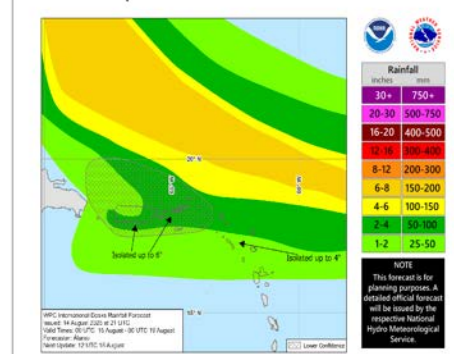
2. Tropical storm conditions are possible for portions of the northern Leeward Islands, where Tropical Storm Watches are in effect, beginning on Saturday as the core of Erin passes north of those islands. Tropical storm conditions could also occur in portions of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico later in the weekend, and additional watches may be required tonight or on Friday.

3. While there is still uncertainty in what impacts might occur in portions of the Bahamas, the east coast of the United States, and Bermuda next week, the risk of dangerous surf and rip currents across the western Atlantic basin next week continues to increase.

Earliest Reasonable Arrival Time of Tropical-Storm-Force Winds



Tropical Storm Erin Rainfall Forecast



For more information go to [hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov)



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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS,  
FISHERIES AND THE BLUE ECONOMY



**CADES BAY  
AGRICULTURAL STATION**

**AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>,  
10AM - 8PM**

 @PiAngoFest



**YOU CAN STILL REGISTER  
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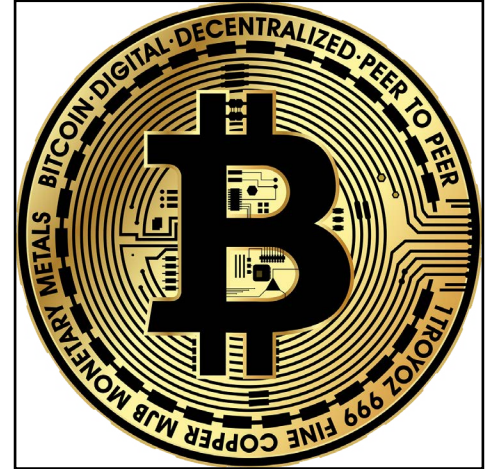
**Download the Vendor Registration Form, from the PiAngo Fest Facebook or Instagram page, fill out the form and submit it to the Ministry of Agriculture Nugent Ave (West of YASCO Sports Complex) along with the \$75 registration fee. You can also go to the Ministry and register there.**

# Local News

## FSRC issues advisory regarding the operations of a digital currency entity



**FSRC**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY COMMISSION



The Financial Services Regulatory Commission of Antigua and Barbuda is advising the public that an entity known as Digital Cryptocurrency Bank (DCB) is a not authorised to conduct any type of business here in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Commission is empowered under the International Banking Act 2016 to grant licenses to qualified international business corporations incorporated in Antigua and Barbuda to carry on international banking from within Antigua and Barbuda.

The Commission hereby advises the public that Digital Cryptocurrency Bank (also trading as DCB) and having the following contact information,

1. Web address: <https://dcb-banking.com>

2. Email Support : [help@dcb-bank.info](mailto:help@dcb-bank.info)

3. Main Support: +1 (680) 226-7970

4. Wire Transfers: +1 (680) 227-2799

is not an international business corporation under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda as it has never been incorporated by the Commission.

The Commission further advises that Digital Cryptocurrency Bank (which also trades as DCB) has not now nor has ever been issued a license to carry on international banking business from or within Antigua and Barbuda.

It noted that all statements and representations made by the entity that it is lawfully registered and licensed by the Commission to carry on any type of business in any jurisdiction in the

world are false.

FSRC said it is a public authority continued and governed by the Financial Services Regulatory Commission Act 2013 which assigns to the Commission exclusive jurisdiction to incorporate international business corporations which operate from within Antigua

and Barbuda under the International Business Corporation Act Cap 222.

The Commission publishes and maintains a list of international banks which can be viewed at <https://www.fsrc.gov.ag>.

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## Government to accelerate agricultural infrastructural development



**Minister for Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy**

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is investing heavily in agricultural infrastructure over the coming months, as part of a broader strategy to bolster national food security and reduce reliance on desalinated water for agricultural use.

The announcement came from Minister for Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Hon. Anthony Smith Jr., who outlined the scope of the initiative.

“We are now investing in the Ministry of Agriculture. We are buying an additional two excavators, a bulldozer, a front-wheel loader, a backhoe, and some dump trucks. When the Ministry gets all this equipment, we can really ramp up what we’re doing in regards to road preparation and dam construction.... What we have been doing is that we have been identifying key areas where we have good water flow, where we can build some mega dams, which is intended to help our farmers. We are also trying to work on not just the roads that we drive on every day, but the roads for our farmers, so farmers can have easy access to their farms,” Minister Smith stated.

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has also granted special privileges to the Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate the timely delivery of these infrastructure projects.

“The government has also given the Ministry of Agriculture permission to carry out our own mining for construction material. As we acquire this equipment, we can do our own mining, speed up the process of fixing agricultural roads, and continue with the building of dams,” Minister Smith stated.

According to the Agriculture Minister, improvements to feeder roads and dam infrastructure are expected to result in significant progress toward building a strong agricultural foundation, paving the way for greater private sector investment in the sector.

Leveraging a CARICOM Development Fund grant, supplemented by further government funding, the Ministry has secured a substantial fleet of modern machinery to enhance its operational capacity. The government views these developments as essential to building climate resilience, empowering farmers, and securing the nation’s agro-economic future.



**PiAngo  
FEST  
2025**



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS,  
FISHERIES AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

**CADES BAY  
AGRICULTURAL STATION**

**AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>,  
10AM - 8PM**

 @PiAngoFest



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THE SECTOR  
ALIVE: PLANT,  
PEEL, PROCESS”**



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BAND  
INTERNATIONAL**

- Kaution Band Int. with other local Entertainers
- Bounce Castles with K & E Kids Corner

- IICA Agroprocessor Competition
- Local Agroprocessor Hotsauce Competition
- Hotwings Eating Contest (OPEN TO EVERYONE)
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- Mango & Pineapple Eating Competition



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### TUESDAY



**Taxi Drivers & Tour Operators**



**August 26th, 2025**



**9:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

### WEDNESDAY



**Cruise Tourism Stakeholders**



**August 27th, 2025**



**9:00 AM - 1:30 PM**



the country to participate in an impactful and interactive training designed to inspire pride and unforgettable experiences at every guest touchpoint.

“Taking place on Tuesday, August 26 and Wednesday, August 27, 2025, the “Leading For Excellence” workshop will be led by Ms. Claudine Pohl of Lemoneight, an internationally respected cruise tourism consultant known for her dynamic and engaging sessions,” ACP said in a media release.

“The goal of this two-day program is to unite cruise tourism stakeholders - including taxi drivers, merchants, vendors, tour operators, traffic wardens and even police officers; ensuring that everyone representing our destination on the hospitality front-line of guest experiences is aligned with keeping Antigua and Barbuda ‘Anchored In Cruise Excellence’, said Mr. Elijah James, Marketing and Communications Manager at Antigua Cruise Port, “It’s all about exceeding expectations. We must ensure that everyone contributes to creating memorable moments that visitors will cherish long after coming ashore to explore our vibrant culture and stunning attractions.”

Interested persons are asked to register as soon as possible as space is limited.

The Antigua Cruise Port has announced plans to host a special training programme for persons involved in the

cruise tourism trade.

In a statement, ACP said as Antigua and Barbuda prepares to welcome pas-

sengers for the 2025/2026 cruise season, it is inviting what it termed ‘Destination Ambassadors’ from across

## Six children with speech and other challenges benefit from grant from a local bank



*Learning becomes fun under this partnership*



*One of the six children who have benefited from specialised programme*

Six young children are now communicating, learning, and thriving thanks to a powerful collaboration between **CHATS.** and SLBMC's Pediatric Department, made possible through the generous sponsorship of **ACB Caribbean.**

Over six weeks, these children received free early intervention services—including speech and occupational therapy, remedial academics, sensory play, arts & crafts, and more—valued at over \$7,800.

Early support changes lives and this partnership has opened doors to brighter futures for these families, the organization said in a statement.

CHATS is primarily a speech and language therapy clinic located in Antigua and Barbuda



*Playing games can be an important learning tool*

## **VACANCY NOTICE- ACCOUNTING OFFICER- RECEIVABLES**

Caribbean Premium Motors – a member of the Hadeed Group of companies is seeking a highly motivated, competent and reliable professional to join the accounting team.

### **Essential Duties & Responsibilities:**

- Receipting customer payments
- Be responsible for keeping customer's charge accounts up to date and accurate
- Produce and dispatch monthly statements to customers.
- Responsible for contacting customers on overdue payments to ensure proper debt management
- Assist with monthly bank reconciliations
- Perform sub-ledger to general ledger reconciliations when and where necessary
- Assist with the preparation of monthly management accounts.
- Participate in the monthly intragroup reconciliations.
- Assist in month-end and year-end close process
- Assist with internal and external audit requests.
- Any other duties that may arise within the department

### **Qualifications**

- The successful candidate should at a minimum hold a diploma in accounting/ finance, level 1 ACCA or pursuing a similar designation.

### **Other Requirements**

- A minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar role
- Must be able to learn and apply knowledge quickly.
- You will need to possess a professional and proactive attitude.
- You should have the ability to solve problems quickly and meet strict deadlines.
- Must be able to work well independently as well as in a team environment.
- You will be required to have speed, accuracy and attention to detail in all accounting activities.
- You will need to have a pleasant telephone manner and demonstrate high levels of customer care.
- Must have good work ethic and integrity, dependable, adaptable, cooperative, and motivated to take on new responsibilities.
- You will need to demonstrate highly effective communication skills – both written and oral.
- Must have proficient computer skills

Deadline for the receipt of applications is August 26,2025, with the names and contact information for 2 referees able to provide professional references on your behalf.

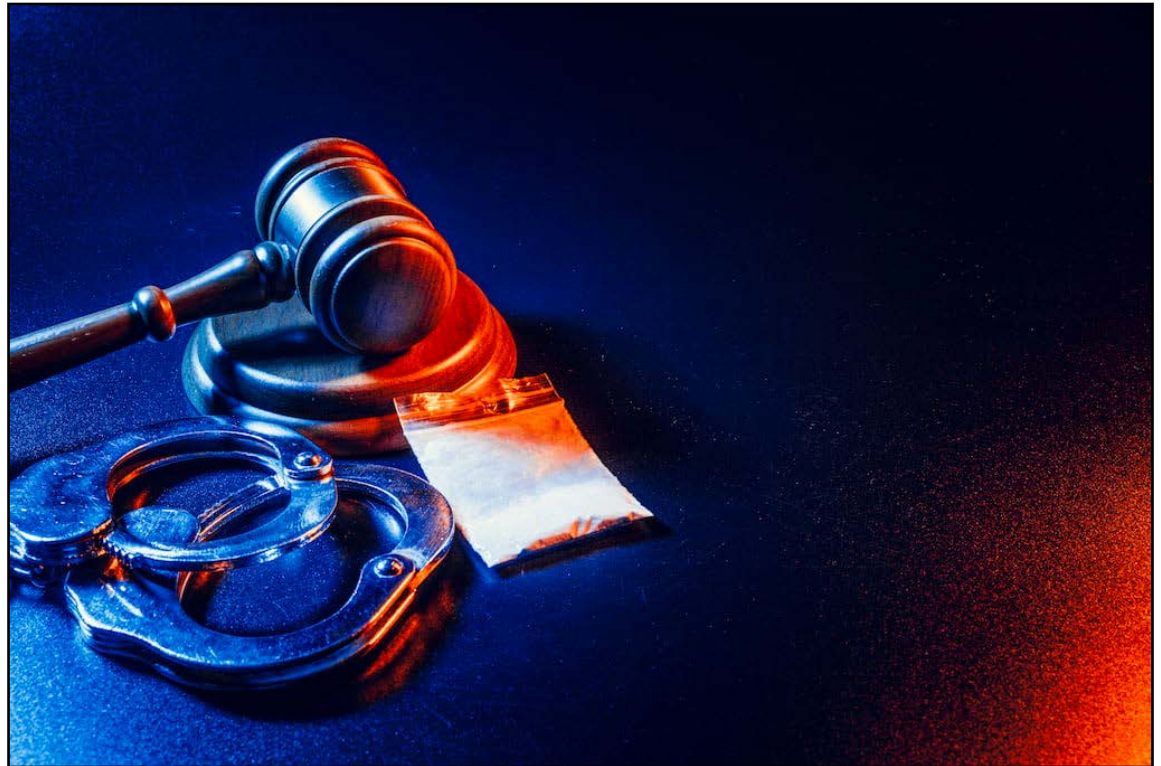
Email applications to: [Accting.officer@gmail.com](mailto:Accting.officer@gmail.com)

## Two Arrested and Charged for Unlawful Possession of Ammunition and Drugs

Two people - 39-year-old Mandella Spencer and 23-year-old Nyana Alfred - both of Cedar Valley have arrested and jointly charge in connection with a series of drug and ammunition-related offenses.

The charges include, possession of four (.25mm) rounds of ammunition, unlawful possession of 368.9 grams of cannabis, possession of cannabis with intent to transfer, possession of 0.2 grams of cocaine, and cultivation of cannabis.

The offenses occurred at Cedar Valley on Tuesday, 12 August 2025, during a police operation carried out by officers attached to the Criminal Investigations De-



partment (CID) Task Force. Both accused were taken

into custody and are expected to appear before the court

to answer the charges.

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Ministry of Creative Industries, Old Parham Road  
National Festivals Office, 1st Floor Cecil George-John Building  
Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street

**Tel: 268-727-9201 / email [info.nfo@ab.gov.ag](mailto:info.nfo@ab.gov.ag)**

**SEP 15-22**

**VENUE: TBA**

## Dr Zarah Lake delivers keynote address at steelpan conference in Canada



On the heels of leading newcomer Pandemonium Steel Orchestra to a second-place finish at the 2025 Antigua Carnival Panorama Competition, Dr. Zahra Lake delivered the keynote address at the recently concluded inaugural Canadian Steelpan Industry Conference (CSIC) in Toronto.

Speaking on the topic “Driving sustainability in the steelpan art-form through education,” Dr. Lake told the audience present that even in Canada, where multiculturalism is protected by policy, steelpan remains on the fringes outside of the classroom.

“Steelpan is a testimony to the spiritual strength of Caribbean people, but it is not immune to the pressures of modernity. If we are not vigilant, it risks becoming neglected, rele-

gated to nostalgia or tokenism, just for carnival, and not respected in academia or integrated into formal education,” she said.

Dr. Lake’s participation in the conference was sponsored and facilitated by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s Canada Office. Director of Tourism for Canada Tameka Wharton, said her office continues to take every opportunity to expose Antiguan and Barbudan talent globally, including recent efforts in the fashion, sports, and entertainment spaces.

“We see our job as not only bringing Canadian travelers to Antigua and Barbuda, but also to bring Antiguan and Barbudan excellence and professionals to a global stage,” Wharton said. “The fact that the Canadian Steelpan Industry Con-

ference was organized by a daughter of the soil only made us prouder to support the initiative.”

The conference was founded and produced by Joy Lapps, who is of Antiguan heritage. It was held on August 8 and 9, 2025, in time for World Steelpan Day (August 11) and saw more than 100 attendees gather at the University of Toronto, Scarborough campus to explore current Canadian trends, innovations, and challenges in the steelpan art form.

Lapps, who produced CSIC through her organization *Girl in the Yard*, has over 20 years of experience as a steelpan artist, educator and speaker. Over the years, she has noticed significant disconnects between steelpan practitioners across Canada. Lapps con-

# Feature

PAGE 15

ceived of the conference as a way of ensuring the art form remains a tool for engagement and that its relevance does not fade with the next generation.

“This conference is just the beginning of efforts to keep the vibrant culture of steelpan alive by fostering a strong network among practitioners and enthusiasts for collaboration and creativity,” Lapps said.

Noting that steelpan faces the same challenges globally – lack of documentation, insufficient resources, and limited institutional support – Dr Lake told the conference, “While it is beautiful to see pan showcased on a parade float, or at panorama... we must also fight for it to sit beside the violin or piano in a grade 9 music exam. That is how we secure its legacy, that is how we honour the



pioneers that came before us, that is how we honour our ancestors who

bent metal into melody.”

The music educator and pan arranger, who was awarded her doctorate in Educational Leadership by Western Illinois University in May, also spoke on two panel discussions: “Steelpan Education in Canada” and “Elevating the Engine Room.”

The Canadian Steelpan Industry Conference also hosted panels to address the legacy of steelpan in Canada, preserving steelpan history and culture for future generations, and how practitioners can elevate their businesses by securing funding. Canada Council for the Arts, the University of Toronto Scarborough and SoundLife Scarborough were among the organizations that joined the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority in sponsoring the inaugural event.



## 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

## From Lost Note to National Triumph: A Reflection on Ge'Eve's Journey with "Daughter Come"



By Vere J. Aaron

I remember the first night Ge'Eve performed that masterpiece of a calypso, "Daughter Come," in the tent. I was disappointed – deeply let down. What unfolded on stage felt like a disservice to such a powerful composition. There was a complete disconnect between the band, the artist, and the backup singers. The

performance was tuneless and draggy, the harmony was off, the musical texture lacked depth, and the backup vocals were completely misaligned.

Ge'Eve's vocals, sweet as a morning bird, were not the issue. But she failed to summon the ancestral spirit that lives at the heart of that classic calypso. She appeared not as a daughter

of Africa, but as a child lost in character. Her expressions and movements didn't align with the message she was delivering. In other words, she failed to embody the soul of the song. It was clear- she didn't yet know who she was as a daughter of Africa.

As a die-hard lover of the calypso art-form, I've always believed that when an opportunity arises to offer advice for the betterment of an artist – and by extension, the art-form – it must be seized. But it must be done strategically. I couldn't share my feedback with Ge'Eve openly, but I found a way to reach her – and I did. And I must add: the same advice I offered her is the same I would offer to any artist I see struggling. My goal is always to uplift the art-form and help artists reach their full potential.

Her second performance showed little improvement, but I didn't give up. I continued to send my advice. Then came the quarter finals – and I saw results. It wasn't perfect, but it was ten times better than where she started. That's when I realized: this

dark horse of a song could become the stallion of the race – if she perfected her performance in the remaining rounds.

And she did. Ge'Eve took every piece of advice to heart and did her homework – not just vocally, but holistically. She went back to the drawing board and worked tirelessly to refine her stage movements, gestures, and expressions. She immersed herself in the cultural and emotional depth of the song, reconnecting with its African roots. By the time she returned to the stage, she was no longer just singing Daughter Come – she was living it. Her body language, her presence, and her emotional delivery began to reflect the ancestral spirit embedded in the calypso. She became the daughter of Africa the song demanded, and the transformation was undeniable.

By the time she reached the semi-finals, she was unstoppable – just like the song. Her triumph in the local Calypso Monarch Competition and Leeward Islands Calypso Monarch Competition are proof of that.



I recently listened to her morning interview with Dr. Jacqui Quinn on Observer Radio following her victory in Anguilla. What stood out was her humility and the way she gave credit to those directly involved in the production. She gave them their flowers – and rightly so. The individuals she acknowledged are not only talented, but they truly understand what it means to put on a good production. Their ability to shape and elevate a performance speaks volumes about their professionalism, artistic insight, and dedication to craft. It was a team effort, and their contribution was instrumental in Ge'Eve's success.

To all aspiring competitors – whether you're a soca artist, calypsonian, teen splash contestant, or queen of carnival hopeful – this is what I want you to take away:

Know yourself. Know what you want to accomplish. And surround yourself with a team that not only sees your talent but knows how to bring it to life in a way that leaves a lasting impression.

Too often, I've seen performances where I had to ask myself, "Did someone really sit with this artist and approve this for the public?" when audiences complain about the shows being boring or uninteresting, understand that it's often a reflection of the pro-

duction team. They bring the product to the market – and if it's inferior, we won't hesitate to call it out.

Yes, things can go wrong on the night of competition – some beyond your control. But when real effort has been put in, it shows. Even if something falters, we can still see the potential of what could have been a solid production.

Finally, be open to constructive criticism. Learn to distinguish between what's helpful and what's not. It may sting – competition is emotional- but it's for your growth. Invest in your craft. Choose a team that's detail-oriented, perfectionist, and passionate. It will pay off – no matter how long it takes.

Just ask Ge'Eve.

## THE LIONS CLUB & DR DWAYNE THWAITES

with assistance from : DR. BRIAN COHEN, DR. DANIEL CARUSO,  
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# Get Checked!

**SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2025 AT THE LIONS DEN**  
**REGISTRATION** begins at **7:30 a.m.** and closes at **11:00 a.m.**  
**EXAMINATION** begins at **8:00 a.m.**

A CONTRIBUTION OF **\$35.00** TOWARDS REGISTRATION

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# Regional News



## Suspected mastermind behind deadly ambush of cop's family in custody



A woman suspected of being the mastermind behind the ambush that led to the death of a policeman's spouse has been taken into custody, while another of the suspected attackers has been fatally shot.

According to a source familiar with the matter, the woman, said to be a business associate of the policeman, was picked up by a police team at a guest house in

Red Ground, Hanover.

"About 2:00 pm yesterday, a team acting on information went to a guest house where a female was taken into custody," the police officer revealed.

It is expected that the woman will be charged in due course but the police, he explained, are still carrying out their investigations.

"There is no doubt that she

will be charged," he declared.

Further to that, he explained that a man was killed in a confrontation with the security forces on Wednesday. The man, also believed to be an attacker, was cut down in a confrontation in Long Store Road in Salt Spring in the parish.

"He is believed to be an associate of the KDF gang in the Mount Salem community," he revealed.

An illegal pistol was recovered following that incident.

This comes following the death of two men believed to be connected with the shooting death of human resource practitioner, 36-year-old Latoya Stephenson.

Last Saturday night, Stephenson, her spouse and her five-year-old son were attacked by armed men on


the Reading main road in St James.

Stephenson succumbed to her injuries but her spouse and son are now in the hospital. The son remains in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

In an incident on Monday, the police stated that they a man, believed to be the leader of the KDF gang, Andre Reid otherwise called "Like Zulu" was shot and fatally injured.

Earlier in the day, Lindel Gray, otherwise called "Frass" was shot and killed during an alleged confrontation in the Anchovy police area at about 1:00 am on Monday.

The police say an illegal firearm was recovered following that incident. (Jamaica Observer)





## THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS  
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH  
(JELLY BEANS)

## Dominica signs new phase of economic agreement with China



The Commonwealth of Dominica and the People's Republic of China have signed a new phase of an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement amounting to \$37 million dollars.

"It is a great honour and pleasure to sign the new phase of economic and technical cooperation agreement between the government of the People's of China and the government of the Commonwealth of Dominica," Chinese Ambassador to Dominica His Excellency Chu Maoming said while addressing the signing ceremony held at the Chinese Embassy in Morne Daniel on Wednesday. "This is more than just the signing of a document. It is a reaffirmation of trust, a deepening of friendship, and an opening up of new horizons for our partnership."

According to him, this agreement marks a significant step towards

the implementation of the five programs of Solidarity, Development to Civilization, Peace, and People-to-People Connectivity, as announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the forth ministerial meeting of the China-CELAC Forum in May this year.

"It also reflects the important consensus reached by leaders of our two countries, demonstrating the joint efforts of China and Dominica...", he noted.

Ambassador Chu Maoming stated that over the past 21 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Dominica have stood shoulder-to-shoulder and have achieved remarkable results in infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, education, and human resources development for Dominica.

In the meantime, Minister for For-

eign Affairs Dr. Vince Henderson said, "today, as we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the end of Japanese aggression and fascism against the People's Republic of China [it] is in fact a testament that, while you remember, you are also extending the hand of friendship to other countries like Dominica."

Dr. Henderson thanked President Xi for the leadership that he has shown globally and for strengthening the bonds between the Caribbean, Latin America, and China at the recently held meeting in Beijing.

"Commitments given by President Xi are manifesting themselves, and today we are signing the agreement to provide 37 million Eastern Caribbean dollars to the government and people of the Commonwealth of Dominica in the number of areas of cooperation which we have established over the last 21 years," he indicated.

He continued, "And as you remember those great Chinese men, women, children, who gave their lives to ensure that they would bring an end to fascism and the Japanese aggression against the people of China, we once again want to join with you in your goal of bringing together all of China, which includes the province of Taiwan." (Dominica News Online)

# Regional News

## Asa Bantan says Summer Breakfast Fete generated millions for country



Bouyon Artist Asa Bantan claims that the 9th Annual Summer Breakfast Fete “Tribute to Sherwin Brown” pumped millions of dollars into Dominica’s economy.

He made the announcement on DBS Radio’s ‘Talking Tourism Program’ on Wednesday.

The 2025 Summer Breakfast Fete weekend, which was dubbed a success, began on Friday, August 8, and culminated with an Island Tour Wet Fete on Monday, August 11.

“My overall favourite moment would be everybody, all the bars and so many communities, and Domi-

nica on a whole, benefited and made money,” he said. “I mean, a lot of money circulated into the economy [and] if I have to do a rough math, over 6 million dollars for sure.”

According to him, all the Airbnbs were filled as well as the Fort Young Hotel.

He explained further that some of the artists lodged at Ocean Edge, “Goodwill, Canefield, St Joseph [and] Mahaut. We had a group from St Maarten staying all the way in Jimmit. There were so many people.”

Bantan believes that the country benefited the most when visitors were leaving.

“They had to pay their departure taxes,” he stated. “We had thousands of people leaving the island...”

Additionally, Bantan indicated that the Breakfast event helps to provide artists with the recognition they deserve to perform on the main stage at the World Creole Music Festival (WCMF).

“From day one when we started Breakfast Fete and our wet fetes and so on, we have always been bringing a lot of local artists, we have also been making local artists our priority on our main stages,” he stated. “And what Breakfast Fete has

done is it gave a lot of artists chances to get to the World Creole Music Festival.”

He continued, “I realized that a lot of artists who have [performed] on the Breakfast Fete stage, depending on how they perform, and how hot they are, the World Creole Music Festival then pulls those artists. Because plenty of my artists—now I am seeing them on the festival [line-up] and it is because of Breakfast Fete.”

Bantan added, “Breakfast Fete is where some of the people who do the selection saw those artists...” (Dominica News Online)

## Main suspect in shooting of cop's family killed in St James



The main suspect in the August 9, attack on a policeman attached to the lottery scam unit task force, his wife and son, has been killed by lawmen,

He has been identified as 24-year-old Orlando Thomas, also called "Ninja".

Reports indicate that Wednesday evening, members of a police team encountered two armed men in Salt Spring, St James, who opened fire on the cops.

An alleged shootout ensued, and one of the men managed to escape on

foot while the other collapsed along the roadway with gunshot wounds. He was reportedly taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead. A firearm with ammunition was allegedly taken from him.

Thomas is believed to have been involved in the Saturday night shooting that resulted in the death of the lawman's wife and serious injuries to the cop and his young son.

The Observer has also learned that a woman has been taken into custody regarding the shooting. (Jamaica Observer)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

## Melania Trump threatens to sue Hunter Biden for \$1bn over Epstein claim

First Lady Melania Trump has threatened to sue Hunter Biden for more than \$1bn after he said she was introduced to her husband by sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the first lady, who married President Donald Trump in 2005, described his claim as “false, disparaging, defamatory and inflammatory”.

Biden, son of former US President Joe Biden, made the comments during an interview this month. He defended them on Thursday and did not seem willing to back down in the face of the lawsuit threat.

Donald Trump was a friend of Epstein, but has said they fell out in the early 2000s because the financier poached employees from the spa in Trump’s Florida golf club.

A letter from the first lady’s lawyers and addressed to an attorney for Hunter Biden demands he retract the claim and apologise, or face legal action for “over \$1bn in damages”.

It says the first lady has suffered “overwhelming financial and reputational harm” because of the claim he repeated.

It also accuses the youngest Biden son of having a “vast history of trading on the names of others”, and repeating the claim “to draw attention to yourself”.

During a wide-ranging interview with filmmaker Andrew Callaghan published earlier this month, Hunter Biden claimed unreleased documents relating to Epstein would “implicate” President Trump.

He said: “Epstein introduced Melania to Trump - the connections are so wide and deep.” The first lady’s legal letter notes the claim was partially attributed to Michael Wolff, a journalist who authored a critical biography of the president.



In a recent interview with US outlet the Daily Beast, Wolff reportedly claimed that the first lady was known to an associate of Epstein and Trump when she met her now-husband.

The outlet later retracted the story after receiving a letter from the first lady’s attorney that challenged the contents and framing of the story.

When asked during an interview on the YouTube show Channel 5 with Andrew Callaghan if he would apologise, Biden said “not going to happen”.

Biden said in the interview posted on Thursday that he did not think “these threats of a lawsuit add up to anything other than a designed distraction”. But he noted that if the lawsuit was filed, he would be able to collect testimony from both Trumps through depositions and he was “more than happy to provide them the platform”.

There is no evidence the Trumps were introduced to each other by Epstein, who took his own life in prison while awaiting trial in 2019.

In the first lady’s legal letter, Hunter Biden is accused of relying on a since-removed article as the basis of his claims, which it describes as “false and defamatory”.

A message on the archived version

of the Daily Beast online story reads: “After this story was published, The Beast received a letter from First Lady Melania Trump’s attorney challenging the headline and framing of the article.

“After reviewing the matter, the Beast has taken down the article and apologizes for any confusion or misunderstanding.”

Asked about the legal threat, the first lady’s lawyer, Alejandro Brito, referred BBC News to a statement issued by her aide, Nick Clemens.

It read: “First Lady Melania Trump’s attorneys are actively ensuring immediate retractions and apologies by those who spread malicious, defamatory falsehoods.”

A January 2016 profile by Harper’s Bazaar reported the first lady met her husband in November 1998, at a party hosted by the founder of a modelling agency.

Melania Trump, 55, told the publication she declined to give him her phone number because he was “with a date”.

The profile said Trump had recently separated from his second wife, Marla Maples, whom he divorced in 1999. He was previously married to Ivana Trump between 1977 and 1990.

The BBC has contacted Hunter Biden’s attorney.

The legal letter comes after weeks of pressure on the White House to release the so-called Epstein files, previously undisclosed documents relating to the criminal investigation against the convicted paedophile.

Before being re-elected, Trump said he would release the records if he returned to office, but the FBI and justice department said in July that no “incriminating” client list of Epstein associates existed. (BBC)

## EU sends wildfire help to Spain as death toll rises

The European Union has sent two firefighting planes to Spain to help battle raging wildfires, after the country activated the bloc's disaster assistance mechanism for the first time.

The assistance comes as the country recorded a third wildfire-related death on Thursday morning.

There are concerns the wildfires could continue to spread. Spain's state weather agency Aemet forecasts that a heatwave will continue until Monday, with temperatures of up to 44C in some areas, as well as moderate winds.

Spain is the fifth European nation to request assistance with fighting wildfires. In Greece, 25,000 acres of land have burned since Tuesday.

Two French Canadair water bomber aircraft arrived in Spain's north-western Galicia region on Thursday.

"The fight against fires knows no borders," government representative in the region Pedro Blanco said. "French resources are now in Spain to intensify efforts to extinguish forest fires."

Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska told local media on Wednesday that the two planes were not yet needed, but that the government wanted them in Spain so they could be put to use when necessary.

He told broadcaster Cadena SER that he had not ruled out requesting more firefighters.

A volunteer firefighter died in hospital in the north-western region of León on Thursday, after suffering severe burns.

He became the second volunteer to die as a result of a fire in the region and the third person to die in total. Another man died near the capital, Madrid, last Tuesday.



"We are struck once again by the death of a second volunteer who has lost their life in León," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Thursday. "All our love and support go out to their family and friends during this unbearable time."

Spain's Civil Guard said it had arrested two men on suspicion of starting fires in Castille and León that had spread across thousands of hectares - taking the number of arson arrests to 10 since the start of June.

While weather conditions are currently favourable for wildfires, they can be sparked by barbecues, cigarette stubs or discarded bottles. Causing a wildfire is a criminal offence in Spain,

even if unintentional.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes across the country, with 700 told to leave their towns in the south-western province of Caceres on Wednesday.

Wildfires are a common occurrence across southern Europe in the summer, but their severity can often be

exacerbated by heatwave conditions.

EU data shows that around 629,000 hectares (1.6 million acres) of land has burnt across the bloc since the beginning of the year, with wildfires in Spain comprising around a quarter of that total.

While linking climate change with individual extreme weather events can be difficult, scientists say that climate change is generally making heatwaves hotter, longer and more frequent.

Prolonged hot conditions can dry out the ground and vegetation, making it easier for wildfires to spread rapidly.

Greece, Bulgaria, Montene-

gro and Albania have also activated the EU's civil protection mechanism, which allows any country hit by a disaster - both in Europe and beyond - to request emergency assistance.

In Greece, wildfires have been burning for a third consecutive day, with the most dangerous fronts on the island of Chios and in the Achaia region of the Peloponnese.

So far, 95 people - including both firefighters and civilians - have been injured.

EU data shows that more than 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) have burned across the country since Tuesday morning.

Authorities have issued a red alert for Thursday, warning of very high fire risk in Attica, eastern Central Greece, Evia, the north-eastern Peloponnese, and Thrace.

In Chios, the fire's front stretched for dozens of kilometres, and with limited resources available, many residents have had to be evacuated by sea using coastguard and private vessels.

Authorities said three men had been arrested for a fire near the port city of Patras, which began earlier this week and pockets of which continue to burn.

Fires have also raged in Albania and Turkey, with several firefighters injured while tackling the blazes. (BBC)

## Prosecutors clear Florida officer who punched man in traffic stop

A Florida police officer who was suspended after punching a driver in the face during a traffic stop will not face criminal charges for his actions, prosecutors say.

William McNeil Jr took a video of himself sitting in his car as an officer smashed his window, hit him and dragged him to the ground in footage that circulated widely online.

In a report released by the State Attorney's Office for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, prosecutors determined the officer, D Bowers, had not committed any crimes.

"Officer Bowers conducted a lawful traffic stop and gave McNeil 12 individual lawful commands, which McNeil refused to obey," the report says.

After the video spread online in July, police released bodycam footage that showed Mr McNeil, 22, refusing demands to exit the vehicle after being told he had been pulled over for traffic violations.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said the officer would be stripped of law-enforcement duties pending a review into whether he had violated any of its policies.



In a 16-page memo released by the State Attorney's Office on Wednesday, prosecutors said the mobile phone video taken by Mr McNeil "does not tell the whole story of law enforcement's encounter with" and arrest of the man.

It adds that prosecutors used body camera footage from the police officer to determine he had not violated standards or policy.

In a statement to US media on Wednesday, Mr McNeil's lawyers, Ben Crump and Harry Daniels, called on the federal government to investigate the incident.

"Since they are unwilling to seek justice, we will

have to request that the US Department of Justice investigate this incident and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office," they said.

In his Instagram video, Mr McNeil said his tooth was chipped and he required stitches to his mouth after the arrest. He also said he suffered a concussion.

"I'm not mentally healed from this but I had to get the word out eventually," he wrote in the video caption.

Mr McNeil was stopped on 19 February after the officer saw his SUV parked at a house which was under active surveillance for drug activity, prosecutors say.

The bodycam video shows

the officer telling him he has been pulled over for not wearing his seatbelt or having his headlights on in inclement weather.

The footage shows McNeil refusing to leave the vehicle and asking to speak to the officer's supervisor before locking the doors.

"What started as a routine traffic stop quickly escalated into McNeil's arrest for Resisting an Officer without Violence for failing to follow lawful orders," the report says.

The report also said that the body camera footage showed Officer Bower warning Mr McNeil multiple times that he would have to break the window - which he eventually did - if he did not get out of the car.

After that, prosecutors say, the officer punched the man "in the struggle to gain" his compliance and that they found drug paraphernalia and a large serrated knife at his feet in his car.

Mr McNeil later pleaded guilty to resisting an officer and driving with a suspended license, and prosecutors say he released the mobile phone footage five months after his guilty plea. (BBC)

## Antiguans compete at CFU Under-14 Girls Challenge Series in Trinidad



**The teams will be competing for the 2025 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Girls Challenge Series Trophy. (CFU)**

Antigua and Barbuda are among 23 teams from across the Caribbean that will be competing for top honours at the 2025 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Girls Challenge Series in Trinidad and Tobago from August 15 to 25.

The 18-member Antigua and Barbuda squad left the island on Wednesday to participate in the tournament. The squad is accompanied by several officials, comprising manager Joella Issac, head coach Nikisha Samuel, assistant coach Lorraine Charles, goalkeeper coach Anik Jarvis, equipment manager Lakeisha Samuel, and physiotherapist Anya Allen.

The tournament will be contested in two tiers—eight teams in Tier I and 15 teams in Tier II—bringing together nearly 500 young female footballers for 10 days of competitive action and cultural exchange.

Antigua and Barbuda will compete in Tier II Group C along with the Cayman Islands, Anguilla, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Guyana.

Antigua and Barbuda will launch their campaign against Anguilla on Friday. The Antiguan will also face Guyana on Saturday, tackle the Cayman Islands on Monday, August 18, and clash with the Turks and Caicos Islands in their last

Group C match on Tuesday, August 19.

Matches will be played at the Ato Boldon Stadium, Hasely Crawford Stadium, and Larry Gomes Stadium. Fans can follow every game via the CFU Official YouTube livestream.

Instituted in 2018, the Challenge Series alternates annually between boys' and girls' competitions, serving as a critical development platform for the region's emerging talent.

The last girls' edition, held in 2023, saw Puerto Rico lift the Tier I title and Martinique claim the Tier II trophy. Both countries now feature in Tier I this year.

Tier I Groups - Group A: Puerto Rico (defending champions), Martinique, Bermuda, and the Dominican Republic.

Group B: Aruba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Trinidad and Tobago High Performance (replacing Haiti).

Tier II Groups - Group A: St. Kitts & Nevis, Dominica, Bonaire, US Virgin Islands, and St. Lucia.

Group B: Grenada, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, French Guiana, and Suriname.

Group C: Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Guyana.

# CWI celebrates historic ODI series victory over Pakistan



**Players of the West Indies team celebrates after beating Pakistan in the third One-Day International at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. (CWI Media)**

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has extended warm congratulations to the senior men's One-Day International (ODI) team after their recent series win over Pakistan, the first bi-lateral ODI series victory over the Asian outfit in 33 years and the first home series triumph in 37 years.

With the series tied 1-1 after the first two ODIs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, the Men in Ma-

roon displayed laser focus and unmatched intensity in the third and final game on Tuesday, in which they claimed victory by an outstanding 202 runs.

Captain and Player-of-the-Match Shai Hope's unbeaten 120, and Player-of-the-Series Jayden Seales' incredible figures of six for 18 from his 7.2 overs, highlighted the historic win.

CWI Chief Executive Officer, Chris Dehring,

also lauded the players' performances and highlighted the positive example being set for the next generation.

"On behalf of Cricket West Indies, I want to commend our players and coaching staff for their outstanding achievement. These performances are a source of immense pride for the entire Caribbean and demonstrate what can be accomplished."

"It has no doubt been a

very challenging last few months for the team. But to rebound in this manner and finish our home schedule with an ODI series win against Pakistan gives every West Indian hope and confidence that we can continue to improve."

The series result lifted West Indies to ninth in the ICC ODI rankings in their bid to secure the final automatic qualification spot for the 2027 World Cup.

## CWI identifies key priorities for change after two-day summit



**Members of the head table during a media conference at the end of the CWI's emergency two-day summit at the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad on Monday, August 11, 2025. (CWI Media)**

The journey of returning West Indies cricket to its former glory will not be easy, given the multitude of challenges impacting the region's standing in the international game, but with the combined, committed efforts of stakeholders and the entire Caribbean cricket community, West Indies cricket's resurgence is possible.

Those were the sentiments expressed by Cricket West Indies (CWI) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chris Dehring when addressing the media at the conclusion of an emergency two-day summit at the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad on Monday.

Members of the Crick-

et Strategy & Officiating Committee (CSOC), West Indies greats, past players and current players—including current captains Roston Chase and Shai Hope—the men's team management unit and CWI executives, met on August 10 and 11 to examine a broad range of interrelated topics affecting team performance.

These included the effectiveness of player development pathways, the quality and competitiveness of domestic competitions, preparation and support systems for international duty, the need for alignment among stakeholders, financial resources, player motivation and retention, and the mental aspects of high-level

performance.

Speaking at the post-summit media briefing, which featured a panel of Chair of CSOC, Enoch Lewis; Sir Clive Lloyd, Brian Lara, Dehring, CWI Director of Cricket Miles Bascombe, the CWI CEO insisted that a collaborative effort is required to position West Indies cricket at the top of the tree once again.

"I want to emphasize that Cricket West Indies can't do it alone. There are many elements in cricket's production pipeline that are not within our control, such as age group cricket within the individual countries and school programmes that are run independently," said Dehring.

With a plethora of topics discussed over the two-day summit, the one recurring theme was the recognition that the challenges faced are systemic.

Bascombe said, "The strategies we implement, we have to look at addressing them across the entirety of our cricket system. The first part is identifying the challenges at every level of our production pipeline and coming up with the strategies in detail."

During their contributions to the media briefing, legends Sir Clive Lloyd and Brian Lara spoke about the productiveness of the discussions, noting that they were frank and geared to-

**Con't on page 28**

## Imad Wasim named captain of Antigua and Barbuda Falcons

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons has announced all-rounder Imad Wasim of Pakistan as team captain and Antiguan Rahkeem Cornwall as vice-captain for this year's Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

The announcement was made by the franchise's management at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort on Wednesday as the team prepares for the start of the 2025 CPL tournament.

Imad Wasim, an experienced player in T20 leagues across the globe, is in his second season with the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons. He brings a wealth of leadership and experience to the team, with over 400 T20 matches and 130 international appearances for Pakistan.

"I'm truly honoured to lead the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons this season.



**Imad Wasim**

This is a proud moment for me, and I see great potential in this squad. We

have some exceptional players in the team, and we will be playing to win," Imad said during the announcement.

Cornwall, the powerful Antiguan all-rounder who has become a favourite with fans across the region, welcomed his appointment as vice-captain.

"It's special to be named vice-captain of my home team. I'm looking forward to supporting Imad and helping my team. We want to make a real impact in this year's tournament and give our fans a lot to celebrate."

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons launched their campaign when they faced the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the opening match of the tournament at Warner Park on Thursday evening.

### Con't from page 28

wards impactful actions.

The Legendary West Indian captain also spoke about the financial disparity that exists in international cricket.

"When we were in the ascendancy everybody wanted to play against us, and we became the cash cow for territories like England, Australia, and India. Now, we need a better share of the pie," he said.

Chair of the CSOC, Lewis, emphasized that the purpose of the summit was to obtain honest and wide-ranging feedback on how best to fundamentally restructure and reform West Indies cricket.

"The goal is to ensure that the committee provides the CWI Board with well thought-out and fundamentally sound recommendations that will move West Indies forward to a place where we can all be proud of the end product," he said.

"We expect that some of these recommendations will be executed over the short term, and others over a longer term, as input from other stakeholders will be essential."

Dehring indicated that several areas requiring improvement were highlighted during the meeting, including but certainly not limited to improving facilities, practice pitches and regional domestic tourna-

ments.

He also pointed to the difficulty of seeking to correct ingrained technical habits developed through age group and regional play, noting that some skill deficiencies only become apparent at the international level where they become exacerbated.

One preliminary solution included the urgent need for a high-performance center equipped with the latest in professional cricket training facilities and territorial academy systems to instill and reinforce the West Indies cricket methodology from as early as possible in the production pipeline.

In support, Bascombe spoke to the current coach-

ing education and certification system, noting that inadequacies in this area limit the production of regional coaches at the desired level for modern cricket demands.

He referenced CWI's hiring of a coaching development consultant as a temporary measure to work with franchise coaches, while simultaneously working on a comprehensive programme to upgrade the coaching education system.

Coming out of the summit, CWI Management will now prepare detailed recommendations for the Board of Directors, with immediate attention on moving to implementation.

# Sports

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2025



## Host Antigua takes lead at World Domino Championships



**Players compete at the 20th World Domino Championships at the John E. St. Luce Conference Center in Antigua on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the ABNDA)**

Hosts and reigning three-peat defending champions Antigua and Barbuda have taken the lead at the end of the third day of competition at the 20th World Domino Championships, which is currently taking place at the John E. St. Luce Conference Center in Antigua.

Barbados finished at the top of the standings at the end of Wednesday's third day of matches at the World Council of Domino Federations (WCDF) tournament, which is being hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) from August 10 to 18.

Antigua and Barbuda overtook Barbados to move to the top of the standings with an overall total of 19

and a half points from three competitions, claiming eight points in the Four-Hand, seven points in the Team Female Three-Hand, and four and a half points in the Team Male Three-Hand contests.

Antigua and Barbuda pulled off a crushing 116-30 victory against the United States of America in the four-hand competitions.

St. Kitts and Nevis notched up a 91-49 victory against Guyana in the Four-Hand competition and consolidated their second-place position with an overall total of 18 and a half points.

The Kittitians recorded six points in Four-Hand, seven points in Team Female Three-Hand, and five and a half points in Team

Male Three-Hand.

Barbados prevailed 104-31 against St. Lucia in the Four-Hand competition and ended Day 3 in third place with 18 points. The Bajans recorded 10 points in Four-Hand, three points in Team Female Three-Hand, and five points in Team Male Three-Hand.

Dominica pulled off an 80-62 victory against Anguilla in the Four-Hand competition to retain their position in fourth place with an overall tally of 13 points.

The top four teams are followed by St. Lucia with 10 points, Guyana with nine points, and the United States of America (USA) with eight points.

Anguilla, the other ter-

ritory participating in the eight-nation tournament, remains in the cellar with a total of four points.

Antigua and Barbuda are seeking their fourth successive world domino title at this year's event.

After capturing the title in 2016 and 2018, Antigua and Barbuda retained their World Council of Domino Federation Championship title by winning the 19th edition of the biennial tournament in Guyana in August 2023.

Participants are competing in the following eight disciplines: Team Four Hand, Female Three Hand, Male Three Hand, Mixed Pairs, Female Pairs, Male Pairs, Queen of Domino, and King of Domino.