

Antigua and Barbuda Celebrates Colourful Expansion at New Toronto Office

Story on Page 2



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Story on Page 6

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CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James with Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment Charles "Max" Fernandez

Antigua and Barbuda is getting extensive media coverage in Canada with the reporting by an online travel news portal of the expansion of its Toronto office.

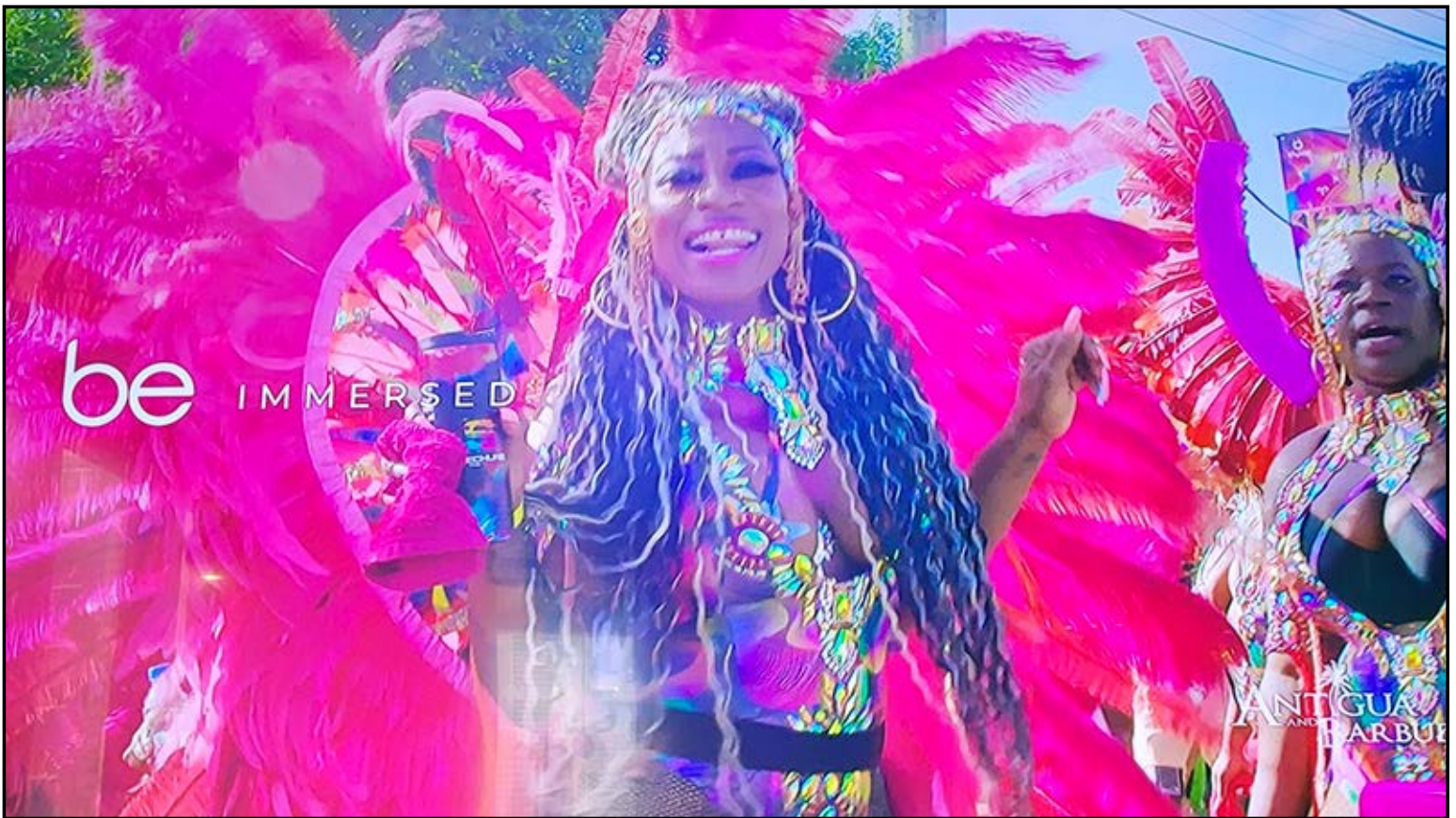
According to the report in *Open Jaw* which tracks the news and views of travel influencers in Canada, this twin island nation is targeting more Canucks, more ships, and more luxury clients.

It was a celebration of colour, food and Caribbean flavours as members of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism community welcomed some 50 travel advisors to an event 12 August at the posh Lavelle club in downtown T.O.



Tourism office in Toronto, led by Tameka Wharton, Director of Tourism

Joining the celebration were two special guests: Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment Charles "Max" Fernandez, and the CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority,



Colin C. James. The team from the new tourism office in Toronto, led by Tameka Wharton, Director of Tourism, were also at the event.

It was Fernandez' first official visit to Canada and he is clearly bullish on this country's potential. 2024 passed pre-pandemic levels of visitors, while 2025 is ticking along to beat even that.

Antigua (airport code ANU) punches well above its weight in attractions, culture, history and the music scene. Not bad considering it is only 1/10th the size of Prince Edward Island.

Cruising is clearly an important focus of Antigua ("an-tee-gah"), with some 570 calls last year, up from 446 the previous year. New to the island are home port calls, where passengers start and end their cruises on the island. However, Fernandez was careful to point out to *Open Jaw* that with 365 beaches – and

beaches being a hugely popular shore excursion – crowding is not an issue. For example, water taxis are now being looked at an alternative to vans and road taxis for the cruise passengers.

"We want to position ourselves as high end, aspirational, and must take into consideration the locals' attitudes to tourists and avoid the issue of over-tourism," he added.

The country is also proud of the leading role it is taking in the Caribbean when it comes to the environment. It was the first in the region to ban single-use plastics and Styrofoam.

"We want to position ourselves as high end, aspirational, and must take into consideration the locals' attitudes to tourists and avoid the issue of over-tourism," he added.

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ronment. It was the first in the region to ban single-use plastics and Styrofoam, according to the report.

"We are positioning Barbuda, with its high-end villas and now private jet access, as the new St. Barts," James told *Open Jaw*, referencing the swank little French island not far from Saint-Martin. "Barbuda is a completely different experience from Antigua: totally relaxed and zen."

Sitting with two of the most senior members of the tourism community, I couldn't help but ask them their favourite thing to do on the island. The Minister loves visiting the historic Nelson's Dockyard, a cultural heritage site and marina, while James loves the twice weekly party at Shirley Heights when tourists and locals mingle to have fun and admire the sunset. Find out more about ANU and BBQ at visitantiguabarbuda.com.

Prison officials to employ technology to block phone scam in HMP



Ongoing phone scams involving inmates at His Majesty's Prison are a growing concern for prison authorities as they seek ways to stem the smuggling of cell phones into the prison.

Superintendent of Prison, Trevor Pennifeather has confirmed that he is aware of these scams and his team is working alongside the Royal Police Force to confiscate phones and other contraband smuggled into the penal facility.

"We recently confiscated a number of

cell phones, but somehow, the prisoners and their accomplices continue to find ways to elude our security and get these phones to enter the prison illegally. We are going to deploy Signal Blockers to jam phone calls from prisoners," he stated.

Smuggling phones or other items into the prison is a crime, but according to the superintendent there is not much that he can do as he awaits the passage of updated legislation that will take these and similar offences.


The legislation in question is the Department of Corrections bill which is expected to go before parliament shortly.



This comes as several members of the society have reported that they have fallen victims to these scams where the prisoners are seeking 'top-up' of their phones and have used a variety of scenarios to scam unwitting members of the public of their money.

One recent case involved a scam where an individual was enticed to purchase grocery items valued at more than a thousand dollars only to find that this was all based on a rouse.

These phone calls have resorted to using the names of some prominent families to give 'credibility' to their scams.

Members of the public are urged to confirm with the individuals named whether or not the stories being told are correct before spending their monies to top up phones or engage in other purchases. They are also urged to report these cases to the police as soon as possible.



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More than 750 men participate in annual prostate cancer screening



More than 750 men attended the annual prostate cancer clinic organized jointly by Dr. Dwayne Thwaites and Associates and the Lion's Club of Antigua.

Saturday's clinic marked the 17th time that both entities with the help of several corporate sponsors are organizing the event aimed at detecting prostate cancer in

its early stages and thus reduce the mortality rate from the disease.

"The Lions Club of Antigua, in partnership with Dr.

Dwayne Thwaites and Associates, Bio Health Medical and Medical Benefits Scheme hosted the **17th Annual Prostate Screening**, held on Saturday, 16th

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August 2025 at the Lion's Den. Prevention and awareness are key, as prostate cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the fifth leading cause of cancer death among men worldwide. This year, despite the weather, over **750** men were screened, showing the value of the annual prostate screening. Registration opened at 7 a.m. and the weather did not deter the men from participating," the Lion's Club said in a media release.

It said the participants received a medical history intake, PSA blood tests, a doctor's examination, as well as blood pressure, sugar levels, and several other screenings. The Antigua Leos Club also held a breakfast fundraiser to support their service projects.

Lion Ileathea Cabral MJF, President of the Lions Club of Antigua, stated:

"The turnout of over 750 men this year is a powerful reminder that our message about the importance of early screening is being heard. Our Club is proud to play

a role in saving lives and ensuring that men in our community prioritize their health."

According to the release this year's screening would not be possible without the generous support of the medical professionals, sponsors, the community, and the encouragement from family and friends to get screened.

The Lions Club of Antigua wishes is expressing its appreciation to several of the sponsors for the generous financial support. These include, the Medical Benefits Scheme, Sagicor Insurance, Do Blue Foundation, Falmouth Marina, Manna Trading Ltd, Community First Cooperative Credit Union, and APUA.

It noted that this assistance allowed the Club to keep the registration fee at an affordable rate and provide a wealth of other screenings and services to the community. Other partners played a major part in the success of the event including the American University of Antigua, the Government Printery, the Royal Police

Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Wadadli Event Services, S.O. Ltd, Office Express, Hutchinson Antigua Ltd, JudahsLion Lighting and Sound, APUA Inet, A Zero Degrees, Security Services, Special Security Services, CIBC, Airport Services, Harney Motors, Grant Thornton, Blue Waters Hotel, Social Security Scheme, Billy's Food Mart, Christo's Supermarket, JCI

Antigua, Liat Air, Occasional Party Rentals, Island Sanitation Ltd. and Rayburn Generator Services .

Early detection saves lives, and the Lions Club of Antigua says it is proud of the role they play in bringing awareness to the importance of prostate screenings. Let's continue to join the fight against Prostate Cancer! Looking forward to serving more men next year!



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

AT&LU continues to represent the interests of security workers at Ministry of Works

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union over the past week convened meetings with security officers at the Ministry of Works along with officials of the ministry to discuss several outstanding matters of concern to the workers.

AT&LU General Secretary, Alrick Daniel and a team from the union held two meetings last Thursday with the security officers when these issues were discussed in detail. Two separate meetings were held in order to accommodate the fact that workers work at different shifts.

“Some of the issues raised relate to conditions of employment and only the sole bargaining agent representing the workers is authorized by the Collective Bargaining Agreement to negotiate on behalf of the workers,” he explained.

He added that the workers expressed their confidence in the ability of the AT&LU to remain as the bargaining agent. Daniel said the meetings were well-attended and they provided an opportuni-



AT&LU General Secretary, Alrick Daniel

ty for the workers to speak openly on their major concerns in the presence of the ministry officials.

One of the things that the meetings were able to get assurances from the ministry officials was a commitment to add more security officers in addressing one of their top concerns; the fact that some officers are posted at remote places where they are required to work by themselves.

Daniel said the ministry

gave a commitment to employ and additional 100 workers to work in the security department to tackle the shortage of officers.

Other issues included the relationship between some workers and their supervisors with the union explaining that respect is a two-way street; if workers demand respect, then they in turn must show respect to their supervisors. The issue of training was also central to the workers and an undertaking was given that the

ministry will address this matter in a timely manner.

The workers were also concerned about the physical conditions of some of the work places, especially the condition of the toilet facilities. The ministry agreed to address these concerns immediately.

Recently, a rival trade union, the People's Trade Union attempted to insert itself into the issue with the security officers. However, the ministry refused to meet with the union as it was not the recognized bargaining agent.

Daniel said two workers admitted to reaching out to the new union, but they have since reaffirmed their confidence in the AT&LU.

The union team included Assistant General Secretary, Avalyn Watley, as well as Industrial Officers, Jarmin Pryce-Miller, Terry Dyer and Lisa-Ann Yearwood. The PWD team was led by the Permanent Secretary Sean Cenac along with the heads of the Human Resources Unit and the Security Department.



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Local News

A Home Away from Home: Antigua Through the Eyes of a Visitor, a Friend, and a Fellow Learner



Professor Min Zhou, Director of the Caribbean Studies Center, Dean of School of International Studies, Hangzhou Normal University, China, with Prime Minister Gaston Browne

As I wait in the departure hall of St. Maarten's airport for my long journey back to Beijing, I find myself not restless but reflective. Delays that once might have caused frustration now feel insignificant compared to the warmth of the memories I carry. In just two weeks, Antigua and Barbuda ceased to be a faraway island; it became a place where I felt at home.

Carnival and cricket were both firsts for me in Antigua, and together they opened new windows of understanding. Carnival dazzled with color and rhythm, yet beyond the joy was a deeper spirit of resilience and identity, a community moving as one. Cricket, too, revealed more than sport. The match I watched carried a legacy cherished across generations, where patience and sudden brilliance spoke of unity and pride. These two experiences—festival and game—showed me how culture and sport intertwine to create belonging.

The moment that will stay with me forever, however, was the solemn ceremony in which Prime Minister Gaston Browne was conferred the title of Honorary Professor by Hangzhou Normal University. For the first time in our university's century-long histo-

ry, such an honor was given to a sitting head of government. It was more than an academic title; it was a symbol of respect, trust, and a bridge of friendship across oceans. In the Prime Minister's acceptance, I heard not only gratitude but also the voice of a nation determined to walk with dignity into the future.

When I later spoke on ABS Television and Radio, what struck me most was not the studio lights or cameras, but the spirit of dialogue itself. The broadcast reminded me that cultural exchange is never one-sided: while I shared my thoughts on education and friendship, I was also listening—learning how Antigua sees itself and presents its story to the world. It felt less like an interview and more like a conversation across oceans, an affirmation that people can meet one another through words, ideas, and respect.

Reflecting on these days, I was reminded of the vision shared by President Xi Jinping at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum: solidarity, development, civilization, peace, and people-to-people connectivity. Though meant for the wider world, I found these values alive in Antigua. I saw solidarity in the

dedication of ministers, development in the dreams of young people, civilization in the pride of cultural heritage, peace in the kindness to a visitor, and people-to-people connectivity in every act of hospitality.

Travel is said to enlarge the soul. Antigua has enlarged mine. Its landscapes are breathtaking, but even more moving is the character of its people—open, generous, and strong. In their warmth and kindness, I did not feel like a stranger. I felt at home in Antigua, embraced by its community, welcomed into its stories, and touched by the sense that distance could dissolve into belonging.

As I return to China, I carry more than memories. I carry the conviction that Antigua and China, though separated by oceans, are joined by shared hopes. For me, Antigua will always be a home away from home—no longer far, but near to my heart. It will remain a companion in the shared journey toward a world that is more connected, humane, and filled with hope.

By Professor Min Zhou, Director of the Caribbean Studies Center, Dean of School of International Studies, Hangzhou Normal University, China

From Awareness to Action: A Community United Against Trafficking

Does the end of a workshop mean the end of the fight? In a word: no. Awareness is just the beginning. Earlier last week, the U.S. Embassy convened a critical campaign—"Protecting People, Securing Borders, Ending Trafficking at the Source"—to demystify trafficking. Tina Ford shared what that looks like in reality, from youthful manipulation to hidden strip-club operations. These disclosures forced us to ask: if those who disappear briefly from school can be trafficked, what assumptions must we challenge?

An emotional moment came during the public session when someone said, "...when we're talking about organizations that do these things, yes... we just didn't make that connection that it could be trafficking." That realization—community awakening—is powerful.

Reflecting on language, consider how traffickers silence voices shaped by disability. Are awareness campaigns accessible? Do we encourage individuals with disabilities to speak—and do we listen?

Lunch meetings after the session put faces to collaboration. Nonprofits, local leaders, and Embassy staff shared strategies. The message? This isn't a one-off. We must continue to build trust, resources, and accessible services. Organizing

more public involvement becomes not just recommended, but essential.

How will these truths translate into local policy, access, and justice? Community involvement doesn't end there. Schools, workplaces, religious centers, and public institutions—especially those serving individuals with disabilities—must prioritize prevention training and accessible reporting. Our human trafficking task force may have roots—but its branches require nurturing.

So, to every reader: when you witness the signs—don't walk away. When someone shares their story—believe them. When you hear about institutions hosting dialogues—join them. The fight against trafficking doesn't close with the lights on a campaign stage; it lives in our daily vigilance and action. Look out for more events, stay involved, and remember: awareness began here, but justice must follow.

Joshuanette Francis

Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.

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RETAIL SALES TEAM LEADER

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Retail Sales Team Leader:

The Retail Sales Team Leader is responsible for overseeing key aspects of our retail store operations, including managing Retail Sales Representatives, supporting achievement of sales targets, and ensuring excellent customer service. The role also includes safeguarding company assets, managing inventory, and ensuring compliance.

Key duties include:

- Lead, motivate and monitor retail sales representatives; communicate sales targets and performance expectations, provide regular feedback & coaching.
- Actively engaging with customers to improve their experience, identify sales opportunities and staff coaching
- Oversee cash handling and bank deposits procedures.
- Coordinate inventory reconciliation, control, and delivery aligned with established goals.
- Support recruitment activities; facilitate onboarding activities and professional training.
- Conduct regular team meetings.

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Minimum of an Associate degree in Business Administration, Sales, Marketing, or a related field.
- 3-5 years experience in a senior sales or customer service role OR a suitable combination of education and experience.
- Strong interpersonal, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent organizational and time-management abilities.
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The Human Resources Manager - Antigua Public Utilities Authority
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OR email - hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Tuesday 26th August, 2025

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

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Feature

A Message to Young People: “Before Running to AI-Artificial Intelligence, Master the Fundamentals First:”



By Garfield Joseph

Introduction

In an age of rapid technological advancement, where artificial intelligence can write essays, summarize books, and even mimic human conversation, it's easy to believe that success is just a few clicks away. But beneath every powerful tool lies a deeper truth: without mastering the fundamentals, even the most advanced technologies are little more than empty potential.

Two stories—one from a prison cell and another from a high school classroom—remind us that greatness begins with the basics.

Malcolm X: Literacy as Liberation

Before he became one of the most influential voices in American history, Malcolm X was a prisoner grappling with frustration. He envied the eloquence of others and yearned to express himself with clarity and conviction. So he began a journey that would change his life: he taught himself to read and write.

Using a dictionary, Malcolm painstakingly copied every word, page by page, learning not just vocabulary but the rhythm and structure of language. This self-imposed education unlocked a world of ideas. Books became his teachers, and reading became his liberation. In his autobiography, he wrote,

“I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity.” Malcolm's transformation wasn't powered by technology or privilege—it was built on the foundation of literacy. His mastery of language allowed him to articulate complex ideas, challenge injustice, and inspire generations.

Thomas Friedman: A Teacher Named Hattie

Decades later, in a suburban high school in Minnesota, another young man was discovering the power of fundamentals. Thomas Friedman, now a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and New York Times columnist, credits his high school journalism teacher, Hattie Steinberg, for shaping his career.

“I took her journalism course in 1969 and never needed—or took—another

journalism course,” Friedman wrote. Hattie didn't just teach him how to write a lead or transcribe a quote. She instilled discipline, precision, and a respect for the craft. These fundamentals became the bedrock of Friedman's career, enabling him to report on global affairs with clarity and insight.

His story is a testament to the power of great teaching and the importance of mastering the basics before reaching for the extraordinary.

A Personal Reflection: Listening to Greatness

As a young adult, I was captivated by the power of great oratory. I listened to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s “I Have a Dream” speech over and over again, not just for its message, but to understand how it was constructed—how it



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moved hearts and stirred minds.

I was also deeply influenced by the preaching of Gardner C. Taylor, particularly his sermon “In His Own Clothes”, first delivered and recorded at the 1982 Hampton University Ministers’ Conference. In it, Taylor vividly depicted the crucifixion of Christ, emphasizing that Jesus went to the cross not in borrowed robes, but in His own clothes—symbolizing authenticity, sacrifice, and divine purpose. With poetic repetition and thunderous delivery, Taylor declared: “In His own clothes, He climbed the hill at Golgotha. In His own clothes, He asserted His role as Redeemer... In His own clothes, He fixed it and it’s alright now! It’s alright now!”

Another sermon that shaped my understanding of rhetoric was “The Rending of the Veil” by James S. Stewart, preached in 1952. Stewart, a Scottish theologian and preacher, delivered this message at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Drawing from Mark 15:38, he explored the tearing of the temple veil at Christ’s death as a symbol of divine access—God breaking the barrier between the sacred and the ordinary. Stewart’s sermon was a masterclass in expository preaching, blending theology, history, and emotion to reveal the profound implications of Christ’s sacrifice.

I listened to these sermons not just for inspiration, but to learn—to see how these masters crafted their messages. The common thread was clear: mastery of the fundamentals of rhetoric—ethos (credibility), pathos (emotion), and logos (logic).

Why Fundamentals Matter More Than Ever

Today’s youth are growing up in a world filled with smart devices, instant answers, and AI-powered tools. It’s tempting to rely on these technologies to do the heavy lifting. But here’s the catch: tools are only as powerful as the hands that wield them.

Artificial intelligence can help you

write faster, research deeper, and communicate more efficiently. But if you don’t understand the structure of a good argument, the nuances of grammar, or the logic behind a persuasive essay, AI becomes a crutch rather than a catalyst.

Mastering the fundamentals—reading, writing, critical thinking—is what allows you to use AI effectively. It’s the difference between copying and creating, between consuming and contributing.

A Call to Young Minds

To every young person reading this: your journey begins with the basics. Don’t rush past them. Embrace them. Read widely—not just social media posts, but books that challenge your thinking. Write often—not just texts, but essays, stories, and reflections that sharpen your voice. Ask questions. Seek mentors. Practice discipline.

Whether you dream of becoming a

journalist, an entrepreneur, a scientist, or an artist, your success will be built on the foundation of the fundamentals. Malcolm X didn’t need a classroom to become a scholar. Thomas Friedman didn’t need a college course to become a journalist. What they had was a commitment to learning and a respect for the basics.

The Future Is Yours to Shape

AI is here to stay. It will change industries, redefine careers, and open doors we can’t yet imagine. But it will never replace the human mind’s ability to think deeply, passionately, and communicate clearly.

So master the fundamentals. Build your foundation. And then, use every tool at your disposal to build something extraordinary.

Your story is waiting to be written. Make sure you have the skills to write it well.



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Regional News

Mom shot dead over parking space argument



Officers from the Cunupia Police Station responded to a report of a shooting near a doubles vendor at the corner of Southern Main Road and Robert Trace, Cunupia, around 8:25 a.m. today.

Upon arrival, they found a woman lying in a pool of blood on the pavement. Members of the public were attending to her. She was transported by Central Division Task Force officers to the Mount Hope Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Shortly after, a 36-year-old prisons officer identified the deceased as his mother. During questioning, he reported that earlier that morning, he had accompanied his mother and a male friend to purchase doubles when an

altercation broke out over a parking space with the occupants of a white Nissan Tiida.

According to the prisons officer, the dispute escalated and the suspects, allegedly armed with knives, attacked him and his friend, inflicting injuries. In response, he discharged his licensed firearm, after which the suspects fled the scene on foot, abandoning their vehicle. He later discovered his mother had been injured.

Crime Scene Investigators from the Homicide Bureau of Investigations (Region 3) processed the scene and recovered several items of evidential value, including a Glock pistol. (Trinidad Express)



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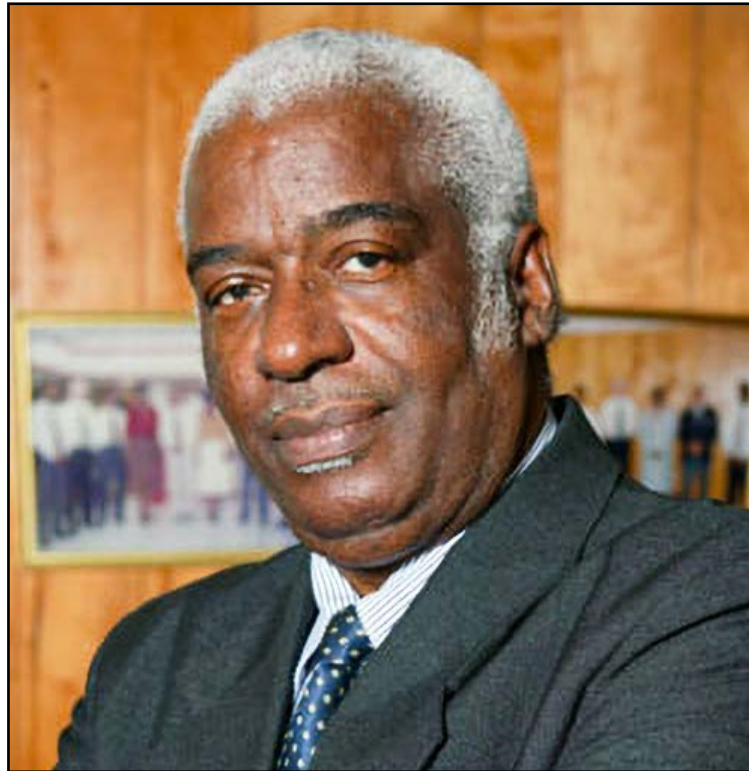
Caribbean Development Bank honors past vice president Marius St. Rose

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) pays tribute to its former Vice President, Marius St. Rose, who passed Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

A CDB issued press release called him “a towering figure in Caribbean development, an uncompromising regionalist, and a pivotal architect of the Bank’s operational and strategic foundation.”

Joining CDB in November 1975, as an Economist within the Economics and Project Analysis Division, Mr. St. Rose’s reportedly sharp insight and forward-thinking approach quickly earned him recognition. His career trajectory saw him advance through key leadership positions, including Deputy Director of the Policy Advisory and Planning Division, Director of the Economics and Programming Department, and ultimately, Vice-President of Operations. Over the course of more than twenty-five years with the Bank, he was instrumental in redesigning its operational framework, establishing the structure that continues to guide the institution’s work today. St Rose retired from the CDB on January 1, 2002.

During his tenure, Mr. St. Rose led several pioneering initiatives. Under his guidance, says CDB, the organization became the first regional entity to attain a triple-A credit rating, laying



a foundation for the Bank’s financial credibility. He was also instrumental in formulating the Bank’s inaugural Strategic Plan and in reforming the staff pension scheme into a sustainable, regional-wide benefit that guarantees financial security for retirees. A staunch supporter of institutional strengthening across the Caribbean, he played an important role in establishing and fortifying national development banks, especially within the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). On the global stage, he was a vigorous advocate for Caribbean interests, mobilizing extensive resources to support regional development priorities, shared the CDB.

According to the press state-

ment, Mr. St. Rose’s leadership was characterized by a balance of decisiveness and compassion. His ability to inspire confidence and foster innovation was complemented by a disciplined approach, encouraging teams to push boundaries while providing opportunities for professional development and growth.

CDB President, Mr. Daniel Best, reflected on his legacy: “Mr. St. Rose embodied excellence in every aspect of his service to the Bank and the Region. His vision, respect for others, and uncompromising commitment to strong institutions set a standard that continues to guide us today. We, who now have the privilege of serving, are building on the solid foundation he and his peers established. His example is a powerful reminder that excellence and respect are not just values, but the cornerstones of lasting impact.”

The Caribbean Development Bank honors Mr. Marius Alexis St. Rose for his extraordinary contributions and dedicated service, stating that he “will be remembered not only as an exemplary builder of the Bank, but as one of the region’s most dedicated champions and a man whose vision and impact will inspire generations to come.” (Dominica News Online)

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Gebreyesus Welde Samuel Negatu of John Hughes, Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Ministry of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary , Ministry of External Affairs.

Two killed in separate shooting incidents in St Lucia

Prime Minister of St Lucia Phillip J Pierre has sought to assure the nation that criminals will not be allowed to hold the country hostage.

Pierre made the statement on Saturday shortly after two deadly shootings rocked the capital Castries, leaving two men dead and several other people injured.

“Today, our city was shaken by cruel and senseless acts of gun violence, which claimed the lives of two citizens. To the families and friends who are now grieving I extend my deepest condolences,” the Prime Minister said.

Pierre said he also convened an immediate meeting of the National Security leadership.

“These brazen and reckless acts will not be allowed to continue. I fully understand the fear and anxiety that many are feeling and I share that concern. But let me be absolutely clear, we will not allow criminals with nothing to lose to hold this country hostage. Together with determination and unity we will restore safety and protect our people.

The police report that the first incident occurred around 10 a.m. (local time) near a taxi stand.

Jamie Williams, 25, was fatally shot, with stray bullets striking unsuspecting bystanders and triggering scenes of panic as people scrambled for safety.

Hours later, gunfire rang out once again, claiming the life of Takim James, better known as “Tako” or “Tako Bell.”

The daylight attack again sent people running in terror, with reports of more bystanders, including children, caught in the crossfire.



According to the St Lucia Times the police have since apprehended a suspect linked to one of the shootings.

The incidents took place in the aftermath of Opposition Leader Alan Chastanet voicing concern about crime.

On Thursday in a televised address to the nation, he sharply criticised the government’s handling of public safety.

He described the Pierre-led administration’s approach to crime as “soft”, accusing it of failing to meet the urgency of the situation.

Chastanet also lamented the toll crime is taking on the country, highlighting the fear it spreads as well as the strain on already limited public healthcare resources.

“Every shooting, every stabbing, every violent crime sends victims to our hospitals, consuming limited medical supplies...,” he said.

He accused the government of failing to take a decisive stance on crime and evading its responsibility to protect citizens.

“What is most concerning of all is the silence – the silence from the highest levels of government when our people cry out for safety. The silence when evidence disappears... the silence when asked about their plan to fight crime. This silence is complicity,” Chastanet said.

The former Prime Minister went on to outline his own plan to combat crime – recommendations, he said, that remain open for implementation by the current administration.

His proposals included delivering modern equipment to the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force along with the requisite training, reinstating the K9 Unit, procuring scanners and restoring the 1200 Camera CCTV network.

He also recommended implementing mandatory vessel monitoring systems, requiring polygraph tests for police and customs officers, fast-tracking court cases, and establishing a dedicated CSI unit to safeguard evidence and prevent crucial material from going missing. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Ukraine and allies voice alarm as Trump-Putin Alaska summit ends without ceasefire

The highly-anticipated summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin concluded on August 15, 2025, in Anchorage, Alaska, without a formal ceasefire or peace agreement, dashing hopes for a breakthrough in the war in Ukraine.

Held at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the three-hour meeting brought together senior officials from both sides, including U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov.

Despite intense speculation and global pressure, the talks ended with no concrete

resolution, and a planned joint dinner was abruptly canceled. The leaders appeared briefly before the press but declined to take questions, signaling the sensitive and unresolved nature of the discussions.

President Trump acknowledged the lack of progress, stating, "There's no deal until there's a deal," while Putin claimed an "understanding" had been reached and praised Trump's diplomatic style.

However, Putin also issued a warning against European "provocations," suggesting continued tensions with NATO and EU member states.

The absence of Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy from the summit drew sharp criticism from Kyiv and European capitals, with many viewing it as a troubling sign that Ukraine's fate was being negotiated without its direct involvement.

Zelenskyy responded firmly, insisting that any peace must be "lasting, not just another pause between Russian invasions." He is scheduled to meet with Trump in Washington on Monday, a meeting now seen as pivotal for clarifying U.S. intentions.

NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. Alexis Grynkewich, was present at the summit to ad-

vised Trump, underscoring the strategic and military stakes involved. Key issues reportedly discussed included potential territorial concessions by Ukraine—an idea Kyiv firmly rejects—and the future of sanctions on Russian oil exports. Trump claimed that India had reduced its imports of Russian oil under U.S. pressure, though Indian officials have disputed that assertion.

While the summit did not produce a peace deal, it marked a significant moment in global diplomacy, raising questions about the direction of U.S. foreign policy and the future of the Transatlantic alliance. (Dominica News Online)



More than 200 missing in flood-hit district in Pakistan, official says



More than 200 people remain missing in one district of north-west Pakistan as a result of devastating monsoon flooding and landslides, an official has said.

Flash floods have killed more than 300 people in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir in recent days, with most of the deaths recorded in the mountainous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

A local official in the worst-affected Buner district told the BBC that at least 209 people were still missing there, but it is feared that number could rise.

Rescue teams have buried eight unidentified bodies as there were no family members found alive to claim them, said Jehangir Khan, spokesman for the deputy commissioner office of Buner.

Some relatives are also unable to claim their relatives' bodies as roads are severely damaged, he added.

A provincial rescue spokesman told

news agency AFP that "10 to 12 entire villages" were partially buried.

Asfandiyar Khattak, head of the provincial disaster management authority, said "dozens" of people were missing in Shangla district.

Monsoon rains between June and September deliver about three-quarters of South Asia's annual rainfall.

While landslides and flash floods are common as a result, scientists say that climate change is making these weather events more intense and more frequent.

Torrential rain has also hit Indian-administered Kashmir, days after at least 60 people were killed there by flash floods.

Nine were killed in Pakistan-administered Kashmir this week, while another five died in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, authorities said.

Government forecasters say heavy rainfall is expected until 21 August

in the north-west, where several areas have been declared disaster zones.

Pakistan has been reckoning with the devastation of this year's monsoon season since June. At least 650 people have been killed so far this year.

In July, Punjab, home to nearly half of Pakistan's 255 million people, recorded 73% more rainfall than the prior year and more deaths than in the entire previous monsoon season.

Northern Pakistan is also one of the most glaciated areas in the region, but these are rapidly thinning and retreating because of climate change - meaning rocks, soil, and other debris can be dislodged.

Monsoon rains can further destabilise mountain faces, exacerbating landslides that sometimes block rivers.

While the exact cause of the recent floods and landslides are yet to be determined, glaciologists say that ice melt is a contributing factor. (BBC)

Serbia ruling party offices set on fire in protests



The offices of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) have been set on fire during a fifth night of unrest in a row that saw fresh clashes between anti-government protesters and riot police.

Police in the city of Valjevo reportedly used stun grenades and tear gas on protesters after a small group of masked individuals attacked the empty facilities of the SNS.

There were widespread allegations of violence and police brutality in the capital, Belgrade, and Novi Sad. Serbia's interior ministry has denied these allegations.

It comes as Russia pledged to assist the beleaguered pro-Moscow President Aleksandar Vučić, who leads the SNS, saying it would not "remain unre-

sponsive".

The protests were initially triggered by a railway station collapse in Novi Sad in November last year that killed 16 people, with many blaming corruption and corner-cutting by Vučić's government for the disaster.

While anti-corruption demonstrations have drawn in hundreds of thousands of protestors, they had been largely peaceful until Wednesday's clash, when pro-government loyalists staged counter-demonstrations.

On Saturday night, riot police were again deployed in a number of cities including Belgrade as people took part in demonstrations to demand early elections.

Offices and flags repre-

senting Vučić's SNS party had been a focus of the protesters' anger.

Protesters also smashed the windows of the headquarters of the Serbian Radical Party, a coalition partner of the SNS.

In the past week, injuries have been reported at protests across the country and unverified video has circulated on social media of police beating a man in Valjevo.

Michael O'Flaherty, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, raised concern on Friday over the "police's disproportionate force" in Serbia, urging authorities to "end arbitrary arrests and de-escalate the situation".

Vučić responded to Saturday's developments on

Instagram, writing that "violence is an expression of total weakness" and promising to "punish the bullies".

He has repeatedly rejected calls for early elections and denounced the demonstrations as part of a foreign plot to overthrow him.

Russia's Foreign Ministry has offered its support to the pro-Moscow, right-wing president.

It said in a statement that "we cannot remain unresponsive to what is happening in brotherly Serbia".

The statement said that police were "using lawful methods and means to contain the violent mobs" and that "public order, security, and human lives" were at risk.

Protests have gripped Serbia almost daily since the Novi Sad railway station collapse.

The tragedy became a symbol of entrenched corruption in the Balkan nation, with initial calls for transparent probes growing into demands for early elections and the end to Vučić's 12-year reign.

At their peak, the protests drew hundreds of thousands on to the streets. (BBC)

Antiguan Ballers dominate MDBA invitational basketball tournament



The Antiguan Ballers team



The Combine Express team

The Antiguan Ballers have been dominating the second annual Mahijah Davis Basketball Academy (MDBA) Under-15 Youth Summer Basketball Splash Invitational tournament at the JSC Sports Complex.

The Antiguan Ballers advanced to Sunday's (last night) final by winning all three matches during the round-robin stage of the four-team tournament over the weekend.

The Antiguan Ballers surged to a 98-55 victory against Combined Express in their third and final round-robin match on Saturday, and both teams were slated to clash again in the championship final on Sunday.

Yohan Nicholas sank 26 points and grabbed 23 rebounds, and Tajahron Davis produced 19 points, 20 rebounds, nine assists, and five steals as the top performers for the Antiguan Ballers.

In support, Erije Joseph scored 19 points and claimed five rebounds,

Elijah Charles converted 14 points, and Noah Massiah chipped in with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Derick Perez shot a game-high 30 points, and Gabriel De Suza produced 10 points, 11 rebounds, five assists, and four steals for Combine Express.

The Antiguan Ballers trounced defending champions Bajan Ballers 133-46 in their second encounter on Friday evening. Tajahron Davis led the Antiguan Ballers with a game-high 43 points, 13 steals, seven rebounds, and five assists.

In support, Nathan Matthew produced 20 points, six steals and assists, and five rebounds; Derick Perez contributed 19 points and four steals; Yohan Nicholas chipped in with 16 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; Elijah Charles scored 15 points and claimed five steals, and Erije Joseph scored 10 points and snatched five rebounds for the Antiguan Ballers.

Darren Massiah sank 12 points and claimed five rebounds, and Seamus Oshea scored 11 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Bajan Ballers.

The Antiguan Ballers launched their campaign with a commanding 99-29 victory against Island Hoopers. Yohan Nicholas led the Antiguan Ballers with 30 points and 25 rebounds.

In support, Nathan Matthew produced 20 points, seven assists, six steals, and five rebounds; Elijah Charles contributed 19 points, seven rebounds and steals, and five assists; and Tajahron Davis chipped in with 12 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists, and six steals for the Antiguan Ballers.

Elewa Silston scored eight points and claimed six rebounds, and Taje Amon sank five points and snatched seven rebounds for Island Hoopers.

Combine Express booked their spot in the final by winning their other two round-robin matches. Combine Ex-

con't on pg 21

Antiguans make losing start at CFU Under-14 Girls Challenge Series



The starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda team against Guyana during the Caribbean Football Union Under-14 Girls Challenge Series at the Ato Boldon Stadium in Trinidad on Saturday, August 16, 2025. (CFU Media)

Antigua and Barbuda have made a poor start to their campaign in the 2025 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Girls Challenge Series in Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigua and Barbuda lost for the second time in two matches in a 2-1 defeat to

Guyana in Tier II Group C action at the Ato Boldon Stadium on Saturday.

The young Guyanese wasted no time getting on the scoreboard, with forward Lehiana Benjamin netting the opener just 10 minutes into the match.

The early goal set the tone for a dynamic performance from the Guyanese side. Defender Thais Charles doubled the lead with a clinical finish in the 29th minute, giving Guyana a commanding 2-0 advantage at halftime.

Jordyn Henriques managed to pull one goal back for Antigua and Barbuda in the second minute of stoppage time (72nd minute), but the Guyanese defence held firm in the final moments to secure their victory.

Antigua and Barbuda launched their campaign with a 3-1 loss against Anguilla at the Hasely Crawford Stadium on Friday.

McKenzie Niles sent Anguilla ahead as early as the second minute. Keitonya Skepple snatched an equalizer for Antigua and Barbuda in the 16th minute when she nudged a header past the advancing goalkeeper.

But Niles doubled her tally and restored Anguilla's lead by converting a penalty kick in the 35th minute.

Joden Henry added Anguilla's third goal deep in first-half stoppage time to wrap up the win.

Antigua and Barbuda will hope to turn around their fortunes when they tackle the Cayman Islands in their penultimate match in Tier II Group C on Monday.

After losing their first two matches, Antigua and Barbuda are unlikely to progress from their five-team round-robin group that also includes the Turks and Caicos Islands, whom they will play on Tuesday.

According to the tournament format, the three group winners from Tier II will automatically advance to the semi-finals. The final spot will be awarded to the best second-place team across all groups.

con't from pg 20

press snatched a narrow 58-54 victory against Island Hoopers in their second encounter on Friday.

Gabriel De Suza produced 27 points, 14 rebounds, seven steals, and six assists; Derick Perez sank 10 points; and Shane Peters contributed seven points, 10 rebounds, and six steals for Combine Express.

For Islands Hoopers, Taje Amon produced 15 points, nine rebounds, and eight steals; Jaheem Dyett contributed 14 points, 23 rebounds, and four steals; Khalil Roberts sank 11 points and claimed five rebounds; and Jaden Stevens scored 10 points.

Combine Express launched their

campaign with a 91-72 victory against the Bajan Ballers on Friday. Derick Perez led Combine Express with 27 points, seven rebounds, and six steals.

Elijah Charles produced 19 points, seven steals, and six assists and rebounds; Erije Joseph sank 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds; and Gabriel De Suza scored 12 points and snatched seven rebounds for Combine Express.

Darren Massiah sank 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and Ari Motley-Squires scored 17 points and snatched 12 rebounds for the Bajan Ballers.

The Bajan Ballers claimed their only win in the round-robin stage by

snatching an 82-78 victory against Island Hoopers on Saturday. Ari Motley-Squires was the top performer for the Bajan Ballers with 21 points, 13 rebounds, and four assists.

Seamus O Shea sank 18 points and claimed nine rebounds, Jahmal James converted 14 points and claimed five steals, and Darren Massiah chipped in with 12 points, 12 rebounds, four assists, and four steals for the Bajan Ballers.

Derrick Perez shot a game-high 31 points, Elijah Charles produced 23 points, seven rebounds, five steals, and four assists, and Khalil Roberts contributed 11 points, 10 rebounds, and six steals for Island Hoopers.

Australia boss says Tests could send nations 'bankrupt'



England's Zak Crawley takes a catch to dismiss Australia's Marnus Labuschagne off the bowling of Mark Wood during the Fifth Ashes Test at The Oval, London, Britain, on July 31, 2023. (Reuters)

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Cricket Australia boss Todd Greenberg says the traditional test format could push some cricket nations into financial ruin and the sport may be better off with fewer five-day matches.

Greenberg, who replaced Nick Hockley as CEO in March, said the future of Test cricket may involve fewer nations and more investment in marquee series like the Ashes.

"I don't think everyone in world cricket needs to aspire to play Test cricket, and that might be OK," Greenberg told reporters last Wednesday, marking 100 days be-

fore Australia host England in the Ashes.

"We're literally trying to send countries bankrupt if we force them to try to play Test cricket."

Greenberg, the former head of the sport's players' union, said cricket boards needed to prioritise meaningful contests over volume.

"Scarcity in test cricket is our friend, not our foe," he said. "We need to make sure we invest in the right spaces to play Test cricket where it means something and has jeopardy."

"That's why the Ashes will be as enormous and profitable as it is — because

it means something."

While the five-Test Ashes series starting in Perth in late-November has seen record demand for tickets, the longest format is under siege from T20 cricket.

Mushrooming T20 franchise leagues offering lucrative player contracts are crowding out the global calendar and have prompted a slew of top players to give up Test and One-Day Internationals (ODI).

Though Australia maintains a bumper schedule of Tests every home summer, it was also one of the earlier movers in T20, with the Big Bash League (BBL) set for

its 15th season in December.

Cricket Australia has resisted allowing private investment in BBL teams, but Greenberg signalled the policy could be coming to an end following a review by Boston Consulting Group.

"It would be completely naive of us sitting here in Australia to not explore (privatisation)," he said.

"I'm not suggesting there's been a decision made, and ultimately it won't just be my decision or Cricket Australia's decision."

"It will be the whole of leadership of Australian cricket and it has to be beneficial for everyone."

Pakistan ignore Babar and Rizwan for Asia Cup



Mohammad Rizwan

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuters) - Former Pakistan captains Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan could not make the cut for the Asia Cup Twenty20 tournament in the United Arab Emirates next month.

The 17-member team, led by Salman

Agha, will play a T20 tri-series in the UAE featuring the hosts as well as Afghanistan in their buildup to the Asia Cup, the Pakistan Cricket Board said in a statement on Sunday.

Babar and Rizwan were not picked

for the T20 leg of Pakistan's West Indies tour this month, where they were beaten 2-1 by the hosts.

Pacer Shaheen Afridi has been retained while opener Fakhar Zaman, who suffered a hamstring injury in the West Indies, has been included for the Sept 9-28 tournament.

Pakistan will begin their Group A campaign against Oman in Dubai on September 12 before meeting arch-rivals India at the same venue two days later.

Pakistan squad: Salman Agha (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris (wicket-keeper), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Waseem Jr., Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Afridi, and Sufyan Moqim.

Con't from page 24

terre on Thursday night as the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots defeated the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons in the first match, the Patriots running out winners by six wickets with 30 balls remaining.

The Falcons never recovered from a poor start to their season campaign, crashing to 121 all out in 17.1 overs after being sent in to bat at Warner Park.

Karima Gore survived a shaky start to post his maiden T20 half-century; his 61 off 34 balls was the top score in a disappointing Falcons batting performance.

Left-arm wrist spinner Waqar Salamkheil was the star bowler for the Patriots and was named the Player



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons fast bowlers Obed McCoy, right, and Jayden Seales, center, celebrates a dismissal of Barbados Royals batsman during their CPL match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday, August 16, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

of the Match for taking four for 22 off his four overs.

Pacemen Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naseem Shah

ably supported by bagging a couple of wickets each to keep the Falcons constantly pegged back and under

pressure.

The low total posted by the Falcons did not give their bowlers enough to work with, and the Patriots were never in any danger despite Rahkeem Cornwall pocketing two wickets in one over.

The Falcons' target was below par, and it was hauled in with relative ease by the Patriots, who achieved victory at 125 for four in 15 overs.

The experienced hands of Alick Athanaze (37 off 28), Evin Lewis (25 off 13), and Jason Holder (18 off 14) saw Patriots over the line with five overs to spare to cap off a commanding performance to start this year's campaign.

Falcons soar past Royals to grab first win in CPL

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons rebounded from a season-opening loss away to the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots to claim their first win in two matches in the 2025 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) on Saturday night.

After suffering a six-wicket loss to the Patriots at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Thursday, the Falcons claimed their first win in front of their home fans, defeating the Barbados Royals by six wickets with just two balls remaining in a pulsating affair at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound.

The Royals are two-time CPL winners and had won the last two meetings with the Falcons, but a litany of dropped catches and fluffed run-outs cost them in their first outing of this year's competition.

Falcons captain Imad Wasim won the toss on a damp night in Antigua, and his decision to chase proved to be a sage one, with his side restricting the Barbados Royals to 151 for six off their 20 overs on a tricky surface.

Karima Gore, who was named player of the match, struck his second consecutive half-century as the Falcons chased down the target to achieve victory at 152 for four in 19.4 overs.

Gore produced a



Antigua and Barbuda Falcons Karima Gore goes on the attack against the Barbados Royals during their CPL match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Saturday, August 16, 2025.

match-winning innings of an unbeaten 64 off 53 deliveries. Gore was ably supported by fellow Antiguan Jewel Andrew, who opened the innings.

Andrew struck 28 off 25 deliveries before falling to Jomel Warrican, who picked up his first CPL wicket in 10 years, Jacques Kallis being

his previous victim in the 2015 competition.

Imad Wasim made 16, and opener Rahkeem Cornwall scored 10, while Fabian Allen hit 11 not out in a crucial partnership with Gore to guide the Falcons to victory.

Left-arm spinner Warrican, who bowled impressively to finish with one for

20, suffered from several dropped catches by the Royals in a poor fielding performance.

Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman took one for 23, and left-arm pacer Daniel Sams claimed one for 45 for the Royals.

Opener Quinton de Kock slammed 57 off 45 balls, and captain Rovman Powell struck an unbeaten 51 off 24 balls to give the Royals hope of getting off to a winning start, but Gore's innings proved the decisive one.

Gore's accumulation of 24 singles interspersed with just five boundaries was noteworthy.

"When I first went in, I'd just get used to the pitch, but it seemed very difficult for me," he said after the game.

"I pride myself on running, trying to keep as fit as possible... They always say singles are part of aggressive batting. So once you can run plenty with the odd boundaries, you will keep going."

Fast bowler Jayden Seales bagged two for 15, left-arm pacer Obed McCoy picked up two for 29, Wasim claimed one for 17, and off-spinner Allah Ghazanfar captured one for 19 in a generally good bowling display by the Falcons.

The 13th edition of the CPL got underway in Basse-

Con't on page 23