

Official Carnival prize giving slated for today

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Minister of Creative Industries Daryll Matthew (left) and Chair of the Festival's Commission Amb. Elizabeth Makhoul (right) presented members of the Burning Flames with the citation renaming Potters Main Road as Burning Flames Highway

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Official Carnival prize giving slated for today



The Ministry of Creative Industries along with the Festivals Commission will host an official prize giving ceremony for all 2025 Carnival winners at an event slated for later today.

In a media release, the Commission said only the road march, the Band of the Year and two other categories of winners were announced on Tuesday. The remaining results will be announced this afternoon at the prize giving ceremony at the John E. St Luce Conference Centre. "Carnival 2025 has been a showcase of talent, creativity, and cultural pride. We thank every artiste, band, and supporter for making this year's celebrations a vibe," the commission said.

An invitation has been issued to all media houses as well as those who participated in the various carnival events to attend the prize giving where Minister of Creative Industries,

Daryll Matthew is expected to give an overview of the just concluded Carnival festivities.

The minister has already indicated that he is quite pleased with Carnival 2025 noting that it was a well-executed festival that has attracted hundreds of visitors to the country to participate.

Meanwhile, the results that have been released so far are as follows;

Carnival 2025 results:

#MediumBand

Winner

Sechuns the Band

#LargeBand

Winner

Insane Carnival

#Bandoftheyear

Winner

Sechuns

#RoadMarch

Winner

BB Service

Soca Villian

Tomorrow 5:30pm John E. St. Luce building for the remaining results.

Meanwhile, several persons, including a pregnant woman are recovering after receiving various types of injury on Carnival Monday, after the brakes malfunctioned on a trailer truck carrying band equipment and several members.

The incident occurred sometime after 5pm along Queen Elizabeth Highway.

Cellular phone footage shows the moment when the brakes failed on the truck, which was being operated with the band Bacchanal Carnival. None of the injuries is said to be life-threatening.

Reports are that a security guard was dragged several feet during the incident, after being unable to free himself from a rope connected to the run-away truck. The band returned to its Yasco base as a result of the mishap.

PM Browne: China has been there for us!



Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne and Her Excellency Madame Zhang Yanling, Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda

In a significant reaffirmation of the longstanding diplomatic relationship, the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China on Friday formalized two major agreements—cementing financial and technical support for national development and sustainable economic growth.

The agreements, signed and exchanged in a formal ceremony attended by Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne and Her Excellency Madame Zhang Yanling, Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, include:

- A \$14 million USD grant for socioeconomic and infrastructure development, and
- A technical cooperation agreement to conduct a feasibility study on Antigua and Barbuda's Blue Economy potential.

In his address, Prime Minister Browne praised China as one of Antigua and Barbuda's "most reliable and generous development partners," noting that this latest

grant brings the total value of Chinese-supported development assistance close to \$1 billion USD over several decades.

"China has been there for us—quietly, respectfully, and consistently," PM Browne stated. "From climate resilience and renewable energy to education, infrastructure, and healthcare—China has played a central role in building our capacity and lifting our people."

The Prime Minister emphasized that the newly signed US\$14 million grant will directly support critical projects including the replacement of aging water pipes, an area of urgent national priority due to frequent disruptions. Other ongoing collaborations mentioned include housing developments in Booby Alley and Jennings, agricultural initiatives, and solar energy infrastructure.

Ambassador Zhang Yanling highlighted the broader vision of China's engagement with Antigua and Barbuda,

characterizing the partnership as a model of mutual respect, equality, and shared benefit.

"This agreement is more than symbolic—it marks the beginning of a new phase of implementation," she said. "Our cooperation is aligned with the outcomes of the recent China–CELAC Ministerial Forum, and contributes to our shared aspirations for peace, connectivity, and sustainable development."

She noted that the agreements are tangible outcomes of high-level discussions between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Browne, and reflect China's commitment to supporting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in their pursuit of resilience and economic diversification.

One of the signed agreements will initiate a feasibility study on Antigua and Barbuda's Blue Economy, with the support of Chinese technical experts. The initiative seeks to identify pathways for economic growth through the sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources—positioning Antigua and Barbuda as a regional leader in marine-based development.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed this, stating:

"This study will help us unlock the untapped value of our marine ecosystems and create new opportunities in aquaculture, eco-tourism, and marine research—areas that are vital for our long-term sustainability."

Prime Minister Browne also spoke candidly about China's unique position on the

global stage and praised its role in providing development financing that surpasses even multilateral institutions like the World Bank.

"Unlike others, China doesn't ask us to take sides in geopolitical conflicts," Browne said. "They respect our sovereignty and support our development based on solidarity, not strings."

He reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to China as a "reliable and principled partner", adding that his government is willing to serve as an honest broker in global diplomacy to foster peace, particularly amid rising tensions between global powers.

"Geopolitical conflicts don't create value—they destroy it," he said. "We suffer the consequences disproportionately, which is why we advocate for peace and prosperity for all."

The ceremony concluded with a strong message of unity and optimism, as both leaders committed to nurturing their countries' bilateral relationship.

"Our philosophy is one of resilient prosperity," PM Browne said. "With China's help, we continue to expand our socio-economic infrastructure and improve the lives of our people."

Ambassador Zhang affirmed China's commitment to building a "shared future" with Antigua and Barbuda and reiterated her confidence that the cooperation will yield transformational outcomes in the years ahead.

PM Browne Hosts Dr. Julius Garvey in Landmark Courtesy Call

Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne welcomed Dr. Julius Garvey, renowned vascular surgeon and son of Pan-African trailblazer Marcus Mosiah Garvey, to a historic courtesy visit that celebrated black empowerment, shared Caribbean-African heritage, and future collaboration to strengthen connectivity across the African diaspora.

The meeting, held at the Office of the Prime Minister, served as both a personal and symbolic moment—highlighting Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to honouring the legacy of one of history's greatest Black leaders, while advancing bold, modern initiatives to



deepen ties between Africa and the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Browne expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Garvey for continuing the work of his father, noting

that Marcus Garvey's influence was instrumental in shaping the consciousness and political activism that led to the decolonization of the Caribbean and the birth

of independent nations like Antigua and Barbuda.

"Your father helped to awaken our sense of pride and identity," said Prime Minister Browne. "He taught us that we were kings and queens long before slavery and colonialism stripped us of that knowledge."

PM Browne reflected on Garvey's influence on the trade union movement, the struggle for independence, and the Rastafari faith, describing Garvey as a global visionary whose ideas remain urgent and transformative.

Prime Minister Browne revealed that the Cabinet is actively considering the re-



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Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne welcomed Dr. Julius Garvey, renowned vascular surgeon and son of Pan-African trailblazer Marcus Mosiah Garvey,

naming of a major street in the capital to Marcus Garvey Drive, commemorating Garvey's historic address to Antiguans in 1937. He further shared the government's plans to recognize local figures—George Alexander McGuire and George Weston—who were instrumental in Garvey's movement and served alongside him in the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and the African Orthodox Church.

"We must honour not only Marcus Garvey," the Prime Minister stated, "but also those Antiguans who stood with him in the global fight for Black dignity, self-reliance, and liberation."

The Prime Minister recounted the bold initiative taken by his administration to establish direct air travel between Nigeria and Antigua and Barbuda—a project he described as being inspired by Garvey's Black Star Line.

In 2022, Antigua launched a charter flight from Lagos to St. John's with high expectations. However, the initiative encountered setbacks when more than 600 conflict migrants from Cameroon arrived, prompting security concerns and public misunderstanding.

Despite facing political backlash, Browne remained resolute:

"We did the right thing. We tried to connect Africa and the Caribbean in a tangible way. Just like Marcus Garvey, we faced sabotage—but we will not relent."

He revealed that Antigua and Barbuda has since partnered with Air Peace, a leading Nigerian airline, which now holds majority shares in LIAT, the regional carrier. The government plans to launch scheduled flights to Africa by early next year, positioning Antigua as a hub for African-Caribbean people-to-people exchange,

trade, and tourism.

Dr. Garvey, now 92 years old, praised Prime Minister Browne's leadership and affirmed the importance of continuing his father's legacy through bold and practical actions that uplift Black communities globally.

"Your work mirrors the values my father held dear—Pan-African unity, entrepreneurship, and cultural pride," said Dr. Garvey.

Dr. Garvey applauded these initiatives and underscored the broader importance of institutional linkages between the Caribbean and Africa.

"We need regular travel, trade, and cultural diplomacy between our people. Not once-a-decade conferences—but real, structured, ongoing engagement," he said.

He encouraged leaders in CARICOM and the African Union to invest in connectivity and youth exchange, arguing that the next generation must inherit both the spirit and infrastructure of Pan-Africanism.

"The African diaspora is a sleeping giant. If we can awaken it with unity and purpose, we can change the world," he added.

He also spoke candidly about his mission to keep his father's legacy alive, not as history, but as a living framework for modern development and unity.

"We must never forget that we are African people, whether we live in Lagos, Kingston, or St. John's," Dr.

Garvey said. "We are one people, with one destiny."

He highlighted the need for increased education, diaspora connectivity, and economic cooperation, urging leaders across the Caribbean and Africa to adopt Garveyite principles of unity, sovereignty, and self-determination.

"My father taught us to look within for strength—not to others for charity. That message must guide how we build our economies, our communities, and our children's future," he added.

Prime Minister Browne reiterated that he remains committed to deepening ties between the Caribbean and Africa and called on CARICOM and African Union states to support direct air and sea links, even if temporary subsidies are required. He confirmed Antigua and Barbuda will advocate for this agenda at the upcoming ECO-PLN meeting in September.

As the meeting concluded, the two men shared reflections on leadership, sacrifice, and resilience. Prime Minister Browne emphasized that history often judges great visionaries harshly in the moment but honors them with reverence in time. He described Marcus Garvey as "one of the greatest Black men to ever walk the face of the earth."

"Dr. Garvey, your father paved the way. We stand on his shoulders. And in this moment, we recommit ourselves to fulfilling his dream—Africa for the Africans, at home and abroad."

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7
Rule 15

**THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(Probate)**

**In the Estate of SARAH THOMAS a.k.a. IONIE THOMAS a.k.a. SARAH IONIE
POTTER late of Central Street Villa, St. John's, Antigua**

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
SECOND PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **JEANMARIE DOUGLAS** of 4th Avenue, Villa in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 17th day of December, 1992.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 25th day of July, 2025

JEANMARIE DOUGLAS
Applicant

Filed by KEVON O. BENJAMIN of STEADROY C. O. BENJAMIN & CO. INC. Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is *Corner Nevis & Cross Streets in the Parish of Saint John in the Island of Antigua*; email address: grapinegayle.benjaminandco@gmail.com; Tele#: 462-9474/0554

Burning Flames member shares award 'with the people'

Toriano 'Onyan' Edwards, the eldest sibling in the popular Burning Flames band, says he 'very pleased' with the recent recognition of their contributions to Antigua and Barbuda music and culture with the naming of the Potters Main Road as the **Burning Flames Highway**. The award is significant as the family home for the Edwards Family was located on the highway that now carries the name of the Burning Flames.

On Sunday, a statement from the Office of the Prime Minister announced that with the concurrence of members of the Cabinet, Prime Minister Gaston Browne renamed the Potters Main Road as the **Burning Flames Highway** with immediate effect. That night, during the Party Monarch competition, Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew formally presented members of the Burning Flames – brothers, Toriano, Clarence 'Oungku' and David 'Crocus' Edwards and nephew Rhone 'Foxy' Watkins – with the citation marking the band's 40th anniversary of contributing to Antigua and Barbuda culture and music and official naming of the highway.

"It is quite an achievement which we as members of the Burning Flames gladly accept in recognition of the 40th anniversary milestone. However, I would also wish to accept the honour on behalf of the people who have supported us all these years. Burning Flames has always about the people and I am especially happy that this honour has the overwhelming support of the people," he stated.



Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew and members of the Burning Flames – brothers, Toriano, Clarence 'Oungku' and David 'Crocus' Edwards and nephew Rhone 'Foxy' Watkins

According to Toriano, the support of the people has sustained the Burning Flames for 40 years and the naming of the highway in their honour is a historic development that will recognize their contributions for many generations to come. He added that many years into the future questions will be asked about the fact that a highway was named in Burning Flames' honour and the retelling of their stories will ensure that the name Burning Flames will live on for decades into the future.

Meanwhile, the renaming of the highway to honour Burning Flames is just one of several initiatives announced by the Prime Minister. The full text of the media statement is as follows;

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, with the unanimous support of his Cabinet, announces that the Potters Main Road shall be re-named "THE

BURNING FLAMES HIGHWAY" commencing on this date.

The Cabinet also agreed that during the independence celebrations, Burning Flames Band will be nominated for a National Award at the very next Independence Award ceremonies, for their forty years of outstanding contributions to the cultural art form.

All four members of the Burning Flames will also be issued Diplomatic Passports to enable them to travel with greater dignity and respect whenever they arrive on foreign shores.

The Prime Minister is delighted to have this announcement reach every Antiguan and Barbudan citizen in recognition of the Burning Flames influence in every Carnival since 1985.

Congratulations!

Chinese university confers special honour on Prime Minister Gaston Browne

In a ceremony rich with symbolism and diplomatic significance, Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne was formally conferred the title of Honorary Professor by the prestigious Hangzhou Normal University (HNU) of the People's Republic of China. This marks the first time in the university's more than 100-year history that a sitting head of government has received such an honour.

The ceremony took place at the Office of the Prime Minister in Antigua and Barbuda and was attended by Professor Min Zhou, Dean of the School of International Studies and Director of the Centre for Caribbean Studies at HNU. The moment celebrated the deepening bonds of friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and China, as well as the academic and cultural bridges being built be-



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tween the two nations.

Prime Minister Browne expressed his deep gratitude for the honorary title, stating that it reflected "the strong friendship between our countries and institutions" and praised the People's Republic of China as "one of our closest and most reliable development partners." He highlighted the long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship that has seen

Chinese concessional loans and grants support for major infrastructure projects across Antigua and Barbuda, including the air and sea ports, social housing, the Five Islands Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium.

"This is not only a personal honour," the Prime Minister declared, "but one that I accept on be-

half of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda."

Professor Zhou lauded the Prime Minister's leadership and international influence, describing him as a "statesman of vision and moral courage." She recalled his visit to the university in January 2024, during which his keynote lecture on global solidarity and shared human destiny garnered tens of millions of views across Chinese media, becoming a viral sensation and further cementing his popularity and moral authority in China.

"No sitting head of state has ever been granted the title of honorary professor at our university—until today," Professor Zhou stated. "Your voice has resonated across our nation. You have inspired dialogue and fostered the ideals of peace, unity, and shared prosperity."



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Local News

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In his response, Prime Minister Browne emphasized the importance of strengthening “micro-organizational relationships” between institutions in both nations. He proposed a formal partnership between Hangzhou Normal University and the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, aimed at promoting academic exchange, research collaboration, and student mobility.

He also praised the role of China in advancing South-South cooperation, noting that China has outpaced even the World Bank in delivering concessional funding and development assistance to the Global South. “The PRC has been a steadfast ally in our development journey,” he said. “We support their philosophy of shared global prosperity.”

Both leaders emphasized the importance of international cooperation over conflict, especially amid growing geopolitical tensions. Prime Minister Browne reiterated Antigua and Barbuda’s non-aligned, peace-focused foreign policy:

“We are too small to have enemies. We ad-

vocate peace, solidarity, and mutual development among all nations.”

He also spoke passionately about the shared African roots of humanity and the moral imperative for global unity in the face of inequality and climate challenges.

To commemorate the event, Prime Minister Browne was presented with symbolic gifts including a limited-edition China Post envelope, marking 35 years of

friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People’s Republic of China. A beautifully crafted pen used for the signing was also collected for display in HNU’s university museum. The Prime Minister returned the gesture by receiving and dedicating the honour to his nation, while his wife was presented with a traditional Chinese scarf, previously gifted to world leaders during the G20 summit.

As the ceremony con-

cluded, Prime Minister Browne reflected on the honour bestowed upon him as a “blessing”—one that he would cherish not only personally, but as a testament to the unity and cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and China.

“I am proud to join the academic community of Hangzhou Normal University,” he said. “May this partnership grow stronger, for the benefit of both our peoples and all of humanity.”



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The advertisement features two contrasting images of a Black man. On the left, he is smiling with his arms crossed in front of a healthy, green house. On the right, he is holding his head in his hands, looking distressed, in front of a damaged, grey house with debris around it.

Doctor attached to SLBMC awarded Chevening Scholarship 2025

David Francis, a medical doctor based at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, has been awarded the prestigious 2025 Chevening Scholarship and will pursue a Master's degree at University College London (UCL).

The announcement was made by the UK High Commission for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean based in Barbados.

Currently serving as a House Officer in the Subspecialties Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Francis works closely in the areas of Nephrology, Neurology, and Oncology. He also chairs the Infectious Disease Committee of the hospital's dialysis unit, where he focuses on infection prevention and control for high-risk patients.

Dr. Francis holds a medical degree from the Latin American School of Medicine and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health from the University of South Wales. He also completed a certificate in Epidemiology from Washington University to further his expertise in population health.

As a Chevening Scholar, he will pursue an MSc in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology at UCL. His goal is to strengthen



public health systems across the Caribbean by improving outbreak detection and response, shaping evidence-based policies, and tackling the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

The Chevening Scholarship is the UK government's international awards programme aimed at devel-

oping global leaders. Dr. Francis joins an elite group of scholars selected for their academic excellence, leadership potential, and commitment to positive change.

He is the only Chevening Scholarship recipient from Antigua and Barbuda for 2025.

Republic of Malta donates 30 ballistic vests to the ABDF



The Republic of Malta has made a timely donation of 30 ballistic vests to the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force in a demonstration of the close ties that exist between the two island nations.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, says securing the assistance on behalf of the ABDF demonstrates the efforts of his ministry together with the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London to seek out benefits for entities in the country such as the ABDF.

“The demonstrates the efforts of the ministry of foreign affairs to secure benefits for Antigua and Barbuda; in this instance, it’s the area of national security, the protection of our soldiers, our men and women who wear the uniform proudly,” he stated.

Minister Greene noted that ABDF’s role extends beyond what happens on land but also includes patrolling the nation’s waters as transnational crime is an issue of much concern.

“We have done the air-wing, and now attention is being

placed on the needs of the Coast Guard.

“It’s a holistic arrangement by this government to ensure that the men and women in uniform who inked their names to an agreement, a covenant to serve the people of this country that they are well-taken care of by the government,” he declared.

He thanked the members of the ABDF ‘most profusely’ for the service that they provide to the country noting that the fact that Antigua and Barbuda has been ranked among the safest destinations in the Caribbean has much to do with work of the members of the ABDF and the other security entities in the country.

“This morning, I am sure that the provision of these ballistic vests will give you added comfort knowing that the government of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Cabinet ministers are deeply appreciative of the service you provide to the country,” he stated.

Minister Greene also extended thanks and appreciation to the Maltese gov-

ernment for making the donation of the ballistic vests to the ABDF.

Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier Telbert Benjamin recalled that during an international forum last year he met and held discussions with his counterpart from the Republic of Malta. During the discussion, the ballistic vests were identified as an area where the Maltese government could assist. “It was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the UK High Commission, that continued the discussions that led to the presentation of the vests that are beneficial to small island developing states such as Antigua and Barbuda and for the Republic of Malta. I wish to thank all those involved in these discussions, including HC Karen-Mae Hill in London, for helping to make this presentation possible,” he noted.

He described the ballistic vests as ‘world-class’ and are considered to be ‘Level 4’ one of the highest levels of protection that any soldier can have anywhere in the world. “I wish to assure

the government of Antigua and Barbuda and the government of the Republic of Malta that the equipment would be put to use immediately,” he indicated.

ABDF soldiers were outfitted with the ballistic vests as they assisted with security operations during the just-concluded Carnival festivities.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Malta and Antigua and Barbuda were formally established on 23 July 2004 and since then, the engagements have already yielded tangible and commendable results. These include a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a capacity-building programme for technical staff at the Antigua Public Utilities Authority, aimed at supporting a holistic *Leakage Identification, Management, and Control Strategy for water supply lines across the country*, alongside consistent mutual support within the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Three men are to appear in court today following major firearms/ammunition haul

Three men – including one teenager- are to appear in the Magistrate's Court this morning to answer charges related to a major firearms and ammunition haul following a police sting operation.

The police have reported that they arrested and charged 30-year-old Daquan George, 27-year-old Tanesha Martin, and 19-year-old Taliek Aska, all of Sutherlands for Unlawful Possession of Firearm and Possession of Ammunition.

On Wednesday, 31 July 2025, officers attached to the Gang and Guns Suppression Unit (GAGSU) executed a search warrant at a property in Sutherlands, and during the search, the officers seized a cache of ammunition and firearm-related items, which include:

- Eleven (11) 12-gauge shotgun rounds
- Seven (7) 9mm rounds
- Thirty-six (36) 7.62mm rounds
- Twenty (20) .22 rounds
- Twenty-three (23) .45 rounds
- Eighteen (18) .44 rounds
- Seventeen (17) .25 rounds
- Nine (9) .38 rounds
- Two (2) Smith & Wesson magazines
- One (1) Glock 9mm magazine
- One (1) Smith & Wesson .40 caliber magazine
- One (1) Sig Sauer 9mm magazine
- One (1) "Patent Pending" 9mm/.40SW speed loader, and
- One (1) flat-back Chinese AK-47 magazine

Following the discovery, the trio was taken into custody and subsequently



charged for the offences. Their first court appearance has been set for Wednesday 6 August (today).

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Regional News



Turks and Caicos Islands freezes visas and work permits for Haitians in response to escalating violence



The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) has announced an immediate six-month moratorium on the issuance of first-time work permits to Haitians, citing escalating violence in the French-speaking country and a steady influx of immigration applications.

Premier Charles Washington Misick also announced that his government will enforce a six-month freeze on visa issuances for Haitians as part of broader efforts to tighten immigration controls and enhance public safety.

“In light of the ongoing escalation of violence in Haiti and the steady influx of work permit applications from that country, the Government will immediately implement a six-month moratorium on the issuance of first-time work permits to Haitian nationals,” he said, adding, “There will also be a six-month moratorium on visas that will take effect immediately.”

Misick said that since the fatal shooting on July 21 this year, which claimed the lives of two young people, the police have issued a

wanted notice for a suspect. The island was rocked days later, on July 27, by its first known mass shooting — a gang-related attack that left three people dead and 10 others injured.

“This pause will allow us to develop and implement a more rigorous vetting process for applicants, ensuring the integrity of our immigration system and strengthening national security,” Misick said.

“It will also allow us to align with the government’s broader intention to introduce a quota-based work permit system in the near future.”

Misick revealed that Cabinet has tasked the Ministry of Innovation, Technology, and Energy with leading the development of a Safe City Technology Strategy, in partnership with the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and other security agencies.

He said the plan will include smart street lighting, CCTV, automatic number plate recognition, and connected traffic policing systems. (CMC)



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Caribbean Tales International Film Festival celebrates 20 years with global online access

The Caribbean Tales International Film Festival (CTFF), is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025. Organizers shared via press release that the festival will be held from Wednesday, September 3 to Saturday, September 13 at various venues in Toronto, with an accompanying online program accessible worldwide from September 3 through October 3, 2025.

This milestone edition aims to honor two decades of cinematic storytelling while also emphasizing future growth and continued representation.

Frances-Anne Solomon, Founder and Executive Director of CaribbeanTales Media Group (CTMG), remarked, “This 20th anniversary is both a celebration and a call to action. We look back on a generation of groundbreaking films and look ahead to a vibrant future where Caribbean stories continue to redefine the global cinematic landscape.”

It is also reported that highlights of the festival include a diverse lineup featuring 49 films, with Canadian premieres representing over 15 countries. The opening night film will be “Bankie Banx: King of the Dune” by Nara Garber, a documentary about reggae icon Bankie Banx (often called the Anguillan

Bob Dylan). The film features notable personalities such as singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffet, actor Kevin Bacon, and Stephen “Cat” Coore, guitarist with Third World. The closing night

able Dr. Jean Augustine at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre on September 6. This event will also feature film screenings and the Jean Augustine Excellence Award presentation

bean.

The festival also features a robust virtual component, allowing global audiences to experience the event from September 3 through October 3. Over the years, organizers say, CTFF has served as a platform for films that have gained international acclaim and has fostered connections within the Caribbean and global film communities.

Further details about the full lineup and ticketing will be announced on August 3, 2025, via the festival’s official website: www.caribbeantalesfestival.com.

Under the theme “Resilience in Motion,” this anniversary festival will highlight the resilience and vibrancy of Caribbean storytelling. Programming will include premieres, retrospectives, panel discussions, tributes, and a virtual component to ensure broad accessibility. CTFF expressed that the event underscores its ongoing commitment to promoting underrepresented voices and fostering cultural exchange through cinema.

For additional information, visit the festival website or follow CTFF on social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, and TikTok. (*Dominica News Online*)



film will be “The Last Meal” by Maryse Legagneur.

Special events scheduled during the festival include a tribute to distinguished Caribbean figures, notably the celebration of the 88th birthday of The Honour-

to steelpan ambassador Wendy Jones. On September 7, the festival will host the Canadian premiere of “Nomad in No Man’s Land” by Hester Jonkhout, a film about Felix de Rooy, a pioneering and openly gay artist from the Carib-

Another delay in Jack Warner's extradition matter

A High Court judge was informed on Tuesday that Attorney General, John Jeremie, has launched an investigation into the actions of persons involved in the extradition case of former FIFA vice president, Jack Warner, to the United States where he faces multiple corruption-related charges.

British attorney, Robert Strang, who now leads the state's team for the Office of the Attorney General, has since requested an adjournment of Warner's latest extradition challenge currently being heard by Justice Karen Reid.

Strang told the court that several persons have been asked to respond to the findings of former chief magistrate, Maria Busby Earle-Caddle following her June 2023 ruling on Warner's request to challenge his extradition in the High Court.

"Some have given a first response, and in the interest of fairness, everything would have to be tested against the electronic and documentary evidence," Strang said.

The former chief magistrate had ruled that Warner's case raised seven legitimate legal questions stemming from an alleged 2015 extradition arrangement between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago.

She was critical of the state, citing inconsistencies and what she described as a "colossal misrepresentation" involving the former attorney general's certification of that arrangement.

Warner's challenge centres on the "speciality principle," which bars prosecution for any offences not listed in an approved extradition request. The former FIFA executive has argued that the absence of a written agreement, required by law, renders the 2015 authority to proceed invalid.

The former chief magistrate had ques-



tioned how the then attorney general, Faris Al-Rawi, could certify an agreement that appears not to exist in writing.

A freedom of information request by Warner failed to uncover a copy of the agreement and the former chief magistrate referred the matter to the High Court for urgent review, emphasising that extradition involves the deprivation of liberty and must adhere strictly to legal safeguards.

She also postponed Warner's extradition hearing to allow the High Court to rule.

Strang said Jeremie had decided to "scrutinise and reassess" the state's approach to the matter so far and had "taken the view that it's necessary to investigate properly the allegations that have been made, because a number of serious allegations have been made against the Attorney General's office and his predecessors in office."

Strang quoted some of the findings by the former chief magistrate, saying that they suggested the Attorney General's office engaged in surreptitious conduct in trying to persuade the court

that there was no case to answer.

Jeremie is also reportedly concerned that the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council may have decided the matter based on an "incorrect understanding of the nature of the arrangement that had been certified."

Warner's legal team, led by Fyard Hosein, SC, contends that the state's actions amounted to dishonesty, fabrication and fraud by deliberately misrepresenting that a "written, bespoke" arrangement between the US and Trinidad and Tobago existed.

Strang said it was for this reason that the Attorney General initiated an investigation.

"He has conducted searches of his office's files and asked key individuals for their accounts," Strang said, telling the High Court "he considers it very important in the public interest that he respond to these allegations properly and that they be properly ventilated on the evidence and with the accounts of those concerned.

"Because they call into question the standing of the Office of the Attorney General, and they damage the pub-

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lic's confidence in the administration of justice, not to mention potentially having wider ramifications on future extraditions to the United States of America.

"So, the Attorney General takes the view in the circumstances that it is of the greatest importance. The Attorney General is keen and willing to conclude as quickly as reasonably and fairly practicable. He also agrees with the gravamen and seriousness of the allegations made".

Strang apologised to Warner "for the fact that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council was not allowed to make a determination of his case on a correct understanding of the facts.

"Now, whether that was done dishonestly or improperly on the part of the Office of the Attorney General is a matter for further investigation by the present occupant of the Attorney General's office."

For his part, Hosein said that for over a

decade, the state had misled the courts while Warner was made to pay the "ultimate penalty".

"This has to stop here. And if this case has to mark a line in the sand on executive misbehaviour and administrative misbehaviour by the state, let it be so. Gaslighting is taking place."

Hosein did not object to the adjournment and commended Jeremie for his stance, while also seeking an undertaking that "all the lawyers, public officials, [and] the two previous attorneys general who handled this matter" would be interrogated and that full disclosure would be made to the court.

"This thing cannot end here. It would probably end up in a report to the police service and the bar association."

Warner has been indicted in the US on 29 charges of fraud, corruption, and money laundering during his tenure as vice president of FIFA. The US accuses Warner of racketeering, wire fraud, money laundering, and bribery,

alleging that from the early 1990s, he "began to leverage his influence and exploit his official positions for personal gain".

The US indictment also accused him of accepting a bribe from South African officials in exchange for his vote to award them the 2010 World Cup and of distributing envelopes of cash to other officials.

Warner and 13 other FIFA officials were indicted in the US.

He has been banned for life by FIFA and last year, Warner expressed confidence that the case against him in the United States was over, citing a 2024 US Supreme Court ruling that limited the reach of laws used in the FIFA corruption case and prompting a federal judge to overturn the convictions of two defendants.

The 81-year-old Warner remains on TT\$2.5 million bail. (CMC)



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Netanyahu to propose full reoccupation of Gaza, Israeli media report



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is to propose fully reoccupying the Gaza Strip when he meets his security cabinet, Israeli media say.

“The die has been cast. We’re going for the full conquest of the Gaza Strip – and defeating Hamas,” local journalists quote a senior of-

ficial as saying.

Responding to reports that the army chief and other military leaders oppose the plan, the unnamed official said: “If that doesn’t work for the chief of staff, he should resign.”

The families of hostages fear such plans could endanger their loved ones, with

20 out of 50 believed to be alive in Gaza, while polls suggest three in four Israelis instead favour a ceasefire deal to return them.

Many of Israel’s close allies would also condemn such a move as they push for an end to the war and action to alleviate a humanitarian crisis.

Within Israel, hundreds of retired Israeli security officials, including former heads of intelligence agencies, issued a joint letter to US President Donald Trump on Monday, calling for him to pressure Netanyahu to end the war.

One of the signatories, ex-domestic intelligence agency chief Ami Ayalon, told the BBC that further military action would be futile.

“From the military point of view, [Hamas] is totally de-

stroyed. On the other hand, as an ideology it is getting more and more power among the Palestinian people, within the Arab street around us, and also in the world of Islam.

“So the only way to defeat Hamas’s ideology is to present a better future.”

The latest developments come after indirect talks with Hamas on a ceasefire and hostage deal broke down and Palestinian armed groups released three videos of two Israeli hostages looking weak and emaciated.

The footage of Rom Blaslavski and Evyatar David, both kidnapped from the Nova music festival on 7 October 2023, has shocked and appalled Israelis. David is shown digging what he says is his own grave in an underground tunnel. (BBC News)



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Clintons subpoenaed to testify in congressional Epstein investigation



Former US President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary are among high-profile figures to be sent legal summonses from a congressional committee investigating the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Republican James Comer, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, issued the subpoenas to the Clintons and eight other individuals.

The committee is seeking information about Epstein's history, after President Donald Trump's administration decided against releasing more federal files on the dead financier.

That decision sparked outrage among Trump supporters and some Democrats, who refused to accept the justice department's statement that there was no "incriminating client list" in the Epstein files.

Amid a rift between Trump and some of his supporters on Epstein, the committee, made up of both Democrats and Republicans, recently voted to issue the subpoenas.

The panel has also subpoenaed the justice department itself for records related to Epstein.

Lawyers for Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's associate who is currently serving a 20-year sentence for sex trafficking, had indicated she was willing to testify before the powerful investigatory committee, with strict legal protections. Her scheduled 11 August deposition, though, has been postponed indefinitely.

The Epstein legal saga has spanned two decades, with Florida police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation first scrutinising the well-connected tycoon for allegations of sexual abuse in the early 2000s.

Comer wrote in letters to each person that the committee must "conduct oversight of the federal government's enforcement of sex trafficking laws generally and specifically its handling of the investigation and prosecution of Mr Epstein" and Maxwell.

He also indicated that depositions will start this month and run through the autumn, with Bill Clinton scheduled for 14 October.

Former Attorneys General Merrick Garland, Loretta Lynch, Eric Holder and Alberto Gonzales were sum-

moned, along with Jeff Sessions and William Barr, who both led the justice department during Trump's first term. Former FBI Directors James Comey and Robert Mueller were also sent subpoenas.

The Clinton administration predates the Epstein investigation, but the couple's critics have long questioned their relationship with Epstein.

A spokesperson has acknowledged that Bill Clinton took four trips with staff on Epstein's private plane in 2002 and 2003, and met with Epstein in New York in 2002. Clinton also visited Epstein's New York apartment around that time.

The letters to each Clinton cite these incidents, as well as other alleged encounters and connections, as reasons for summoning them.

Citing flight logs, US media have previously reported Clinton flew on Epstein's jet up to 26 times, occasionally without his Secret Service detail.

In 2019, a spokesman said the former president "knows nothing about the terrible crimes Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty to in Florida some years ago, or those with which he has been recently charged in New York."

The Clinton Foundation and Bill Clinton's press office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Department of Justice had no comment.

The committee is seeking all of the department's documents and communications on Epstein and Maxwell "relating or referring to human trafficking, exploitation of minors, sexual abuse, or related activity", as well as files from the US criminal cases against Maxwell and Epstein, docu-

International

AROUND THE WORLD



ments from a 2007 agreement to not prosecute Epstein and federal investigations into the former financier.

It is not immediately clear if individuals named by Comer will appear before the committee and, if they do, whether they will testify publicly.

Over the last 200 years, only four other former presidents have received subpoenas from congressional committees, and only two provided testimony.

Notably, the committee investigating the 6 January 2021 Capitol riot voted during a televised hearing to subpoena Trump, who then sued to stop it. The subpoena was dropped when the committee disbanded.

Federal prosecutors charged Epstein with sex trafficking of minors and other crimes in 2019, during the first Trump administration.

He died by suicide in jail that August,

and almost immediately afterwards many began questioning the circumstances of his death.

This summer, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced her department, after conducting a review, had found no evidence of the long-rumoured client list.

She also said evidence supported that Epstein died by suicide. The government would release no more files, she said.

The announcements sparked outrage among some supporters of Trump, who promised in his campaign to release Epstein records.

The fight among House Republicans over the case grew so contentious that Speaker Mike Johnson sent lawmakers home early in July to block a vote over the Epstein files' release.

As demands grew for the Trump ad-

ministration to release more Epstein records, the justice department recently met Maxwell, and it is currently seeking to release grand jury transcripts from her case. On Tuesday, Maxwell's lawyer said she opposed the release of the transcripts.

"Jeffrey Epstein is dead. Ghislaine Maxwell is not," Maxwell's lawyers wrote in a filing.

"Whatever interest the public may have in Epstein, that interest cannot justify a broad intrusion into grand jury secrecy in a case where the defendant is alive, her legal options are viable, and her due process rights remain."

The BBC has asked the White House for comment on the subpoenas. (BBC News)

Second earthquake hits New York City region within several days

A second small earthquake rattled the New York metropolitan area on Tuesday within several days of another.

The 2.7 magnitude earthquake struck a little after noon near suburban Hillsdale, New Jersey, about 10 miles (16 kilometres) northwest of the Bronx in New York City, according to the US Geological Survey.

There were no initial reports of damages or injuries from the quake, which was felt in the city and Connecticut.

The tremor came after a 3.0 magnitude earthquake shook the area Saturday night.

That earthquake struck Has-



brouck Heights, which is about 9 miles (14 kilometres) south of Hillsdale.

Though the two relatively mild quakes occurred nearby over several days, geophysicist Jessica Turner of

the National Earthquake Information Center said it was "a little hard" to label the second one an aftershock.

"While it did occur about nine miles to the north of the earthquake that occurred on

August 2nd, we aren't quite sure because it's not right on top of that location," she said.

"We aren't quite sure if this is an aftershock of that earthquake or if maybe it's just kind of like a separate earthquake that occurred."

While tremors this strong are common in other parts of the United States, relatively few have been recorded in the New York City area.

A much larger, 4.8-magnitude quake that struck in Tewksbury, New Jersey, a little farther west of the city, in April 2024 was felt as far away as Boston and Baltimore. (AP)

Man accused of killing 4 and abandoning baby arrested in Tennessee



A man suspected of targeting and killing members of his girlfriend's family and leaving a baby abandoned in front of a stranger's home has been arrested in rural Tennessee.

The weeklong manhunt for Austin Robert Drummond ended after local authorities instituted an early morning shelter-in-place for residents near Jackson after he was sighted there. Residents were warned to lock doors and windows as police searched for him.

Police accuse Drummond, 28, of killing the baby's parents, grandmother and teenaged uncle before abandoning the infant in front of a stranger's house. The arrest "marks an important step in restoring safety to our community," Jackson Police Chief Thom Corley said.

Tennessee Bureau of In-

vestigation (TBI) Director David Rausch had called the killings "targeted" and said the suspect had a relationship with the family.

Police elaborated on that after his capture, saying on Tuesday that the killing spree targeted members of his girlfriend's family.

Authorities did not offer a motive but said at least one of his girlfriend's sisters were killed, along with her mother.

Drummond was caught after multiple people called law enforcement at 8:00 CDT (14:00 BST) on Tuesday to say they had seen the suspect, Jackson Police Chief Thom Corley said during a news conference. They arrested him shortly after, at 9:05 local time, he said.

The arrest comes a week after a baby, left in a car seat, was found in front of

a stranger's home in Tiptonville, Tennessee on July 29, prompting a search for the parents.

Soon after, the four family members were found dead about 40 miles (64km) away in Tiptonville. It prompted a statewide manhunt for Drummond.

The baby is safe and being cared for, authorities have said.

A photo of Drummond's capture shared by the TBI shows him in a black hoodie in a wooded area in Jackson, about 70 miles south of Tiptonville, where the family was found dead.

The victims have been identified as James M. Wilson, 21, and Adrianna Williams, 20, the baby's parents; Cortney Rose, 38, the infant's grandmother; and Braydon Williams, 15, the baby's uncle.

Three other people have

been arrested and charged with assisting Drummond after the quadruple killings. Before his arrest, police released footage appearing to show Drummond carrying a gun and wearing camouflage clothing while trying to enter a building.

A \$32,500 reward for information that would lead to his arrest was offered on Monday as authorities scrambled to end the search.

Drummond is facing charges including four counts of first degree murder, one count of aggravated kidnapping, four counts of felon in possession of a firearm, and one count of possession of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony.

He was previously convicted of robbing a convenience store in 2013 with a gun. He was released in September 2024 after serving 13 years in prison, according to Tennessee prison records.

In 2020, a district attorney warned the state's parole board against releasing Drummond early, citing threats to jurors and multiple disciplinary actions while in prison.

"This type of behavior clearly demonstrates that Drummond has no desire for rehabilitation and is not capable of living among society," Jody Pickens wrote. (BBC News)

Sports News

Antiguans compete at Americas Group IV Davis Cup contest

The tennis players of Antigua and Barbuda are once again competing against players from 10 nations in the Americas Group IV Davis Cup Competition, which is taking place for the fourth successive year in Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, the United States (US) Virgin Islands, Suriname, and St. Lucia will be competing in the men's tournament at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, from August 4 to 9.

Antigua and Barbuda retained the same five-member team, which finished in sixth place in last year's Americas Group IV Davis Cup nine-team competition at the same venue.

The Antigua and Barbuda five-member team is being led by the nation's only professional men's tennis player, Jody Maginley. The other players are Cor-



Jody Maginley

dell Williams Jr., Rodain Shaquan Monelle, DeAndre Weeks, and Ron Murraine.

Cordell Williams is the team's non-playing captain and coach. Williams is also the president of the Antigua and Barbuda Tennis Association (ABTA).

The 10 participating teams are divided into two zones. Antigua and Barbuda is contesting Pool B along with Cuba, Panama, the Bahamas, and Suriname.

Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, the US Virgin Islands, and St. Lucia

are contesting Pool A.

The top two teams in each pool will advance to contest promotion play-offs. Nations finishing third and fourth in the pools will compete in positional play-offs.

The two top teams at the end of the competition will be promoted to compete in Americas Group III in 2026.

Antigua and Barbuda finished third in Pool A at the 2024 Americas Group IV Davis Cup Competition, which took place at the same venue in Trinidad and Tobago from July 22 to 27 last year.

The Antiguan suffered a 2-0 loss to the US Virgin Islands in the playoffs to finish sixth overall.

This is the 12th year Antigua and Barbuda has been competing in the Davis Cup tennis tournament since making its debut in 1996. Antigua and Barbuda have played 61 ties with an overall record of 17 wins and 40 losses.

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Jewel Andrew signed by E4 brand



Jewel Andrew proudly displays the E4 brand

The West Indies' youngest ever T20 International player Jewel Andrew has been signed by Cricket Zone USA as an E4 Brand Ambassador.

During the contractual period, 18-year-old Andrew will don the E4 line of products in all forms of cricket, signaling the rising global appeal of the brand, founded and developed by USA-based Guyanese entrepreneur and cricket fanatic, Ravi Etwaroo.

At 18 years, 236 days Andrew became the West Indies' youngest player in T20 Internationals when he made his debut against Pakistan in Florida on July 31, 2025.

With his newly minted E4 willow in hand, the Antiguan right-hander stroked 35 off 33 (1×4, 3x6s), opening the batting alongside Johnson Charles.

"We're so happy to have Jewel Andrew on board," Etwaroo related. "He's certainly one of the brightest talents in Caribbean and world cricket and we hope this alliance will bring him the success that he's looking for in his promising career."

Andrew's agent, Brad Gillings, the Co-Founder and Managing Director of GGSM Sports based in Florida, was

elated with the signing.

"Having worked with some of the world's leading cricket manufacturers over the past decade, I can confidently say that E4 has elevated their quality to a level comparable with any top global brand.

"What makes this partnership even more special is that E4 is a home-grown brand from our region, and we are deeply passionate about supporting both the Caribbean and our clients."

Gillings added, "We believe E4's vision and goals perfectly align with our expectations, making this an ideal partnership for Jewel Andrew, who is undoubtedly one of the best young players in the world.

"This collaboration not only showcases the rising standard of Caribbean brands, but also highlights the bright future ahead for Jewel and E4 together."

Andrew apart, GGSM Sports also represented fellow West Indians Hayley Matthews, Deandra Dottin, Brandon King, and Kevlon Anderson.

Just two weeks ago, Guyanese duo,

batsman Anderson and all-rounder Keemo Paul, were also announced as E4 Ambassadors as the brand continues to extend its reach in the sport.

Meanwhile, E4 is International Cricket Council (ICC) approved to be used in all formats of international cricket (Tests, ODIs and T20Is), meaning the E4 logo can legally be displayed on clothing and equipment used in international cricket.

To gain this accreditation and approval in March 2024, it was important the E4 brand catered to all levels of cricket- male, female, senior, junior and youth.

Over the years, Cricket Zone USA, through E4, has sponsored several cricketers across the region.

Among them are Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Chandrapaul Hemraj, Matthew Nandu, Oraine Williams, Tevin Imlach, Raymon Reifer, Ronaldo Alimohamed, Junior Sinclair, Kevin Sinclair, Kemol Savory, Fabian Allen, Adrian Hetmyer, Akshaya Persaud and West Indies female cricketers Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams, Chinelle Henry, and Natasha McLean.



Sports News

Jennings Tigers win season-ending Thursday League title



The 2025 Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League domestic season officially ended with the Jennings Tigers winning the last of the four competitions.

The Jennings Tigers were crowned new champions by winning the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League's Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League T20 competition.

The Tigers claimed their first Thursday League title with a 28-run victory against CMW New Winthropes Lions at the New Winthropes playing field.

The Jennings Tigers batted first and scored 138 for six off their allotted 20 overs. Glenton Williams top scored with 45 off 41 balls, D'Ahri Francis struck 25 off 17 balls, and George Elvin hit 20 off 19 balls.

Pacer Chad Hampson captured three for 38, Kadeem Henry picked up one for 16, and Ishmael Peters claimed one for 26.

In reply, the New Winthropes Lions were restricted to 110 for seven off their 20 overs.

Dravid Richardson cracked an unbeaten 25 off 22 balls, Jermaine Ottos scored 22 off 28 balls, and Chad Hampson hit 18 not out off 16 balls.



Ondre Peters picked up two for 19, Demetri Lucas claimed two for 24, and Matthew Miller captured one for 16.

The Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League, which reached its 45th-year

milestone this season, was won by WES Rising Sun Spartans during the past two years.

The other three Parish League domestic competitions, which were all 30-overs-per-side one-day contests, were captured by Freetown and PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks.

Freetown won two titles by capturing the Sir Richie Richardson and the Sir Curtly Ambrose limited overs championships. The Liberta Blackhawks secured their first Parish League title of the season by winning the Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship.

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Wirtz's creativity can make up for Alexander-Arnold loss, says Slot

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Trent Alexander-Arnold's departure to Real Madrid has left Liverpool wanting for creativity but the signing of attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz can help offset that deficiency, the Premier League club's manager Arne Slot said.

Liverpool smashed their transfer record in June to sign Wirtz and bolster their attacking options, with the German international having scored 57 goals and provided 65 assists in 197 appearances for Bayer Leverkusen.

Wirtz played in a Liverpool shirt for the first time at Anfield on Monday, putting in an impressive performance in the Merseyside club's 3-2 win over Athletic Bilbao in a pre-season match.

"I think there's always room for improvement in every department. Like I said, we've added a few, in my opinion, extra weapons. So, Florian (Wirtz) has a lot of creativity in the final third," Slot told reporters.

"We've lost with Trent (Alexan-



Florian Wirtz

der-Arnold) a lot of creativity from the back. Trent's crosses and picking out runners was so special – I think Flo has this quality as well in a totally different position.

"But he brings that creativity, the

pace of Hugo (Ekitike), the pace of both full-backs – Milos (Kerkez) and Jeremie (Frimpong) today."

Liverpool, who won the Premier League to secure a record-equalling 20th English title, have been busy in the transfer market as they look to build on last season's success.

Slot said it was crucial to strengthen the squad. "Our competitors are not sitting still," he added.

"Not only they try to improve as well but they have also made a lot of signings, like we all have done. So that's why it's going to be a very interesting Premier League in the upcoming year again."

Liverpool will take on FA Cup winner Crystal Palace in the Community Shield on August 10, before beginning their Premier League title defence against Bournemouth at Anfield on August 15.

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Tough goings for Antiguanans at CONCACAF Boys U-15 Championship

Antigua and Barbuda suffered defeat in their second match at the CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football) Boys Under-15 Championship, which is taking place in Aruba from August 2 to 10.

Antigua and Barbuda lost 2-0 to Trinidad and Tobago in their Group E of League B encounter at Stadion Centro Deportivo José Wever in Savaneta, Aruba, on Tuesday.

Aaden Jones scored in the 20th minute to give the Trinidadian a one-nil lead at halftime. Adasa Richardson added a second with a 66th-minute conversion to seal victory for Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigua and Barbuda fought to a goalless draw with Bermuda in their opening Group E of League B encounter at the same venue on Monday.

Bermuda was on the front foot for most of the first half but couldn't find the back of the net. Antigua and Barbuda tried to flip the script in the second half, but neither side could get much going in the final third.

Goalkeepers Xavier Thomas-Bassett of Bermuda and Mekhi Phillip of Antigua and Barbuda were the stars of the show, as they both finished with clean sheets.

The fifth edition of the competition is featuring a record 38 CONCACAF member associations, as well as one guest participant, Saudi Arabia. Team distribution across the leagues is based on the CONCACAF Men's Under-17 Rankings and the final number of participating teams.

As part of CONCACAF's memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and partnership with the Saudi Arabi-



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda national under-15 football team on arrival at the airport in Aruba on Sunday, August 3, 2025. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

an Football Association (SAFF), the SAFF's U-15 national team is participating in this year's tournament.

Three member associations, Aruba, Costa Rica, and Curaçao, are hosting the 2025 CONCACAF Boys' Under-15 Championship. The tournament's matches are being held simultaneously in three countries. League A matches are taking place in Costa Rica, League B in Aruba, and League C in Curaçao.

League A comprised the eight highest-ranked national teams and the guest team, Saudi Arabia. League B consists of the 16 next best-ranked national teams. They are divided into four groups.

Group C comprised Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guyana, and the Cayman Islands, while Group D features Jamaica, Curaçao, Aruba, and Belize.

Group E consists of Bermuda, Trin-

idad and Tobago, Barbados, and Antigua and Barbuda, while Group F comprises the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, the British Virgin Islands, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Each of the three leagues will feature a group stage followed by a single-elimination knockout round, with a champion crowned in each league.

The most recent edition of the Concacaf Boys' U-15 Championship was held in 2023, with League A and C matches played in the Dominican Republic and League B hosted by Curaçao.

In League A, the United States secured the title with a 4-2 win over Mexico in the final. Nicaragua captured the League B crown with a narrow 2-1 victory over St. Lucia, while St. Martin triumphed in League C, defeating St. Vincent and the Grenadines 4-1 in the final.