

A night 'among the people': PM Browne visits Wato

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Scenes from last Friday night at Wato....PM Gaston Browne is joined by Senator Colin O'Neal among others

A night 'among the people': PM Browne visits Wato



For all intents and purpose, he is Gaston Browne, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, but for a few hours on Friday night, he was 'Bongo Nattie', song-writer and music producer who was debuting his new album at Wato Night Club, a popular spot for what has been described as 'cultural people'.

The prime minister has collaborated with well-known producer, *Jus Bus*, to produce a record album featuring songs where the lyrics and much of the music were generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI). Because the music was predominantly reggae, the prime minister chose Wato to release the music before a LIVE audience.

PM Browne reflected on the songs performed at Wato and how deeply they connected with him and the audience. He noted that tracks like *Together We*

Rise, Together We Heal carried strong emotional weight, particularly as they touched on themes of family, community, and mental health.

The Prime Minister expressed gratitude for the 'embrace and love shown by the people, remarking that he felt at home among them. For him, the evening underscored that he is not just a political figure but 'one of them', a son of the community who grew up among the same people now cheering him on.

A Historic Night at Wato

The gathering at Wato was described as nothing short of historic. Several attendees highlighted that it was 'the first time a Prime Minister had ever attended an event at Wato', breaking barriers of formality and bringing leadership closer to the people.

In contrast to past administrations,

where official visits were often marked by heavy police presence and rigid formality, PM Browne's attendance was relaxed and approachable. Citizens recognized the moment as one of unity and inclusivity.

One man was quoted as saying, "This is history." For many, the Prime Minister's presence represented not just political leadership but also cultural and communal solidarity.

Music, AI, and Climate Change

The discussion turned to the innovative role of 'artificial intelligence (AI)' in music creation. PM Browne explained that the quality of output from AI tools like ChatGPT depends heavily on the 'knowledge and input of the user'. He stressed that strong subject knowledge leads to more meaningful lyrical content.

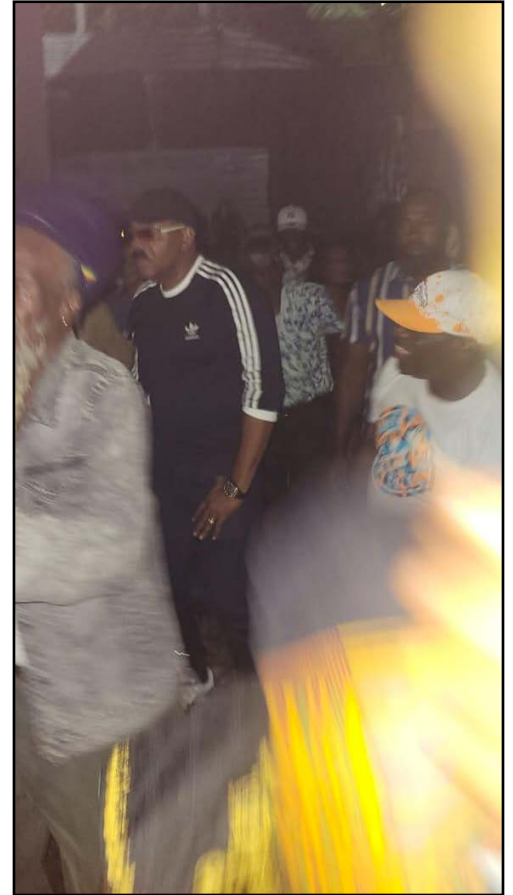


est ideas into impactful artistic expressions.

Overcoming Skepticism About AI in Music

Initially, music producer **Jus Bus**, who collaborated on the tracks, was skeptical of AI-generated lyrics. He viewed the process as “flawed” and “unreal.” However, after working with the Prime Minister on recent projects, his perspective shifted. He was so impressed by the results that he now plans to return from Seattle to Antigua to help other artists harness AI in their music production.

This shift highlighted AI’s ability to ‘level the playing field’, especially in regions like the Caribbean where artists often lack resources such as full studios, arrangers, or orchestras. AI tools, PM Browne emphasized, allow local talent to compete globally, regardless of financial constraints.



Using ‘climate change’ as an example, the prime minister described how his experience in international climate negotiations enabled him to produce ‘world-class lyrics’ that captured critical issues such as:

- * The 1.5°C global warming threshold
- * Loss and damage compensation
- * Adaptation and mitigation strategies
- * The reduction of emissions
- * Protection of mountains, seas, and forests
- * The fight against climate “atrocities” and ecocide

One composition, titled “**No Planet B**,” drew directly from his longstanding advocacy. For years, he has warned that there is no alternative to protecting Earth, and this conviction became the driving force behind the song.

Another song on littering was sparked by his oft-repeated statement that “to litter is a sin.” AI carried this theme into a full lyrical piece, showing how technology can expand even the small-



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Local News

Caribbean cruise leaders to gather for second annual cruise connect conference in St. John's and Castries

Antigua Cruise Port and Saint Lucia Cruise Port, subsidiaries of Global Ports Holding (GPH), are pleased to announce the launch of the second annual Cruise Connect conference, the premier Eastern Caribbean cruise forum, scheduled for September 16 in Antigua and Barbuda and September 18 in Saint Lucia. The Antigua event will be held at Royalton Antigua.

Cruise Connect 2025 will serve as a vital platform to convene cruise line executives, government leaders, tourism officials, port operators, and industry stakeholders. The forum will highlight infrastructure developments, strategic growth initiatives, sustainability priorities, and market insights for the 2025/2026 cruise season.

The Antigua and Barbuda forum will open with a keynote address from the Hon. Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, & Investment, setting the stage for a day of meaningful dialogue. After a brief welcome, executives of Antigua Cruise Port will present a forecast of the year ahead and will share projections for cruise itineraries, highlighting key opportunities and areas of growth.

The first panel discussion, "Future-Ready Destination: Realigning Antigua & Barbuda for Cruise Growth," will feature Colin James, CEO of the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority, ex-



Royalton Antigua.

ecutives from Global Ports Holding, and executives from the local cruise community. Together, they will explore destination competitiveness, port readiness, the guest experience, and the importance of ground transportation alignment.

The second session, "Sailing in Sync: Partnerships Powering Cruise Success," will bring together Ceylan Erzi, Marketing Director at GPH; Richard Diaz, Destination Operations Specialist at Virgin Voyages; representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investments; and Gasper George, General Manager of Antigua Cruise Port and Director of Operations and Product Development for GPH Eastern Caribbean. This discussion will focus on regional positioning, the strategic vision of GPH, the cruise line outlook, public-private partnerships, and sustainable tourism development. The program will

conclude with an overview of highlighting key takeaways and collaborative opportunities, followed by a networking lunch. A similar program will take place in Saint Lucia on September 18, with adjustments to reflect the local port context and priorities.

The event will also include the Cruise Tourism Partner Expo, providing a platform for tour operators, shore excursion providers, and creative entrepreneurs to highlight their products and services in front of cruise executives, government leaders, media, and potential partners.

George expressed his excitement about the event. **Cruise Connect 2025** provides a powerful opportunity to share our progress, align with industry partners, and reinforce Antigua's role as a leading Caribbean cruise destination. Beyond strengthening partnerships, this forum allows us to showcase how our ongoing

ing efforts in destination development and innovative product enhancement are elevating the visitor experience and positioning Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia for sustainable growth in the global cruise industry."

Lancelot Arnold, Regional Director of GPH Eastern Caribbean and General Manager, Saint Lucia Cruise Port, added, "Cruise Connect 2025 is more than a forum—it is a catalyst for progress across the region. By bringing together government leaders, cruise executives, and community partners, we are creating the space to chart a shared path forward. This year's event will focus on innovation, sustainability, and building stronger synergies that ensure Antigua, Saint Lucia and the wider Eastern Caribbean remain competitive, compelling, and resilient destinations for the future of cruise tourism."

OECS Donates Vehicles and IT Equipment to Antigua and Barbuda

The Ministry of Health is pleased to announce a significant contribution from the OECS Direct Relief Grant, aimed at enhancing the country's capacity for vector control and epidemiological surveillance. This donation represents a major step in strengthening the nation's public health infrastructure and its ability to respond swiftly and effectively to health challenges.

As part of the grant, OECS Direct Relief donated two vehicles, 30 laptops, and 10 tablets to the Ministry. The vehicles will provide much-needed mobility for health teams engaged in field operations, while the laptops and tablets will enable efficient data collection, analysis, and reporting for surveillance programs. These resources are expected to improve the Ministry's ability to monitor disease trends, coordinate rapid response efforts, and implement targeted interventions to reduce the spread of vector-borne and communicable diseases.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph emphasized that protecting the health of the people is a responsibility the Government takes with "vigilance, foresight, and resolve."

He noted that climate change is creating ideal conditions for mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika, and while Antigua and Barbuda has a strong surveillance system, "we cannot afford complacency". He stressed the importance of strengthening systems, skills, and community engagement to stay ahead of evolving threats.

Highlighting the impact of the donation, the Minister explained that the new vehicles, computers, and tablets "will transform how we conduct surveillance—helping us detect outbreaks early, respond decisively, and save lives."

He expressed sincere gratitude on be-



half of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda to the OECS, Direct Relief, and PAHO for their continued support, noting that "together, with solidarity and shared vision, we can confront any public health challenge."

Also addressing the ceremony, Dr. Roxanne St. Martin, representing the OECS Commission, noted that the handover formed part of the Enhancing Health Infrastructure and Resilience in OECS Member States Project, a USD \$3 million initiative funded by Direct Relief. She explained that the project has been designed to strengthen health infrastructure and resilience across the region, combining training in epidemiological and entomological surveillance with the provision of vital equipment and vehicles.

"What we are celebrating today," she said, "is not simply the delivery of resources, but the co-creation of solutions through meaningful partnership. A victory for one is indeed a victory

for all."

The ceremony, held at the Ministry of Health Headquarters, was attended by senior Ministry officials, including Permanent Secretary Stacey Gregg-Paige, Chief Medical Officer (Ag) Dr. Teriann Joseph, EPI Manager Soria Dupie, Deputy Chief Health Inspector Daryl Spencer, and members of the OECS Commission. The event provided an opportunity for the media to witness the presentation, engage with officials, and highlight the importance of this partnership in promoting public health.

This collaboration underscores Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to building a robust public health system capable of addressing emerging health threats. By combining technical resources with field mobility, the Ministry is now better equipped to prevent disease outbreaks, respond to emergencies, and safeguard the well-being of communities across the nation.

DR official discusses critical issues with the Chief Immigration Officer

The Consul General of the Dominican Republic in Antigua and Barbuda, Joaquín Díaz López, held an important working meeting with Antigua and Barbuda immigration authorities, led by the Chief of Immigration, Katrina Yearwood, during which both parties agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation to address the situation of Dominican citizens residing in Antigua and Barbuda.

Also present at the meeting were the Immigration Officer-in-Charge, Eulandis Pilgrim; the Station Chief, John Mendes; and Immigration Officer, Hubert. Smith, together with the Dominican diplomatic corps. All reaffirmed their shared commitment to ensuring fair and humane treatment of immigrants.

Consul Díaz was accompanied by Vice Consul Huáscar Ogando, who served as liaison during the process,



The Consul General of the Dominican Republic in Antigua and Barbuda, Joaquín Díaz López,

helping to reinforce communication and coordination with the local authorities.

The Dominican Consul emphasized that this achievement demonstrates

the firm commitment of the Dominican Government to protecting its citizens abroad, while also opening a new stage of cooperation with the authorities of Antigua and Barbuda.

“This meeting sets an important precedent and motivates us to work together for the well-being of our nationals. We have agreed with Chief of Immigration, Katrina Yearwood, to establish a joint work agenda to address the situation of Dominicans who remain in irregular migratory status, with the purpose of ensuring that they receive fair and humane treatment,” stated Díaz López.

He also highlighted the full cooperation that currently exists between the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the Dominican Republic, based on mutual respect, and assured that both nations will continue working in that same spirit to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Through this action, the Dominican Republic reaffirms its unwavering commitment to accompany and protect the Dominican community abroad.



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Government House Perimeter Wall Vandalized During Carnival – Swift Action Restores Its Dignity

The Office of the Governor-General expresses its deep shock and disappointment at the irresponsible actions of individuals who defaced the historic perimeter wall of Government House during the recent Carnival parades. This act of vandalism disrespected not only the nation's premier heritage site, but also the people of Antigua and Barbuda who value its cultural and historical significance.

In the face of this regrettable incident, the response of our community has been both heartening and exemplary. We extend sincere thanks to the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force for their swift assistance, and to the many donors and volunteers who generously provided paint, supplies, and time to restore the wall to its dignified appearance.

Governor-General, Sir Rodney Williams, felt so strongly about the matter that he made a significant personal donation to procure paint and tools, ensuring that the work could be completed without delay. This personal gesture underscores his deep commitment to safeguarding the dignity of Government House and to preserving Antigua and Barbuda's national heritage.

Government House, which continues to undergo restoration as part of a major heritage project, stands as a testament to the resilience and unity of the Antiguan and Barbudan people. The quick and generous response to this unfortunate episode is further proof of our shared commitment to protecting our history for generations to come.



We appeal to all citizens and visitors to respect and protect our historic landmarks. Anyone caught defacing the wall will face the charges resulting

from their actions. Acts of vandalism diminish our collective identity, while acts of care and service strengthen it.


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Local News

ABTA's 'BE HERE' branded bus rolls up for CATIFESTA in Barbados

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has an exciting bus advertising campaign on the streets of Barbados with a 'Be Here' branded bus - a moving invitation for Barbadians to experience the rich culture, award-winning beaches, and remarkable events in Antigua and Barbuda.

The full-bus wrap features stunning imagery capturing the energy of Antigua Carnival, the serene beauty of Antigua and Barbuda's 365 pristine beaches and landscapes, the twin-island's cuisine, and people. The bold message displayed on the bus - 'Be Here' - is a simple yet powerful call to action, inviting Barbadians to make Antigua and Barbuda their next getaway.

The bus travels daily along one of Barbados' busiest and most high-profile coastal routes, commonly known as Highway 1, stretching from Speightstown in the North of the island, through the upscale and very popular West Coast district and to the capital city of Bridgetown. This corridor experiences constant vehicular and pedestrian traffic and is lined with numerous local businesses. It also runs through a popular tourist belt known for its restaurants, hotels, attractions, and cultural landmarks, making it the ideal route for maximum visibility and en-



gement.

"We're thrilled to bring the essence of Antigua and Barbuda to the streets of Barbados," said Charmaine Spen-

cer, Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America market at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA).

The Tourism Director noted that, "This campaign is about more than stunning scenery, it's about keeping Antigua and Barbuda



top-of-mind and extending a heartfelt invitation to experience our vibrant festivals, savour our cuisine, and share in the warmth of our people.”

With Antigua and Barbuda participating in the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA), in Barbados, the branded bus made a special appearance for Antigua and Barbuda’s ‘Country Night’ celebrations at the CARIFESTA Grand Market. Ahead of the country’s dynamic performance on Thursday, August 27, performers from the Antigua and Barbuda delegation arrived in style aboard the destination branded bus, drawing attention on the streets and at the CARIFESTA venue. Disembarking in full costume Antigua and

Barbuda’s newly crowned Queen of Carnival Kia Kirwan and the team of talented dancers and drummers, created a visual spectacle and generated buzz, highlighting the twin-islands colourful culture and vibrancy. The activation with the cultural performers tied seamlessly into ABTA’s ‘Be’ campaign, which invites audiences to “Be Immersed” in Antigua and Barbuda’s culture and arts year-round.

As regional travel continues to grow, the ABTA aims to strengthen inter-island connections and encourage Caribbean neighbours to rediscover the unique offerings of the twin-island nation. Barbados, a key regional source market, presents an ideal audience with strong travel interest, cultural af-

finity, and accessible flight connections.

“Whether it is relaxing on one of our 365 beaches, dining on freshly grilled lobster in Barbuda, joining us for Culinary Month, Cricket or Antigua Carnival we want our Barbadian neighbours to feel welcomed and inspired to explore all that Antigua and Barbuda has to offer,” remarked Spencer.

Visitors to the Antigua and Barbuda booth at CARIFESTA were warmly welcomed by a team from the ABTA that included Marketing Officer Francine Joseph, Marketing Communications Manager Maria Blackman, and Digital Media Manager Sharifa George. Guests were treated to a taste of the islands, with miniature product samples

and were invited to enter a special travel competition for a chance to win airline tickets for two to Antigua, compliments of LIAT Air. While in Barbados, the team also participated in media interviews, inviting listeners to ‘Be’ in Antigua and Barbuda.

The ‘Be Here’ campaign complements ABTA’s regional strategy to promote year-round travel and elevate the profile of signature and new events, such as the Antigua Racing Cup, Antigua Sailing Week, Antigua and Barbuda Culinary Month, Antigua Carnival, and Antigua and Barbuda Art Week.

The ‘Be Here’ bus advertising in Barbados commenced in June and will run until November.

The Family Court is strengthened with appointment of new judge

Dominican magistrate Pearl Williams will take up her post at Antigua and Barbuda's Family Court on Monday. Williams, who made history in Dominica as the country's first Kalinago attorney in 2010 and its first indigenous magistrate in 2016, brings extensive judicial experience to the role. Officials say her expertise will strengthen the court's capacity to address complex family law matters.



DAILY PROGRAMMING



EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMST A

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

BAD COMPANY 2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS

REGGAE INSPIRATION 9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN

JAH WADADLI 7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI

Rotary Club of Antigua Strengthens National Development with Laptop Donations to Key Agencies



Photographed: Right to left; Past President and Service Project Chair Paul Ryan, Representative from the Youth Intervention Centre; Constable of Police Rashidi Merrifield, Sergeant of Police Shenette Morton, Assistant Superintendent of Police Raffie Browne and Corporal of Police Audie Browne, Rotary Club of Antigua President Elisa Graham.



Photographed: Right to left; Past President and Service Project Chair Paul Ryan, Lt. Col. Eugene Phillip of Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, Rotary Club of Antigua President Elisa Graham.

The Rotary Club of Antigua is again demonstrating its unwavering commitment to national development by donating a total of 35 laptops to two vital institutions: the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) and the Youth Intervention Centre (YIC). The initiative forms part of the Club's Education Through Technology (ETT) Project, which is designed to bridge the digital divide and enhance access to technology across the nation.

The presentation ceremony highlighted Rotary's ongoing mission to support youth development, education, and national capacity building.

15 Laptops to Youth Intervention Centre

Assistant Superintendent of Police Raffie Browne expressed gratitude to the Rotary Club of Antigua for identifying the Youth Intervention Centre as a priority recipient.

"This Centre is one of the most vital departments in youth development and rehabilitation, because the youths

are our future," ASP Browne remarked.

Providing insight into the Centre's work, Corporal of Police Audie Browne explained that the YIC supports schools and suspended students by offering life skills and guidance.

"When a child is suspended from school, they spend time at the Centre where they are taught important lessons such as bullying awareness, coping with peer pressure, peaceful conflict resolution, and anger management," he said.

The 15 laptops were officially presented by Past President Paul Ryan, Service Projects Director, and President Elisa Graham of the Rotary Club of Antigua. Also in attendance were Sergeant of Police Shenette Morton and Constable of Police Rashidi Merrifield.

20 Laptops to Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

In addition, President Elisa Graham presented 20 laptops to the Antigua

and Barbuda Defence Force to enhance training and administrative programs. Accepting on behalf of the ABDF was Lt. Col. Eugene Phillip, who extended appreciation on behalf of the Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier General Telbert Benjamin, and the officers of the Force.

"Not only will these computers go a long way in strengthening our training programmes, but they will also enhance our administrative capacity. The timing is especially meaningful as this donation coincides with the ABDF's week of activities," Lt. Col. Phillip noted.

The Rotary Club of Antigua remains dedicated to its mission of *Service Above Self*, spearheading initiatives that empower youth, strengthen institutions, and foster community development. Through projects such as the Education Through Technology (ETT) Project, the Club continues to create lasting impact across Antigua and Barbuda.

POLICE BLOTTER: WEEKEND REPORT FROM THE POLICE

All Saints Man Charged for Breaking into Tyre Rock Shop

The Police have arrested and charged 27-year-old Soni Russell of All Saints Village for breaking in the Tyre Rock Enterprise on All Saints Road.

On June 6, 2025, the business premises was broken into and a wide range of items and equipment valued over \$28,000 were reportedly stolen.

The items include: Wheel Barrow, Car Jack, Bosch Jack Hammer, one (1) De Walt Power Saw, Grinder, one (1) Mini Desktop Computer, Camera System, Amplifier, 11 boxes of tyre patch, among several other items.

Following further investigations into the incident, Russell was apprehended by the police and formally charged for

the offences.

He is expected to appear before the court this week

The Police Administration continues to urge business owners to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station or call 911.

Cassada Gardens Man Charged For Stealing Coconuts and Avocados

The police have arrested and charged 30-year-old Anthony Joe of Cassada Gardens for stealing a quantity of coconuts and avocados from a property in Crosbies.

He is accused of stealing three (3) bunches of coconuts valued at \$500 and a quantity of avocados valued at \$400 from the property

of an elderly man sometime between August 28th and 29th.

It is alleged he gained access to the property through several holes that were found in the perimeter fence.

Following further investigations Joe was subsequently arrested and formally

charged in connection with the offence. He is expected to appear before the court sometime next week.

The Police Administration continues to remind members of the public that Prædial Larceny is a serious offence, which not only affects farmers and property owners but also undermines

the nation's agricultural sector and threatens food security.

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station without delay.

Golden Grove Man Arrested and Charged for Unlawful Electronic Transfer of Money

The police have arrested and charged 28-year-old Jahari Adams of Golden Grove Extension in connection with an unlawful electronic transfer of money.

Adams is accused of unlawfully trans-

ferring EC\$12,000.00 from a bank account belonging to another person. The offence is alleged to have occurred sometime between the 10th and 12th June 2025 at Old Parham Road.

Following investigations, Adams was

arrested by the police and later charged with offence. He is expected to make his first appearance before the Court to answer to the charge.

The police are continuing their investigations into the matter.

Police Investigate Shooting at Former Bruce's Night Club

The police are investigating a shooting incident that occurred on the premises of the former Bruce's Night Club in Hatton around 8:50 p.m. on Friday, 29 August 2025.

A 42-year-old male who

resides in one of the apartments reported that he was shot by an unknown assailant.

He was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, where he was treated for a single gun-

shot wound to his right hand.

Medical officials confirmed that the injury is not life-threatening.

The police are appealing to anyone who may have

information that can assist them with their investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crime Stoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Building Access, Building Hope: The Giving Syndicate and Diana's Journey to Independence



How do you measure the worth of a community? Is it in the size of its buildings, the wealth of its businesses, or the kindness it shows to its most vulnerable? In Antigua and Barbuda, one small act of generosity has grown into something much bigger — a movement of people and partners determined to change lives. At the heart of this transformation is Diana, an 11-year-old student from Potters Primary School, and the Giving Syndicate, a circle of givers who decided that accessibility is not a luxury, but a necessity.

Diana's story is one that both inspires and challenges us. For years, she navigated a school not built with her in mind. Simple acts that her classmates took for granted — walking to the bathroom, moving from one classroom to another, joining friends in the playground — required adult assistance. Independence was not hers to claim. How often must she have wondered why her world seemed so much small-

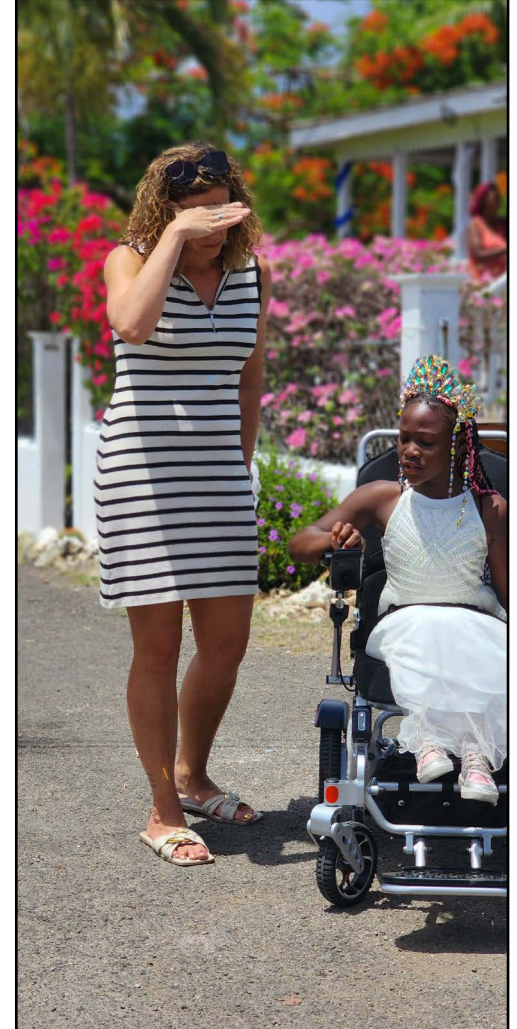


er than everyone else's? How many of us have walked past schools, offices, or government buildings without stopping to ask: who is missing from this space because it was never designed for them?

It was this question that drove the creation of the Giving Syndicate. Conceived by Nadia Dyson of Luxury Locations, the Syndicate was formed to provide not just charity, but visible, measurable impact. Nadia explained it this way:

"We are all in positions of privilege. We make a good living in a country where poverty is still very present around us. Giving back shouldn't just be about charity — it should be about measurable impact. When giving is done right, it becomes a ripple effect of good."

The Syndicate's very first project centered on Diana. Luxury Locations pledged to purchase an electric wheelchair for her — a gift that would



transform her daily life. For the first time, Diana could imagine moving around without needing to wait for someone else. But one truth quickly became clear: what is the use of mobility if doors remain closed and stairs remain unyielding? The project expanded. Potters Primary, like every other school in Antigua and Barbuda, had no ramps. None. To make Diana's chair meaningful, the school itself had to change. And that is when the power of community came alive.

Thanks to the incredible support of Luxury Locations (\$5,000), Elims Bridge (\$5,000), CIBC and Sky Tiger (both pledging \$5,000), Earl's Heavy Duty Equipment (digging), Antigua Masonry Products (concrete), Antigua

Local News

Port Authority (drawings), L French Construction (labour and estimates), and Builder Merchant's Mr. Fleming — who not only provided continuous material support but also suggested placing a corner to prevent the chair from slipping — the ramp was made ready for Dianna's to return to school on September 8, 2025.

Imagine that moment: Diana wheeling herself into class on the first day of the new school year, no longer dependent on others to carry her, no longer limited to one part of the building. Independence, at last, hers. And beyond Diana, the ramp will serve countless other students, teachers, and visitors who might need it in the years to come.

But this project has also highlighted a sobering truth. Why has it taken until 2025 for our country to build its first fully accessible primary school? The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ratified by Antigua and Barbuda in 2016, makes accessibility a basic human right. Article 9 calls on nations to ensure access to the physical environment, transportation, and public facilities. Yet, nearly a decade later, our schools remained unchanged. Diana's ramp is more than concrete and steel — it is a mirror reflecting how much further we still have to go.

The ramp, however, is just the beginning. To truly complete the transformation at Potters Primary, a roof is needed to shield students and the chair from weather conditions. Without it, accessibility remains vulnerable — exposed to rain, sun, and the challenges of a tropical climate. The Giving Syndicate is still raising funds to finish this final stage. Will you pledge your support? Will you stand with Diana and every child who deserves to move freely through their school without barriers?

The significance of this project extends far beyond Potters Primary. It is a symbol of what is possible when businesses, organizations, and individuals come together. Each donor played a role, from financial contributions to



materials, design, and labor. It is proof that change does not require one hero — it requires many hands.

Total Imports Supplies also played a critical role by assisting with the logistics of getting Diana's wheelchair onto the island. Their contribution was less visible than a ramp or a cheque, but no less essential. Isn't that the beauty of true community? Each person plays a part, whether seen or unseen, and together the outcome is extraordinary. The Giving Syndicate wants the nation — and the region — to see what is possible when communities unite for inclusion.

But perhaps the most powerful part of this story is not the ceremony or the recognition. It is the ripple. The ripple that Nadia spoke of. The ripple that began with one girl in one school, but that now challenges all of us: what about the other schools? What about workplaces? Government offices?

Public spaces? If we could do it for Diana, why not for every child?

And so, the work continues. The Giving Syndicate is already looking toward its next projects. There are more ramps to be built, more barriers to be broken, more lives to be changed. Each pledge, each donation, each act of kindness is a brick in the foundation of a more accessible Antigua & Barbuda.

The question that remains is one only the community can answer: Will we continue to build? Will we take Diana's story as a single exception, or as the start of a new normal? Accessibility is not charity. It is justice. It is dignity. It is the difference between being carried and moving freely. Between waiting and belonging. Between exclusion and equality. The Giving Syndicate has shown us the way. The rest is up to us.

Photo Story

On Saturday night, the Social Protection Board hosted an appreciation dinner for its platinum sponsors and members of staff. It was held at People's Place.



Photo Story



Photo Story

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs held a ceremony last week to mark the end of six-week internship for a number of young people. Both Minister Hon E.P Chet Greene and Permanent Secretary Amb. Dr. Clarence Pilgrim officiated.



Photo Story



Warships in Our Waters



An Imagined Caribbean Roundtable

When Trinidad and Tobago declared its full support for U.S. warships entering Caribbean waters to combat drug cartels, I wondered what it might mean to hear the region's great luminaries — leaders, thinkers, revolutionaries, and artists — debate the question together.

So I convened an imaginary roundtable: Eric Williams, Walter Rodney, Maurice Bishop, C.L.R. James, Lloyd Best, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Eugenia Charles, Kwame Ture, Frantz Fanon, Michael Manley, Norman Girvan, Sylvia Wynter, George Lamming, and Bob Marley. Some long gone, others present only in legacy, but all remain enduring touchstones.

With the help of AI, guided by their histories, philosophies, and words, their voices are reanimated here, their arguments distilled. It is not the same as having them in the room, but it gestures toward what might have been one of the most remarkable conversations of our time.

At its heart is a single question:

How should the Caribbean respond to the arrival of American warships in its seas?

Colleagues, we are gathered to consider a pressing question. Trinidad and Tobago has declared its full support for U.S. warships entering Caribbean

waters to combat drug cartels. How should the region respond?"

Dr. Eric Williams

"Our independence was not won to surrender sovereignty at the first sign of trouble. Security must be solved within the Caribbean, not outsourced to Washington. The same way Capitalism and Slavery revealed how empire enriched itself on our backs, we must not let our seas become another ledger line of dependency."

Eugenia Charles (interrupting)

"With respect, Dr. Williams, drug trafficking is destroying our societies. If the United States is willing to assist, we should not let ideology blind us to practical necessity. Sovereignty is meaningless if our youth are lost to crime. As I showed in Dominica, pragmatism can keep a small nation afloat in dangerous waters."

Walter Rodney

"Mrs. Charles, the crime is real — but U.S. militarization has never been neutral. These ships are not about drugs; they are about control. The roots of this problem lie in inequality and dependency — not in the absence of warships. As I argued in *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, power always extracts under the guise of protection."

Maurice Bishop (nodding to Rodney)

"I know the meaning of American warships. They anchored off Grenada under the guise of 'helping.' What followed was invasion, destruction, occupation. If we invite them now, we invite a repeat of history. Our People's Revolutionary Government proved that literacy, dignity, and grassroots councils can defend a nation better than foreign guns."

Fidel Castro (voice booming)

"Exactly! These vessels do not serve our people. They come to remind us who owns these seas. The drug trade is the excuse — empire is the reality.

Cuba taught the world that sovereignty, once defended at the Bay of Pigs, cannot be traded for favors or fleets."

Che Guevara (leaning forward)

"You cannot fight despair with destroyers. The drug trade is born of poverty and exploitation. You want to end it? Build a new society. Not even a thousand warships can solve the hunger of the people. Our revolution showed that when the wretched take destiny in their hands, even the mightiest empire trembles."

Kwame Ture (raising a fist)

"Yes, brother Che. Liberation cannot come from the empire's cannons. Black Power means we build our own defenses, our own strength, our own unity. Otherwise, we are still chained to the plantation. From Selma to Port of Spain, I declared that the struggle of Black people everywhere is one and indivisible."

Lloyd Best (measured, intellectual)

"And that plantation persists in every dependency we accept. These warships are a confession of failure. Instead of fixing our economies, we outsource responsibility and import power. Until we dismantle the plantation model, we will remain trapped. The New World Group showed us that analysis must be our first weapon against dependency."

C.L.R. James (calm, cutting through)

"This is empire's oldest tactic: manufacture a threat, then offer guardianship. We do not need guardians. We need freedom, and freedom requires that we govern ourselves. Warships solve nothing but the ambitions of those who send them. As I wrote in *The Black Jacobins*, the smallest colony can ignite a revolution that shakes the world."

Sir Shridath Ramphal (diplomatic, tempered)

"I share the concern for sovereignty. Yet we must also face reality. The Ca-

Feature

Caribbean cannot ignore narcotics. The way forward is cooperation — but on terms of partnership, not guardianship. Security must be regional first, cooperative second. My work at the Commonwealth taught me that small states can wield great moral power when they act together.”

Michael Manley (statesmanlike)

“Ramphal is right. Security must balance dignity. Jamaica and the Caribbean need allies, not masters. Let us engage the United States as equals, not dependents. Warships cannot substitute for justice, jobs, and opportunity. My own vision of democratic socialism was rooted in the belief that dignity must be the first dividend of development.”

Norman Girvan (leaning in)

“But Michael, the real question is why we turn to Washington at all. This is the price of our failure to integrate. CARICOM should have been our guarantor of security. Instead, we beg for protection. Dependence is our greatest danger. The Regional Integration Papers made clear that sovereignty is strongest when it is pooled.”

Sylvia Wynter (lyrical, reflective)

“And dependence is not only economic. It is epistemic — it lives in our imagination. If we outsource security, we outsource our ability to conceive of ourselves as full subjects of history. We must reimagine safety not as a gift of empire, but as an expression of our own humanity. Only by rewriting ‘Man’ itself can we rewrite our futures.”

George Lamming (soft, contemplative)

“Yes, Sylvia. To welcome foreign warships is another exile — the exile of responsibility. The Caribbean has lived too long in exile: of its thinkers, its workers, its sovereignty. If we cannot defend our seas, we will be written out of history as authors of our own fate. In *The Pleasures of Exile*, I argued that to claim our voice is to claim our power.”

Frantz Fanon (urgent, clinical)

“Colonialism always returns in new forms. Today it is warships. Tomorrow it will be bases, contracts, dictates. To accept this is to accept dependency re-

newed. True liberation demands building structures of power that serve our people, not our colonizers. The lessons of *The Wretched of the Earth* still apply: decolonization is always violent, even when cloaked in diplomacy.”

Bob Marley (strumming softly, then speaking)

“Babylon warships can’t bring peace. Peace comes from justice, from equal rights, from freedom. If the system breeds poverty and crime, no navy can save it. Don’t let them fool you with their ships — emancipate yourselves from mental slavery. Jah message was always this: until we free our minds, we will never free our nations.”

Moderator: “The divide is clear: Mrs. Charles welcomes the warships as protection, while nearly every other voice warns they are a new form of colonial intrusion.”

C.L.R. James (closing, looking around the table):

“The lesson is this — small though we may be, the Caribbean must choose to be the author of its own history. To invite guardians is to surrender the pen.”



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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

US Military Deployment in the Caribbean Sea Threatens the Region Under Absurd Pretexts

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Cuban Government strongly rejects the current deployment of United States military forces in the Caribbean Sea. This dangerous action represents a serious threat and an aggressive show of force against the sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. Furthermore, it ignores the commitment of the 33 Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States when they proclaimed the region as a Zone of Peace.

The US claims associating the legitimate government of Venezuela and its President Nicolas Maduro with criminal organizations involved in illegal drug trafficking is an absurd pretext that is unfounded. Leaders in Washington are irresponsibly disregarding the assessment of their own Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) that, in its report this year, does not mention the Venezuelan Government among the authors or enablers of drug trafficking operations threatening the United States territory.

The Government of the United States resorts to lies once again to justify violence and plunder. They use them in the renewed implementation of the dominance scheme based on the Monroe Doctrine, key to their interventionism in the American continent. On the basis of similar fallacies, they have carried out ruthless aggressions resulting in considerable and protracted human costs. An example from recent decades was the charade about the alleged presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. This pretext served to attack and invade a sovereign country, causing the death of hundreds of thousands of its citizens and the forced displacement of a similar figure.

The United States is the largest mar-



ket of narcotic drugs in the region and possibly the world, according to the World Drug Report 2025, published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This fact is well-known and the international community must denounce it. It is in the US where the largest networks are located, encouraging consumption, guaranteeing distribution, facilitating traffic, collection and accumulation of the large proceeds. Such networks launder the resulting drug money within the country's own economy with relative impunity, without serious and effective efforts being made by the government to stop it.

The immense proceeds from the illegal US market encourage the emergence and operation of drug trafficking networks in Latin America and the Caribbean. That country's powerful arms industry and its uncontrolled privileges for commercialization feed the deadly power of the region's criminal organizations. Neglect and failure to act on the root causes of the phenomenon within the United States will only intensify the regional impact of this scourge.

Cuba reiterates its firm commitment with the honest and effective fight against illegal trafficking in drugs, the defense of the national sovereignty and the promotion of peace and stability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cuba denounces in equally strong terms the use of irregular migration flows as an excuse to turn the waters of the Caribbean Sea into a war zone. No one with minimum common sense and honesty believe that the quantity of the troops, the combat materiel, naval forces, including nuclear submarines, and the firepower that the United States has sought to deploy in this peaceful area of the world, is the appropriate manner to fight organized crime, illicit drug trafficking or irregular migration flows, nor that such deployment is truly pursuing its stated goals.

Cuba reiterates the call made by President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermúdez, at the 13th Extraordinary Summit of ALBA-TCP, last 20 August, to firmly denounce the new imperialist shows of force.

Havana, 28 August 2025.



Climate Conscious – Back to School 2025



September bells ring, the classrooms awake,
A brand-new school year, new choices to make.
Teachers return with passion and might,
Guiding young minds toward futures so bright.
But one gentle question whispers in air:
Will the environment be part of our care?
For every lesson in numbers or art,
We can plant climate seeds in each student's heart.
Small changes matter—no action too small,
Together they ripple, together they call.
A bottle reused, a paper re-saved,
Each choice is a footprint that wisely behaved.
Imagine twenty thousand strong,
Teachers united, a climate-wise throng.

Across eighty compounds, voices ignite,
Turning small changes to powerful light.



Turn off the switches when rooms fall asleep,
Save energy's treasure for futures to keep.
Refill your bottle, refuse plastic waste,
Show students the joy of a mindful taste.
Compost the peels from lunchroom's array,
Teach children how soil gives life every day.
Plant trees in the corner where sunlight will fall,
Greening the playground, a gift for us all.

Walk when you can, or ride with a friend,
Choose transport solutions the earth will defend.
A car left behind, one less fume in the sky,
A healthier planet, a cleaner goodbye.
Reuse the markers, recycle the tin,
Show them sustainability always can win.
Create with old fabrics, a craft full of cheer,
Proving "waste" can be art when vision is clear.

**CARPOOLING
IS GOOD FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT**

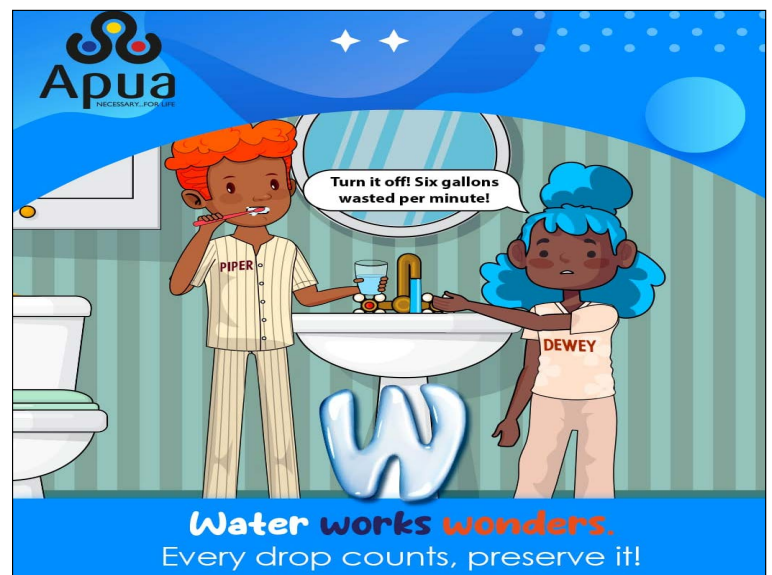


Every assembly can carry a word,
Of oceans protected, of bird song heard.
Invite students' voices, their projects, their dreams,
For climate solutions begin with young teams.
And teachers, remember—the role that you play,
Shapes more than equations or poems today.
You teach them compassion, you model what's true,
That earth is a classroom depending on you.
Twenty thousand individualas, steady and bright,
Can turn simple habits to islands of light.
Across every compound, each hallway, each floor,
Resides the potential to open earth's door.
So ask in your meetings, your staffroom chats:
How do we lessen our plastic and fats?
How do we lower the heat in the room,
Without blasting machines that quicken our doom?
Celebrate victories—no matter how slight,
For climate is won in persistence, not might.
A student encouraged to bike not to drive,
A sapling that's planted to keep hope alive.
September the first is more than a date,
It's a climate-call moment, it carries our fate.
The chalk on the board, the books that we share,
Can all be reminders of planet-care.
So let us step forward, together, in song,
Knowing that teaching is where we belong.
Yet teaching the climate, the soil, and the seas,
Is part of the knowledge the world now needs.
When the school year is finished, let us all say,
We taught with intention in every way.

Not perfect, not flawless, but striving each day,
For a greener tomorrow through choices today.



So welcome back teachers, September's new dawn,
The classrooms are waiting, the journey goes on.
But let's make the syllabus larger this year—
Include the environment, hold it so near.
For twenty thousand voices can echo with pride:
“We cared for the planet, we stood side by side.”
And eighty compounds, once ordinary space,
Become eco-campuses—hope's living place.
Together, small changes will steadily climb,
Toward a better planet, in rhythm and rhyme.



Regional News

Man jailed in Bahamas for having sex with minor

A High Court judge in the Bahamas has sentenced a 54-year-old man to 12 years in prison after he admitted to sex-related charges against a minor.

Justice Renae McKay sentenced Tonie Brown after he accepted a plea deal, pleading guilty to two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse.

The court heard that the crimes took place in September 2023, when the victim was 12 years old, and in August 2024 when she was a year older.



The incidents occurred while the child was visiting

a family friend, who was dating Brown.

Brown has been in custody since he was formally charged with the crimes in December 2024, and according to the terms of the agreement, he will receive credit for the time spent on remand.

Following his release, Brown will be placed on probation for one year and will be sent back to prison for a year if he breaches the terms of his probation. (CMC)

New minimum wage takes effect in October



A new minimum wage for Dominica will take effect on October 1. Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit made the announcement during a press conference on Thursday.

“The government has appointed the advisory board, the Acting Minister of Labour Honourable Pinard reported to the Cabinet that he met with the board a couple weeks ago, and the board is doing its work. The mandate is that a

report should come to us in September so that a new minimum wage will take effect in Dominica on October 1,” he said.

He continued, “So we are hoping that they can do their work diligently and judiciously to provide the minister with advice on what they believe will be a fair rate for minimum wage in Dominica, of various categories of workers.”

According to Skerit, the mandate by the parliament is for the government to give effect to a minimum wage on October 1, 2025.

“And so we look forward to that,” he stated. “When we last increased the minimum wage in 2021, we indicated that every 3 years we would have a review...” (Dominica News Online)

US Coast Guard, Jamaica Defence Force crews counter illicit activity in the Caribbean Sea



The United States Coast Guard says the crew of its Cutter Mohawk returned to their home port in Key West, Florida, on Friday following a 75-day maritime border security patrol in the Windward Passage, Florida Straits and Caribbean Sea.

During the patrol, the US Coast Guard said its crew collaborated with its counterpart in the Jamaica Defence Force in countering illicit activities in the Caribbean Sea.

The US Coast Guard said the crews conducted multi-mission operations with joint service, international, and interagency partners “to protect America’s maritime borders from illegal drug trafficking and

prevent unlawful alien migration in the region.”

Mohawk’s crew was initially deployed in support of Operation Vigilant Sentry (OVS), while on patrol in the Windward Passage, “to deter illegal alien migration along the coast of Haiti,” the US Coast Guard said.

It said that, on August 16, Mohawk’s crew assisted the Jamaica Defence Force by interdicting and transferring a vessel with five Haitians aboard who were attempting to illegally enter Jamaica.

The US Coast Guard said the crew also patrolled the Caribbean Sea in support of the Joint Interagency Task Force – South (JIATF-S) mission of “detecting and monitoring illegal drug

shipments in the maritime domain for subsequent interdiction and apprehension.”

On August 21, a US Navy aircrew identified a suspicious vessel in the Caribbean Sea, and a US Coast Guard aircrew assisted in tracking the go-fast vessel with three suspected drug smugglers aboard, the US Coast Guard said.

“Once Mohawk was vectored in, crew members launched the cutter’s primary interceptor boat, the service’s newest 26-foot, Mk-V over-the-horizon cutter boat, for a 113-nautical-mile pursuit and later coordination with Jamaica Defence Force personnel, who interdicted the vessel in Jamaican waters,” the

US Coast Guard said.

In total, while working with the Jamaica Defence Force during four maritime law enforcement cases, the US Coast Guard said Mohawk’s crew interdicted or assisted in the interdiction or transfer of 13 suspected smugglers, two suspect vessels and seized marijuana to Jamaican authorities for prosecution in Jamaica.

In addition, the US Coast Guard said Mohawk worked alongside US Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security partners, contributing to the disposition of 21 drug smugglers, 2,425 pounds of cocaine and 4,300 pounds of marijuana, with an estimated street value of nearly US\$23 million.

“Mohawk’s recent operations demonstrate our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation’s maritime approaches,” said Commander Taylor Kellogg, commanding officer of Mohawk.

“Our efforts over the last 75 days have served as a deterrent to criminal organisations seeking to exploit our waterways and reinforce our dedication to a safe and secure maritime environment,” he added. “I’m proud of our crew for their selfless service, teamwork and devotion to duty.” (CMC)

Regional News

CARICOM deploys Election Observation Mission for Jamaica's election

CARICOM, at the invitation of the Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ), has mounted a 10-member CARICOM Election Observation Mission (CEOM) to observe the electoral processes for the general election to be held on September 3.

The team arrived in Jamaica earlier this week.

In a statement on Saturday, CARICOM said members of the CEOM are observing the process from August 27 to September 5.

The CEOM is headed by the Chief of Mission, Fern Narcis, Chief Elections Officer of the Elections and Boundaries Commission of Trinidad and Tobago.

The other Members of the Observation Mission are Clovis St Romain, the Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda's Electoral Commission; Elisa Graham, Public Relations Officer who is also from Antigua and Barbuda's Electoral Commission; Denise Pinder from The Bahamas, who is the Assistant Parliamentary Commissioner in the Parliamentary Registration Department; Alymphia Lionel, Assistant Chief Elections Officer of the Electoral Department St Lucia.

Also from St Lucia is Peter Kervin Fedee, Systems/Network Administrator, Electoral Department; Danielle Williams, National Security Electoral Quality Assurance Clerk at the Electoral Office in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Anushka Ramesar-Gopalrai and Ravin Jiswan from Suriname and Danielle Chow, from Trinidad and Tobago.

The CEOM is also supported by



CARICOM Secretariat staff.

The Core Group, which consists of the Chief of Mission and CARICOM Secretariat Staff, arrived in Jamaica on August 27.

Other Observers also arrived on August 27 and some on August 28.

Since their arrival, meetings have been held with Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness and Foreign Affairs minister Kamina Johnson Smith.

Members of the team also observed the conduct of the Advance Poll at several locations on Friday.

Over the coming days, the Mission will continue its programme of engagements, meeting with the Opposition political parties, the Electoral Commission of Jamaica, the Commissioner of Police, and as many other stakeholders of the electoral process as time will allow.

According to CARICOM, the role of the CEOM Observers on election day is to observe the electoral process across Jamaica, including preparations for the start of the poll, the casting of votes, the closure of the polling stations, the counting of

the ballots, the preparation of the statement of polls and the tabulation of results.

Qualitative and quantitative information regarding the voting process and the results will be collected to facilitate the preparation of an Independent Final Report on the General Parliamentary Elections to Jamaica with the objective of assessing its transparency, fairness, and adherence to accepted democratic standards.

Following the conclusion of the Election Day activities a Preliminary Statement will be issued, outlining the Mission's initial assessment of the electoral process.

The Mission will then prepare a detailed Independent Final Report on the elections for submission to Dr Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

"The CEOM looks forward to supporting the democratic processes of Jamaica and extends best wishes to the Jamaican people as they prepare to go to the polls with pride and unity on September 3," the Secretariat said. (CMC).

Thousands demonstrate across Mexico for the 130,000 missing



Thousands of people have held protests across Mexico to highlight the country's many enforced disappearances and demand more action by officials to tackle them.

Relatives and friends of missing people, as well as human rights activists, marched through the streets of Mexico City, Guadalajara, Córdoba and other cities calling for justice and urged the government of President Claudia Sheinbaum to help find their missing loved ones.

More than 130,000 people have been reported as missing in Mexico. Almost all the disappearances have occurred since 2007, when then-President Felipe Calderón launched his “war

on drugs”.

In many cases, those disappeared have been forcibly recruited into the drug cartels – or murdered for resisting.

While drug cartels and organised crime groups are the main perpetrators, security forces are also blamed for deaths and disappearances.

The wide spread of cities, states and municipalities where demonstrations were held illustrated the extent to which the problem of forced disappearances affects communities and families across Mexico.

From one end of the country to the other – from southern states like Oaxaca to northern ones like Sonora and Durango – activists and

family members of disappeared people turned out in their thousands carrying placards with their relatives' faces on them, to demand the authorities do more to address the issue.

In Mexico City, the march brought traffic in the capital to a standstill, as the protest moved down the main thoroughfare.

Many affected families have formed search teams, known as “buscadores”, who scour the countryside and the deserts of northern Mexico, following tip-offs, often from the cartels themselves, as to the whereabouts of mass graves.

The buscadores carry out the searches and their activism at great personal risk.

Following the recent discovery in Jalisco state of an apparent narco-ranch by a search group, several of the buscadores involved were disappeared

The State Attorney General's office later concluded that there was no evidence of a crematorium at the site.

The United Nations has called it “a human tragedy of enormous proportions”.

Mexico is experiencing a level of disappearances that surpasses some of Latin America's worst tolls.

Around 40,000 disappeared in Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended in 1996. An estimated 30,000 disappeared in Argentina under its military rule between 1976 and 1983. (BBC)

New York City doctor who sexually abused patients in hospital gets 24-year prison sentence

A doctor who sexually abused sedated patients at a New York City hospital and raped women who were unconscious at his home has been sentenced to 24 years in prison.

Zhi Alan Cheng admitted abusing seven women, including three female patients he was treating at New York-Presbyterian Queens hospital, the Queens district attorney's office said.

He had pleaded guilty in June to four counts of rape and three counts of sexual abuse and was sentenced Thursday.

Prosecutors also alleged Cheng abused an eighth woman who was a patient at the hospital. He entered an Alford plea on that charge, meaning that he did not admit guilt but acknowledged that prosecutors have enough evidence to convict.

Most of the victims had no memory of the abuse and were sedated.

One of the women woke up in the middle of an assault after she had been sedated for a gastrointestinal procedure, prosecutors said.

Cheng, 35, was arrested in 2022 after a female acquaintance discovered a video of him abusing her at his home while she was passed out. Searches of his home and devices uncovered video evidence of the doctor abusing women at his home and workplace, according to prosecutors. They also discovered liquid anaesthesia.

Cheng has been barred from practising medicine. Prosecutors have said that New York-Presbyterian officials cooperated in the criminal investigation. (AP)



NOTICE

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.

To: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St. Johns
Antigua.
Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice-Application for Tavern Licence

I Rian Rickard Johnson of Fort Road with registered business situate at Camacho Avenue in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 2nd October 2025 next ensuring for a liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "Irie Jerk Centre & Restaurant" situated at Camacho Avenue in the parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 18th day of October , 2025

Rian Johnson

Spirit Airlines files for bankruptcy again but vows to keep flying



Budget carrier Spirit Airlines said Friday that it has filed for fresh bankruptcy protection months after emerging from a Chapter 11 reorganization.

The ultra low-cost airline said it plans to keep flying as usual during the restructuring process, meaning passengers can still book trips and use their tickets, credits and loyalty points. Employees and contractors will also continue to get paid, the company said.

CEO Dave Davis said the airline's previous Chapter 11 petition focused on reducing debt and raising capital, and since exiting that process in March, "it has become clear that there is much more work to be done and many more tools are available to best position Spirit for the future."

Flight attendants, mean-

while, were warned by union leaders to "prepare for all possible scenarios."

"We are being direct because even as we have many ways to fight because of our union, we also want to get you the truth about the situation at our airline and how each of us can take actions to protect and prepare ourselves for any challenge," the Association of Flight Attendants said Friday in a letter to its members.

Spirit, known for its bright yellow planes and no-frills service, has had a rough ride since the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling to rebound amid rising operation costs and its mounting debt. By the time of its first Chapter 11 filing in November, Spirit had lost more than \$2.5 billion since the start of 2020.

The airline now carries \$2.4

billion in long-term debt, most due in 2030, and reported a negative free cash flow of \$1 billion at the end of the second quarter.

Friday's news comes as budget carriers like Spirit are under pressure by bigger airlines, which have rolled out their own low-cost offerings.

Spirit, meanwhile, is attempting to tap into a growing market for more upscale travel with its new tiered pricing that includes more perks on the higher end.

But in a quarterly report issued earlier this month, Spirit Aviation Holdings, the carrier's parent company, revealed that it had "substantial doubt" about its ability to stay in business over the next year. The company cited "adverse market conditions" the company faced after its most recent

restructuring.

That included poor demand for domestic leisure travel and "uncertainties in its business operations" that the Florida company expected to continue through at least the end of 2025.

Spirit's cost-cutting efforts continued after emerging from bankruptcy protection in March, including plans to furlough about 270 pilots and downgrade some 140 captains to first officers in the coming months.

Those changes, which go into effect October 1 and November 1, were tied to expected flight volumes in 2026, the company has said. They also follow previous furloughs and job cuts before the company's bankruptcy filing last year.

Despite the cuts, Spirit has said it needs more cash. As a result, the company said it was considering selling off certain aircraft and real estate.

Spirit's fleet is relatively young, which has made the airline an attractive target. But buyout attempts from budget rivals like JetBlue and Frontier were unsuccessful both before and during Spirit's first bankruptcy process.

Spirit operates 5,013 flights to 88 destinations in the US, the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, Panama and Colombia, according to travel search engine Skyscanner.net. (Jamaica Gleaner)

More rain disrupts CWI Rising Stars Under-17 one-day contest



A wet outfield at Gilbert Park in California, Trinidad, prevented fourth round play between Barbados and Jamaica in the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-17 50-Over Championship on Saturday, August 30.

Rain continues to disrupt the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-17 Men's 50-over Championship in Trinidad and Tobago.

Rainy conditions, which left the outfields wet and soggy, forced the abandonment of all three fourth-round matches without a ball being bowled on Saturday.

All three first-round matches were also abandoned as no results, and most of the second and third-round matches were also affected by rainy weather conditions.

The six regional territorial teams will hope for more favourable weather conditions for the fifth and final round of matches on Monday.

Defending champions Trinidad and Tobago will clash with Barbados at Gilbert Park, Jamaica will meet Guyana at the National Cricket Centre, and the Windward Islands will face the Leeward Islands Tropical Wave at Inshan Ali Park.

The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave notched up their second straight win in

the CWI Rising Stars Under-17 Men's 50-over Championship in their rain-affected third-round match.

Captain Tanez Francis once again played a pivotal role by hitting a half-century to lead the Leewards to a 55-run victory via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method over Guyana at Gilbert Park.

Francis, who scored a superb century to lift his side to a nail-biting one-wicket win over Jamaica via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern (DLS) method in round two, slammed 74 to propel the Leewards to 227 for six off their 50 overs. Amoree Jones struck 52, and Hosea Roberts scored 34 not out, while Navendra Sankar captured three for 40.

Set a revised target of 218 in 45 overs, the Guyanese were dismissed for 163 in 36.5 overs. Parmeshwa Ram hit 35, and Emmanuel Lewis scored 26. Jathan Edward had three for 33, and Kunal Tilokani claimed two for 32.

Defending champions Trinidad and

Tobago and Barbados also claimed their second win with success in their third-round matches. The Trinidadians beat Jamaica by 91 runs via the DLS method at the National Cricket Centre in Couva.

T&T U-17s made 232 for nine off 49 overs (Saleem Khan 48; Ryan Littleton 3/28). Jamaica Under-17s scored 141 in 35.3 overs (Odane Binns 42, Demarco Scott; Daron Dhanraj 3/28, Robert Badree 2/12, Ra'ed Ali Khan 2/18, and Daniel Holder 2/41).

Barbados crushed the Windward Islands by 107 runs at Inshan Ali Park in Preysal. Barbados Under-17s made 220 off 50 overs (Jordan Graham 45, Raphael Lovell 47; Elran Glasgow 3/29, Aravinda Bishop 2/39, Cody Fontinelle 2/37, and Tyler Venner 2/43).

The Windward Islands Under-17s made 113 in 30.1 overs (Theo Edwards 31, Tyler Venner 24, Jonathan Daniel 23; Jahidi Hinds 4/8, and Justin Parris 2/9).

Antiguans to play for 11th place at Men's Pan American Cup



Players of Antigua and Barbuda (black uniform) attempt to block an attack by the Dominican Republic during their match at the Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup at Domo de la Feria in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, on Saturday, August 30, 2025. (ABAVA)

Antigua and Barbuda were to battle Guatemala in the playoff for eleventh place at the 18th Senior Men's Pan American Volleyball Cup at Domo de la Feria in León, Guanajuato, Mexico, on Sunday.

The Antiguan were left to battle for the second-to-last or last-place positions after suffering their fourth consecutive loss in the 12-team tournament in a 3-0 defeat to the Dominican Republic on Saturday.

The Dominican Republic cruised past Antigua and Barbuda 25-17, 25-9, 25-10 in their classification round for placement match.

The Dominican squad faced no trouble in securing the win, dominating in attacks (38-20) and service points (5-0). Antigua and Barbuda held the edge in

blocking (5-3), but the Dominicans capitalized on 23 opponent errors compared to their 10.

Dominican team captain Héctor Alexis Cruz led all scorers with 11 points, while Ronny Molina and Rafael Brugos added 10 points each in the triumph. Adrian Constant topped Antigua and Barbuda's offense with 10 points.

The Dominican Republic will play for ninth place against Suriname, who captured their first win at this year's tournament, defeating Guatemala 3-1 (25-21, 29-27, 17-25, 27-25) in their placement match on Saturday.

With this victory, Suriname advanced to the 9th/10th place match against the Dominican Republic, marking their best historical perfor-

mance in the competition.

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their third straight loss in pool play at the tournament on Thursday.

After suffering 3-0 losses to Cuba and the United States of America (USA) in the 12-team tournament, Antigua and Barbuda were also beaten 3-0 by Venezuela in their last match in Pool A.

Venezuela closed the group stage with their third consecutive straight-set victory, defeating Antigua and Barbuda 25-15, 25-16, 25-8 to secure first place in Pool A.

The South American squad rotated its lineup, with the reserve players sealing the victory with a dominant third set (25-8), the largest margin recorded so far in the tournament.

Statistics showed Venezuela's superiority in attacks (42-18), as well as in blocks (7-5) and service points (6-0). Venezuela conceded 16 points from errors, compared to 20 from Antigua and Barbuda.

Three Venezuelan players finished in double digits. Jesús Gómez scored 15 points, Iván Fernández 14, and José González 19. For Antigua and Barbuda, Cairon Davis once again led his team with nine points.

Venezuela's setter for this match, Kevin Delgado, said, "We came from two victories against the United States and Cuba, and we wanted to finish the group stage in the best way possible. We closed strong and moved on to the next round as group leaders."

Antigua and Barbuda team captain Erwin Mathurin said about the preliminary round, "We didn't intend to win a game because most of the teams here are superior. One thing we can take out from the first round is that we can compete and fight. This was the only game that we had a set under 10 points, and that for us is a win; it's positive that Antigua volleyball is on the rise."

With a perfect 3-0 record and without dropping a single set, Venezuela claimed the group lead and advanced directly to the semi-finals, while Antigua and Barbuda (0-3) were relegated to play in the classification round for placement matches.

More losses for Antiguanans at ECCB International Netball Series



Members of the Antigua and Barbuda team at the Fifth Annual Eastern Caribbean Central Bank International Netball Series at the Tanteen Sports Complex in Grenada. (ECCB)

Antigua and Barbuda have suffered losses in two more matches at the Fifth Annual Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at the Tanteen Sports Complex in Grenada.

The Antiguanans suffered their fourth loss in eight matches in a 26-64 defeat to guest team, the Cayman Islands, in their penultimate match in the 10-team tournament on Sunday's final day. It was the fifth win in seven matches for the Cayman Islands.

It was the second back-to-back loss for the Antiguanans, who narrowly lost 41-47 to defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Saturday.

Antigua and Barbuda also suffered consecutive losses to St. Lucia and Grenada before rebounding to claim their fourth win of the tournament

with a 60-35 drubbing of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines remained on course to retain their title by extending their unbeaten run to seven consecutive wins with a crushing 74-19 victory against Anguilla on Saturday.

It was the fifth loss in seven matches for Anguilla, who notched up their second win with a 40-26 victory against Montserrat.

Guest team Barbados won four matches in a row to improve to six wins in seven encounters.

The Bajan girls beat St. Lucia 62-39 on Sunday and prevailed 61-56 against the Cayman Islands and notched up a 66-42 victory against the Commonwealth of Dominica on Saturday.

Barbados also claimed a 94-16 drubbing of Guyana, who remains the only team without a win after suffering their fifth loss in a row. It was also the sixth loss in seven matches for the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Sunday's loss to Barbados was only the second defeat in six matches for St. Lucia, who claimed their fourth win by snatching a 52-48 victory against host Grenada on Saturday.

Grenada recorded their fifth win in eight matches with a 61-12 drubbing of Montserrat, who lost for the sixth time in seven encounters.

The rain-affected tournament was slated to conclude with the final round of matches and a closing ceremony in Grenada on Sunday night.

Sri Lanka collapse as Windies Under-19s win first ODI



Players of the West Indies Under-19 team

The West Indies Under-19s staged a dramatic, late fightback to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat against Sri Lanka Under-19s in the opening game of their seven-match Youth One-Day International (ODI) series at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua on Saturday.

Sri Lanka were comfortably poised at 225 for five in the 44th over with centurion Kavija Gamage at the crease and looked well set to overcome the West Indies total of 256 all out in 49.5 overs after electing to bat first.

However, the Sri Lankans suffered a surprising collapse to lose their last

five wickets for just 19 runs to hand West Indies an unlikely 12-run victory.

The Sri Lankans too had staged an unlikely comeback in their run chase after slipping to 38 for four early on, with Antiguan medium pacer Matthew Miller pinning them back by dismissing Viran Chamuditha and Senuja Wekunagoda for 13 and 21, respectively.

But Gamage and Chamiika Heenatigala, who scored 22, added 75 runs for the fifth wicket to help stabilise the innings. Spinner Zachary Carter got the breakthrough by accounting for the wicket of Heenatigala to leave the game in the balance at 113

for five.

Adam Hilmy joined Gamage at the crease and took the initiative away from the Windies during a 112-run partnership that threatened to take them to victory.

However, pacer Jakeem Pollard bowled Gamage for 123 from 104 balls, inclusive of 14 fours and three sixes to start the collapse.

Nine runs later, Pollard returned to bowl Hilmy for 41 to leave the score 234 for seven and Tharusha Navodya and Kugathas Mathulan were both run out, as Sri Lanka panicked to slump to 244 for nine.

Aadian Racha then wrapped up the match by

bowling Sethmika Senviratne for 11 to spark wild celebrations among the West Indies players. Pollard finished with three for 34, Racha took two for 41, and Miller claimed two for 59.

Earlier, the West Indies needed a resolute half century from Jonathan van Lange and support from the lower order to get up to their eventual total.

Opener Carter was his usual aggressive self in scoring 39 off 21 balls, but Vigneshwaran Akash snared three wickets to see West Indies slide from 97 for two to 108 for five.

Van Lange and Miller came together to rebuild the innings during a 64-run partnership. After Miller was bowled by Gamage for 33, van Lange added a further 48 with Racha, who made 25, to carry West Indies past the 200-run mark.

Van Lange was eventually the last man to be dismissed for 83 from 94 balls with six fours and one six, off the penultimate ball of the innings. Akash was Sri Lanka's best bowler with four for 33.

Both teams will meet in the second youth ODI at the same venue in Antigua on Tuesday.

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Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA)

August 31, 2025

Stuti Kashyap Secures Bronze for Antigua and Barbuda at ITTF Americas Youth Championships



Rosario, Argentina — In a thrilling display of resilience and determination, 16-year-old Stuti Kashyap has delivered another historic podium finish for Antigua and Barbuda, capturing the bronze medal in the U-19 Girls' Singles category at the ITTF Americas Youth Championships 2025.

Her route to the semifinals featured a dramatic 4-3 quarterfinal win over Brazil's Beatriz Fiore, showcasing both grit and tactical maturity. Though she would fall to the USA's Sally Moyland in straight sets in the semifinals, Stuti's performance marks a resounding comeback just days after a heartbreaking loss at the Junior Pan American Games in Asunción, Paraguay.

"This bronze is not just a win — it's a redemption," said Charles "Chucky" Bellot, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA). "We were heartbroken at the Junior Pan Am Games because we wanted so badly to bring home a medal for Antigua and Barbuda in a multi-sport event. But sport oftentimes gives you second chances, and Stuti grabbed hers with both hands. We are incredibly proud."

With World Rankings of #31 (U17) and #56 (U19), Kashyap continues to make her mark on the regional and global stage. This latest success fuels momentum ahead of her next major test — the ITTF Pan American Championships, scheduled for October 12–19, 2025 in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where she has already qualified based on her world and continental standings.

As 2025 continues to unfold, the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association remains encouraged by the steady gains being made both on and off the table. From breakout performances to deepening international ties, ABTTA extends sincere thanks to the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC), the Athlete Development and Review Panel (ADARP), the People's Republic of China, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), and all those whose ongoing encouragement, partnership, and belief in our young athletes are helping to elevate the sport to new heights.

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Falcons coach Paul Nixon apologises to CWI for outburst



Paul Nixon

Head coach of the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons Paul Nixon, together with the Falcons' management, apologised for the comments made to the media in Trinidad on Wednesday, August 27.

Nixon made the comments following a Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) match between the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons and the Trinbago Knight Riders at Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba.

"We want to emphasise that there was no intention to offend or undermine the efforts of Crick-

et West Indies (CWI). Nixon totally regrets any and all remarks made," a media release by the Falcons said on Saturday, August 30.

After last Wednesday's match against TKR, Nixon said Falcons player Justin Greaves was injured before the CPL while on West Indies duty and was unaware.

"(But), I'm very disappointed that we've had no communication with CWI and their backroom department, and for Greaves to come in injured, and just before the game, we found this out. For me, that is a bit unprofessional

and disrespectful in a way. But we move forward."

The Falcons' release said, "Both Paul Nixon and the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons apologise for any unintended implications or offence these comments may have caused to CWI management and staff.

"We remain firmly committed to fostering a strong and collaborative partnership with CWI, one that is grounded in mutual respect and open, constructive dialogue to advance West Indies cricket."

Sports News

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en-wicket win against the Barbados Royals on Friday, the Knight Riders produced another impressive run chase in front of a packed Brian Lara Cricket Academy to achieve the 164-run victory target set by the Warriors.

Alex Hales and Colin Munro once again put on a mighty opening stand of 116 runs to put the match out of the reach of the Amazon Warriors.

Hales top scored with 74 off 43 balls with seven sixes and three fours, while Munro continued his run glut in this year's CPL with 52 off 30 to propel the Knight Riders to victory at 169 for four in 17.2 overs.

Imran Tahir dismissed both openers and captain Nicholas Pooran and Keacy Carty in quick succession to finish as Warriors' sole wicket taker with four for 27 off his four overs. Andre Russell hit an unbeaten 27 off 14 balls, and Kieron Pollard made 12 not out that ensured the Knight Riders' romp to victory.



Players of the St. Lucia Kings celebrate after capturing a wicket against the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in their CPL match at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, on Sunday, August 31, 2025. (CPL/Getty Images)

Earlier, Player of the Match Akeal Hosein picked up three for 27 to restrict the Warriors to a slightly below-par total of 163 for nine off their 20 overs.

Shai Hope top scored for the Warriors, but he fell in bizarre fashion on 39 when an attempted reverse ramp of Terrance Hinds ended in

disaster, the batter losing his balance in the crease to dislodge his own bail with the bat and be dismissed hit-wicket.

Quentin Sampson struck 25 off 19 balls, and Dwaine Pretorius made 21 off 16 balls. Hinds picked up two for 35.

The third win in as many

matches at home this season sees the Knight Riders cement their position at the top of the table with a total of 10 points from six matches with just one defeat.

The Warriors are on four points from four matches as the tournament heads toward the halfway stage

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Kings beat Falcons in CPL run fest



St. Lucia Kings batsman Tim Seifert celebrates after reaching his century against the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in their CPL match in St. Lucia on Sunday, August 31, 2025.

Opener Tim Seifert equals Andre Russell's record for the fastest hundred in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) history to lead the defending champions, the St. Lucia Kings, in pulling off a remarkable run chase to beat Antigua & Barbuda Falcons

by six wickets with 13 balls remaining on Sunday.

With the tournament entering its second half, the fixture between the two well-placed sides at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground turned into a modern classic run-fest with some barely believable hitting from Seif-

ert, who smashed an unbeaten century to lead the Kings to victory at 206 for four in 17.5 overs in reply to 204 for four off 20 overs by the Falcons.

The Kings elected to field first, a decision which looked to have backfired as the Falcons racked up over 200 runs, largely thanks to 56 off 43 balls from Amir Jangoo at the top of the order and middle-order hitting from the vastly experienced Shakib Al Hasan (61 off 26) and Fabian Allen (38 off 17).

Opener Jewel Andrew chipped in with 25 off 20 balls, while leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi captured three for 30.

In response, Seifert set about raiding the boundaries and peppering the stands with 10 fours and nine sixes in one of the most remarkable CPL innings in the tournament's history.

Seifert, who claimed the player of the match award, finished unbeaten on 125 off 53 balls and a strike rate at over 235, with 94 runs coming solely in boundaries.

Despite Seifert's heroics, the run chase was still a demanding one, and a wicket maiden from Jayden Seales in the 16th over kept the Falcons alive as the destructive Tim David holed out to deep midwicket for 23 off 16 balls, and Delano Potgi-

eter couldn't get the single needed to get the scintillating Seifert back on strike.

The Kings then needed 15 from the final 18 balls with Seales returning for his third over, but this time it was a different story, with Seifert drilling a short ball through square leg for four and Potgieter lofting over mid-off for the second boundary of the over as drizzle began to fall and umbrellas began to be unfurled in the stands.

The weather didn't come to the Falcons' rescue, as Seifert then finished the match in sublime style by slamming his ninth six high over midwicket to see his side over the finish line.

Seifert received support from Ackeem Auguste with 19 off 15 balls, opener Johnson Charles with 17 off nine balls, and Roston Chase with 11 off 10 balls.

The result allows the St. Lucia Kings to jump into second place on net run rate in the CPL table with 10 points alongside the Trinbago Knight Riders, who have a game in hand.

Meanwhile, the Trinbago Knight Riders make it two wins in two days as they defeated rivals Guyana Amazon Warriors by six wickets with 16 balls remaining in their CPL match on Saturday night.

After coasting to a sev-
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