

Government Says It Acts in A&B's Best Interest

Story on page 2



ABNAB Awards Ceremony

Mrs. Eloise Hamilton- one of the recipients of the Pioneer leadership Award was presented by Chairman of the ABNAB, Clare Browne



ABNAB Awards Ceremony

Our regional awardees: Lisa Gale of the Barbados Accreditation Board and Curtis Floyd - The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago

“We Are Fighting For What Is In Antigua and Barbuda’s Best Interest,” Says PM Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has conceded that while Antigua and Barbuda cannot ‘win the war’ over the United States’ insistence that the country accepts third nation deportees, his government will continue to fight for what is in the best interest of the country.

PM Browne was responding to an article believed to have been penned by interests associated with the opposition which stated that Antigua was engaged in a fight that it could not win.

“We know that we cannot win that fight, but it does not mean that we can’t fight for better circumstances and to protect our country. So what we are fighting to ensure that they do not send any criminal elements here to mash-up our country. We are not in a position to say we are not taking any, but I think we can take the moral high-ground on the issue of criminality, or if they are going to send people here who are extremely ill, among other concerns,” the prime minister revealed.

On the issue of criminal elements, PM Browne said the government is insisting that those who the US intends to send here must not have criminal records, and that they, the US, must do the due-diligence and let the government know of their findings. Additionally, the prime minister has asked that the medical records for those who the US will send must also be presented to the government. He emphasized that only those persons who violated US immigration laws who be considered favourably.

“The only persons who we will accept, in terms of criminal wrongdoing, are those with immigration violations. We have always been soft on this issue. There are thousands of Caribbean nationals and other nationals who come here annually and generally speaking, we don’t criminalise them, if anything, we regularize and integrate them by having regular amnesties. So



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

we don’t consider immigration violation a criminal offence,” he explained.


But this issue was a source of disagreement as the Americans consider immigration violations criminal offences. According to the prime minister

after some discussion, agreement was reached on this issue.

PM Browne also made a direct relationship between the third country deportee issue and the hard-time that Antigua and Barbuda passport holders are currently experiencing in obtaining US entry visas.

He likened it to a situation where someone has a gun at your head and offering you poison and asking to choose the form of death. “Well, I am not taking any poison; so you have to shoot me!” PM Browne declared.

The nation’s leader did indicate that the discussions with the US are ongoing and that both sides are making progress. He also suggested that he anticipates an end to the restriction on visas for Antigua and Barbuda passport holders in the coming months.





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Government Is Sending US\$150-Thousand To Venezuela Today



Antigua and Barbuda intends to make good its commitment to the people of Venezuela today when it dispatches US\$150-thousand in earthquake relief funding to assist with recovery efforts.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made the announcement over the weekend, noting that while this is a ‘modest’ amount, the country is making the funds available in recognition that Venezuela is in dire need of assistance following last Wednesday’s back-to-back earthquake that has left more than fourteen hundred people dead, many ore injured and thousands homeless.

“On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, and on

my own behalf, I extend our deepest condolences to the families who have lost loved ones and express our heartfelt sympathy to Interim President Delcy Rodríguez, the Government of Venezuela, and the entire Venezuelan people at this time of immense grief and hardship,” PM Browne stated.

He recalled that Venezuela was one of the first countries to have responded when Barbuda was devastated by Hurricane Irma back in 2017.

“At a moment when our sister island had become uninhabitable, the Government of Venezuela made available aircraft to transport the entire population of Barbuda to safety in Antigua.

That compassionate act of solidarity and good neighbourliness remains deeply etched in the memory of our nation. It is an expression of friendship that Antiguan and Barbudans will never forget,” he emphasized.

PM Browne indicated that the money being dispatched to Venezuela today may not be the final figure dispatched to Venezuela from Antigua and Barbuda, adding that it is this nation’s turn to stand with the people of Venezuela.

“We feel obliged to assist knowing that when Irma struck the Venezuelan government became one of the biggest donors, contributing US\$3 million in disaster relief. We would have liked to be in a position to reciprocate with the same amount, but unfortunately, we have very modest means,” PM Browne explained.

According to the prime minister the US\$150-thousand is ‘just the start’ as he is trying to raise another US\$100,000.00 by appealing to the statutory bodies and even the West Indies Oil Company, in which the government has shares, to make some contribution to the relief fund.

The prime minister also sent a message directly to the acting President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, stating that Antigua and Barbuda stands in solidarity with her and the people of Venezuela in this their time of challenge.

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Indian Government Sends Supplies, Rescue Teams To Venezuela



The government of India has launched ‘Operation Amistad’ in response to the double earthquakes that have devastated parts of Venezuela last Wednesday. Indian Honorary Consul to Antigua

and Barbuda, Vijay Tewani, reported that India dispatched two large military aircraft to Venezuela containing tons of relief supplies, a field hospital and rescue teams to join ongoing relief

efforts in Venezuela where more than 1400 persons are reported dead from the powerful, 7.2 and 7.5 quakes.

Tewani said this proves that India stands with the world in times of crisis.

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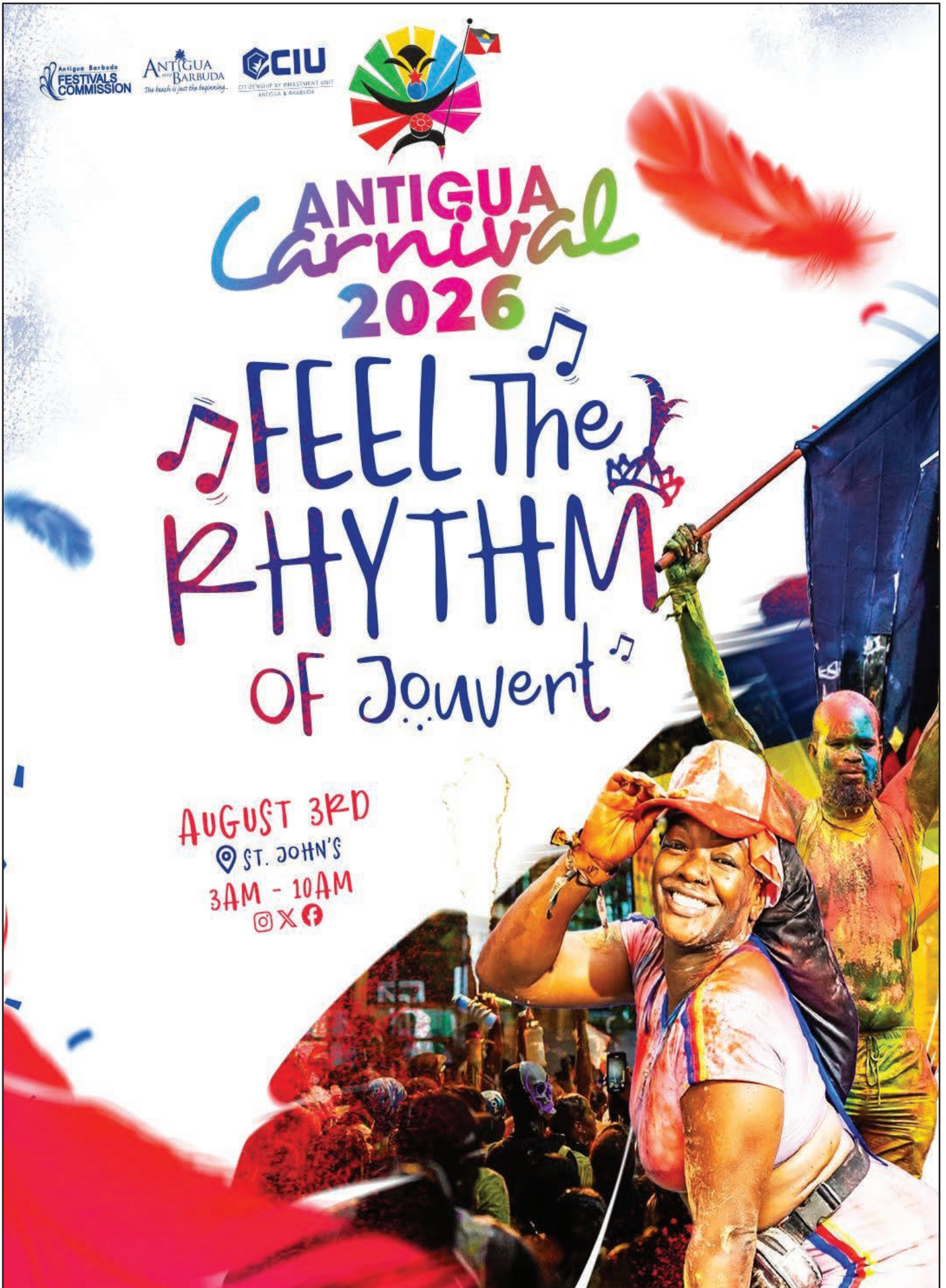
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ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

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Latest Update From Venezuela (Effective 1:30 pm Sunday June 28)



- Search and rescue efforts continue following the June 24 earthquakes, with more than 25,000 rescue workers, including military personnel, police, firefighters, Civil Protection, the Red Cross, and other agencies.
 - International support: 2,624 foreign rescue workers, 137 search dogs, 49 support vehicles, and 84.4 metric tons of equipment, medications, and medical supplies are participating.
 - Updated casualty figures:
 - 1,450 Dead.
 - 3,150 Injured.
 - 12,721 People affected.
 - Infrastructure damage:
 - 774 Buildings were affected, of which 189 completely collapsed and 585 sustained partial damage.
- 38 Hospitals were affected.
 - 44 Shopping centers and 1,645 other infrastructure facilities (bridges, roads, among others) also sustained damage.
 - Humanitarian assistance:
 - 73,937 Families have received aid.
 - 7.2 Million kilograms of food and 20,000 food bags were distributed.
 - 222,147 Hot meals have been served.
 - Medical Care:
 - 527 People were transported to Caracas for treatment.
 - 12,049 People have received medical care at hospitals and field hospitals.
- Volunteering: 7,276 People have registered as volunteers at the Poliedro de Caracas to support relief efforts.
 - Psychological support: The 0800 Ayuda 01 hotline was set up to provide emotional support to those affected by the disaster.
 - Search for missing persons: The government announced the website localizapacientes.com to help locate missing or hospitalized individuals.
 - Aftershocks: Since the earthquakes, 512 aftershocks have been recorded; authorities are urging the public to stay informed only through official channels and to avoid rumors or fake news.

Minister Turner Calls for Stronger Regional Collaboration At CDEMA Meeting



Antigua and Barbuda's Social Transformation Minister, Rawdon Turner

A strong case has been made for regional cooperation as a critical component to strengthening disaster preparedness and protecting lives across the Caribbean

That's the view of Antigua and Barbuda's Social Transformation Minister, Rawdon Turner, which he

expressed at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The meeting brought together ministers responsible for disaster risk manage-

ment from across the region to review priorities and advance policies aimed at improving preparedness, response, and resilience in the face of increasingly complex hazards.

Reflecting on the importance of the meeting, Minister Turner emphasized that disaster management extends beyond national borders and requires collective action.

“Preparedness is not just a national responsibility; it is a regional imperative. Hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and other hazards do not recognize borders, which is why collaboration across the Caribbean is so important,” Minister Turner said.

He noted that by working together, Caribbean nations can share expertise, strengthen disaster response systems, and develop coordinated strategies that better protect vulnerable commu-

nities.

“As we plan together and learn from one another, we build a safer and more resilient Caribbean for our people. Together, we can reduce risk, protect lives, and recover stronger from whatever challenges come our way,” he added.

The Council of Ministers serves as CDEMA's policy-making body and is responsible for considering recommendations from national disaster management agencies and shaping the regional approach to disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

The discussions in Trinidad and Tobago focused on enhancing regional cooperation, strengthening disaster response mechanisms, and advancing policies that improve the Caribbean's ability to prepare for and respond to natural hazards and other emergencies.

AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE

POINTE FM 99.1
THURSDAYS 9PM - 11PM

SLBMC Steps Up Anti-Ebola Training

The country's main health institution is sharpening its readiness for any eventuality should someone affected with the deadly Ebola virus is detected in Antigua and Barbuda.

Communications Manager for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, Salma Crump reported that the Infection Disease Unit, in collaboration with the Learning and Development Unit, has officially launched our Ebola Preparedness Training Programme at the institution.

She said this mandatory two-part programme is designed to ensure the hospital's healthcare workforce is prepared to safely recognize, manage, and respond to suspected Ebola cases while protecting themselves, their colleagues, and the patients.

"We are pleased to announce that our first cohort has successfully completed both components of the programme. All clinical staff are required to complete this programme. Together, we are strengthening our preparedness to ensure our teams are ready to respond confidently if the need ever arises," she advised.

She indicated that the training applies to the following staff categories:

- ▶ Nurses and Nursing Assistants
- ▶ Physicians (Consultants, Registrars, House Officers, Junior House Officers, and Physician Interns)
- ▶ Environmental Services/Housekeeping Personnel
- ▶ Maintenance Personnel
- ▶ Unit Clerks
- ▶ Customer Experience Agents
- ▶ Orderlies
- ▶ Critical Care Technicians
- ▶ Laboratory Personnel
- ▶ Allied Health Professionals



- ▶ Security Personnel
- ▶ Supervisors and Managers of the above departments''

According to Crump the training will follow the following structure;

Training Structure

The programme consists of two mandatory components:

Part 1: Ebola Awareness and Preparedness eLearning Course

Participants must complete all required readings and achieve a minimum score of 90% on the end-of-course examination to successfully pass the course.

Part 2: Practical Hands-On Training

Staff members must successfully complete the eLearning course before moving on to the practical training component.

Packed Order Paper Awaits The Senate



The Upper House of Parliament, the Senate, is convening a meeting in St. John's today with a packed Order Paper waiting for the senators to debate.

Government sources say the members of the Upper House will be debating the following Bills:

1. The Fatal Accidents Bill 2026
2. Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2026
3. Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2026
4. Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Bill 2026
5. Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record Bill 2026

The Motions under consideration for the House are:

1. Resolution for the acquisition of land for a public purpose, specifically for the construction and establishment of a secure access and exit route, and

related public infrastructure serving the National Performing Arts Centre.

2. Motion relating to the Governor General's Opening of Parliament on Tuesday 26th May 2026 and delivery of the Throne Speech.

3. The Fatal Accidents Bill 2026 seeks to modernize the existing law relating to actions for damages in regard to fatal accidents and repeals the Fatal Accidents Act, Cap 166.

The Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2026 amends section 38 of the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, CAP 255 in relation to the issuing of search warrants.

The Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2026 amends section 18 of the Electronic Crimes Act 2018, specifically the provisions regarding Production Orders and the penalties for non-compliance.

The Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Bill 2026 seeks to provide for the granting of amnesty to persons who wish to have their immigration status regularized.

The Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record Bill 2026 makes provision for the collection, transmission, sharing, storage and regulation of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record in respect of persons traveling to, departing from and transiting through Antigua and Barbuda in accordance with international best practices.

The above mentioned Bills and Mo-

tions were passed in the House of Representatives on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

During that sitting the House of Representatives also moved and passed various resolutions and motions including:

1. Ratification of the addendum to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information.

2. Ratification of the amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization 1986.

3. Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on the conditions of the mutual exemption of entry visa requirements for citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and the United Arab Emirates.

4. Ratification of the Protocol Amending Articles 50 (a) and 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed at Montreal on 6 October 2016.

5. Appointment of a Public Accounts Committee, according to Section 98 of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda.

Members of the Public Accounts Committee:

MP Hon. Jamale Pringle - Member for All Saints East and St Luke, who will serve as Chairman.

MP Hon. Trevor Walker - Member for Barbuda

MP Hon. Anthony Smith Jr - Member for All Saints West

MP Hon. Michael Freeland - Member for St George

MP Hon. Melford Nicholas - Member for St John's City East.

Festivals Commission Calls On Media Houses To Prioritise Local Music



The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) calls for greater collaboration between the nation's media houses and recording artistes to ensure that local music remains at the forefront of Antigua Carnival 2026 and beyond.

The Commission met with representatives from radio, television, print and online media houses, along with representatives of the National Soca Fraternity of Antigua and Barbuda (NS-FAB), during its recent Board meeting for a frank and constructive discussion on the future of Antigua and Barbuda's music industry.

Chairperson of the ABFC, **Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul**, noted that while Carnival continues to expand, with more than 200 fêtes taking place throughout the season, the country's music must remain the heartbeat of the festival.

“The growth of Carnival is something we celebrate. However, that growth must never come at the expense of our own artistes or our cultural identity. Every stakeholder has a responsibility to ensure that our music remains the soundtrack of our Carnival. The media has always been one of Carnival's strongest partners. You have the power to shape public taste, influence what people hear and see, and ultimately help preserve our cultural identity.



If we don't champion our own music, no one else will.”

The Commission also highlighted the significant investments already being made in the development of local talent. These include the ABFC Legacy Programme, professional development masterclasses, opportunities for artistes to perform on international stages, and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's investment in a state-of-the-art Cultural Centre, complete with modern recording studios and creative spaces to nurture the next generation of musicians and entertainers.

Recognizing the influence of broadcasters, the Commission encouraged media houses to increase the rotation of local music throughout the year and to develop dedicated programmes that consistently showcase our artistes beyond the Carnival season.

The Commission further advised that demonstrated support for local content will remain an important consideration in its advertising and promotional partnerships. Media houses that actively promote.

Antiguan and Barbudan music and culture will be viewed more favourably when advertising opportunities are allocated throughout the Carnival season.

The discussion also focused on the responsibilities of artistes in promot-

ing their own careers.

Representatives from NewCo and ZDK expressed concerns that while media houses remain willing to support local talent, many artistes are not fully utilizing the promotional opportunities available to them. They noted that interviews are frequently scheduled only to be postponed or cancelled and encouraged artistes to become more proactive in marketing themselves, engaging with the media and building their personal brands.

Conversely, representatives from ABS Television and Radio, Pointe FM and WTP Radio shared positive experiences working with local performers and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting our music through regular airtime, interviews and promotional opportunities.

ABNAB Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board on Saturday, June 27, commemorated its 20th anniversary with a gala at the Admiral Lord Nelson's Ballroom at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort. The event brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, members of the Board, and other associate institutions to celebrate two decades of upholding the standard of educational quality provided to the nation's citizens.

Chairman of the Board, Clare Browne, delivered heartfelt remarks, expressing gratitude to his colleagues on the National Accreditation Board, whose dedication and efforts often go unnoticed.

In his address, Browne stressed that the work of the Board is a vital pillar of national progress and youth development. He noted that, "Quality assurance... is a continuous cultivation of a culture of excellence."

Browne emphasized that in upholding this philosophy, the board demonstrated that, "quality assurance transcends bureaucracy and compliance. ... nurturing excellence, strengthening institutions, protecting students, and ensuring that education remains a powerful instrument of national transformation."

Also addressing the gala was Minister of Education Daryll Matthew, who further underscored the importance of the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board. He explained that, in an increasingly competitive educational landscape, the Board ensures that the programmes and courses undertaken by Antiguan and Barbudan students pursuing higher education meet a recognized standard of excellence.

The Minister also encouraged the public to take advantage of the services provided by the National Accreditation Board, noting that accreditation plays a vital role in national development. Among its many benefits, he said, accreditation strengthens



Mrs. Eloise Hamilton- one of the recipients of the Pioneer leadership Award



employers' confidence in the qualifications and integrity of graduates entering the workforce.

The event celebrated two decades of dedicated service by the National Ac-

creditation Board in safeguarding and enhancing the quality of education in Antigua and Barbuda.

Two teenagers Are Nursing Wounds In Hospital Following Shooting Incident



The police are investigating a shooting incident that left two teenage males nursing gunshot injuries on Saturday night.

Around 9:10 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, police responded to reports of a shooting on South Street in the vicinity of a tattoo shop.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the two teenagers were standing along the roadway when they observed two unknown males walking along Goodwin Street. The suspects were reportedly dressed in dark clothing, with hooded tops covering their faces.

It is alleged that one of the suspects fired several shots in the direction of the teenagers before they both fled the scene on foot.

A 16-year-old of South Street and a 17-year-old of Villa, were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre for medical treatment.

Medical personnel have confirmed that the injuries sustained by both victims are not considered life-threatening. They remain under observation, while receiving further medical attention.

The Police Administration is appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or has information that could assist with the investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913/3914 or the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477). All information received will be treated with the strictest confidence.

NOTICE

NOTICE

- TO: **HER WORSHIP, The Magistrate District "A"**
District "A" Magistrate's Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua
- TO: **HER WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate**
District "A" Magistrate's Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua
- TO: **COMMISSIONER OF POLICE**
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENSE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS "MELORE RESTAURANT"

I, **JESSICA ZOUETR, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is my intention to apply, **ON BEHALF OF MELAD HORANI**, at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Monday 6th July, 2026 next ensuing for a Tavern License in respect of premises known as "**MELORE RESTAURANT**" situated at Alhawash Building, Friars Hill Road, St. Johns, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 23rd day of June, 2026



Jessica Zouetr
Attorney-at-Law

Sheila Roseau elected to membership of prestigious gender equality and human rights body at the United Nations

Antigua and Barbuda has secured another significant leadership role in the United Nations system.

Gender equality advocate Sheila Roseau, has been elected by 185 member states to the membership of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, (pronounced see-daw). Her election to the prestigious position took place last Friday during the 24th Meeting of States Parties at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Roseau, a former Executive Director of the Directorate of Gender Affairs in Antigua and Barbuda, has long championed the advancement of gender equality, human rights and sustainable development across the Caribbean, Africa and Latin America.

As part of her mandate, Roseau will play a major role in monitoring the implementation of the convention by state parties and in helping to strengthen global accountability for protecting and advancing the rights of women and girls across the globe.

“It is with profound honour and a deep sense of humility to have been elected by member states to serve as a member of CEDAW,” Roseau stated. “My commitment to advancing the principles of the Convention have never wavered and with my election to the membership, I look forward to working closely with my fellow Committee members and States Parties to strengthen implementation of the Convention,” she continued.

The Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York played an instrumental role in Roseau’s successful election, in a tightly run contest where some 20 candidates were contending for 12 available seats on the Committee. Counselor Glentis Thomas is to be singled out for the supportive role he played by coordinating the diplomatic engagement for Ms. Roseau’s candidacy.



In Photo are Ms. Roseau surrounded by members of the Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission (from l-r) First Secretaries Claxton Duberry, Asha Challenger, and far right Counsellor Glentis Thomas.

NOTICE

NOTICE

- TO: **HER WORSHIP, The Magistrate District “A”**
District “A” Magistrate’s Court
High Street
St. John’s
Antigua
- TO: **HER WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate**
District “A” Magistrate’s Court
High Street
St. John’s
Antigua
- TO: **COMMISSIONER OF POLICE**
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENSE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS “HI TEA (ANTIGUA) 11.11”

I, **JESSICA ZOUETR, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is my intention to apply, **ON BEHALF OF ABIER JAMAL**, at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, High Street, St. John’s, Antigua on Monday 6th July, 2026 next ensuing for a Tavern License in respect of premises known as “**HI TEA (ANTIGUA) 11.11**” situated at Old Parham Road, St. Johns, Antigua pursuant to Section 11 (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 23^d day of June, 2026

Jessica Zouetr
Attorney-at-Law



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inet PARTY MONARCH

QUARTER - FINALS
1ST & 2ND JULY 2026
JACK IDLE | 7:00PM

ADM: \$20





TICKET OUTLETS

ROTI KING ST. MARY'S STREET & CORN ALLEY

COOL & SMOOTH LOWER ALL SAINTS ROAD

APUA INET OLD PARHAM ROAD

EXOTIC ANTIGUA REDCLIFFE STREET

SIPS & TIPS CEDAR GROVE MAIN ROAD



CASHLESS PAYMENTS AVAILABLE CARNIVAL CITY



CAF Establishes Venezuela Recovery and Reconstruction Fund

Following the earthquakes that struck Venezuela on June 24, CAF is contributing USD 1 million in seed capital to launch an agile, transparent mechanism for mobilizing public, private, and international resources. The fund will support the response, recovery, and reconstruction priorities defined by Venezuela.

June 26, 2026. CAF - Development bank of Latin America and the Caribbean announced the establishment of the Venezuela Recovery and Reconstruction Fund, a mechanism designed to gather, mobilize, and channel public, private, and international contributions toward the country's recovery priorities following the earthquakes that struck on June 24. The initiative is in addition to the USD 300,000 in humanitarian aid already announced by CAF to assist in the emergency efforts.

The Fund will receive contributions from governments, international organizations, companies, foundations, individuals, and other partners, and bring them together under a common framework of administration and accountability. Resources will be directed toward recovery and reconstruction initiatives identified and prioritized by the Government of Venezuela. In doing so, it aims to deliver a coordinated response that avoids the fragmentation of efforts and accelerates the delivery of resources to the affected areas.

As an initial commitment, CAF will contribute USD 1 million to launch the fund and finance the priority initiatives. CAF will not charge any fee for administering or implementing the fund, so that every dollar contributed goes toward addressing the emergency and supporting reconstruction.

“Acts of nature are met with acts of

CAF launches the Venezuela Recovery and Reconstruction Fund

A mechanism to turn solidarity into concrete action.

CAF DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Latin America and the Caribbean
Each with an opportunity

humanity and solidarity, and Venezuela needs us today more than ever. Venezuela is a founding country and home to the headquarters of CAF, and that is why we are launching this Fund for reconstruction: an agile and transparent mechanism that we invite governments and the private sector to join, so that their contributions, together with ours, become part of an effective response. Our commitment is to accompany the Venezuelan people not only during the emergency,

but throughout the entire path of recovery and reconstruction that lies ahead,” stated Sergio Díaz-Granados, Executive President of CAF.

The mechanism is designed to adapt to the different stages of the response. In the first phase, it will support immediate assistance, including humanitarian aid, essential supplies and support for the institutions leading the emergency response. It will then help rehabilitate critical services in areas such as health, water and sani-

tation, energy, education and connectivity. In a later stage, the Fund will support recovery and resilience efforts, including early reconstruction, the restoration of livelihoods and actions to reduce vulnerability to future events. Interventions will be defined progressively, based on damage assessments and the priorities established by the Government.

The Fund will operate with resources that are ring-fenced and independent from CAF's own resources. It will include traceability by intervention, periodic financial reporting and independent audits. Contributions may be made in U.S. dollars or euros, and resources may be executed flexibly, either through eligible implementing entities or, where more efficient, through direct management by CAF.

CAF's historical bond with Venezuela as a founding country and the location of its headquarters reinforces



es the Bank's commitment to accompany the Venezuelan people and their institutions in the response, recovery, and reconstruction efforts that this emergency will require, placing its technical and financial capacity at their disposal to mobilize the solidar-

ity of the region and the international community.

To learn more details and become part of this initiative, follow the link: Recovery and Reconstruction Fund for Venezuela.



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MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

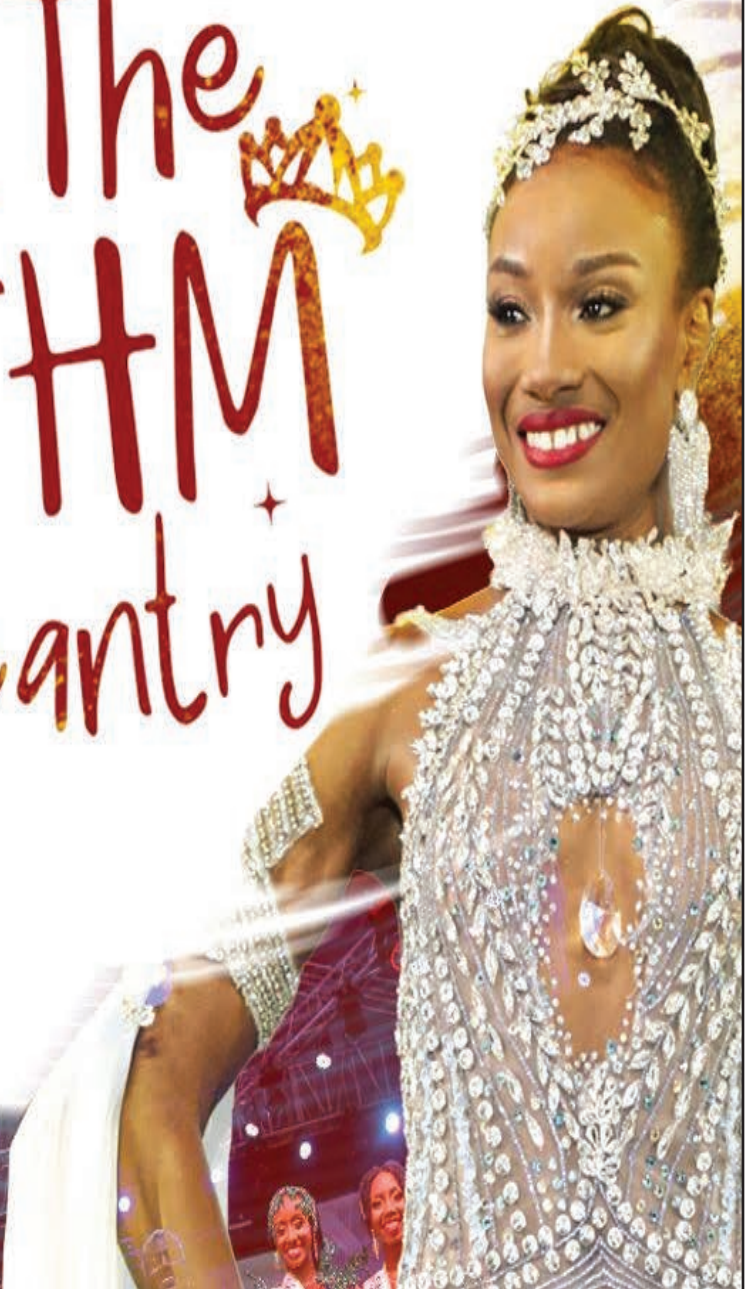
MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)



ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF PAGEANTRY

QUEEN OF
CARNIVAL





ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MACHEL MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350



NEMO bolsters disaster preparedness with HF radio training



The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) of St. Vincent and the Grenadines successfully concluded an intensive five-day High Frequency Equipment Installation and Training Workshop last Friday.

The closing ceremony for the event was held at the Police Training School Headquarters in Old Montrose, Kingstown.

The “Training of Trainers” programme, which ran from June 15 to 19, 2026, was organized by NEMO in partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Funded through the CDEMA BRICS Programme, the workshop was implemented under a broader regional initiative known as the Upgrade to National Disaster Offices High Frequency Communications Project.

During the closing ceremony,

Courtney King, CDEMA’s Senior Programme Officer for Telecommunications, highlighted the critical need to strengthen emergency communication capacities across the Caribbean. King described the week-long training as highly rigorous, noting that participants gained hands-on experience with the internal components of radio systems, including their assembly and disassembly.

“We also explored radio programming in depth, ensuring that participants understand how to programme the radios for different applications and build larger communications networks in the future,” King stated.

Kenston Stoddard, Deputy Director of NEMO, also addressed the attendees, emphasizing the indispensable role these upgraded systems play in disaster response. Stoddard pointed out that the Sustainable

Development Goals recognize early warning systems and emergency communications as a “force multiplier” in crisis management.

“They are the cornerstone of our response, preparedness, and actions during emergencies,” Stoddard told the gathering, adding that such mechanisms ultimately leave disaster management teams “better able to save lives”.

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines workshop is a key component of ongoing efforts to elevate disaster management capabilities and unify high-frequency communication networks among national disaster offices throughout the wider Caribbean region. The event concluded with the newly trained participants being awarded certificates to recognize their successful completion of the programme. (St Vincent Times)

Gas at the pumps jumps to over \$18 per gallon in SVG

New fuel prices will officially come into effect in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on June 29, 2026, following the publication of the Price Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2026.

Under the updated schedule, the maximum retail price for gasoline in Areas I, II, III, and IV has been set at \$18.31 per gallon, while its maximum wholesale price at bulk installation is capped at \$17.55 per gallon. Meanwhile, the retail price for standard dieselene is now \$17.53 per gallon (with a wholesale price of \$16.87 per gallon), and low sulphur dieselene will retail at \$17.40 per gallon (wholesale \$16.74 per gallon).

These significant price adjustments arrive just months after stark warnings were issued by the opposition regarding the country's energy strategy. During an address on April 14, 2026, Opposition Leader Ralph Gonsalves sounded the alarm on an impending severe fuel crisis, explicitly warning citizens that gasoline prices could soon approach the \$20 per gallon mark.

At the time, Gonsalves fiercely criticized the ruling administration for a lack of clear leadership and for “kicking the can down the road” in response to skyrocketing global oil prices. He revealed that the government had been absorbing massive financial losses—describing them as being in the “malos”—estimating that in March alone, the administration owed fuel companies like Sol and Rubis an average of \$3 per gallon to artificially maintain pump prices.

He further cautioned that if the global price surge pushed this average deficit to \$5 or \$6 per gallon, the government could face an unsustainable financial burden of \$4 million to \$6 million every month just to cover road transport shortfalls.

In his April remarks, Gonsalves heavily condemned a government proposal to implement a four-day work week as a strategy to ration fuel, arguing that forcing citizens to leave their cars at home and cutting working hours would drastically slash workers' take-home

pay and cripple national productivity. Instead of “managing and dispensing scarcity,” he urged the government to proactively decide whether to reduce taxes or actively subsidize prices, particularly to shield the diesel-dependent public transport sector. He noted that his own administration had successfully utilized structured economic buffers and subsidies during the 2008 global economic depression and again in 2022.

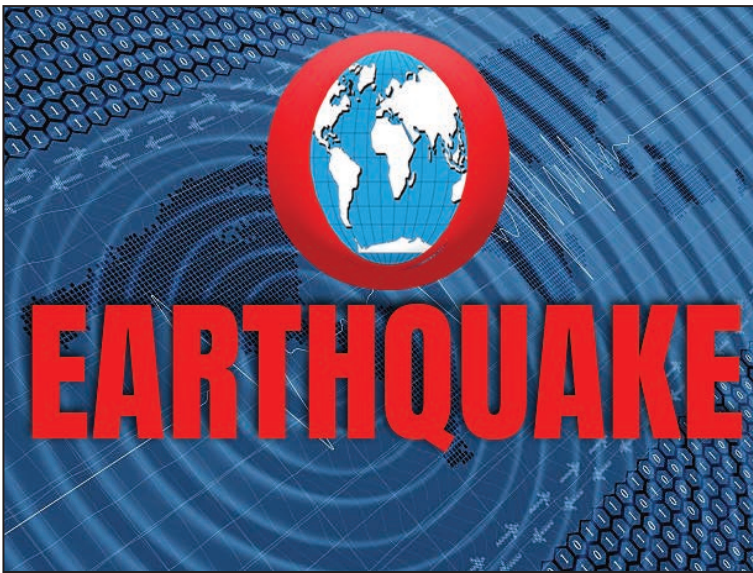
Gonsalves also highlighted that the domestic price crisis is being severely compounded by international geopolitical turmoil. He pointed to global conflicts, including tensions with Iran, potential blockades in the Strait of Hormuz, and Houthi activity in the Red Sea, as external pressures keeping oil and transportation costs highly elevated. He warned that without decisive and transparent action, the ongoing fuel crisis would rapidly accelerate the country's economic deterioration. (St Vincent Times)



Regional News



3.9 magnitude earthquake felt in parts of Jamaica



A minor earthquake measuring 3.9 on the Richter scale was felt in sections of Jamaica on Sunday morning, according to the Earthquake Unit at the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Preliminary reports indicate that the quake occurred at approximately 11:45 am and was felt in Kingston and St Andrew, as well as St Catherine. The epicentre was located about 5 kilometres northeast of Golden Spring, St Andrew, and the earthquake had a focal depth of 12 kilometres.

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The Earthquake Unit reported that the event was a local earthquake. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage associated with the tremor.

The Unit said the details are preliminary and may be updated as more information becomes available. (Jamaica Observer)



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Quakes lift T&T coastline by nearly 20 feet



A portion of Trinidad's south-western coast was thrust nearly 20 feet upwards in the aftermath of the devastating twin earthquakes that rocked Venezuela last week, unsettling the Galfa coastline and trapping hundreds of sea animals among the rubble in a matter of seconds.

By yesterday afternoon Venezuela had reported more than 400 aftershocks that followed 7.2—and 7.5-magnitude quakes that have killed at least 1,400 along its northern coast line thus far. Miles away in Cedros, residents first discovered the raised seabed along an isolated strip of the Galfa coast on the morning after the quakes.

When the Express visited the area yesterday afternoon, parts of earth had been pushed upward by multiple feet, lifting a shoreline littered with hundreds of dead or dying fish, crabs, clams and even a stingray. Small pools of bubbling water had settled along parts of the beachside, some emitting an unidentified substance.

A resident, who identified himself as Kamal, said the lifting was first spotted on Thursday morning.

"I felt delusional because it looked like it was raised. The whole area was supposed to be flat and I know it has mud volcanoes and all kinds of things and there are plates running

under here. It rose up the same night of the earthquakes. When I looked at the land, there was a set of fish. Within a split second, everything rose. If it was something gradual, the fish would have escaped," he said.

Cedros resident Neil Sookram, who runs the YouTube channel "South West Adventures", told the Sunday Express yesterday that he had stopped along the shoreline and was shocked by the sight.

"I saw what looked like an elevated beach and I am an adventurous and curious person, so I ventured further in and I realised the beach was completely lifted. I thought maybe it was because of a fault line or something. There were a lot of dead fishes scattered all about. I saw them trapped under the rubble," he said.

Speaking to the Sunday Express yesterday, Geologist Xavier Moonan said the phenomenon was likely the result of a reactivated slump, caused by the saturated soil and rocks. The slump, a type of landslide that moves rock masses downhill, was likely triggered by the recent physical shifting and shaking as a result of the earthquakes, he said.

"When it slumped downward, it lifted the coast, part of the beach and the seabed. It lifted it up out of the water.

It happened so quickly that it caught fish, crabs and stingrays off guard and they were left out of the water, where they eventually died. Boulders rolled and crushed the stingrays. So it happened so quickly, they could not get out of the way. It happened in a matter of seconds. When the area was scooped up in the area, the animals were scooped up as well. The beach was lifted up because the hillside was tilted down," he explained.

Moonan said the event had occurred before, citing movement of land in the area in the aftermath of a 6.9 magnitude earthquake near Trinidad in 2018. That quake, he said, had also affected Los Iros.

Last year, activity at the Los Iros mud volcano had caused a similar up-thrust along the shoreline, cratering a number of bordering farmlands. Moonan however said the two events are not necessarily connected.

"It's a similar area and when Trinidad gets a bit of a shake or when something from Venezuela translates along the faults, here in these weaker zones there is movement," he said.

While no homes or farms were situated nearby, the Sunday Express was told yesterday that a building associated with an oil company had seen some damage as a result. Moonan also noted the presence of bubbling pools and natural oil seeps along the shore.

"One of the pools has oil coming out of it because the area slipped and the faults are a bit more open, it is coming out along the fault. The Los Iros area and this area are slipping—they are nowhere near stable anymore. In this scenario, it is pretty difficult to put things in place to make it stable because of how the cliffs are. Cliffs will eventually collapse no matter what you do," he said. He also urged those visiting to exercise caution. (Trinidad Express)

Two boys rescued from Venezuela earthquake rubble after days of being trapped



Two 11-year-old boys have separately been rescued from the rubble of collapsed buildings within hours of each other, after powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela.

Video footage of the first boy, named as Moises, showed him being pulled from the twisted debris - his eyes covered to protect them from the sun - to the applause of rescuers.

Hours later, interim President Delcy Rodríguez announced another 11-year-old boy had been rescued, and posted a video of him on X, being carried down a huge mound of wreckage on a stretcher.

Since the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes on Wednesday, officials have confirmed at least 1,450 deaths. Tens of thousands of people are still missing.

More than three days after the quakes, rescuers had not given up hope, saying people could still be alive, especially

if they had access to food and water under the rubble.

The two earthquakes, which struck within 39 seconds, caused hundreds of buildings to collapse and many people remain trapped inside. Desperate families have been digging through the debris by hand, trying to find their loved ones.

Some have told the BBC that they can hear people under the rubble, but cannot move the heavy slabs of concrete, and are waiting anxiously for heavy machinery to arrive.

Colombia's National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) said Moises was buried under about 3m (9.8ft) of debris, and the rescue team spent six hours conducting "high-precision work" on Saturday to reach him.

Reuters reported that a rescuer was overheard on a walkie-talkie saying the young boy was found near his sister and mother, who had both died.

Hours later, Delcy Rodríguez posted a video on X, purportedly showing the rescue of the second 11-year-old boy in the town of Caraballeda.

"In these hours, every life is hope for Venezuela," she wrote.

Officials said the coastal region of La Guaira, where Caraballeda is located, has been hit the hardest.

Rescuers' efforts have been hampered by aftershocks, which are in turn terrifying residents.

"To be honest, it makes you feel kind of nervous. Any little noise... horrible," Jesús Andueza, a 64-year-old bus driver told BBC Mundo.

Thousands of people are living in their cars or camping at places like the airport and golf course, away from buildings that could collapse.

The golf course in Caraballeda has become an epicentre for the emergency response.

Its green lawn, which used to be perfectly manicured, is now a makeshift hospital and donation centre, where residents who have lost everything are sifting through piles of donated clothing and boxes of humanitarian aid.

In another part of the golf course, next to a small lagoon, a strip of land has been set up as a landing pad for helicopters arriving with supplies and emergency personnel from within Venezuela and abroad.

In the area surrounding the golf course, Caraballeda's streets – cracked and covered in rubble – are marked by dust and silence, interrupted only by heavy machinery and those searching among the remains.

Milagros González, who lives in Caribe, told BBC Mundo that her building was one of the few that didn't collapse, and she fled as soon as she could to take refuge at the golf course.

"I left with my two young daughters and my two elderly relatives. But

thank God we got out alive. The building can't be lived in. But we're alive, which is what matters," she said.

González admitted that every time she lies down, she wakes up dizzy and thinks it's shaking.

"A psychologist just told me that it's part of the process," she said, while her two young daughters play with dolls on a mattress on the grass.

In a separate video message on Sunday, Rodríguez said the José María Vargas sports complex in La Guaira was also serving as an emergency response centre.

Pointing out that the armed forces were sorting clothes, medicine and food, Rodríguez said "everything is functioning as well as possible during these terrible moments, these terrible hours, that our people are enduring".

"Let them know that no one here is alone, not a single family or individual need [to] feel alone. Our people and

our state are here, the social protection system is here, and international solidarity is here."

But frustration has grown, with some saying the government's response is too slow and inefficient. In some of the worst areas, such as Caribe and Tana-guarena, there are entire areas where debris removal has not yet started.

In recent days, international rescue teams from Mexico, Spain, Qatar, the US, and the UK have arrived to reinforce the search efforts.

The UN's Tom Fletcher said on Saturday that 39 search and rescue teams had been deployed from all over the world, with each consisting of 50-100 people.

"You're looking at almost 2,000 people surging in, 111 dogs, medical teams as well. We go in with these micro drones, they call them cockroach drones, that help us find people in the buildings." (BBC)

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Eleven killed after plane carrying skydivers crashes in eastern France

Eleven people have died after a civilian aircraft carrying skydivers crashed in the town of Tomblaine in eastern France, local officials said.

The pilot and all 10 passengers were killed, including five instructors and five people who were preparing to skydive for the first time.

The plane, which was being used by a parachutist school, had taken off from Nancy-Essey airfield when it crashed suddenly at around 11:00 local time (10:00 BST).

The Paris prosecutor's office has launched an investigation into the cause of the incident, French Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said.

Some of the victims' relatives saw the crash take place, as they had gathered at the airfield to watch the first-time tandem jumps, Nuñez added.

The mayor of the nearby city of Nancy, Mathieu Klein, said some of the victims had died "in full view of their loved ones".

Chaynesse Khirouni, president of the eastern department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, said those family members had suffered "considerable psychological trauma".

Nuñez said there was "very strong emotion" when he visited the crash site, as well as "great solidarity" for the families of the victims.

Medical and psychological support teams had arrived to care for relatives and other witnesses, he added.

The plane hit the ground near the edge of the airfield, close to a residential area and a shopping centre. Local officials say it narrowly missed the houses nearby.

"Give or take a few metres and the accident could have caused collater-



al casualties," said Yves Seguy, the prefect of Meurthe-et-Moselle.

He told French broadcaster BFM that the plane had fallen "almost vertically, in the immediate vicinity of a housing estate".

Half of the skydivers who died were nurses, the president of a local nursing organisation, Thierry Pechey, told BFM.

"They were colleagues who had decided to go on a first skydiving jump, no doubt to unwind, as we're going through a difficult time with the heatwave," he said.

The crash is the deadliest private plane accident in French history, excluding military and commercial flights, news agency AFP reports, citing the country's BEA aviation safety agency.

A witness, who declined to be identified, told Reuters he saw the plane veering off to the right as he was driving past.

"Something was clearly wrong," he said.

The man did not see the crash, due

to an embankment by the side of the road, but he says he heard the sound.

When he arrived at the site, he tried to help extinguish the wreckage of the plane, which had caught fire.

"We saw right away that it was over, that they had all died instantly. There was no movement, and it was clear the impact had been too violent for there to be any survivors."

Tomblaine Mayor Hervé Feron said the plane had fallen from the sky "in a completely unexplained manner", adding that it was "too early to try to find explanations".

"Weather conditions might have played a role, or perhaps not at all, I really have no idea," he told BFM.

It was not immediately clear if the weather was a factor in the crash, and Nuñez has declined to speculate ahead of the official investigation.

Like much of Europe, France has been gripped by a searing heatwave in recent days. An amber weather warning for high temperatures was in place for Meurthe-et-Moselle on Sunday. (BBC)

Europe's heatwave linked to 1,300 deaths, WHO says, as Germany hits record 41.7C



Europe's unprecedented early summer heatwave may be responsible for hundreds of excess deaths, according to the head of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Temperature records were broken across the continent again on Sunday – including in Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic – as the extreme heat continued to move east.

In a post on X, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said more than 1,300 excess deaths had been recorded since 21 June “linked to high temperatures in Europe”.

“Heat stress is often called the ‘silent killer’ - and European homes, workplaces and schools were not built for these temperatures,” he said.

On Sunday morning, France's national health ministry said there had been around 1,000 more deaths than expected in the country since Wednesday.

Many of the extra fatalities are among those aged 65 over, the agency said, after logging a 40% rise in the number of people dying at home.

“Europe is the fastest-warming con-

continent on Earth, heating at twice the global average,” Tedros warned.

Millions of people across the continent are currently “living under extreme heat, hundreds have died, schools are shut, grids are buckling”, he added.

On Sunday, Germany experienced its hottest-ever day for the third consecutive day after 41.7C was recorded in the east of the country, preliminary data showed.

A station in Coschen, near the Polish border in eastern Brandenburg, recorded 41.7C at around 16:00 local time.

The Czech Republic set its second temperature record in two days, recording 41.1C at Doksany, north of Prague, the meteorological institute CHMI said.

CHMI said it expected the heat to peak on Sunday, with rather heavy storms forecast for western areas later.

Poland also broke its all-time temperature record with 40.5C in the town of Slubice, a spokeswoman for the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW) told the

AFP news agency on Sunday.

Climate change was responsible for the extreme weather, Tedros said, warning that Europe was warming at “twice the global average”.

“Driven by climate change and global warming, the phenomenon of the ‘once-in-a-generation’ heatwave is now occurring nearly annual,” he said.

He called on European countries to “implement heat health action plans”, as part of a push to safeguard health in the face of climate change.

The extreme weather has led European authorities to take drastic measures to prevent heat-related illnesses.

On Thursday, the Dutch music festival Defqon.1 was cancelled following an unprecedented code red warning for extreme heat.

In Paris, officials banned drinking takeaway alcohol in public and cancelled the city's pride march to help stretched emergency services.

The ban began at noon on Friday local time ahead of France's World Cup match with Norway and lasted until Sunday morning.

At least 74 people have drowned in France since the beginning of the heatwave, according to Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez.

Most of the deaths occurred in “unsupervised bodies of water such as rivers, lakes and ponds”, he told Le Parisien newspaper on Saturday.

The record-breaking June heatwave has been blamed on a so-called “heat dome” effect.

This weather pattern results in air sinking down through the atmosphere, which compresses and heats up as it hits the ground.

This sinking air also dries out, meaning no clouds can form, so strong sunshine is able to heat the ground up even further. (BBC)



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Swetes/Roman Hill extend unbeaten run in Village Netball League

Swetes/Roman Hill continued their unbeaten run in the female division of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) Antigua Generators and Cool and Smooth Village League on Saturday evening.

Swetes/Roman Hill secured their sixth win in seven matches by pulling off a 47-35 victory over Lamin Newton's All Saints United at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's.

Everdine Parker-Barnard converted 35 of her 45 shots, and Jamila Fitz scored 12 of her 20 attempts for Swetes/Roman Hill.

Rayana Regis sank 30 of her 45 tries, and Karol Carlton scored five of her nine attempts for All Saints United, who suffered their third defeat in six matches.

After battling to a 41-41 tie with Seatons Eastsiders in their previous outing, Swetes/Roman Hill notched up their fifth win with a 29-23 victory over Michael Joseph Gray's Green Flyballers.

Everdine Parker-Barnard converted 15 of her 22 shots, and Jamila Fitz scored 14 of her 22 attempts for Swetes/Roman Hill.

Kizzy Hughes sank 14 of her 20 shots, and Krizia Duncan scored nine of her 19 attempts for the Gray's Green Flyballers, who suffered their second loss in six matches.

All Saints United recorded their third win in the female division by prevailing in a 28-5 victory against St. John's Talented Youths.

Karol Carlton converted 15 of her 19 attempts, Paula Jackson sank 11 of her 20 shots, and Jonelly Encarnacion scored two of her eight tries for All Saints United.



The Swetes/Roman Hill female netball team

Reneka Anthony converted four of her 13 shots, and Trinecier Greenaway scored one of her four attempts for the St. John's United Talented Youths.

Newfield claimed their fourth win in eight games after being awarded victory via default over St. John's Talented Youths, who failed to show up for their encounter.

The St. John's Talented Youths remain winless and in the cellar of the 10-team round-robin standings after losing for the eighth time in as many games.

The Potters Stingers maintained their unbeaten run, surging to their sixth win in as many matches with a 56-15 drubbing of Newfield.

Janette Toney made 23 of her 34 tries, Tashana Bloomfield scored 22 of her 27 shots, and Tanya Greene

sank 11 of her 16 attempts for the Potters Stingers.

Esther Emmanuel converted 11 of her 16 shots, and Tanesha Michael scored four of her nine tries for Newfield, who suffered their fourth successive loss in the competition.

After losing all previous five matches, Willikies recorded their first win in the female division by pulling off a commanding 38-15 victory over the Pares Net Masters on Saturday.

Alesha Roberts converted 22 of her 46 shots, and Summer Buckley sank 15 of her 27 tries for Willikies.

Andrea Benjamin scored 10 of her 14 tries, and Annika Watson converted four of her six attempts for the Pares Net Masters, who slumped to their seventh defeat in eight matches.

Lopez to attend ECVA Beach Volleyball Coaches Course in St. Kitts

The Antigua & Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) has selected Braulio Estrada Lopez to represent the twin-island state at the 2026 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's Beach Volleyball Coaches Course in St. Kitts from July 6 to 10.

Coach Estrada Lopez's selection reflects ABAVA's continued investment in coaching education and the development of beach volleyball throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABAVA said by providing opportunities for its coaches to learn from regional and international experts, it continues to strengthen the foundation of the sport and create pathways for future success.

The course will focus on modern beach volleyball coaching methodologies, athlete development, technical and tactical systems, and best practices aligned with international standards.

The ABAVA extends its best wishes to Coach Estrada Lopez as he proudly represents Antigua and Barbuda. The ABAVA is confident that the knowledge and experience gained during this programme will further enhance the development of its athletes and the continued growth of beach volleyball across the nation.

The course will be conducted by Mark Kontopoulos of Greece. He is an FIVB instructor and international coach educator with more than 25 years of coaching experience across both beach and indoor volleyball.



Braulio Estrada Lopez

The coaching course is part of a full week of beach volleyball development activities being hosted by the ECVA in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, bringing together coaches, referees, and athletes from

across the region from July 6 to 12.

In collaboration with regional and international partners, ECVA will stage a Beach Volleyball Coaches Course, a National Referee Course, an International Continental Referee Course, and a Training Camp & Athletes Development Forum.

All activities are scheduled around the ECVA Under-20 Beach Volleyball Championship and will take place primarily at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, Frigate Bay.

These initiatives reflect ECVA's ongoing commitment to building capacity and raising standards in all areas of beach volleyball, including coaching, officiating, and athlete performance.

By bringing world-class instructors and facilitators to the Eastern Caribbean, the ECVA is investing in the sustainable growth of the sport and creating new pathways for regional talent.

ECVA President Glenn Quinland of St. Kitts noted that these activities form part of a broader strategic effort to strengthen volleyball throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

"The ECVA continues to build capacity across the national federations, ensuring that the ECVA is always ready and that the growth opportunity for all is there to embrace.

"By equipping our coaches, referees, and athletes with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed, we are laying the foundation for long-term success and excellence in the region."



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England help Windies women book T20 World Cup semi-final spot



Ireland's Orla Prendergast, left, bats during the Women's T20 World Cup cricket match against the West Indies at Bristol County Ground, in Bristol, England, Saturday, June 27, 2026. (AP)

BRISTOL, England – West Indies Women have qualified for their second successive semi-final at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in the United Kingdom.

The regional team booked their spot after England Women thrashed New Zealand by nine wickets to dump the defending champions out of the competition at the group stage on Saturday.

Following the West Indies' six-wicket defeat to Ireland Women earlier in the day, a victory for New Zealand Women would have seen the women from the Caribbean eliminated from the competition.

The West Indies will now await the remaining matches in Group A to determine who their opponents will be in the last four.

Meanwhile, their hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals of the T20 tournament took a big hit when the West Indies were upset by Ireland in their final

preliminary match.

Having gone winless in 21 games at T20 World Cups, Ireland Women finally broke the jinx, with Orla Prendergast's half century leading them to victory over the West Indies.

After being sent in to bat, the West Indies could only muster 128 for seven in their 20 overs. Ireland Women coasted to victory at 129 for four in 18.1 overs to end the drought by winning their first match in their fifth T20 World Cup.

The West Indies never fully recovered after being reduced to 27 for two in the third over. Skipper Hayley Matthews never got going and fell for 22 off 25 balls to leave the West Indies struggling at 50 for three at the start of the ninth over.

Stafanie Taylor also struggled in her time at the crease, scoring 16 off 26 balls. When Deandra Dottin's miserable knock of 21 from 28 balls came to

an end, the Windies were in serious trouble at 95 for five in the 16th over.

Chinelle Henry tried her best to lift the total at the death in an unbeaten knock of 27 off 21 balls, but none of the other batters provided any support. Cara Murray led the way for Ireland with two for 13, while Aimee Maguire took two for 22.

Needing to take early wickets to have any chance of defending their below par total, West Indies Women did themselves no favours by dropping opener Amy Hunter when she was three and just eight runs on the board.

Ashmini Munisar gave the Windies hope by grabbing the wicket of her partner and captain Gaby Lewis for nine to leave Ireland at 28 for one.

But Player-of-the-Match Prendergast and Hunter effectively sealed the contest with a 66-run partnership for the second wicket which proved decisive.

Prendergast struck 63 off 44 balls, while Hunter made 28 off 32 balls. Prendergast, who reached her half century off 36 balls, struck a total of eight fours and two sixes.

By the time Prendergast was eventually dismissed, Ireland Women were well in the driver's seat at 108 for three and required 21 runs from 28 balls.

Munisar did manage to dismiss Paul for just four, but Rebecca Stokell scored an unbeaten 16 off 15 balls to lead her side to a historic victory with 11 balls to spare. Munisar was the Windies' best bowler with two for 28 from her four overs.

Africa revel in World Cup success with nine teams into knockout round



DR Congo's Cedric Bakambu (17), Yoane Wissa (20) and Gedeon Kalulu (24) celebrate a win during the World Cup Group K soccer match between DR Congo and Uzbekistan in Atlanta, Saturday, June 27, 2026. (AP)

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Nine out of the 10 African teams at the World Cup advanced to the second round in a major breakthrough for the continent's football that could lead to bigger representation at future tournaments.

The 90% success rate comes on the back of Morocco reaching the semi-finals in Qatar four years ago and offers hope for the future of the game on a continent that is soccer-mad but whose progress is often held back by administrative and logistical factors.

"It's a source of great pride that there are so many African teams qualified for the Round of 32," said Democratic Republic of Congo coach Sebastien Desabre after his side came from behind to earn a thrilling 3-1 victory over Uzbekistan and secure their progress.

"For many years the African continent has been working hard and making progress," said the Frenchman with some 15 years' experience of working with both clubs and national teams in Africa.

"Sure, there is still room for improvement, and we must ensure we try and remain humble but we are happy to be part of this progression of African football," he said after Saturday's first World Cup win for the Congolese.

Only Tunisia failed to make it past the first round at the finals, with Cape Verde, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Morocco, and South Africa finishing runners-up in their respective groups and Algeria, DR Congo, Ghana and Senegal all finishing among the eight best third-placed finishers.

"The global competitiveness and world-class quality of African football is being recognised and highlighted by the victories and qualification to the World Cup Round of 32, by each of the nine African national teams," said Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe in a statement on Sunday.

"The hard work and investments in youth football development, coaching, professional football leagues and football infrastructure in each of CAF's 54

member associations and in the CAF competitions, is bearing fruit," he added.

Africa will need to continue its trajectory at the tournament in Canada, Mexico, and the United States if it is to successfully lobby for more places at future tournaments.

African countries have long agitated for more World Cup places because they have more than 50 members like Europe but a lot fewer teams at the finals. While CAF had 10 teams at the 2026 finals, UEFA had 16.

But those petitions were kept in check during the almost 30-year tenure of ex-CAF president Issa Hayatou, who consistently told delegates at congresses and meetings that Africa could only ask for more places if it produced results.

Before Morocco's run in Qatar four years ago, the continent's best achievement was quarter-final places for Cameroon (1990), Senegal (2002), and Ghana in 2010 when South Africa hosted the tournament.

At the 2018 finals in Russia – only two tournaments ago – none of the five African sides made it past the opening group stage, albeit Senegal were eliminated on a countback of yellow cards.

The increase from five in Qatar to 10 for the 2026 finals came as a result of the increase in total participants from 32 to 48, which offered an opportunity for countries like the tiny Cape Verde to make an impact on the sport's greatest stage.

"We are very happy to be able to participate in the World Cup. Football belongs to everyone. It does not belong only to wealthier countries," said Cape Verde coach Bubista after Friday's goalless draw with Saudi Arabia saw them finish second behind Spain in their group.



Pacer Kemar Roach reached 300 Test wickets in the West Indies win against Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the first cricket Test at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday, June 28, 2026.

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signalling the end for the tourists. The Sri Lankans were dismissed for 308 in their first innings.

“We thought we had enough runs on the board in the first innings,” said a rueful Sri Lankan captain Dhananjaya de Silva.

“We were without one of our key bowlers (seamer Kumara) and that was a big setback for us. If we have to come back in the second Test we need to have a better bowling attack that can take 20 wickets.”

The win was set up by Amir Jangoo with 233 and captain Roston Chase with 194 during a batting display for the ages to put West Indies in a strong position to push for victory at the end of play on Saturday’s third day.

Jangoo’s knock of 233 lasted just over nine and a half hours and he faced

373 balls and struck 19 fours and three sixes. Chase faced 324 balls and hit 13 fours and two sixes during his over eight and a half-hour innings.

The pair shared a spectacular, record-breaking partnership of 401 for the sixth wicket to carry the home side to a mammoth first innings total of 626 for nine before Chase opted to declare.

The only bright spark for Sri Lanka was Milan Rathnayake, who claimed his first five-wicket haul in Tests with five for 124 when he trapped Kemar Roach lbw for a duck that ultimately led to the declaration.

Armed with a massive 318-run first innings lead, pacer Jayden Seales then further stamped the Windies’ dominance by picking up the wicket of Pathum Nissanka for just three to leave the visitors 15 for one.

Facing a herculean task, the Sri Lankans offered very little resistance

to crash to their heavy defeat on Sunday’s penultimate day. For Roston Chase, this was his first win since being appointed West Indies captain a year ago.

“This is a like a dream come true to see our plans executed so well in this match,” said the captain of the West Indies’ second-largest margin of victory by an innings, surpassed only by the innings and 219-run thrashing of Bangladesh at the same venue in 2018.

This was the West Indies’ first Test victory since a series-levelling triumph against Pakistan in Multan 17 months ago, as well as their first home win since defeating Bangladesh in Kingston, Jamaica, in November 2024.

The West Indies and Sri Lanka will face off again in the second Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua from July 3 to 8.

West Indies beat Sri Lanka in first Test



West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph, second right, celebrates the dismissal of Dhananjaya de Silva of Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the first cricket Test at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday, June 28, 2026. (AFP)

The West Indies defeated Sri Lanka by an innings and 217 runs in mid-afternoon on the fourth day of the first Test of a two-match series at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday.

Barbadian fast bowler Kemar Roach reached the landmark of 300 Test wickets in leading the West Indies to their comprehensive victory.

Trailing on first innings by 318 runs, the visitors were routed for just 101 half-an-hour after lunch as Roach led the fast bowlers' assault on Sri Lanka.

His international career seemed over a year ago, only to be recalled to West Indies service amid a fast bowlers' injury crisis for the tour of New Zea-

land at the end of 2025. In his first Test since returning, the 37-year-old took second-innings figures of four for 51.

He became just the fifth West Indian to claim 300 wickets in the traditional format of the game when he bowled Asitha Fernando comprehensively to put his team one wicket away from victory.

"It's been a long journey," said a relieved Roach in reflecting on his Test debut 17 years earlier.

"It took a lot to be here, a lot of people supporting me, especially (physio-therapist) Dennis Byam. It took a lot of effort from him to get me back on the park coming back from injury."

When asked if the second and final

Test, starting on Friday at the same venue, might be his farewell performance, Roach said, "Check me in the morning. Right now, we just want to celebrate this win... and then discussions will be had."

Jayden Seales, celebrated as the heir apparent to Roach as the leader of the West Indies pace attack, formalized the result when he shattered the stumps of last man Lahiru Kumara to finish with innings figures of three for 14.

Only former Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal offered any resistance to the West Indies pace battery with a top score of 43 before he was taken by John Campbell at first slip off Roach just after lunch, effectively

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