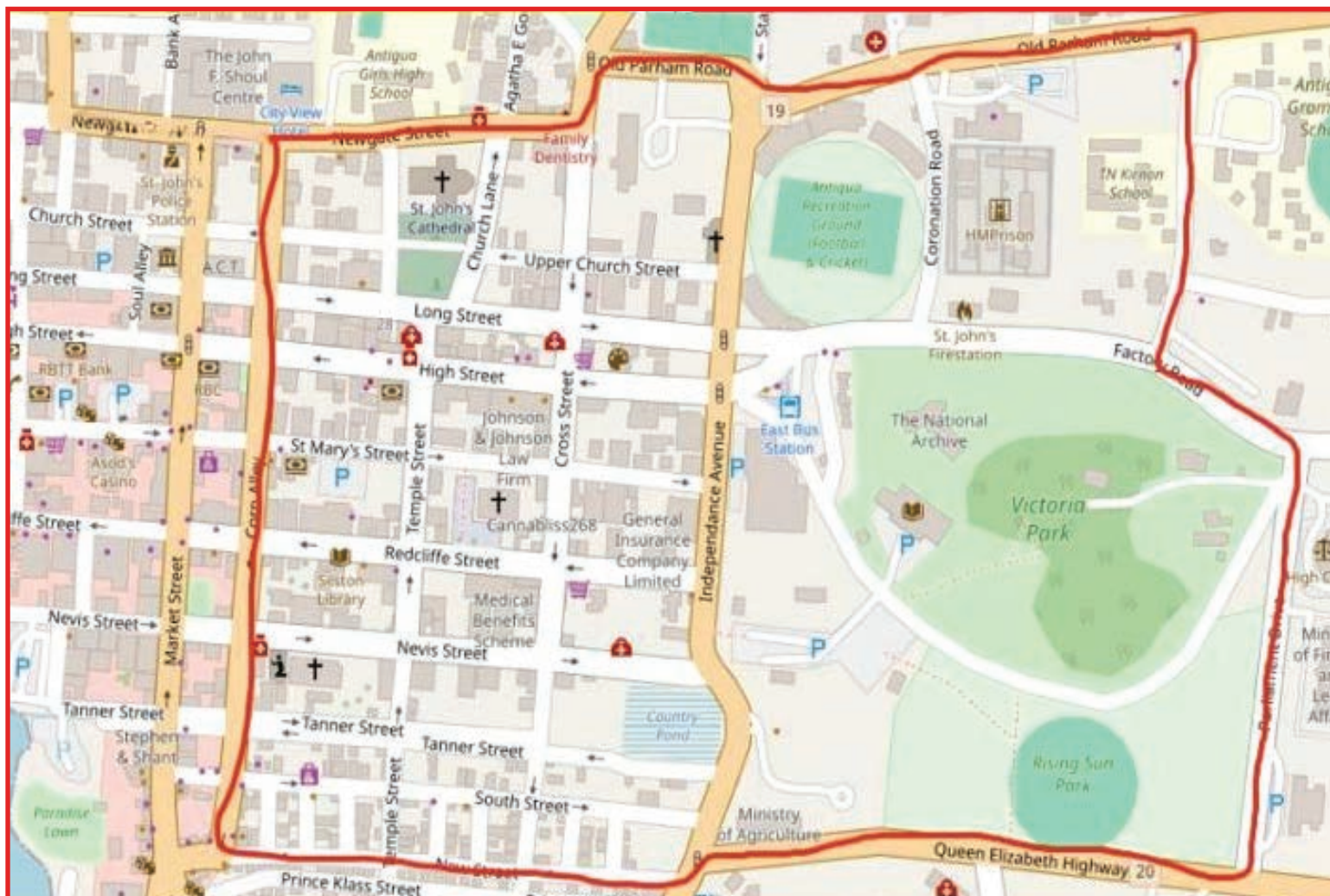


CHOGM 2026 Exercise Stronghold



Aerial view of the Red Zone area of St. John's where there will be restrictions on the movement of vehicles and pedestrians during Exercise Stronghold Wednesday and again on Friday



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Message from Hon. E.P. Chet Greene
Minister of Foreign Affairs & Chairman, CHOGM Task Force**

On the Occasion of the CHOGM 2026 2 Day Security Simulation Exercise

Fellow Citizens and Residents of Antigua and Barbuda:

Over the next two days, our nation will undertake a critical Security Simulation Exercise as we continue our steadfast preparations for CHOGM 2026. This exercise is not merely a drill; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to hosting a safe and successful gathering of Commonwealth leaders in November.

I wish to commend the men and women of our law enforcement and security agencies who are spearheading this operation. Your dedication, sacrifice and meticulous planning are the bedrock of our nation's readiness. I implore you to lead this process with exemplary professionalism, as your conduct reflects the highest standards of our twin-island state.

To the public, I extend my sincere gratitude. Your cooperation and patience are indispensable to the success of this exercise. Your participation demonstrates the "all-of-country" support that defines us as a people and signals to the world our collective readiness to host this global event.

We fully anticipate and sincerely apologize for any inconveniences to your daily routines; be it traffic delays or restricted access. Please understand that these temporary adjustments are necessary. Proper and effective planning is the only path to ensuring the safety of our international guests and our own people and the overall success of the event.

As we navigate these important steps, I pledge the full availability and accessibility of myself, the government and my team at the task force. We are all in this together and through our shared resolve, we will deliver a CHOGM that makes Antigua and Barbuda proud.

May God bless our security forces and may God bless Antigua and Barbuda.

Hon. E.P. Chet Greene
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, CHOGM Task Force

CHOGM 2026 Exercise Stronghold

The National Security Agencies will mount **Exercise Stronghold** in parts of St. John's on Wednesday July 8 and again on Friday July 10, as they prepare for the country's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) from November 1 to 4, this year.

As part of this exercise, the security personnel have established a '**Red Zone**' where there will be restrictions on the movement of people and vehicular traffic for the duration of the exercise.

The **Red Zone** includes the following areas; From Parliament Drive, right unto Queen Elizabeth Highway, left unto Independence Drive, right unto New Street down to Corn Alley where it turns right all the way up to Upper Newgate Street, from the top of Newgate Street left unto Cross Street, turn right unto Upper Bishopgate Street (between Government House and YMCA), turn left unto Old Parham Road at the Round-about, then make a right at Teacher's Place Road to Factory Road, make a left turn and a right unto Parliament Drive.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Louisa Quashie, announced that there will be a **Soft Lockdown** on Wednesday. The hours are 8:00 am to 12 noon.

"During the operational hours, vehicular traffic will be prohibited in the Red Zone during this timeframe. However, pedestrian traffic will be permitted within the restricted area, except on High Street. Traffic on Corn Alley will remain unaffected; however, no left turns will be allowed. Individuals not within the Red Zone before 08:00 hrs are advised to seek alternative parking at ARG, Antigua Girls High School, Antigua Grammar School, and St. John's Cricket



Ground. Ministries/Businesses operating beneath Corn Alley will not be directly impacted by this operation; however, careful planning of routes to and from workplaces is recommended," she suggested.

The second day of the exercise, is set for **Friday 10**, when the security team will institute what they term as a '**Hard Lockdown**'.

According to Deputy Commissioner Quashie, during this period, the exercise will take place from 6:00 am to 12 noon (6 Hours).

"Vehicular and pedestrian access will be completely restricted within the Red Zone. No vehicular access will be permitted on the eastern side of Corn Alley. It is advisable to plan routes to and from workplaces outside the red zone. Ministries/Businesses below Corn Alley will not be directly affected; however, all establishments within the operational area will experience disruptions. Nonetheless, all ministries and statutory bodies, such as APUA, Medi-

cal Benefits, Statistics Department, Social Security, PDV, Treasury, Civil Registry, Government House, and any other government-affiliated entities, should make the necessary adjustments, as workers and customers will not be able to access these compounds before midday," she reported.

The senior security official emphasized that this exercise does not entail the closure of the city; only the designated exercise zone (Red Zone) will be affected.

"We kindly request your ministry's assistance in disseminating these arrangements to all relevant departments under your authority. Your cooperation is essential for ensuring smooth operations and the successful execution of this national security exercise," said a correspondence from the security forces reaching out to businesses and statutory bodies that will be affected by **Exercise Stronghold**.

City Not Closed During CHOGM Security Exercise, Public Urged to Cooperate



Authorities are assuring residents and motorists that St. John's will **not be closed** during this week's two-day national security exercise, despite temporary traffic restrictions and limited access within designated areas of the city.

The National Security Planning Committee will conduct **Exercise Stronghold** from **Wednesday, July 8 and Friday, July 10**, as part of preparations for the **2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**.

Speaking on the *Road to CHOGM* programme, Deputy Commissioner of Police **Louisa Benjamin-Quashie** stressed that while there will be a security zone in place, the public should not interpret the exercise as a complete shutdown of the capital.

"The city is not closed," Benjamin-Quashie emphasized, explaining that only designated areas within the red security zone will face temporary restrictions.

On **Wednesday, July 8**, a **soft lockdown** will be in effect between **8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon** within the designated red zone. During that period, members of the public will still be able to access St. John's, although movement will be restricted in certain locations.

Motorists travelling along **Corn Alley** will not be permitted to turn left but will be allowed to turn right on the western side. Persons who have not yet parked in the city before 8:00 a.m. will be directed to alternative parking areas, including the **Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG)**, **Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS)**, **Antigua Grammar School (AGS)**, the **Rising Sun Grounds**, and designated private parking lots below Corn Alley.

Authorities noted that the alternate parking arrangements are intended to keep the city functioning while minimizing disruptions during the exercise.

A **hard lockdown** will also be implemented within the red zone between **6:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Friday July 10**, during which **no vehicular or pedestrian traffic** will be permitted to enter the restricted area. The security zone covers sections bounded by **Corn Alley and Independence Drive**, with Upper High Street remaining completely inaccessible during the exercise.

Residents and workers already inside the restricted area will not be allowed to move parked vehicles during the lockdown period. However, those within the zone will still be able to move about **on foot** where permitted.

Head of Traffic Superintendent Elson Quammie said several intersections will also be closed, including **Tanner Street, Nevis Street, St. Mary's Street, Long Street, Church Street, Temple Street, Coronation Road, and Cross Street**. Police officers will be stationed at strategic locations throughout the city to direct traffic and assist motorists navigating the diversions.

Superintendent Quammie acknowledged that some inconvenience is inevitable but appealed for public patience.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Police Louisa Benjamin-Quashie added that extensive consultations were held with business owners ahead of the exercise and reported that the response had been overwhelmingly positive.

"Most businesses were cooperative and excited about the exercise," she noted.

The Deputy Commissioner explained that Exercise Stronghold is designed to test the country's security systems ahead of CHOGM and identify any areas requiring improvement before Antigua and Barbuda hosts Commonwealth leaders in November.

Meanwhile, **Captain Trevor Penneyfeather** of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) said the military will play a supporting role throughout the operation by providing personnel and assisting police in strengthening national security.

He explained that the ABDF, under the leadership of **Lieutenant Colonel Telbert Benjamin**, is working closely with the CHOGM Task Force to ensure security arrangements meet international standards, particularly for the Opening Ceremony.



Local News

MBS Makes Adjustments to Exercise Stronghold

The Medical Benefits Scheme wishes to advise the public that temporary operational adjustments will apply to MBS offices on Nevis Street, including the Nevis Street Pharmacy, on Wednesday 8 July and Friday 10 July 2026.

These adjustments are necessary due to preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM.

On Wednesday 8 July, offices will operate during regular business hours. However, access to the area may be affected. Beneficiaries are encouraged to use other pharmacies within the MBS network, where possible.

On Friday 10 July, there will be a delayed start. Administrative Offices will open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the Nevis Street Pharmacy will open from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MBS apologizes for any inconvenience caused and thanks the public for its understanding.



IMPORTANT NOTICE Nevis Street Offices

Please be advised that temporary operational adjustments will apply to **MBS offices on Nevis Street**, including the **Nevis Street Pharmacy**, on **Wednesday 8 July** and **Friday 10 July 2026**.

These adjustments are necessary due to preparations for the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**. Access to the area may be affected during the periods outlined below. Beneficiaries are encouraged to use other pharmacies within the MBS network, where possible.

<p>Wednesday 8 July 2026</p> <p>Administrative Offices 8:00 AM - 4:15 PM</p> <p>Nevis Street Pharmacy 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Friday 10 July 2026 (Delayed Start)</p> <p>Administrative Offices 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Nevis Street Pharmacy 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</p>
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We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

-Management-

KFC SAUCY WINGS

\$29.99 Combo
- 5 Wings
- Fries
- Medium Dink

\$15.99
- 5 Wings ONLY

Citrus Chipotle BBQ

Sweet Red Chili









PM Browne comments on US and Europe visa policies

(CMC): Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne Tuesday said that the visa policy of the United States is undermining trade, commerce “and even our students who require a visa to study in the United States.

“We also have individuals who like to visit their relatives in the United States, and they too are affected,” Browne told reporters on the sidelines of the 51st Caribbean Community (CARICOM) summit now underway here.

Visitor visas for citizens of Antigua and Barbuda are limited to a single entry and valid for three months. This replaces the old rules that allowed 10-year, multiple-entry visas. Additionally, some applicants may be required to post a bond up to US\$15,000. Washington also approved new immigrant visas to Antiguan primarily driven by security concerns surrounding the country’s Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes.

Under the CBI, foreign investors are granted citizenship in Antigua and Barbuda in return for making a substantial investment in the country’s socio-economic development.

Browne told reporters that his country had remained hopeful that the visa policy would be “a temporary measure and that it will not be extended

“I believe that it would have fallen on July 1st, even though we have not heard formally from anyone in the U.S. We’re still hopeful that now that July 1st has actually come, that it will not be repeated.

“We haven’t heard any words



from the United States to confirm whether or not they’re going to extend it or if it falls away. Again, we hope that the latter will prevail and that the restrictions will fall away because at any day we have absolutely no issue in the United States.”

Browne insisted that his country has “very strong relations” with Washington and has been “fully cooperative with the US.

“We consider the US to be our most important partner in development,” he said, noting that 80 per cent of what is consumed in his country comes from the United States.

“Our most significant source market for tourists is the United States, and so for us, our development is inextricably linked to that of the United States. And we continue to work harmoniously with the US,”

he said.

He said on the issue of allowing the United States to send illegal migrants from third countries to Antigua and Barbuda, though controversial should be undertaken in a manner that protects the security of the Caribbean country.

“All we’re seeking to do here is to protect our country to make sure that we do not attract criminal elements to our country. But we have indicated to them that we will certainly participate in the third country nationals programme.

“And we’re hoping that we will get an acceptable agreement, one that precludes any criminal elements whatsoever to come to our country, and one in which we will have an amount of individuals to contend with within our own limited capacity.”



FEEL THE RHYTHM

CAVALIER RUM CALYPSO MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS

16th JULY 2026

CARNIVAL CITY | 7:30PM

GUEST ARTISTE - QUEEN GE'EVE AND 3 CYLINDER BAND

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



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE



CULTURAL CHARACTERS WORKSHOP

MOKO JUMBIE • JOHN BULL • WHIP
CONCH SHELL & CARIBBEAN CLOWN TRAINING



8TH - 24TH
JULY,
2026



3:30 -
7:00 PM



COMPOUND OF
NATIONAL
ARCHIVES



AGES 8-50

LEARN. PRESERVE. CELEBRATE.
OUR CULTURE, OUR IDENTITY, OUR PRIDE.



MOKO JUMBIE



JOHN BULL



WHIP



CONCH SHELL



CARIBBEAN CLOWN



REGISTRATION:
AT MINISTRY OF
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
(OLD PARHAM ROAD)
OR AT VENUE.



PARTICIPATION IS
FREE!



KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Antigua and Barbuda Reaffirms Commitment to CARICOM Free Movement

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Hon. Gaston Browne, has reaffirmed the country's strong support for the free movement of CARICOM nationals, emphasizing that while Antigua and Barbuda has not yet formally signed on to the full free movement of CARICOM nationals, it has long embraced the principle in practice.

Speaking during wide ranging discussions on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) at the 51st Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, Prime Minister Browne commended Member States that have signed on to the regime and described Antigua and Barbuda as "the embodiment of free movement." He noted that the country has benefited significantly from the skills and contributions of CARICOM nationals and encouraged other Member States to continue advancing regional integration by participating in the initiative.

Prime Minister Browne highlighted that Antigua and Barbuda has never restricted the migration of CARICOM nationals and has consistently regularized their status through legislation brought before Parliament approximately every four to five years. He noted that each regularization exercise has benefited, on average, about 5,000 CARICOM nationals, reflecting the country's longstanding commitment to regional integration.

While explaining why Antigua and Barbuda has not formally signed the agreement to facilitate full free movement, Prime Minister Browne suggested that the decision was intended to allow other Member States time to advance or "catch up" to the level of Antigua and Barbuda's diverse population. He however reiterated that, in practice, Antigua and Barbuda remains one of the Caribbean's strongest proponents of free movement and continues to demonstrate its commit-



ment through its welcoming approach to CARICOM nationals.


 An advertisement for State Insurance Company Limited. It features a woman smiling while driving a car. The text reads: "STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED" and "Live in a better State of mind". At the bottom, it says "DRIVE WITH CONFIDENCE AND LIVE IN A BETTER STATE OF MIND". Contact information for Antigua and Barbuda is provided at the bottom.

STATE INSURANCE
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Live in a better State of mind

**DRIVE WITH CONFIDENCE AND
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Statement Of The Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the Appointment of the Secretary General



During the Retreat of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held on 06 July 2026, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago maintained its objection to the process used in the reappointment of the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM acknowledged that the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago desires to have the issue of the reappointment of the SG referred to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to render an Advisory Opinion thereon. To facilitate this request, the Community agrees to commence proceedings to secure such advisory opinion in accordance with Article 212 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

The Community acknowledged that

this is the very purpose for which the CCJ was created - to be a treaty interpretation body.

The Community further agreed that the status quo with respect to the re-appointment of the Secretary General shall remain unless and until the Community considers the said Advisory Opinion from the CCJ.

The Community agreed that this way forward allows for this matter to be resolved in an amicable manner, without prejudice to the ability of the Community to conduct its affairs.

In this context, the Community reaffirmed that the ongoing review of its governance architecture is part of the broader mandate, agreed at the previous Conference in St. Kitts and Nev-

is, to strengthen the governance of the Community and enhance its effectiveness.

The Heads of Government further underscored that this process does not impugn the integrity of any Member State or individual; rather it reflects the Community's collective commitment to continuous institutional improvement with the highest standards of good governance.

The Heads of Government have reaffirmed their commitment to the ideals and objectives of the Community and will continue to move forward in unity to advance the interests of the Region during these difficult times, recognizing the myriad of challenges the Community faces currently.



268 736 7165

Open Daily -
7:00am - 11:30pm



- ↑ Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke
- 🎸 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band
- 🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am
- 🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!

PM Browne Holds Bilaterals On Margins of CARICOM Summit

Prime Minister Gaston Browne who led Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to this week's CARICOM Summit in St. Lucia, has held a series of bilateral meetings on the margins of this important gathering.

Among these meeting, was a bilateral exchange with Theodora Magdalena Mircea, Ambassador of Romania, to discuss opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Romania and Antigua and Barbuda. The discussions focused on expanding economic, educational, and human resource development partnerships, with both sides expressing an interest in fostering closer bilateral relations.

Ambassador Mircea conveyed Romania's interest in establishing stronger links with Antigua and Barbuda's business community and organizing an economic mission to the country to facilitate business-to-business engagement, following a similar regional mission in the Caribbean the previous year.

She also highlighted Romania's willingness to support human resource development through opportunities to attain professional licenses and higher education, including first and second degree programmes with instruction



Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gaston Browne has held bilateral talks with Theodora Magdalena Mircea, Ambassador of Romania, on the sidelines of the Caricom Heads of Government Meeting in St Lucia.

delivered in English. As a follow-up, it was agreed that the relevant information would be forwarded to the Prime Minister for consideration on how to advance the proposed initiatives.

In a separate meeting, Prime Minister Browne participated in a courtesy exchange with Dr. Eslene Richmond-Shockley, President, CEO, and Founder of Caring For Others, Inc. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, Caring For Others, Inc. is an International Human Services organization that seeks

to eradicate poverty through feeding, education, clothing, and housing individuals and families around the world.

During the meeting, the parties exchanged warm pleasantries and Prime Minister Browne commended Dr. Richmond-Shockley for the impactful work being carried out by Caring For Others, Inc., congratulated her on the organization's achievements, and expressed his best wishes for its continued success and future endeavors.


 A promotional graphic for the radio show 'Pointe On the Streetz'. The title is written in large, colorful, 3D-style letters. Below it, it says 'HOSTED BY VERNON A. SPRINGER'. To the right, the PBN logo is shown above the broadcast schedule: 'TUE - FRI 2PM - 3PM'. Contact information includes 'CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991' and a Facebook icon followed by 'POINT FM99.1'. The background is a bright yellow with a road graphic at the bottom.

Freeland Showcases Antigua and Barbuda's Innovation Success Story at Global WIPO Assembly in Geneva



Antigua and Barbuda's growing reputation as a nation embracing innovation, entrepreneurship and intellectual property took centre stage this week as Minister of State Michael Freeland addressed delegates from around the world during the 68th Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Delivering Antigua and Barbuda's official country statement, Minister Freeland highlighted the country's recent achievements in intellectual property, digital transformation and business development while reaffirming the government's commitment to using innovation as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth.

The Minister began by congratulating WIPO Director General Daren Tang on his reappointment, praising his leadership and the organization's continued support for its member states. "Your inclusive and forward-looking leadership has made significant contributions to the advancement of WIPO's mandate and to the engagement of its Member States." Freeland also acknowledged the



support Antigua and Barbuda has received through WIPO's Build Back Fund, describing it as a transformative initiative for local producers. He noted that the programme resulted in the registration of Antigua and Barbuda's first three collective trademarks in 2024 and helped bring the Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers' Co-operative's premium honey products—including Antigua and Barbuda Wildflower Honey and Barbuda Logwood Honey—to market. "This initiative has contributed to increased consumer interest in the Cooperative and its honey products,

while significantly expanding the digital reach of the ABBC." Freeland said the successful completion of the project has demonstrated the value of intellectual property in creating economic opportunities for small producers and strengthening local brands on the international stage. The Minister also highlighted Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to equip entrepreneurs with the tools needed to protect and commercialise their ideas. He pointed to the 2025 Women Entrepreneurs in the Caribbean Mentorship Programme, which provided intellectual property training to 19 Antiguan and Barbudan women entrepreneurs. "This initiative as a result has empowered our business community in the development of their products and services." Turning to digital transformation, Freeland outlined ongoing efforts to modernise the country's intellectual property system through the introduction of WIPO's electronic filing platform. "We are grateful for these valuable developments as we aim to optimize user engagement."

Department of Culture to Host Cultural Characters Workshop

The Department of Culture within the Ministry of Creative Industries will open a workshop on Cultural Characters on Wednesday afternoon free of cost to members of the general public.

Events Coordinator Gilbert Laudat says the training workshop, the brainchild of Director of Culture Khan Cordice, will train participants in the art of stilt walking (Moko Jumbies) and Conch Shell blowing, along with the elements required to be a traditional Caribbean Clown, John Bull and Whip Cracker.

According to Mr. Laudat, its main objective is to create an opportunity whereby people can gain sound knowledge of the various characters, thereby preserving the local culture.

“We find that we need more persons – more young persons to be involved in it, to learn about the history behind the characters, and the work involved in building the costumes and piecing together other elements that collectively, bring the characters to life,” he said.

Interested persons can register to participate in the training onsite at the Environment Division. Daily sessions will commence at 3:30PM and will conclude at 7:00PM.

Following the workshop, which will end on 24th July, officials within the Cultural Development Division are hoping there will be a larger presence of the traditional cultural characters on parade during Carnival Monday festivities.

The Events Coordinator added that continuous training will be available for members of the public, and will likely extend to schools across the island.

“We’re going from the 8th to the 24th of July, 2026. After Carnival, we are going to rest before we start again, so we can bring some Christmas characters into our workshop,” Mr. Laudat noted.



CARNIVAL CORNER

The Count Down to Carnival Is On at the Brew

Live DJ's
Every Friday from
July 3rd – August 7, 2026
6:00 PM until

\$75

Unlimited drinks
on select brands

ENJOY UNLIMITED SELECTIONS FROM:

- Jack Daniel's
- Hennessy
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- Absolut Vodka
- Angostura 7 Year

ABSOLUT. Hennessy JACK DANIEL'S
Premier Beverages

CAFE · BAR · LOUNGE

Every Friday, No Excuses

New Plant Tissue Laboratory Opens



The occasion marked another significant milestone in Antigua and Barbuda’s forward march towards food security; the official opening of the country’s new plant culture laboratory.

“Today we proudly celebrate the official opening of Antigua and Barbuda’s new plant tissue culture laboratory — where agriculture meets science.

This milestone, born from a strong partnership with the People’s Republic of China and local dedica-

tion, strengthens our capacity for research and training. Most importantly, this critical facility empowers us to strengthen our food sovereignty and security,” a proud Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr. reported in a social media post on Tuesday.

He expressed the appreciation and thanks of the people of Antigua and Barbuda to the government and people of the People’s Republic of China for once again partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture to bring this project

to fruition.

“Thank you to our partners and the Ministry’s team for making this vision a reality. Let us continue working together for sustainable agriculture, food security, and prosperity,” Smith stated.

Among those who participated in the official ribbon cutting exercise were the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, Chinese Ambassador Jiang Wei and Minister of Agriculture, Anthony Smith Jr.

Local News



RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

The Beat of Her Journey

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
— 2026 —

PEOPLE'S CHOICE *Award*

Vote for Your
Favourite Delegate



DENESHA *Samuel*

MISS LIAT AIR

HOW TO VOTE



Thumbs Up
(Like)



Heart
(Love)

Only Thumbs Up
and Heart
reactions will be
counted.

Votes from BOTH
Facebook and
Instagram will be
combined.

VOTING ENDS

Saturday,

11TH JULY
6:00 PM

FLOW

Flow Launches “We Live For This” Summer Campaign



Flow is inviting customers across Antigua and Barbuda to «Win All Summer» as it launches «We Live For This,” its 2026 summer campaign built to reward customers through the season’s biggest moments.

Running throughout July and August, the campaign draws on what makes summer in Antigua and Barbuda special, from CPL cricket to Carnival, music, community events and time spent with family and friends. “We Live For This” is anchored in Flow’s new three-year partnership with the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), connecting customers to one of the region’s most celebrated sporting events while delivering standout value all season long.

Customers can qualify to win through eligible prepaid, postpaid and broadband offers throughout the campaign.

The grand prize is a trip for two to Barbados to experience the CPL Finals

live. Weekly prizes run for the length of the campaign and include Myst and Barefoot T-Shirt Mas packages, Myst Mas package, Caution J’Ouvert experiences, Rise event packages, tickets to Footprints, Blue Jeans and Carnival Dreams, CPL tickets, Samsung devices, coffee makers, and bonus credit and data.

Beyond the prizes, the campaign comes to life on the ground through retail activations, roadshows, giveaways and community engagements across Antigua and Barbuda — giving customers more ways to take part.

“Our new partnership with the CPL gave us the perfect foundation to build a campaign around what people genuinely look forward to each summer,” said Wayne Hull, Country Manager. “Cricket, Carnival, music, community are the moments that bring us together. ‘We Live For This’ is how we reward customers for choosing Flow and put

them closer to the experiences they love, right through to the CPL Finals in Barbados.”

“We wanted a campaign that keeps customers in it from the first week to the last,” said Shand Merchant, Marketing Manager at Flow Antigua and Barbuda. “With ‘Win All Summer,’ customers can qualify every week by topping up \$25 or more, signing up for a new service, paying their bill in full, or activating a 3, 7 or 30-Day Always On Plan. With something new to look forward to every week, it’s our way of saying thank you and of making the season a little more rewarding.”

“We Live For This” launched on July 3 and continues through the summer with fresh offers, prizes and activations. Customers can visit a Flow Retail Store, follow Flow on social media or head to Flow’s digital platforms to see current offers and their chances to Win All Summer.

Automotive Service Manager - Summary

An automotive dealership in Antigua is seeking a Service Manager who has in depth knowledge of the automotive industry. The successful candidate should have hands on technical experience working with premium brands and be able to efficiently manage a service center. The manager should be able to adapt to the client - centric culture of the company by enhancing customer satisfaction, through the delivery of first-class service.

Essential Duties

- Responsible for managing the service department operations, staff and other resources
- Ensuring the efficient and profitable operation of the department to achieve both high levels of customer satisfaction, retention and profitability
- Controlling resources at a level commensurate with profit requirements and enhanced customer relations
- Monitoring and improvement of internal control procedures and systems
- Overseeing and supervising the work technicians to ensure that customers receive consistent and accurate service.
- Managing customer satisfaction levels by ensuring fix-it-right the first-time policy is adhered to.
- Advise staff on mechanical issues or be able to resolve mechanical issues in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- Motivating and coaching staff members to ensure high levels of productivity
- Keeping track of the status of vehicle repair and notify customer about same
- Managing the work in progress
- Authorizing and managing leave for all service department personnel
- Planning and managing training needs for all departmental personnel by keeping abreast of what is trending globally for each brand.
- Monitor productivity through hours sold on daily basis
- Making sure that hours sold per RO are in-line with benchmark
- Making sure that workshop parts sales are in-line with bench mark
- Making sure that the average labour rate is above the minimum rate
- Carry-out capacity studies for the workshop
- Monitor utilization and efficiency of Technicians (Units reports) and take suitable actions to improve levels
- Ensure the utilization of workshop resources and assets for excellent rates of productivity and efficiency
- Reviewing monthly sales(hours) and profit performance (Net profit vs gross)
- Any other duties assigned

#4



Our future, Our bank
ecab
EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK
MR & MISS
Teenage
PAGEANT

ANDRISA
THOMAS

ANTIGUA GIRLS'
HIGH SCHOOL



CARNIVAL CITY
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY
18
2026

#1



Our future, Our bank



MR & MISS
Teenage
PAGEANT

SOLEIL
WILLIAMS

ANTIGUA
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

CARNIVAL CITY
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY
18
2026



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





COME FOR THE
FETE
STAY FOR THE
MATCH

PARTY STAND



TICKET OUTLETS
SRVS TICKET OUTLET
RUBIS SERVICE STATIONS
THE STREET TEAM



VS

**20
AUG**



**22
AUG**



**23
AUG**



**25
AUG**



NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

\$65 INCL. \$25 IN
DRINK CHITS

7 PM SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM





UWI
FIVE ISLANDS
CAMPUS

UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS JUNIORS CALYPSO MONARCH

AGE 5-12 FINALISTS

1. DE ARCHER
2. SUDDEN ELSE
3. STAR GIRL
4. SHAZZY
5. DE ROYAL ELEMENTS
6. PRINCESS FAITH
7. AVA
8. CALYPSO ACE
9. JAMARIO



UWI
FIVE ISLANDS
CAMPUS

UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS JUNIORS CALYPSO MONARCH

AGE 13-18 FINALISTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ADONAI | 5. CALYPSO LILLY |
| 2. JAH NELLY | 6. CALYPSO LISSA |
| 3. KAISO KALL | 7. CUTIE PIE |
| 4. LYRICAL WEAPON | 8. NIYA STARR |

'Agony' in Cuba amid third nationwide blackout in six months

Cuba on Monday suffered its third nationwide power outage since the start of the year, causing mounting despair in the face of an energy collapse precipitated by a United States (US) fuel blockade.

The island was already struggling to keep the lights on before US President Donald Trump in January cut off its oil supplies, depleting the dwindling supply of fuel for its power plants.

“There has been a total disconnection from the national electricity generation system,” the UNE power utility wrote on X, adding that it was “investigating the causes”.

The blackout is the eighth on the island of 9.6 million people since late 2024.

It comes as the state imposes increasingly draconian power cuts across the country — over 30 hours at a stretch in parts of Havana and over 70 hours in some rural areas — in an increasingly desperate attempt to conserve fuel.

“Living like this is agony,” said Meyboll Font, a 51-year-old self-employed social media community manager.

Font said that her Havana neighbourhood has been surviving on just “three or four hours of power a day” but that the blackout was worse because “you never know when it [electricity] will return.”

“We have no Wi-Fi, no electricity, we can’t work,” said a young software programmer working for a tourism start-up in another neighbourhood.

Power outages have been a feature of life for years in Cuba, where the electricity generation system, composed mainly of dilapidated Soviet-era plants, is in shambles.



The blackouts and power cuts have accelerated since the fuel blockade began, with authorities citing a lack of fuel to run the generators that prop up the national grid.

Since January, Washington has only allowed one oil tanker, from Russia, to dock in Cuba, as part of a pressure campaign aimed at ending more than six decades of communist rule in Havana.

Trump points to the US overthrow of Venezuela’s socialist president Nicolas Maduro and installation of a Washington-friendly successor as a potential blueprint for what he would like to achieve in Cuba.

Cuba has repeatedly said its political model is not up for discussion and vowed to resist any invasion militarily.

The US blockade, coupled with a flurry of sanctions on the Cuban state and foreign companies that do business with it, have nudged a country already mired in a generational crisis closer to collapse.

Food, drinking water and medicine are in increasingly short supply, and

some surgeries have been put on hold, prompting the United Nations to warn of a humanitarian emergency.

Transport on the island has come to a near standstill.

Last month, the Cuban Government unveiled a sweeping package of free-market reforms that, if implemented, would dramatically reduce state control over the economy.

The US State Department dismissed the plans as “superficial smoke signals” and said Trump was holding out for “much more substantial economic and political reforms that would make Cuba investable” and grant Cubans political freedom.

The two sides have held several rounds of talks but Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez last week said they had made “no progress” towards ending the impasse.

On Monday, Havana accused Washington of preventing a debate at the United Nations on its oil blockade and sanctions. (AFP)

British MP says colonies should pay reparations to UK amid Jamaica reparations debate

A former British minister says the territories that Britain colonised ought to pay reparations to London for the “investment, effort and contribution” that she claims the former slave empire made in building them.

Former Home Secretary Suella Braverman, who is of Indian descent, with parents who immigrated from Kenya and Mauritius, made a post on X saying: “Of course slavery was abhorrent but to expect the British people of the 21st century to pay for actions that took place in the 18th century has no basis in law.”

Braverman made the comments in response to another UK Member of Parliament, Bell Ribeiro-Addy, who had reposted an article from The Guardian noting that Jamaica would be taking “the case for reparations directly to King Charles” later this year by lodging a formal petition.

The comments come as multiple former colonies across the Commonwealth demand reparations for hundreds of years of unpaid labour carried out during chattel slavery perpetuated



by the British Empire.

“If the government is seriously thinking about this, then former colonies should pay the British back for the considerable investment, effort and contribution that this country made, which laid the foundations for many flourishing democracies today,” Braverman said.

A report from Middle East Eye noted that, according to the British government, up to 2015 UK taxpayers were still paying off a £20 million loan taken out in 1835 to compensate slave owners after abolition. Today, that would be worth more than US\$3 billion. (Jamaica Observer)

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
ANTIGUA CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL'S COMMISSION

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The Beat of Her Journey

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Liat Air
Rhythm of Resilience

Kerasha James
AllMart
Rhythm of Purpose

Queenela Williams
Antigua Port Authority
Rhythm of Leadership

Christine Powell
ACB Caribbean
Rhythm of Strength

Shaveesa Gasper
Exotic Antigua
Rhythm of Culture

Zaine Frederick
Furniture Gallery
Rhythm of Elegance

Caliyah Taylor
Cool & Smooth
Rhythm of Transformation

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8:00 PM

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GENERAL ADMISSION - EC\$30

Regional News

REGIONAL ROW - T&T challenges CARICOM chief's reappointment, wants CCJ to decide

A major diplomatic rift has opened within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leadership amid the reappointment of Secretary General Dr Carla Barnett, with Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar insisting that the matter be brought to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

Persad-Bissessar's position was outlined in a 22-page letter sent to new CARICOM Chair and St Lucia Prime Minister Phillip J. Pierre, in which she also called for Barnett to recuse herself from the decision-making process of the Secretariat until the court offers its position.

It comes during a meeting of regional heads at the 51st Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM under way in Gros Islet, St Lucia.

The Trinidad and Tobago prime minister said Barnett's deputy should act in the decision-making role until the matter is settled.

Noting that she considers CARICOM the Caribbean's greatest achievement, the twin-island republic's prime minister said it stands as the reason why she wants the matter addressed.

"Our concern is not directed towards any individual. It is neither personal nor political. Rather, it concerns the legality of the process adopted, the integrity of our institutions, and the faithful observance of the constitutional framework established by the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC)," said Persad-Bissessar, in the July 3, 2026 document.

"The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago does not accept the process by which the secretary-general was purportedly reappointed, and consequently, is unable to recognise the validity of the purported second term of the secretary-general," she said in the letter, that was also addressed to regional heads of governments.

She said her country's position is not held to "create division within the Community, but to preserve the constitutional order upon which the legitimacy and credibility of CARICOM ultimately depends".



She asserted that regional unity cannot rest upon expediency and irregular practices "masquerading" as precedent.

The prime minister said it must rest upon adherence to the rules which every member state has freely accepted and undertaken to uphold.

She argued that the decision was finalised during a heads-only retreat in Nevis in February, challenging that under Article 24 of the RTC, the power to appoint or reappoint lies strictly with the conference.

Persad-Bissessar said an informal, ad hoc retreat cannot inherit treaty-based legal powers simply because heads of government are in attendance.

She said on the morning of the retreat, a WhatsApp text message was sent disinviting foreign ministers and staff.

At the same time, she argued that under Article 11(2) of the RTC, any head of government has an absolute right to designate a minister to represent them.

She said because Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda and The Bahamas were being represented by ministers or directors at the time, they were legally locked out of the decision-making room.

Further, the matter of reappointment, she said, was never listed on the draft provisional agendas, annotated agendas,

or working documents circulated weeks' prior, arguing that it was abruptly introduced under the vague topic of 'Financing and Governance of the Community', violating Rule 26(1).

She said this rule mandates a one-month prior notice for items of high constitutional significance. The closing joint communiqué and summary of decisions also omitted any mention of the reappointment, the prime minister asserted.

According to Persad-Bissessar, Article 24 of the RTC requires the CARICOM Council to issue a formal recommendation before the conference can appoint a secretary-general. She said no such recommendation was sought or obtained.

She said conference decisions require unanimity and that every member state effectively holds a veto. She noted that because multiple nations were excluded or absent, with Haiti and Montserrat entirely absent, only 10 out of 15 member states voted in favour of Barnett.

She said considering the rules regarding absences, a valid decision required at least a three-quarters majority, or 12 affirmative votes.

"The purported approval by only 10 member states falls short of that threshold prescribed in Article 28 of the Re-

vised Treaty, and cannot satisfy the majority required by the Revised Treaty,” said Persad-Bissessar.

Her letter said while Barnett was not in the room during the debate, she and her general counsel actively participated in the administrative set-up, including executing the WhatsApp messages that dis-invited representatives.

She argued that an office-holder cannot manage the logistics of their own job renewal.

Among other things, Persad-Bissessar is recommending that the CCJ be asked to look at the matter.

“The issues surrounding the purported reappointment of the secretary-general have caused much discomfort and dissonance in the CARICOM.

“Consequently, The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, believing in the values of the CARICOM, and wishing to strengthen, rather than weaken its institutions, proposes that this matter be resolved through the legal mechanism established by the Revised Treaty itself, by way of a reference to the CCJ for an advisory opinion, in circumstances where there is a genuine dispute concerning the legality of the purported reappointment of the secretary-general,” she said.

Meanwhile, Jamaica’s Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness, in a letter to Pierre, said while his country was not seeking to overturn the decision to reappoint Barnett, it held procedural concerns regarding how the decision was handled.

He said there is a need to restore confidence, transparency and regional solidarity.

Holness, in the three-page letter dated July 5, 2026, acknowledged that the decision was handled during a sensitive Caucus.

However, he said under Rule 27 of the Revised Rules of Procedure (adopted in 2023), any such decision made in Caucus must either be formally ratified during a plenary session to take legal effect, or recorded confidentially by the secretary general and circulated for immediate signature prior to the meeting’s conclusion.

He said this procedural requirement was a “departure” from not only previous practice, but the rules of procedure established by the conference.

He said the ongoing impasse has exposed CARICOM to external scrutiny and concern from citizens and international development partners, which risks damaging institutional trust.

“I reaffirm, at the outset, that Jamaica is not by this letter seeking to overturn the decision that was taken in February 2026 to reappoint Dr Carla Barnett as Secretary-General of CARICOM.

“However, I remain concerned that the approach taken has neither resolved the matter nor promoted the spirit and goals of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. As a matter of principle, the fact that

one member state (L/C) has formally and consistently expressed opposition to a matter, on procedural and other grounds, and the fact that the issue has since become one of public controversy, should be of grave concern to us and should not be disregarded.

“It has become clear that we were not all on the same page. Therefore, it is important that any concerns be addressed in a meaningful manner in order to restore cohesion, if not unity, which is indispensable to the effective functioning of CARICOM,” said Holness. (Jamaica Gleaner)



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- EMANCIPATION VILLAGE - VC BIRD BUST **10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

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Explosions injure 18 in Damascus during Macron's visit

Eighteen people have been injured after explosive devices went off in central Damascus, Syrian media says, reportedly near the hotel where French President Emmanuel Macron had been staying.

State news agency Sana said two devices had been detected by security forces, which exploded as specialised units began the process to defuse them.

One device was placed inside a parked vehicle, while the other was concealed in a bin, the agency said.

Macron has been in the capital for talks with his Syrian counterpart Ahmed al-Sharaa at the presidential palace. His officials said he was safe and did not hear the explosions.

After travelling to Syria, the French president is set to head to Turkey for the Nato summit.

Syrian media said four police officers were among the injured, and the interior ministry had launched an investigation to identify those responsible for the attack.

Videos and images posted on social media on Tuesday morning showed plumes of smoke and flames rising from a vehicle near a hotel in the Syrian capital.

One eyewitness told BBC Arabic's Middle East Daily that they had been standing in front of the ministry of tourism headquarters when the first explosion occurred.

They said that while security forces were searching for suspicious objects after the first bomb detonated, "a second explosion occurred approximately 20 metres from the site of the first blast".

"The first explosion caused material damage but no casualties. The



second explosion, however, caused injuries to several members of the public security forces and the traffic police," the eyewitness told the BBC.

BBC Verify analysis located the explosions at approximately 125m from the Four Seasons hotel, on a major thoroughfare running through the capital.

As reports of the explosions came in, Syrian state television said that al-Sharaa had welcomed Macron to the presidential palace.

Writing on social media after the blasts, Macron said: "Nothing can smother the aspiration of Syrian women and men to live in a fully sovereign, safe, pluralistic, and united Syria.

"This morning I met Syria in all its diversity. I saw dignity, courage, and determination. My visit continues."

Macron arrived in Syria on Monday evening, becoming the first EU leader to visit Syria since al-Sharaa came to power following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024. It is a trip that underlines Syria's return to the global stage fol-

lowing years of international isolation.

Sharaa, a former al-Qaeda commander from Syria's Sunni Muslim majority, has vowed to unify a divided country after five decades of the repressive rule of the Assad family and a 13-year-old devastating civil war.

The explosions in Damascus underline the major security challenges the authorities face posed from a range of militants including the Islamic State group, which has claimed a series of attacks on government targets in recent months.

Pro-government forces were also involved in violence against religious and ethnic minority groups that killed hundreds of people last year.

At the start of July, a bomb blast at a crowded cafe in central Damascus killed at least nine people and injured 22 others, according to Syrian state media.

Apart from security issues, Macron's visit is also focused on Syria's difficult economic situation, with reconstruction expected to be one of the main themes. (BBC)

George E. Johnson, founder of pioneering Black hair products company, dies at 99



George E. Johnson, the pioneering Chicago entrepreneur whose eponymous company transformed Black hair care in the United States with brands including Afro Sheen, Ultra Wave and Classy Curl, died on Monday at age 99, according to a family statement.

The family said Johnson, “passed away peacefully at home at the age of 99, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of entrepreneurship, faith, perseverance, philanthropy, and family.”

The New York Times, citing his second wife, Madeline Murphy Rabb, reported that Johnson died of a respiratory illness.

The Johnson Products Company was founded in 1954, catering to African Americans’ evolving tastes in hairstyles, fashion and cosmetics in an era when U.S. companies and advertisers paid little attention to Black consumers.

“He truly believed business could be a force for good, creating opportunity, strengthening communities, opening doors for others, and demon-

strating that success carries with it a responsibility to serve,” the family statement said.

The business, which Johnson co-founded with his first wife, Joan Johnson, who died in 2019, grew to command nearly 80% of the Black hair care market by 1960, and in 1971 became the first Black-owned company listed on the American Stock Exchange, now known as NYSE American.

With a marketing campaign echoing slogans and imagery of the era’s Black Pride and Black Power movements, the company became the exclusive sponsor of the television music show “Soul Train,” helping the Chicago-based weekly program grow from a local broadcast into a nationally syndicated hit.

The company’s own business roots illustrated the difficulties minority entrepreneurs faced at the dawn of the civil rights movement.

Johnson, who was born in a sharecropper’s shack in Mississippi in 1927 moved to Chicago with his mother at

age 2. He later worked as a door-to-door cosmetics salesman after dropping out of high school, launched his own venture with a bank loan of just \$250 he secured by telling a white loan officer he wanted to borrow the money for a family vacation.

“I knew this request (for a vacation loan) wouldn’t rattle [the loan officer’s] belief that he was superior to me. Nor would it challenge his stereotypes of Black men as subservient or unintelligent,” Johnson recounted in his 2025 memoir, “Afro Sheen.”

Some of the company’s first major brands, including Ultra Wave for men and Ultra Sheen for women, were introduced as hair-relaxing products designed for home use, to achieve straight and wavy hair styles popular in the 1950s and early 1960s.

As Black Power consciousness gave rise to an increasing preference among Black people for a more natural hair texture and look that did not seek to mimic the styles worn by whites, Johnson’s company adapted with the advent of its Afro Sheen Blow Out kit in the late 1960s, according to BlackPast.org.

The company’s Classy Curl helped consumers achieve the “Jheri curl” perm first popularized by white hairdresser-chemist Jheri Redding.

Johnson’s venture began to struggle as it faced competition from large hair care and cosmetics companies such as Revlon that sought to grab market share in the increasingly lucrative African American hairstyling business.

After the Johnsons divorced, ownership of their business changed hands a number of times before a majority African American investment firm acquired the business in 2009 from Procter & Gamble. (Reuters)

Harry loses High Court privacy case against Daily Mail publisher

The Duke of Sussex and six others have lost their High Court privacy case against the publisher of the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday.

Judge Mr Justice Nicklin said the claimants had failed to prove the allegations of unlawful information gathering.

Prince Harry brought the case against Associated Newspapers, along with a number of well-known figures.

They claimed that the newspaper group used unlawful methods for getting information for stories, allegations which were strenuously denied by Associated Newspapers.

A spokesperson for the publisher described the judgment as an “overwhelming victory for the Daily Mail and its journalists”.

The prince did not respond to the BBC’s questions about the judgement as he left an Invictus Games event in London.

In a summary of his ruling, Mr Justice Nicklin concluded the allegations were serious and therefore required more convincing evidence before being proven.

He said the seven claimants could not rely on “suspicion, even where understandable”. Instead, he said they had to prove information had been obtained unlawfully.

Mr Justice Nicklin refused to make a finding as to whether what became known as unlawful information gathering had become “widespread and habitual” at Associated Newspapers and instead decided the merits of each individual claim.

He said he accepted the denials of Associated Newspaper journalists “who gave lawful explanations for the sourcing of the disputed articles and incidents”.

He ruled that the claimants had also failed to prove three senior Associated executives - former editors Paul Dacre and Peter Wright, and current senior lawyer for the publisher Elizabeth



Hartley - had lied in their evidence to the Leveson Inquiry where they said there was no unlawful activity at the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday.

In his full 436-page judgement, Mr Justice Nicklin examined each claimed breach of privacy, and often noted that there was suspicion about how information was obtained by the journalists.

In one article, the Daily Mail’s Royal Editor wrote in 2013 that Prince Harry faced a lonely New Year’s Eve without his girlfriend Cressida Bonas.

It was claimed a freelance journalist was asked to “blag” travel details for Ms Bonas.

Prince Harry said in a witness statement this was “creepy” and he did not know how the newspaper could have obtained the information about the couple’s separate whereabouts.

Mr Justice Nicklin said: “I accept that he found the article intrusive and was genuinely concerned by how journalists appeared to know private information concerning his relationships. But suspicion, even understandable suspicion, is not proof.”

Dozens of people gave evidence during the trial, including Prince Harry and the other claimants, as well as many current and former Associated Newspapers journalists and executives who gave evidence denying illegal activity.

During the trial at the beginning of the year, Prince Harry became emotional when talking about the impact of the articles on himself and those close to him, and said Associated Newspapers had made the life of his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, “an absolute misery”.

Other claimants in the case included actors Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost, singer Sir Elton John and his husband David Furnish, former Liberal Democrat minister Sir Simon Hughes, and Baroness Doreen Lawrence, the Labour peer and mother of Stephen Lawrence, who was murdered in 1993.

During the trial:

Hurley was reduced to tears after describing the effect of the reporting of the paternity row about her son with the American businessman Steve Bing.

Prince Harry flew in to give evidence in person - his anger was plain to see as he argued there were 14 articles written using unlawfully gathered information about his private life.

Frost’s claims covered 11 articles including a draft story about Frost’s ectopic pregnancy

Baroness Lawrence alleged five articles relied on information “stolen” about her and the investigation into her son Stephen’s murder

On Sir Elton John and his husband David Furnish, barrister David Sherborne said details were published about the birth of their surrogate son - including his birth certificate before the couple had received their own copy

For Sir Simon, the barrister said the Mail was “prepared to exploit his sexuality”, also citing a moment in 2006 when Hughes was “outed on the front page of the Sun”

Associated Newspapers denied all the allegations.

In a statement after the judgment was delivered, Sir Simon described it as “very disappointing” and said he would now “take time to consider” the

judge's findings.

An Associated Newspaper spokesperson said: "Mr Justice Nicklin today cleared the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday, and dismissed every single one of the 97 allegations made by the claimants.

"In every case, the judge accepted the honesty of our journalists' evidence on how they sourced their stories.

"This is a magnificent vindication of the Daily Mail's journalism."

They added the court case has "wasted so much valuable court time and more than £50m in legal costs".

Paul Dacre, Associated Newspapers' editor-in-chief and ex-Daily Mail editor, said the action had been "trumped-up" adding it "should never have been brought to trial".

He added he would "never be able

to comprehend" why Baroness Lawrence had decided to "turn on" the Daily Mail, which campaigned on the Lawrence family's behalf. In 1997, the paper ran a famous front page naming the five prime suspects in Stephen's murder.

But Baroness Lawrence told the court in February she thought the paper was only "pretending" to support her campaign for justice for the "credibility of supporting a black family".

A further hearing lasting two days is now expected to take place from 29 July.

This is the latest - and is expected to be the last - in a series of courtroom battles fought by Prince Harry against what he has seen as the dishonest practices of the UK press.

In 2023, Prince Harry won 15 claims

in his case accusing Mirror Group Newspapers of unlawfully gathering information for stories published about him.

Last year, the publisher of the Sun newspaper agreed to pay "substantial damages" and apologised to the duke to settle a long-running legal battle over claims of unlawful intrusion into his life.

Tuesday's verdict coincides with the start of a week of engagements in the UK for Prince Harry, starting with an event in London for the Invictus Games, his charity for injured military veterans.

On Tuesday afternoon, Harry smiled and gave a thumbs up to crowds as he stepped into his car following an Invictus Games event. (BBC)

Death toll in Sri Lanka's prison clash rises to 26, with a further 77 in hospital



The death toll in Sri Lanka's prison clash rose Tuesday to 26 — seven prison officials and 19 inmates — with authorities alleging the skirmish was linked to narcotic drugs and gang rivalries but prison welfare groups saying overcrowding and poor conditions had much to do with it, too.

The unrest at the prison in Negombo, about 35 kilome-

ters (22 miles) north of the capital, Colombo, started between inmates on Sunday and turned violent on Monday after the inmates attacked the guards who intervened. Officials said the inmates even tried to break through the main gate, but were stopped.

A further 77 people — 23 prison officials and 54 inmates — are still being

treated in hospitals.

On Tuesday, Justice Minister Harshana Nanayakkara told parliament that they believe the clash is linked to narcotic drugs and gang rivalries.

He said the clash erupted between two rival gangs connected to the illegal drug trade and the initial assault was launched on the inmates who acted as informants to the authorities and, thereafter, prison guards came under attack.

"Majority of the prison officials have died due to beatings by inmates. They (prison guards) have come under a merciless attack ... even by bricks and clubs," said the minister, adding that at that point, prison guards fired their weapons in order to control the situation and also for their own safety.

The minister did not specify the cause of the deaths and the nature of the injuries.

He said some firearms fell into the hands of the inmates, who used them to shoot at the guards. "We will investigate as to how they got the weapons — whether they got it from the armory or grabbed from the guards."

He said during the clashes, a small group of organized inmates also destroyed the CCTV cameras and as well as a body scanner, in a move seen as an effort to disrupt the mechanism that blocks narcotics and other contraband from coming inside the prison.

Nanayakkara said some 734 inmates who were involved in the violence were transferred to other prisons. (AP)

Antiguan volleyball contingent off to St. Kitts to take part in ECVA activities



The Antiguan women's beach volleyball team. From left, Faith Gibson, coach Rosemary Simon, and Philisha Burnette.



The Antiguan men's beach volleyball team. From left: George Freeland, coach Jamarie James, and Miguel Peña-Lugo.

A contingent of Antiguan players and officials have left the island to participate in a full week of beach volleyball development activities being hosted by the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts.

Coaches, referees, and athletes from Antigua and Barbuda are joining their colleagues from across the region in St. Kitts from July 6 to 12 to participate in the activities that will include the ECVA Under-20 Beach Championships at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, Frigate Bay, from July 10 to 12.

In collaboration with regional and international partners, the ECVA is also staging a Beach Volleyball Coaches Course, a National Referee Course, an International Continental Referee Course, and a Training Camp & Ath-

letes Development Forum.

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA), in collaboration with the Association of National Olympic Committees of the Eastern Caribbean (ANOCES) and the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC), is supporting the Antiguan contingent in St. Kitts.

The men's team for the ECVA Under-20 Beach Championships comprises Miguel Peña-Lugo and George Freeland, and they are accompanied by coach Jamarie James.

The women's team consists of Philisha Burnette and Faith Gibson, and they are accompanied by coach Rosemary Simon.

Coach Braulio Estrada Lopez is also

representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 2026 ECVA Beach Volleyball Coaches Course.

Coach Estrada Lopez is embarking on an important opportunity to further develop his coaching knowledge, gain valuable regional experience, and bring back new ideas to help strengthen volleyball development at home in Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABAVA is extending its sincere appreciation to ABNOC for its continued investment in the nation's athletes and for making this opportunity possible.

The ABAVA is also thanking ANOCES for its leadership in advancing sport throughout the Eastern Caribbean and ECVA for delivering another outstanding week of volleyball development and competition.

Freetown in contention for a place in Dave Joseph semi-final



Police have gained an automatic bye into the final by virtue of finishing at the top of the standings in the five-team round-robin preliminary stage.

Police topped the standings with a perfect 48 points by virtue of winning all four matches in the round-robin phase.

The cricketers of Freetown are still in contention for a place in the semi-final of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship.

But to achieve the feat, Freetown must win their final two matches in the round-robin preliminary stage this weekend.

Freetown will tackle Stingray City Seatons in Freetown on Saturday and will meet Mahico at Clare Hall on Sunday. Llewellyn Simon and Bertel Baltimore will umpire at Freetown, while Dave Attwood and Bertel Baltimore will officiate at Clare Hall.

Mahico will advance to the semi-final by beating Freetown in their final preliminary-stage encounter on Sunday.

Both teams are battling for the last spot in the semi-final to face PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks.

The Blackhawks are into the semi-finals after achieving 24 points from their four matches in the preliminary round. Mahico also has 24 points and one match remaining.

But Freetown and Seatons do not have any points. Freetown have lost their two previous matches. Seatons remain winless after losing all three previous encounters.

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CWI names ODI squad for the first three matches against New Zealand

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced a 15-member squad for the opening three matches of the five-match One-Day International (ODI) series against New Zealand, which will be played in Guyana and Barbados.

Nineteen-year-old wrist spinner Vitel Lawes, who has been training with the senior team since the preparatory camp prior to the start of the home series, receives his maiden senior call-up.

Earlier this year, Lawes was named in the ICC Under-19 World Cup's Team of the Tournament, where he impressed by claiming 10 wickets and bowling the highest number of dot balls during the competition.

Coach Nikita Miller has been added to the team management unit for the Guyana leg of the series to continue providing specialist support to Lawes during his first senior international assignment.

Shimron Hetmyer was granted pre-approved clearance through a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to fulfil his Major League Cricket commitments.

All-rounder Shamar Springer withdrew from selection following the passing of his mother. Cricket West Indies extends its deepest condolences to Springer and his family during this difficult time.

Keemo Paul, who was recently added to the West Indies Test squad as reinforcement, has been included as the replacement for Springer.

The squad otherwise retains the core group of players who featured in the recent ODI series against Sri



Vitel Lawes, left, has been included in the West Indies ODI Squad to face New Zealand. (CWI Media)

Lanka in Jamaica.

Head Coach Daren Sammy says the series remains crucial for the team's long-term preparations for the ICC 50 over World Cup in 2027.

“Every series we play from here on leading up to the 50 Over World Cup, we view them as must-win scenarios. The matches against New Zealand provide the best opportunity for us to continue our improvement as an ODI unit while winning more matches for the people of the Caribbean,” Sammy said.

“The inclusion of Vitel Lawes is strategic as we continue our long-term vision of exposing players who can complement the team in conditions that best suit their skill sets,” he added.

The team assembles in Guyana on Wednesday, July 8, following the completion of the Test series

against Sri Lanka in Antigua on Tuesday.

West Indies ODI Squad Against New Zealand (Guyana Leg): Shai Hope (captain), Ackeem Auguste, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoon, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Vitel Lawes, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Sherfane Rutherford, and Jayden Seales.

Team Management Unit (TMU): Daren Sammy (head coach), Rawl Lewis (manger), assistant coach (batting) Floyd Reifer, assistant coach (bowling) Ravi Rampaul, assistant coach (fielding) Rayon Griffith, assistant coach (spin bowling) Nikita Miller, Physiotherapist Dr. Denis Byam, strength and conditioning coach Darc Browne, performance analyst Avenesh Seetaram, and content and media officer Jerome Foster.

Messi inspires Argentina to stunning comeback win over Egypt

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Lionel Messi inspired Argentina to a remarkable World Cup fightback as they came from two goals down to beat Egypt 3-2 in a dramatic last-16 game on Tuesday before sobbing tears of relief at the final whistle.

The holders were trailing 2-0 and 11 minutes from a shock defeat, but goals by Cristian Romero, Messi, and two minutes into stoppage time from Enzo Fernandez kept them in the competition.

Egypt had been on the brink of one of the great World Cup upsets after Yasser Ibrahim and Mostafa Zico scored excellent goals, one in each half, and Messi had squandered an early penalty.

The North Africans fell apart in the closing stages, however, as the 39-year-old Messi, whose record World Cup goal haul is now up to 21, orchestrated Argentina's dramatic revival.

The captain provided the cross from which Romero headed home to start the comeback in the 79th minute and four minutes later Messi crashed home the equaliser after substitutes Lautaro Martinez and Gonzalo Montiel had both got vital touches to keep the ball away from Egyptian defenders.

The winner came from a counter-attack as Lautaro Martinez crossed from the right and Fernandez cushioned a back-post header past goalkeeper Mostafa Shoubir.

"I'd been longing for this goal for three years. We have a phenomenal group, one that never gives up," Fernandez said.

"We had to take advantage of the spaces they gave us, and we did. We came here to enjoy another World Cup and to represent our country. And that's what we're doing."

Egypt felt they deserved a penalty before the breakaway and vociferously complained but to no avail.



Argentina's Lionel Messi (10) celebrates scoring their second goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Argentina and Egypt in Atlanta, Tuesday, July 7, 2026. (AP)

They had been surprisingly attacking in the early stages, bucking their recent tendency of sitting back and looking for counter-attack opportunities, and they opened the scoring after 15 minutes.

Emam Ashour attempted to tease his way past the Argentine defence on the right flank but, seeing no way through, passed back to Marwan Attia, who floated in a long cross that Ibrahim rose to head home.

The lead should have only lasted four minutes as Haissem Hassan caught overlapping Argentine fullback Nicolas Tagliafico with a late tackle to give away a penalty.

But it only served to mark the start of the goalkeeping heroics of Shoubir, whose dive to the left easily stopped a weak left-footed effort from Messi that was too close to the keeper.

Messi became the first player to miss two penalties at a World Cup after also failing from the spot against Austria in the group phase.

Shoubir made a reflex stop to deny a point-blank header from Alexis Mac Allister in the 28th minute, and pulled

off an even more extraordinary save six minutes from halftime to stop Julian Alvarez's shot, stretching to turn the ball around the post. In between, Messi crashed a free kick against the post.

Egypt had the ball in the net in the 62nd minute but Zico's finish, after a sweeping move inspired by Hassan's trickery and Mohamed Salah's pass, was chalked off after a VAR review found that Attia had fouled Lisandro Martinez in the build-up.

Five minutes later, however, Egypt doubled their lead in similar circumstances. Salah swept the ball forward on the counter, Hassan took it to the byline, and Zico came storming in to finish the cutback pass.

"The win was within our reach. We were only missing a few small details," Shoubir said. "As everyone saw, we were close -- very close -- to winning but it just wasn't meant to be."

Argentina advanced to a quarter-final against Colombia or Switzerland in Kansas City on Saturday.

Leewards warm-up for CWI Under-19 Tournament

The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave continued their preparations for this month's Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Championships in Antigua with a crushing 270-run victory over an Antigua and Barbuda youth team at Rising Sun on Sunday.

Antiguan Tanez Francis slammed a century to help the Leewards amass 412 for seven off their allotted 50 overs. Francis hammered 136 off 108 balls.

But fellow Antiguan J'Quan Athanaze missed out on a century for the Leewards. Athanaze cracked 95 off 93 balls; another Antiguan and Leeward Islands captain, Matthew Miller, slammed 89 off 43 balls; and Lyhte Browne made a run-a-ball 19.

Jayden Charles bagged three for 18, and Rondre Daniel captured two for 88.

In reply, the Antigua and Barbuda under-19 team was dismissed for 142 in 32.4 overs. Kerriquer Mentore hit a top score of 25, Ondre Peters and Isaiah Harris each made 20, and Jayden Charles got 16.

Lyhte Browne snapped up four for 41, Antiguan Tayari Tonge captured two for 18, Kasim Challenger picked up one for 18, and Kunal Tilokani claimed one for 44.

The 2026 CWI Under-19 Tournament will be hosted across four venues in Antigua from July 9 to 23 in a 50-over one-day format.

Matches will be played at the



Tanez Francis



Matthew Miller

Coolidge Cricket Grounds (CCG), Ball Beef in Liberta, Bethesda, and Pigotts.

Six territorial teams, including back-to-back champions Barbados, will be contesting this month's tournament. Barbados will be defending their title after beating guest USA's first team by six wickets in the final at Conaree Sports Club in St. Kitts last year.

The match officials and coaches, managers, and captains of all participating teams will participate in a technical briefing at the Cortsland Hotel on Thursday, July 9.

They will also participate in an anti-corruption workshop at the same venue on Friday, July 10.

The teams will then engage in the opening round of matches on Saturday, July 11, starting at 9:30 am.

The Leeward Islands will launch their campaign against Jamaica at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds; Trinidad and Tobago will take on

Guyana at Ball Beef in Liberta; and Barbados will begin their title defense against the Windward Islands at Bethesda.

After five round-robin matches, the top two teams will clash in the final at Ball Beef in Liberta on Wednesday, July 22.

The tournament will end with a closing award ceremony at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on the same day at 7 pm. The teams will return home to their respective territories on Thursday, July 23.

Leeward Islands Tropical Wave squad: Matthew Miller (captain), Tanez Francis, J'Quan Athanaze, Tayari Tonge, Kerriquer Mentore, Lyhte Browne, Eriette Richards, Lawshorn Bergan, Kunal Tilokani, Kasim Challenger, Jaheem Clarke, Amoree Jones, Rondre Daniel, and Jathan Edwards. Ian Tittle (head coach), Derrol "Mussai" Thomas (assistant coach), and Terry Adams (assistant coach).