

MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026 | VOLUME 9 ISSUE 92 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# OECS Leaders Unite To Defend CBI

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Health Minister Michael Joseph and Medical Director of the SLBMC Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis pose with a medical team at the Hangzhou Normal University Hospital in China during an official visit

# OECS Leaders Unite To Defend CBI



**Prime Minister Gaston Browne**

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne, has secured the support of fellow OECS leaders for a coordinated regional response to the European Union's proposal that Citizenship by Investment (CIP) programmes in the Eastern Caribbean be phased out by June 2028.

Just one day after urging a united regional approach during the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) Monetary Council Meeting in Dominica, Prime Minister Browne joined fellow Heads of Government of the participating Eastern Caribbean States in adopting a common position and agreeing on a programme of collective diplomatic engagement with the European Union.

Addressing the Monetary Council Meeting, Prime Minister Browne reaffirmed that Citizenship by Investment Programmes remain indispensable pillars of economic development and fiscal sustainability for several Eastern Caribbean countries.

The Prime Minister noted that significant reforms have already been undertaken to strengthen the integrity, transparency and internation-

al credibility of the programmes, including the establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Citizenship by

Investment Regulatory Authority, which provides a harmonised regional regulatory framework and enhanced oversight.

Despite these far-reaching reforms, Prime Minister Browne warned that the European Commission's revised Visa Suspension Mechanism now treats the mere existence of a Citizenship by Investment Programme as a potential basis for suspending visa-free access to the European Union.

He further disclosed that the European Commission had formally requested that OECS Citizenship by Investment countries phase out their programmes by 1 June 2028, while proposing a twenty-four-month transition period and a series of interim



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measures.

Prime Minister Browne stressed that such a proposal could not be considered without regard to the economic realities facing small island developing states.

“Our Citizenship by Investment Programmes are critical pillars of our non-tax revenue base. They cannot simply be abandoned without viable, credible and sustainable replacement sources of revenue,” he stated.

He further warned that any abrupt termination of the programmes would have serious consequences for public finances, infrastructure development, climate resilience initiatives, healthcare, housing, education and other critical services throughout the OECS.

Following Prime Minister Browne’s appeal for regional solidarity, the Heads of Government of the participating Eastern Caribbean States convened in Roseau and agreed on a unified response to the European Commission’s proposal. The leaders reaffirmed that Citizenship by Investment Programmes have become an important source of development financing, supporting climate resilience, disaster recovery, infrastructure, healthcare, housing, education and fiscal stability across the Region.

The OECS leaders also agreed that any future changes affecting Citizenship by Investment Programmes must take full account of the development vulnerabilities of small island developing states and be accompanied by measures that safeguard economic stability, protect development gains and provide sustainable alternative financing mechanisms.

Importantly, the Heads of Government endorsed Prime Minister Browne’s call for coordinated action by agreeing to pursue a joint programme of diplomatic engagement with the European Union, including a high-level mission to Brussels to

meet directly with senior European leaders and institutions.

The leaders further directed their Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers responsible for Citizenship by Investment Programmes, Ambassadors and senior officials to coordinate closely and present a unified regional position in all future engagements with European counterparts.

Prime Minister Browne welcomed the outcome of the meeting, noting that it demonstrated the Region’s collective determination to defend its legitimate economic interests while maintaining constructive relations with longstanding international

partners.

“Our Governments will continue to engage the European Commission in a principled and constructive manner consistent with the spirit of our longstanding partnership,” the Prime Minister said.

He reiterated Antigua and Barbuda’s commitment to maintaining the highest standards of due diligence, transparency and regulatory oversight while defending the sovereign right of independent nations to determine the policies that best support their economic development.



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## Health Minister Joseph Signs Seven Landmark Healthcare Agreements in China



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has taken a major step toward advancing the nation's healthcare system with the signing of seven landmark cooperation agreements between the Ministry of Health, and Hangzhou Normal University and its affiliated hospital during an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

The agreements were signed by Health Minister, Michael Joseph, who is currently leading a delegation in China. The partnership is expected to deepen collaboration in medical education, specialist healthcare, research, telemedicine, and healthcare innovation, while strengthening the capacity of Antigua and Barbuda's healthcare system.

Among the agreements signed are:

The Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation Agreement, establishing a five-year framework for medical cooperation between the parties.

The Memorandum of Agreement for the Establishment of the Omni Care Center, which will support the development of a specialized medical facil-



ity focused on advanced diagnostics and clinical care.

The Memorandum of Agreement on the Construction of the International Internet Hospital, creating a cross-border telemedicine platform that will connect healthcare providers and patients in Antigua and Barbuda with specialists at Hangzhou Normal University.

The Memorandum of Agreement on the Use of Multi-Stream Data, estab-

lishing a collaborative public health research initiative to study health conditions and strengthen evidence-based healthcare across Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Eastern Caribbean.

Additional agreements supporting medical education, professional exchanges, research collaboration, and healthcare capacity building.

Minister Joseph welcomed the partnership, describing it as a transformative opportunity for the country's



healthcare sector.

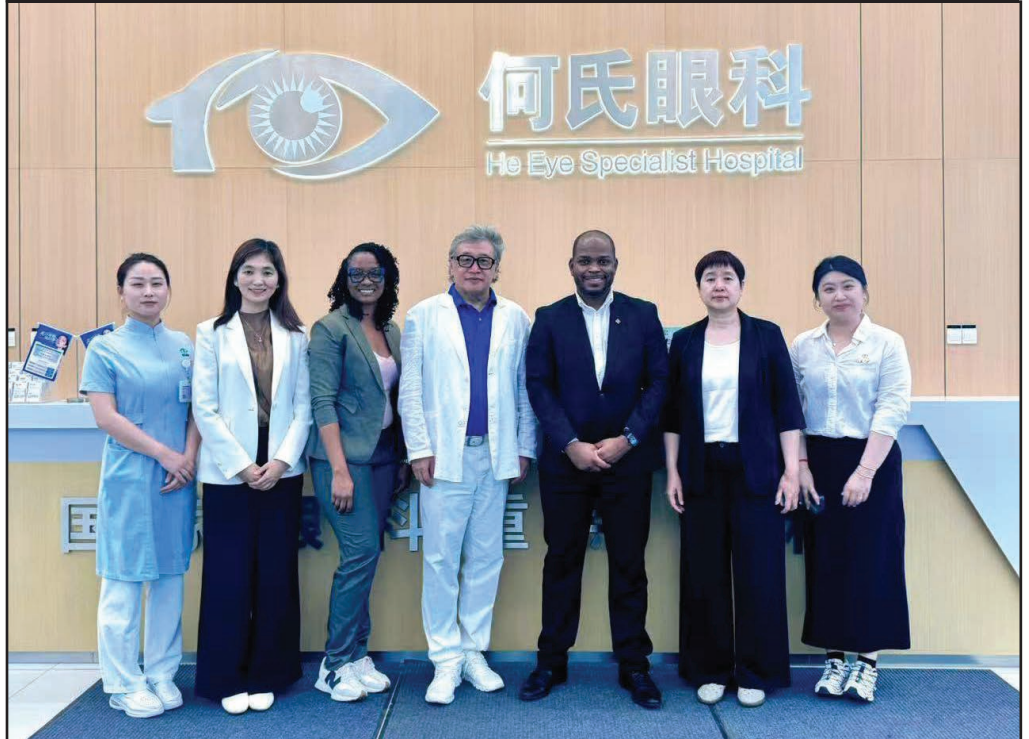
“These agreements represent an important investment in the future of healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda. By partnering with internationally respected institutions such as Hangzhou Normal University, we are creating opportunities to improve patient care, strengthen our healthcare workforce, and expand access to specialist medical services.”

The Minister also emphasized the long-term benefits of knowledge sharing and professional development.

Minister Joseph, who was accompanied by Medical Director of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis and Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China, Clement Antonio, further noted that the agreements align with the Government’s commitment to improving healthcare access and outcomes for all citizens and residents.

“From telemedicine and advanced diagnostics to research and specialist training, these agreements position Antigua and Barbuda to embrace modern healthcare solutions while reducing the need for patients to travel overseas for specialized care.”

The collaboration is also expected to facilitate scholarship opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudan students pursuing medical education, support joint research initiatives in chronic disease management and diagnostic innova-



tion, and promote closer cooperation between healthcare institutions in both countries.

## Prime Minister Gaston Browne and OECS Leaders Mourn the Passing of Qatar's Father Emir

ST. JOHN, Antigua and Barbuda – 12th July 2026.....Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne has extended heartfelt condolences to the Amir, Government and people of the State of Qatar following the passing of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Father Emir of the State of Qatar, while also issuing a statement on behalf of the Heads of Government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) honouring his remarkable legacy of leadership and service.

In a letter addressed to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, Prime Minister Browne conveyed the deepest sympathies of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

“On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, and on my own behalf, I extend our deepest condolences to Your Highness, the Royal Family, and the people of the State of Qatar on the passing of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir,” the Prime Minister wrote.

Prime Minister Browne described the late Father Emir as a distinguished statesman whose visionary leadership and unwavering dedication significantly contributed to the modernization and development of the State of Qatar while advancing regional peace, economic prosperity and international engagement. He also offered prayers for strength and comfort to the Royal Family and the people of Qatar during this period of mourning.

In his capacity as Chairman of the OECS Authority, Prime Minister Browne also issued a statement on behalf of the Heads of Government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, recognising the profound impact of the late Father Emir on both



*His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Father Emir of the State of Qatar*

Qatar and the international community.

The OECS statement noted that Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani's visionary leadership transformed Qatar from a small Gulf nation into one of the world's most influential centres of innovation, diplomacy, education, investment and economic development.

Prime Minister Browne observed that under the Father Emir's stewardship, Qatar emerged as a respected global partner that championed peaceful dialogue, mediation and humanitarian assistance while investing substantially in education, scientific research and sustainable development.

The OECS Heads also acknowledged the late leader's enduring commitment to dialogue, development and international cooperation, noting that his leadership inspired many developing states to pursue bold reforms and greater prosperity for their people.

“The OECS recognises the Father

Emir's life as one of remarkable achievement. His belief that vision, strategic planning, investment in human capital and engagement with the global community can redefine a nation's destiny resonates deeply with our own aspirations for sustainable development, resilience and shared prosperity,” the statement said.

Prime Minister Browne further affirmed the OECS' solidarity with the leadership and people of Qatar, expressing confidence that the values and vision championed by the Father Emir would continue to guide the nation's future development.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda joins the international community in paying tribute to the extraordinary life and legacy of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and extends its sincere condolences to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Royal Family, the Government and the people of the State of Qatar.

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## More than 250 CHOGM Volunteers Undergo Intense Training



As planning for hosting the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) intensifies, so too has been the training for the volunteers who will all play key roles in the November 1 to 4 event.

A new cohort of volunteers was involved in an intense training exercise on Saturday at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre with organisers reporting that they were 'very receptive' to the information that

was being shared.

Volunteer Coordinator for CHOGM 26, Anika Kentish explained that more than 250 persons took part in the one-day session that covered a



number of important subject areas.

According to Kentish her team is hoping to recruit a minimum of 500 volunteers as the need for volunteers for CHOGM is much greater than for any recent major event, including SIDS4 in 2024 and the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly last year.

Modules covered:

1. The Commonwealth and CHOGM
2. Service Excellence
3. Communication
4. Teamwork
5. Professionalism (including ethics)

Kentish says her team will have another major training sometime after the Carnival festivities. This will be followed immediately by leadership training for team and venue leads and other job specific training (where applicable).

“We wanted to have the training session be very interactive and based on the level of participation that we saw, I can say without a doubt that we achieved our goal as they were receptive to content and to the idea of participation during the training,” Kentish reported.



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## Signing of the Cusco Declaration emanating from the XVII Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas

Antigua and Barbuda is now a signatory of the Cusco Declaration following its participation in the just concluded 17th Conference of Defence Ministers held in Cusco, Peru last week.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene represented Antigua and Barbuda at the conference and signed the declaration on behalf of the country.

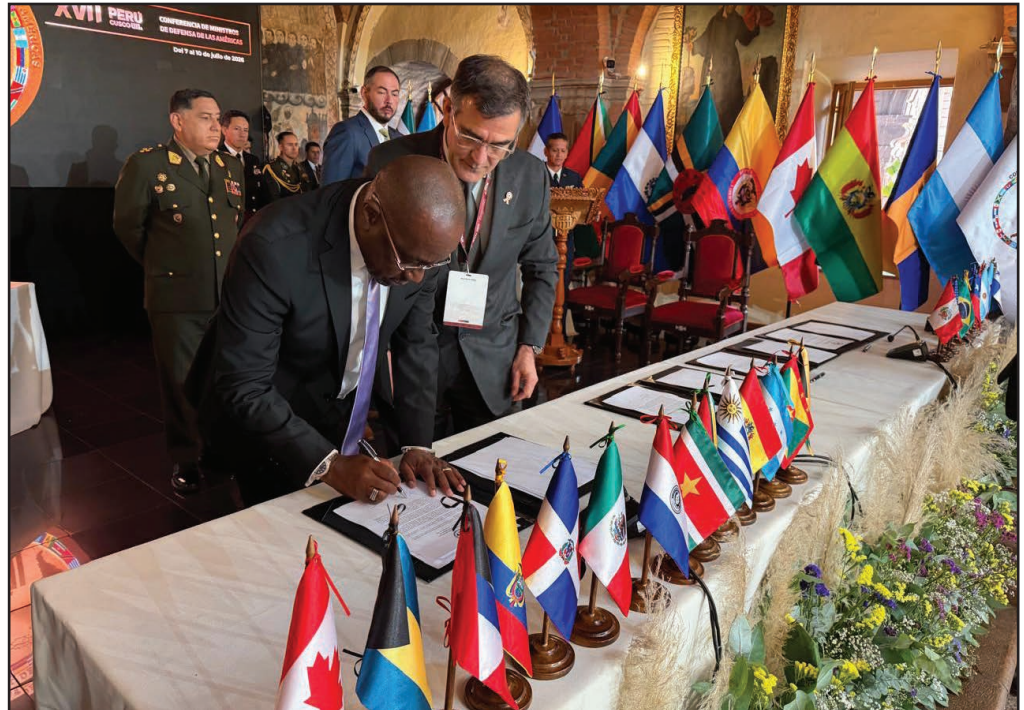
In his remarks earlier in the conference, Minister Greene emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in matters of security. The signing of the Cusco Declaration is therefore seen as Antigua and Barbuda broadening its security arrangements with non-traditional entities within the Americas.

“While the Caribbean has not experienced terrorism on the scale witnessed elsewhere, we recognize that terrorism continues to evolve in form and method. Violent extremism, cyber-enabled radicalization, illicit financial flows and the exploitation of emerging technologies demand constant vigilance and collective action. No single nation, irrespective of its resources, possesses the capacity to confront these threats alone.

“Our success depends upon timely intelligence sharing, enhanced maritime domain awareness, coordinated law enforcement and defence cooperation, strengthened border management and sustained investment in regional capabilities,” he noted.

He reiterated the point that for Antigua and Barbuda, this cooperation is not merely aspirational; it is operational.

“Through our engagement within the Regional Security System, CARICOM’s security architecture, the Organisation of American States and partnerships with hemispheric and international allies, we continue to strengthen our ability to prevent, deter and respond to emerging threats. These partnerships demonstrate that collec-



tive security is not measured solely by military strength, but by trust, interoperability and a shared commitment to common values,” he declared.

The Cusco Declaration, formally titled Preamble to the Foundation Act of the South American Union, is a two-page declaration of intent signed by

12 South American countries during the Third South American Summit on 8 December 2004 in Cusco, Peru. It announces the foundation of the Union of South American Nations. It called for a regional parliament, a common market and a common currency.

## ABAA Removes Mahogany Trees For Safety Reasons

Three mahogany trees that were a serious safety hazard for the effective operations of the VC Bird International Airport have been removed in a weekend operation by the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority.

Director of Operations at the VCBIA, Joseph Samuel explained that the trees prevented the air traffic controllers from seeing the lower end of the runway and thus were a threat to both landings and take-offs at the airport.

“These three trees along the Sir George Walter Highway obstructed the line-of-sight for the air traffic controllers of the lower end of the runway and therefore they presented a safety challenge for the airport necessitating their removal. We reached out to the Forestry Division in the Ministry of Agriculture and engaged in discussions on how best to handle the situation. We carried out pruning of the trees, but this act compromised the integrity of the trees and thus posed a danger of toppling over onto this very busy highway,” he explained.

The ABAA official noted that as the US\$50 million airfield rehabilitation project enters its final stages, aircraft will soon begin utilising the full length of the runway. The trees however have been identified as an obstruction to the clear line of sight required between the Air Traffic Control Tower and the western end of the airfield and therefore must be removed.

Over the years, numerous efforts were made to mitigate the risks associated with the trees through pruning and ongoing maintenance activities. The Airport Authority and its stakeholders carefully considered a number of alternatives. Removing them was the last and only remaining resort.

“Unobstructed visibility is essential for the safe and efficient management of aircraft operations on and around the runway,” Samuel explained. The exercise is therefore crucial for the



team of officers in the control tower who must at all times benefit from an unobstructed view of the entire runway to safely perform their duties in adherence with ICAO standards.

According to Joseph ABAA is very cognizant of its responsibility as a

corporate citizens and therefore it has made a commitment with the Forestry Division to replant three trees at some location recommended by the division.

The location where the trees will be planted has not yet been determined.

## Ministry of Social Transformation Continues Support for Families of Centenarians with Burial Assistance



**Denzil O'Brien Cummins**



**Laurina Agatha Mills**

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to honouring Antigua and Barbuda's oldest citizens by providing burial assistance to the families of two recently deceased centenarians.

Through the Ministry's Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division, one-time grants of EC\$10,000 were presented to the families of Denzil O'Brien Cummins and Laurina Agatha Mills to assist with funeral expenses under the Government's Centenarian Assistance Programme.

Mr. Cummins, who was born on September 17, 1924, died on June 25, 2026, at the age of 101 years and nine months. Mrs. Mills, born on August 18, 1925, passed away on June 28, 2026, at the age of 100 years and 10 months.

The Centenarian Assistance Programme provides a one-time contribution of EC\$10,000 toward burial expenses for citizens who reach the milestone age of 100 years and older. The initiative forms part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to recognise the invaluable contributions made by the nation's senior citizens.

Director of the Community Develop-

ment and Citizens' Engagement Division, Dale O'Brien, said the programme is a meaningful way of expressing the nation's gratitude to those who have lived extraordinary lives of service, resilience and dedication.

"The Government remains deeply committed to recognising and honouring our national treasures. This one-time burial grant is a small but meaningful expression of gratitude for the lives these centenarians lived and the legacies they leave behind. We are pleased to continue providing this support to their families during their time of bereavement," O'Brien said.

Minister for Social and Urban Transformation, Hon. Rawdon Turner, said the initiative goes beyond financial assistance and reflects the nation's appreciation for citizens who have witnessed more than a century of Antigua and Barbuda's history.

"These remarkable men and women have lived through generations of change, helped shape our communities and left lasting legacies for their families and our nation. As a Government, we believe they deserve to be honoured not only during their lifetime but also with dignity in their passing.

Supporting their families during this period is one way we demonstrate our appreciation for lives so well lived," Turner said.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Rosa Greenaway, said the programme underscores the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that the nation's oldest citizens are remembered with dignity and respect.

"Our centenarians represent resilience, sacrifice and a lifetime of service to country. As a ministry, we believe it is important that their families know they are not alone during this difficult time. This assistance reflects our compassion and our commitment to honouring citizens whose lives have enriched our communities and our national story," Greenaway said.

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation said the Centenarian Assistance Programme, supported by the Governor General's office remains an important part of its commitment to recognising citizens who have reached the extraordinary milestone of 100 years and ensuring their contributions are honoured even after their passing.

## Rotaract District 7030 Conference Returns to Antigua After More Than 20 Years



Antigua and Barbuda welcomed nearly 200 young leaders from across the Caribbean as the Rotaract Club of Antigua hosted the 2026 Rotaract District 7030 Conference, marking the conference's return to the island for the first time in more than 20 years.

Held under the theme "Linked in Wadadli," the four-day conference celebrated leadership, service, fellowship, and regional collaboration while showcasing the culture, hospitality, and spirit of Antigua and Barbuda. The conference brought together Rotaractors from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Guyana, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Jamaica, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands, reaffirming the strength and diversity



of Rotaract District 7030.

Hosted by the Rotaract Club of Antigua, the conference marked a historic milestone as Antigua and Barbuda once again became the meeting place for the District's flagship an-

nual conference after more than two decades. The event reflected the Club's commitment to developing young leaders, strengthening regional partnerships, and demonstrating the impact of service above self.

# Local News

The conference officially opened with a vibrant “Rep Your Flag” celebration, where delegates proudly represented their home countries in outfits inspired by the colours and symbols of their national flags. The opening ceremony highlighted the rich cultural diversity of the Caribbean while reinforcing the conference theme, *Linked in Wadadli*, a celebration of unity, collaboration, and lasting regional connections.

Over two days of intensive leadership development, delegates participated in engaging presentations led by distinguished professionals and thought leaders locally and across the Caribbean.

## Conference sessions included:

- ▶ Future-Ready Leadership: AI, Innovation & the Next Generation of Service presented by Elijah James
- ▶ The Power of Networks: Building Global Connections presented by Ato Kentish
- ▶ The Career Playbook: Skills,

Trends & Opportunities for the Future presented by Calisha Spencer

- ▶ Ethical Leadership: Values, Integrity & Accountability in the Age of Influence presented by Makonem Hurley
- ▶ Leading with Sustainability: Integrating People, Place and Prosperity presented by H.E. Ruleta Camacho Thomas

The sessions challenged delegates to think critically about the future of leadership, embrace emerging technologies responsibly, strengthen professional and international networks, lead with integrity, and place sustainability at the centre of decision-making and service.

In keeping with Rotaract’s commitment to **Service Above Self**, the conference also delivered meaningful community impact. Ahead of the conference, delegates from across District 7030 were encouraged to bring donations of sanitary products from their respective territories as

part of a district-wide initiative to address period poverty. The items were pooled and donated to Mount St. John’s Medical Centre and Scrub Life Cares, supporting women and girls in need within the community.

As another lasting contribution, the **Rotaract Club of Antigua** erected a **Peace Pole** at Mount St. John’s Medical Centre. Bearing Rotary’s message, “*May Peace Prevail on Earth*,” the Peace Pole serves as a permanent reminder of Rotary and Rotaract’s shared commitment to peace, understanding, and goodwill.



## ABWU Meets with Costpro Workers; Renews Call for Severance Protection Legislation

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union says it is deeply concerned over the sudden and permanent closure of Costpro Supermarket and the immediate impact this development has had upon the livelihoods of over 100 employees.

On Friday morning, General Secretary David Massiah and a team of Union officers met with the displaced workers at the Union's Freedom Hall Headquarters to discuss their rights and entitlements arising from the redundancy, and the support the Union will provide throughout the process. This meeting was convened less than 24 hours after the employees were summarily terminated as the owners announced the closure of the establishment.

The Union assures the former employees that it will pursue every available avenue, including action before the courts, to ensure the employer honours all statutory obligations, including severance pay, notice pay, outstanding vacation pay, and any other benefits to which the workers are legally entitled.

Affected employees have also been advised to gather their letters of employment, pay slips, and other relevant employment records to facilitate the accurate calculation of their severance and other entitlements.

The Union noted that the closure of Costpro, once again exposes the urgent need for the Government to im-



plement Severance Protection Legislation in Antigua and Barbuda. Such a mechanism would establish a fund to safeguard employees' entitlements.

Had this been in place, it stated, the affected employees of Costpro would not be facing uncertainty over the payment of benefits they have earned through years of service.

It said the existing legislative framework does not provide sufficient protection for employees' earned benefits when companies become insolvent or discontinue operations.

According to the ABWU workers should never have to wonder whether they will receive the severance to which they are legally entitled.



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# High Court Halts LICB Presidential Elections

Elements within the Leeward Islands cricket fraternity have obtained a High Court injunction placing a halt on the holding of presidential elections for the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB).

Concerned individuals associated with LICB say the latest urgent court action brought against the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) was necessary after former West Indies international cricketer Kieran Powell was prevented from standing as a candidate in the upcoming Presidential elections for the governing body.

The Antigua and Barbuda High Court granted an interim injunction late on July 10th 2026, temporarily suspending the LICB presidential election process, following urgent concerns raised on behalf of the Anguilla Cricket Association and President of the Nevis Cricket Association Mr. Carlisle Powell, over transparency, fairness and constitutional compliance ahead of the scheduled vote.

The order also restrained the LICB from proceeding with its scheduled Annual General Meeting and presidential election on 11th July while the legal challenge is heard. The Court has listed the first inter partes hearing for 22nd July 2026 and has given the LICB until 16th July 2026 to file any affidavit in response.

Concerned regional board members and stakeholders within Leeward Islands cricket say the injunction was not sought to disrupt cricket administration, but to protect the integrity of the process before any final election outcome is declared.

At the centre of the dispute is the omission of former West Indies international opener Kieran Powell from the circulated nominee list, despite being understood by supporting regional cricketing associations to have secured the necessary nominations for

the presidency. Concerns have also been raised regarding the omission of Vice-Presidential candidate, Dr. Timothy Hodge and alleged delays linked to election correspondence reportedly being sent to an outdated email account.

Senior Leeward Islands cricket administrators say the wider concern is no longer simply procedural. They point to unresolved questions surrounding the extended tenure of incumbent President Mr. Enoch Lewis, who is understood to have held office for approximately a decade or more, notwithstanding constitutional material presently relied upon that appears to prescribe a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms. Questions have also been raised over how and when the latest constitutional amendments were adopted, circulated and ratified.

Officials say the Court's intervention reflects the seriousness of the issues now before it. The injunction is interim in nature and the substantive matters remain to be determined, but concerned stakeholders maintain that no election result should be confirmed while material questions over nominations, notice, eligibility and constitutional process remain unresolved.

They add that the Leeward Islands have produced world-class cricketing talent and that the process for selecting the region's top cricket administrator must reflect the same standards of fairness, discipline and credibility expected on the field of play. Representatives connected with the application have also stated that, despite repeated attempts to effect personal service of the interim order on Mr. Lewis, they had not yet been reached at the time of issuing this statement.





2

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**2026**



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ADM: \$20





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**APUA INET OLD PARHAM ROAD**

**EXOTIC ANTIGUA REDCLIFFE STREET**

**SIPS & TIPS CEDAR GROVE MAIN ROAD**



**CASHLESS PAYMENTS AVAILABLE CARNIVAL CITY**



# THE CCJ- THE CONVENIENT COURT OF JUSTICE

Are we wasting the Court's time



JULIAN ROGERS

JUL 10, 2026

The decision by CARICOM leaders at the 51st Regular Meeting in Castries, St Lucia, to refer the reappointment of Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett to the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) is a maneuver so wrapped in legal irony and political evasion that the giants who laboured to establish the court, both living and dead, must be scratching their heads.

The suggestion, advanced by Trinidad and Tobago via a meticulous 22-page objection letter and accepted by the broader conference, is to freeze Dr Barnett in her position until the Court delivers an advisory opinion. This effectively bypasses an executive contract framework that requires a minimum of six months' notice regarding the extension or termination of her tenure.

By using the court down the street to park an uncomfortable political gridlock, Port of Spain is opening itself up to the biting charge of treating the highest tribunal in the region as the "Convenient Court of Justice."

## **The Advisory Opinion Illusion**

Let us pull back the judicial veil on what the Heads of Government have actually done. Under Article 212 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (RTC), the CCJ possesses exclusive jurisdiction to deliver advisory

# RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

*The Beat of Her Journey*

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

— 2026 —

# PEOPLE'S CHOICE

## *Award*

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AND SMOOTH



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and  Heart  
reactions will be  
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VOTING ENDS

*Saturday,*

**11<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**6:00 PM**

# Commentary

## The Gruesome Truth of Being Disabled: When Justice Is Delayed, the Poor Pay the Price

Before the headlines declared that Joshuanette Francis had won her case in the Industrial Court of Antigua and Barbuda, there were more than five years of uncertainty, legal correspondence, medical assessments, negotiations, emotional exhaustion and financial hardship. To many readers, the court's decision appeared to mark the end of a long battle. In reality, Francis says it marked the beginning of another. Her story is not simply about an employment dispute. It is about disability, pregnancy, delayed justice, mental health and the hidden cost of trying to enforce your rights when you do not have wealth or influence.

Francis was not an employee with a poor performance record. During the court proceedings, the company's own Human Resources representative acknowledged that she had been a good employee. She had worked her way from a part-time employee to a full-time employee and eventually to the position of Junior Supervisor. Like many young Antiguan, she worked more than one job, made personal sacrifices and believed that hard work would eventually lead to financial stability. She says there were occasions when she slept beneath the deck at work because travelling home was not possible. Her goal was simple: build a better future for herself and her family.

That future changed after she was diagnosed with osteoarthritis. Francis maintains that her disability never stopped her from working. Over the years, she continued to teach, hike, volunteer, dance, travel and eventually establish Good Humans 268 Inc., an organisation dedicated to creating opportunities for people living with disabilities while advancing climate action. Yet she believes her diagnosis changed the way she was



viewed in the workplace. Her story raises broader questions about how employers respond when disability becomes part of an employee's life and whether workplaces truly understand the difference between having a disability and being unable to perform meaningful work.

Another issue highlighted throughout the proceedings concerns the medical process itself. Court documents and correspondence indicate that additional medical investigations were recommended. Francis argues that not every recommended examination was completed before decisions affecting her employment were made. She has also questioned why information about her medical care was reportedly communicated to her employer before it was communicated directly to her. For disability advocates, these questions extend beyond one case. They speak to larger issues of patient autonomy, informed decision-making and whether people living with disabilities remain at the centre of decisions affecting their own health and livelihoods.

The timing of the dispute made the experience even more difficult.

Francis was pregnant when her employment situation changed. She describes years of emotional exhaustion, uncertainty and depression as she attempted to navigate pregnancy, motherhood, disability and an unresolved legal battle at the same time. Mental health professionals have long recognised that prolonged financial insecurity, employment loss and legal uncertainty can significantly affect emotional well-being. Francis believes those conversations deserve greater public attention, particularly for women who are forced to manage multiple challenges simultaneously while trying to protect their families.

The financial consequences extended well beyond the loss of employment. Before the dispute, Francis had been approved for a mortgage not once, but twice. After years of saving, working multiple jobs and making personal sacrifices, she secured the EC\$12,000 deposit required by the bank. Losing her employment also meant losing the opportunity to purchase her first home. While the Industrial Court later awarded compensation, Francis argues that no financial award can replace the investment opportunity she lost or the stability she had hoped to create for her son. "The court award cannot replace the house I never got," she has said.

In May 2026, the Industrial Court ruled in Francis' favour. The judgment described her dismissal as "harsh, oppressive and wholly contrary to good industrial relations practice." It also concluded that she had been denied "basic dignity." Those findings represented a significant legal victory. However, Francis says they did not bring closure. Instead, they revealed another challenge within the justice system that many members of the public know little about.

# Commentary

According to Francis, many people assume that once a court delivers judgment, payment automatically follows. She says that is not how the process works. After the deadline set by the Court passed without payment, she was advised that she would have to return to the Industrial Court and file another application asking the Court to address the employer's alleged failure to comply with its order. That application, she says, requires another filing fee estimated at approximately EC\$1,500. Once filed, another hearing must be scheduled. Depending on the Court's calendar, that hearing could take months or longer before it is heard.

Even if the Court ultimately determines that an employer is in contempt, payment is still not guaranteed. Additional enforcement proceedings may become necessary, including applications before the High Court. Each new step requires additional legal costs, more time and further emotional energy. Francis argues that this is one of the greatest weaknesses in the justice system. The worker who has already spent years proving their case may still be required to spend more money simply to enforce a judgment that has already been made in their favour.

Her experience raises a broader public policy question: **Who can afford justice?** Large businesses often have access to legal teams, financial resources and the ability to manage prolonged litigation. Ordinary workers frequently do not. Many have already lost their income. Some are supporting children. Others are paying medical bills while living with disabilities. Every additional filing fee, every lawyer's consultation and every court appearance becomes another financial barrier between them and the justice they have already been awarded.

For people living with disabilities, those barriers can be even greater.



The disability itself is often only part of the struggle. The greater burden frequently comes from the systems surrounding it. It is the uncertainty of whether employers will recognise ability before diagnosis. It is wondering whether healthcare decisions will be made with the patient rather than about the patient. It is trying to pay for medical assessments, transportation and legal proceedings after losing employment. It is repeatedly having to prove that a disability does not diminish a person's value, intelligence or ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

Francis believes her case illustrates why disability rights cannot be limited to discussions about ramps, accessible bathrooms or reserved parking spaces. Disability rights also include equal access to employment, fair treatment, appropriate medical processes and meaningful access to justice. She points out that Antigua and Barbuda enacted disability legislation in 2017, yet key mechanisms

envisioned under that legislation remained unavailable years later. She believes stronger institutional protections are necessary to ensure that people living with disabilities receive fair treatment before disputes escalate into lengthy legal battles.

Today, Francis continues to release court judgments, correspondence, letters, medical records, timelines and other supporting documents. She says she is not asking the public to accept her version of events without question. Instead, she wants readers to examine the evidence for themselves. She believes transparency encourages accountability and creates opportunities for meaningful public discussion about disability rights, workplace practices and access to justice.

Ultimately, Francis says her story is no longer just about her. It is about every worker who cannot afford to fight. Every parent trying to protect their family. Every person living with a disability who fears that a diagnosis may one day change their future. It is about whether justice should depend on a person's financial resources and whether a court judgment has meaningful value if enforcing it remains beyond the reach of ordinary citizens. Her hope is that by telling her story, future generations—particularly young people living with disabilities—will inherit a society where dignity is protected, justice is accessible and no one is forced to spend years fighting simply to have their rights recognised.

## *Joshuanette Francis*

*Founder and President, Good Humans 268 Inc.*

*Mobile: +1 (268) 789 GOOD (4663)*

*Website: <https://goodhumans268.org/>*

*Tel 268 727 2120 or 268 463 5674*

## Commonwealth Women's Forum to Bring Global Voices to Antigua Ahead of CHOGM 2026

Zoë Carlton

When Antigua and Barbuda hosts Commonwealth leaders in November 2026, the spotlight will not fall solely on presidents, prime ministers and diplomats.

As the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) begins, hundreds of delegates from across the Commonwealth will gather at the American University of Antigua for the Commonwealth Women's Forum, one of the most influential events in the CHOGM programme.

Taking place from 2–4 November, the Forum will bring together ministers, ambassadors, academics, development agencies, business leaders and civil society organisations to discuss some of the most pressing issues affecting women and girls across the Commonwealth.

CHOGM, held every two years, is the principal decision-making gathering of the 56-member Commonwealth. Alongside the leaders' meeting, a series of parallel forums provide opportunities for different groups to contribute ideas and recommendations that help shape wider Commonwealth discussions. The Women's Forum has become one of the most significant of these platforms.

First held in Malta in 2015, the Commonwealth Women's Forum was subsequently adopted as a permanent feature of CHOGM after Commonwealth



leaders recognised its value in bringing women's voices and priorities into the wider decision-making process. Today it stands alongside the Youth, Business and People's Fora as one of the key events leading into the Heads of Government Meeting.

Although the final programme is still being developed, discussions are expected to focus on four major themes: women and climate change, women's economic empowerment, women in leadership and decision making, and gender-based violence.

These are issues that extend far beyond questions of gender equality. They influence economic growth, social development, education, public health and the resilience of communi-

ties. They also affect the opportunities available to future generations and the ability of women and girls to participate fully in society.

For many participants, these discussions are not simply policy debates. Issues such as access to economic opportunities, protection from violence, representation in leadership and resilience to climate change have direct implications for families, communities and national development. Supporters of the Forum argue that progress in these areas benefits not only women and girls but society as a whole.

Organisers also intend to place particular emphasis on ensuring the voices of women and girls from vulnerable and marginalised groups are represented, including women with disabilities, who often face additional barriers to education, employment, healthcare and leadership opportunities.

The Forum is designed to do more than simply host conversations. One of its objectives is to generate practical, measurable recommendations that can be advanced through Commonwealth institutions and national

governments. Delegates will work towards recommendations that will be captured in a formal outcome document and submitted through CHOGM channels for consideration by Commonwealth Foreign Ministers and ultimately Heads of Government.

While the Forum does not make



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binding decisions, it has become an increasingly influential part of the Commonwealth process. Previous meetings have demonstrated how ideas emerging from the Forum can help shape wider policy discussions and bring greater attention to issues that are often underrepresented on international agendas.

Jamie Saunders from the Directorate of Gender Affairs is passionate about the event.

“The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Women’s Forum provides a unique opportunity to place the issues affecting women and girls at the forefront of high-level political discourse. What makes the Forum especially important is that its deliberations will produce an outcome document for consideration by Commonwealth Foreign Ministers and Heads of Government. This helps ensure that the priorities of women and girls remain firmly on the Commonwealth’s agenda and are not forgotten.”

The Commonwealth Women’s Forum has steadily grown in prominence in recent years. In Kigali, Rwanda, in 2022, delegates explored women’s leadership, economic empowerment and strategies to tackle gender based violence. Two years later in Apia, Samoa, climate change featured prominently alongside discussions on leadership, economic opportunity and violence prevention, reflecting concerns shared by many Common-

wealth nations, particularly small island states.

With delegates expected from across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific, the Forum will bring a truly global conversation to Antigua’s shores. More than a conference, it is intended to ensure that the experiences, concerns and aspirations of women across the Commonwealth help inform discussions at the highest levels of government. As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to host CHOGM 2026, that conversation will begin here.

## VACANCY NOTICE

**A reputable import/distribution organization with over 25 years of experience is seeking skilled and motivated individuals to join our dynamic team.**

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT Responsibilities**

- ▶ **Coordinate staff assignments and schedules to meet customer requirements and event needs.**
- ▶ **Ensure employees follow company cleaning procedures, equipment use, and safety protocols.**
- ▶ **Manage cleaning supplies, maintain asset records, and oversee proper equipment maintenance.**
- ▶ **Conduct site assessments, measure facilities, and identify surfaces to determine appropriate cleaning methods and pricing.**
- ▶ **Prepare accurate service quotes, document findings, and flag health and safety concerns requiring escalation.**
- ▶ **Train new employees in cleaning techniques, demonstrate proper use of chemicals/equipment, and maintain organized records of site visits and reports.**
- ▶ **Experience operating commercial cleaning equipment will be considered an asset.**

### **Qualifications**

- ▶ **A high school diploma or equivalent is required**
- ▶ **3–5 years of experience in janitorial services, cleaning, maintenance, or facilities inspection is an asset.**
- ▶ **Must be a holder of a valid class D3 driver’s license or willing and able to upgrade to a D3.**

**Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter to: The Human Resource Manager, St John’s, Antigua by email: [humanresources.ntw@gmail.com](mailto:humanresources.ntw@gmail.com) by July 24, 2026. Only those short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

#12



Our future, Our bank  
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*Teenage*  
PAGEANT

BRIANNA  
ELLIS

CHRIST THE KING  
HIGH SCHOOL

CARNIVAL CITY  
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY  
**18**  
2026



#13



Our future, Our bank



MR & MISS  
*Teenage*  
PAGEANT

XION  
JOSEPH

ST. JOSEPH'S  
ACADEMY



CARNIVAL CITY  
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY  
**18**  
2026



# inet PARTY MONARCH

**SEMI-FINALS**  
**COOLER FETE**

**CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00PM**

**17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026** **ADM: \$20**

**GUEST ARTISTE SOCA VILLAN**





# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



## JULY

### THU 16TH JULY

**CAVALIER RUM  
CALYPSO MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS 7:30PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$20

### FRI 17TH JULY

**INET PARTY MONARCH  
SEMI-FINALS 8:00PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$20

### SAT 18TH JULY

**ECAB MR & MISS  
TEENAGE PAGEANT 7:00PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$20

### SUN 19TH JULY

**UWI FIVE ISLANDS  
CAMPUS JUNIOR  
CALYPSO 4:30PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - FREE  
**KOSCAB JUNIOR  
PARTY MONARCH 6:30PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - FREE

### TUE 21ST JULY

**QUEEN OF CARNIVAL 8:00PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$30 (STANDS)  
- \$50 (RESERVED)

### FRI 24TH JULY

**FACE OFF**  
CARNIVAL CITY

### SAT 25TH JULY

**LIAT AIR OPENING  
OF CARNIVAL 2:00PM  
& T-SHIRT MAS**  
ST. JOHN'S

### SUN 26TH JULY

**GOOD MORNING  
D'INCLUSIVE**  
COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND  
**SMALTA JUNIOR 2:00PM**  
**CARNIVAL & PARADE**  
ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY

### MON 27TH JULY

**RHYTHM  
COURT VIBE**  
CARNIVAL CITY

### TUE 28TH JULY

**PATRICE ROBERTS  
I AM WOMAN**  
ALWAYS US  
CARNIVAL CITY

### THU 30TH JULY

**DRINK TILL YA WEAK**  
(BOAT CRUISE)  
**LONG BAY LAGER 8:00PM**  
**CARIBBEAN MELTING POT**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$100 (GENERAL)  
- \$350 (RHYTHM ROOM)

### FRI 31ST JULY

**CAVALIER RUM 8:00PM**  
**CALYPSO MONARCH**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$40

**WATCH NIGHT**  
CARNIVAL CITY & BOTANICAL  
GARDENS

## AUGUST

### SAT 1ST AUG

**RISE**  
SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS  
CRICKET STADIUM  
**CARNIVAL DREAMZ**  
HODGES BAY  
**STATE INSURANCE  
COMPANY LTD.**  
**PANORAMA 8:00PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$40

### SUN 2ND AUG

**D BREAKFAST FETE**  
RYAN'S LAWN, ANCHORAGE ROAD  
**INET PARTY  
MONARCH 8:00PM**  
CARNIVAL CITY - \$40

### MON 3RD AUG

**J'OUVERT 3:00AM**  
ST. JOHN'S  
**JULEES J'OUVERT  
JAM SESSION**  
CORNER OF CROSS AND TANNER  
STREET

**MONDAY MAS 2:00PM**  
ST. JOHN'S

### TUE 4TH AUG

**PARADE OF BANDS 12:00PM**  
ST. JOHN'S & CARNIVAL CITY  
**LAST LAP 7:00PM**  
ST. JOHN'S



## SVG's first PM featured on new EC banknotes

### ECCB Unveils Designs of New EC Notes



The Eastern Caribbean (EC) banknotes have been redesigned to honour the people, heritage and achievements of the eight member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).

Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Timothy N.J. Antoine, today unveiled the new designs, marking a historic milestone in the evolution of EC currency. For the first time, the banknotes will no longer feature the likeness of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Instead, the new designs showcase distinguished national heroes and prominent figures from across the ECCU, reflecting the region's shared identity, history and achievements.

The \$100 banknote features Nobel laureate in economic sciences, Sir William Arthur Lewis, and The Right Honourable Sir John George Melvin

Compton.

The \$50 banknote features former Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (1989–2015), The Honourable Sir K. Dwight Venner, and The Right Excellent Sir Robert Llewellyn Bradshaw.

The \$20 banknote features The Right Honourable Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Snr and The Honourable Dame Mary Eugenia Charles.

The \$10 banknote features The Most Excellent William Henry Bramble and The Honourable James Ronald Webster.

The \$5 banknote features The Right Honourable Robert Milton Cato and Sir Kirani James, LL.D (Hons).

At its 105th Meeting on 21 July 2023, the Monetary Council approved the replacement of the image of the late

Queen Elizabeth II on the EC currency and directed the ECCB to undertake public consultations. Those consultations, conducted between July and December 2023, confirmed strong public support for featuring national heroes and nation builders on the redesigned currency.

The new series represents a significant step in the evolution of the EC currency. It honours the cultural diversity and enduring legacy of the people who have shaped the Eastern Caribbean. It also preserves the security, integrity and trust that have long defined the EC dollar.

The unveiling took place during the Ceremony to Mark the Change in Chairmanship of the ECCB Monetary Council, which was held at the Inter-Continental Dominica Cabrits Resort, Commonwealth of Dominica. (St Vincent Times)

## Barbados rescue team honoured after Venezuela earthquake response



Members of the Barbados Defence Force (BDF) and Barbados Fire Service who were deployed to Venezuela following last month's double earthquake have been awarded the Hero of Venezuela Medal.

The honour was presented by Acting President Delcy Rodríguez to members of the Urban Search and Rescue team, which was deployed to La Guaira, which sustained extensive damage.

Barbados' Ambassador to Venezuela, Commander Aquinas Clarke, announced the recognition as the team returned to Barbados on Thursday.

"I want to thank them for their outstanding representation of Barbados and the outstanding work they did while they were here in Venezuela," Clarke said.

The ambassador also provided an update on Barbados' humanitarian response, saying the BDF Field Medical Hospital being established in Guare-

nas was expected to become operational early next week.

He said 28 Barbadian personnel were already on the ground preparing the facility, which will serve communities affected by the disaster.

"At present, there are 28 persons from Barbados here setting up the hospital, and I suspect that by the end of today (July 10), the hospital will be set up. The services of electricity and water have been installed, and the Venezuelan authorities are currently constructing a field bathroom for use by the patients of the hospital," Clarke said.

The hospital, under the command of Lieutenant Commander Anderson Goodridge, is expected to begin treating patients between Monday and Wednesday, once an additional contingent arrives from Barbados.

"We expect that there will be another 46 persons coming tomorrow on a flight out of Barbados, which will

comprise the doctors and nurses, and other members of the support team for the hospital. So, by tomorrow night, we shall have a complement of 74 persons for the hospital here in Venezuela, out of Barbados," the ambassador added.

Clarke said more than 5,000 people had been displaced in Guarenas, where schools, hospitals and other infrastructure sustained damage.

He thanked the BDF Chief of Staff and members of the Defence Force for their work in establishing the field hospital and appealed to healthcare professionals in Barbados to volunteer.

"You can deploy here for a period of two weeks. You can even deploy for a month if you have the time to assist at this critical juncture. Venezuela has always been a friend to Barbados, and I believe that this is an opportunity for us to give back," Clarke said. (CMC)

# Regional News

## Cuba restores its electrical grid after blackout

Cuba's power grid was restored Sunday after another nationwide blackout, the second in less than a week on the island, which is under a US oil blockade, the national electricity company said.

"At 6:30 a.m. (10:30 GMT) this morning, the national electrical system was reconnected throughout the country," the national utility UNE posted on X.

After working for more than 24 hours to restart the system — a process made slower and more complex by fuel shortages — engineers were able to accelerate the restoration overnight from Saturday to Sunday.

More than 65 percent of households in Havana, a city of 1.7 million, had their power restored overnight, according to authorities.

It was the fourth nationwide blackout in less than six months and the ninth



since the end of 2024 on the island of 9.6 million inhabitants.

The Caribbean island is reeling from its worst economic crisis in decades

— one made worse by the fuel blockade imposed by US President Donald Trump in January as part of a pressure campaign aimed at ending six decades of communist rule. (AFP)




# RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

The Beat of Her Journey





**Denesha Samuel**  
**Liat Air**  
Rhythm of Resilience



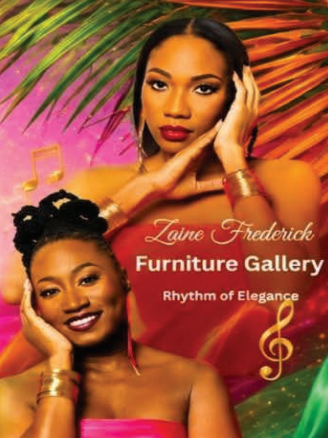
**Queenela Williams**  
**Antigua Port Authority**  
Rhythm of Leadership



**Christine Powell**  
**ACB Caribbean**  
Rhythm of Strength



**Shaveesa Gasper**  
**Exotic Antigua**  
Rhythm of Culture



**Laine Frederick**  
**Furniture Gallery**  
Rhythm of Elegance



**Aaliyah Taylor**  
**Cool & Smooth**  
Rhythm of Transformation



**21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**JULY**  
**2026**



**8:00**  
**PM**



**ARG**  
(ANTIGUA  
RECREATION  
GROUNDS)



**TICKETS**  
RESERVED SEATING – EC\$50  
GENERAL ADMISSION – EC\$30

## China evacuates nearly two million people as powerful typhoon makes landfall

A powerful typhoon has made landfall in China, the second to hit the country in a week, with nearly two million people evacuated from areas in the path of the storm.

Typhoon Bavi, which spans 1,000km (620 miles) at its widest point - roughly the width of France - first came ashore in the coastal city of Taizhou on Saturday evening before making a second landfall in Wenzhou around midnight (17:00 GMT).

After pummeling a chain of remote Japanese islands, it brought heavy rainfall to Taiwan as it brushed past its northern tip.

Earlier landslides triggered by the storm killed at least 17 people in the Philippines.

Though it has weakened to a severe tropical storm, it still presents a risk because of the huge volume of moisture within its rain bands.

The storm is expected to gradually diminish in its intensity as it moves north-west.

On Sunday morning, the centre of the typhoon reached Hangzhou City in Zhejiang province, Chinese state media reported.

Forecasters said the typhoon would move to eastern Anhui on Monday, and to the northern Yellow Sea from the Shandong Peninsula on Tuesday.

More than 1.7 million people were evacuated in Zhejiang and thousands more in neighbouring provinces, state media said. Schools, work and outdoor activities have been suspended in Zhe-



jiang, while 400 flights and dozens of train services have been cancelled.

The city of Wenzhou, home to around 10 million people, is close to the path of the storm, with authorities evacuating hundreds of thousands of residents.

"We could hear roof tiles and tree branches falling," Li Liangxing, a resident of the city told Reuters, adding "of course we were scared."

Beijing had ordered the evacuation of 100,000 people to "avoid risk", officials said.

Bavi began as a super typhoon, battering Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands last Monday with wind speeds of 290km/h (180mph).

As it made its way through the Pacific, weakening to 144 km/h winds, it struck the Sakishima islands, part of Japan's Ryukyu island chain between the country's main islands and Taiwan. At least five people were injured and

thousands were without power.

Taiwan itself did not receive a direct hit but thousands of people were forced to leave their homes and there was a danger of landslides after heavy rain. Neither country has reported any deaths.

Taiwanese authorities had warned that Bavi could bring up to 1m (39 inches) of rainfall.

Dozens of flights have been cancelled while schools have suspended classes across the region. Supermarket shelves have been wiped clean as residents stock up on supplies.

Parts of southern China are still reeling from the devastation brought by Typhoon Maysak earlier this week.

Maysak left at least 39 people dead and killed large numbers of livestock, resulting in massive agriculture loss. It also spurred two rare tornadoes in the central Hubei province. (BBC)



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7:00am - 11:30pm



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🎵 Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band

🍳 Breakfast served from 7:30am

🎮 Games Night - COMING SOON!




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## At least two killed in Toronto street festival shooting



At least two people have been killed in gunfire at a street festival in Toronto.

Police in the Canadian city initially received reports of an active shooter on St Clair Avenue at approximately 20:12 local time (01:12 BST), where a salsa festival was being held.

Six victims with gunshot wounds were found by police, who said two people had been pronounced dead at the scene.

At a press conference hours after the shooting, police said there had been an exchange of gunfire at the festival between two individuals, and two

firearms had been recovered from the scene.

Police were yet to arrest anyone in connection with the shooting, and investigations were ongoing.

Toronto Deputy Police Chief Francisco Barredo described the scene as “very chaotic”, and said there was an estimated 13,000 people at the festival when the shooting happened.

He said police were managing three separate crime scenes in connection with the shooting, and the public would be updated once more information was available.

People were told to stay away from the area, where a large police presence remained. Anyone with information in connection with the shooting, including witness statements, have been urged to call police.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was “horrified” by the shooting, and offered his prayers to “the families grieving their loved ones, those who are in critical condition, and everyone who has been affected by this horrific event”.

Doug Ford, the Premier of Ontario, condemned the “senseless violence” at the salsa festival, which he confirmed had “claimed two lives and injured others”.

“The person responsible must be caught, brought to justice and spend the rest of their life behind bars,” he wrote in a statement on X.

He thanked first responders who attended the scene, adding his thoughts were with “the victims, their families and everyone affected”.

Between the 11 and 12 July, it was set to host the annual Salsa on St Clair Latin festival, a yearly celebration which features a host of live music and dance performances.

This year was the festival’s 22nd iteration. (BBC)

## Sanchez blasts ‘xenophobic’ comments by ex-PM about French team

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez denounced Sunday what he called “xenophobic statements” by his conservative predecessor Mariano Rajoy, who had written in an opinion piece that France’s national football team had “no French players.”

“There are those who still measure belonging by surname, place of birth, or skin colour. Others measure it by our roots in a country and our will to contribute to it,” Sanchez wrote on X. (AFP)



## US insists Strait of Hormuz is open as it exchanges strikes with Iran

The US insists the Strait of Hormuz is open, despite Iran saying it has closed the waterway amid renewed strikes.

Hostilities, which flared up again this week, continued on Saturday after the US said it had struck more than 140 targets across Iran.

The attacks were a response to Iranian forces hitting a ship passing through the strait, which it said was using an unapproved route.

Iran has been trying to assert control over the waterway, and early on Sunday said it was closed until further notice.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also launched wide-ranging attacks on US bases and allies across the region on Sunday, marking an escalation in the scale of hostilities.

It said it had hit a US base in Jordan, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain all said they had responded to missiles and drones from Iran.

Qatar, a mediator in ceasefire talks, had not been attacked since April, while the UAE had not been attacked since May.

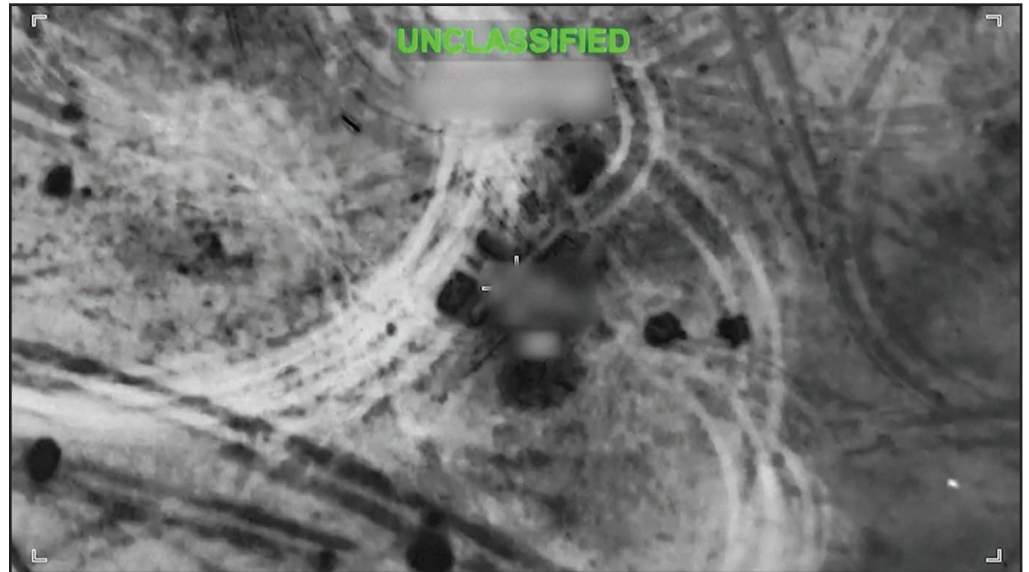
The renewed fire has put in jeopardy an interim ceasefire agreement signed last month, which aimed to reopen the Strait and eventually bring a permanent end to the conflict.

Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump declared the Iranian attacks meant the ceasefire was over, while Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused the US of violating the deal.

However, Trump said talks would still continue and mediators were trying to revive the process.

US media reported that Iran told American officials attacks on tankers earlier this week were a mistake and blamed a rogue internal group.

The latest hostilities were sparked after the IRGC said it had fired a naval cruise missile at a vessel that was at-



tempting to sail along an unapproved route.

Map titled "IRGC's published route through Strait of Hormuz" showing red proposed shipping routes running through the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman. The routes pass near the Iranian islands of Qeshm and Larak, skirt a shaded circular "dangerous area," and connect the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, with arrows indicating two-way traffic; nearby countries (Iran, UAE, Oman) and a distance scale are labelled.

The IRGC has said ships must use their proposed route through the Strait of Hormuz.

US Central Command (Centcom) said the IRGC "blatantly attacked" a Cyprus-flagged vessel which was "unable to continue its journey" due to damage to the engine room.

A crew member from the MV GFS Galaxy ship was missing, it added.

The UK's Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said it had been informed by military authorities that the crew of the vessel were forced to abandon ship and were in a lifeboat.

"Iran was provided yet another opportunity to demonstrate adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding after being held accountable for earlier

attacks on commercial vessels but has again failed," Centcom wrote on X.

It said US strikes hit 140 Iranian military targets, including missile and drone sites, communication networks, and coastal surveillance locations.

The statement was shared by US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, who wrote: "Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay."

The IRGC said the US had targeted "a number of coastal bases and telecommunications towers on the southern coast".

In response, Iran said its "first phase" of retaliation included strikes on the Prince Hassan Air Base in Jordan, saying it had destroyed the base's command and control centre and MQ9 drone hangars.

On Sunday, US Central Command reiterated the Strait was open, warning the US military was in position to make sure it stayed free-flowing.

Earlier Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who is also the country's chief negotiator with the US, wrote on X that the "era of one-sided deals is OVER".

He went on: "We told you: keep your word or pay the price. Reality is knocking." (BBC)



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## JULY 19<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

A WEEK OF CELEBRATION, PRAISE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SUNDAY</b><br/>JULY 19<sup>TH</sup></p>  <p><b>OPENING MARCH</b><br/>FROM SYNE TO<br/>THE CHURCH GROUNDS</p> <p><b>OUTDOOR SERVICE</b><br/>ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS</p> | <p><b>MONDAY</b><br/>JULY 20<sup>TH</sup></p>  <p><b>CRUSADE SERVICE</b><br/>ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS</p> | <p><b>TUESDAY</b><br/>JULY 21<sup>ST</sup></p>  <p><b>CRUSADE SERVICE</b><br/>ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS</p>                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b><br/>JULY 22<sup>ND</sup></p>  <p><b>HOUSE TO HOUSE<br/>WITNESSING</b></p>   |
| <p><b>THURSDAY</b><br/>JULY 23<sup>RD</sup></p>  <p><b>CONCERT/<br/>TESTIMONY NIGHT</b></p>                                                                                | <p><b>FRIDAY</b><br/>JULY 24<sup>TH</sup></p>  <p><b>BANQUET</b></p>                                   | <p><b>SATURDAY</b><br/>JULY 25<sup>TH</sup></p> <p><i>Willikies Day</i></p> <p>9:30AM – 2:30PM</p> <div><p>FOOD PACKAGE<br/>DISTRIBUTION</p><p>HEALTH<br/>FAIR</p></div> | <p><b>SUNDAY</b><br/>JULY 26<sup>TH</sup></p>  <p><b>CLOSING SERVICE</b><br/>CHURCH GROUNDS</p> |

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## West Indies beat New Zealand in first ODI to lead 5-match series



West Indies captain Shai Hope, left, hits a boundary during the first ODI against New Zealand at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Saturday, July 11, 2026. (Getty Images)

PROVIDENCE, Guyana (AP) — Keacy Carty was dismissed on 95 and Shai Hope made an unbeaten 87 in a 131-run third wicket partnership, which steered the West Indies to a seven wicket win over New Zealand in the first of five One-Day Internationals (ODI) at Providence on Saturday.

Carty fell just short of his fifth ODI century, a year after his fourth, as the West Indies surpassed New Zealand's total of 267 with seven balls remaining.

Hope anchored the innings after his partner's dismissal, adding 45 runs from 31 balls in an unbroken fourth-wicket partnership with Sherfane Rutherford, who finished on 22 not out.

New Zealand leaned again on all-rounder Daryl Mitchell to reach 267 after losing the toss and being sent in. Mitchell, whose gritty century in the

recent third Test against England secured a series victory, top-scored with 65 in an insipid New Zealand batting effort.

Will Young made 49 in an 80-run opening partnership with Henry Nicholls (27) but Michael Bracewell (29), Mark Chapman (27), Tom Latham (25) and Mitchell Santner (21) all failed to capitalize on good starts.

New Zealand was in a position to exceed 300 when the Kiwis reached the 40th over at 216 for four, but they lost their last six wickets for just 33 runs to fall short of a total to test the West Indies' batters in home conditions.

Wrist-spinner Vitel Lawes dismissed Nicholls, Chapman, and Bracewell, finishing with three for 54 on debut.

Carty and Hope came together with the West Indies solidly placed at 92 for two in the 19th over after opener Akeem Auguste fell for 38 from 58

balls.

The third-wicket pair then paced the innings at between five and six runs an over, keeping the run rate required at less than a run a ball, to guide West Indies to a comfortable win.

There were no signs of hurry or concern at any stage of the run chase. Even with five overs remaining and 37 runs needed, Hope and Rutherford looked under no pressure.

The West Indies needed 25 from 24 balls, 19 from 18, and 13 from the last two overs.

Hope hit a six from the first ball of the 49th over, took a single, and Rutherford hit a six from the fifth ball of the same over to end the chase.

Earlier, Carty reached his half century from 67 balls, and Hope followed him to that milestone from 52 balls, with four fours and two sixes.

At 64, Carty appeared to have hit his wicket while hitting a six from the bowling of Jacob Duffy. But the umpires ruled the shot was complete before the bails were dislodged and Carty was not out.

He took full advantage of the let-off and reached 95 from 112 deliveries before holing out to Nathan Smith off Bracewell's bowling.

The next match of the five-game series is at the same venue in Guyana on Monday.

# Sports News



## Antiguans go winless to finish last in Americas Group IV Davis Cup



Antigua and Barbuda finished without a win and in the seventh and last position during the Americas Group IV Davis Cup team competition, which took place on the outdoor clay court at the Rakiura Resort in Luque, Paraguay, from July 8 to 11.

The Antiguan team suffered their third successive 3-0 loss in Group B, losing to Aruba in their final round-robin match on Friday.

Ibrian Hodgson dispatched Antiguan Niike Hughes 6-0, 6-0 in the opening singles. Patrick Sydow trounced Antigua and Barbuda's Rodain Shaquan Monelle 6-0, 6-1 in the second singles match.

Hodgson combined with David Zuleta to wrap up the match by prevailing 6-4, 6-2 over the Antiguan team of Hughes and Monelle in the doubles.

Antigua and Barbuda lost for the second time in as many Group B matches, crashing to a 3-0 loss to Suriname on Thursday.

Antigua and Barbuda suffered a 3-0 loss against the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) in their first encounter in the four-team Pool B on the opening day.

The Antiguan team participated in this year's competition without their top and only professional player, Jody Maginley.

Meanwhile, Group A winners Trinidad and Tobago and Aruba, which won Group B, earned promotion to compete in the Americas Group III Davis Cup competition next year.

Both teams claimed 2-0 wins over the

respective second-place finishers in the groups in the promotional playoffs on Saturday.

The Trinidadians overcame Group B second-place finishers, the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), while Aruba prevailed against Cuba, who took the runners-up spot in Group A.

Honduras captured fifth place by beating Suriname 2-0 in the playoffs between the two third-place finishers in the groups.

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## UWIFIC and Cedar Grove surge into New Winthropes league semi-finals

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) and Cedar Grove CG have kept up their unbeaten run to surge into the semi-finals as the two top teams in the New Winthropes Community Football League.

Both teams finished at the top of the standings in the respective groups after playing unbeaten in their three matches in the eight-team round-robin league at the New Winthropes playing field.

Malik Charles and Tyrique Thwaites each scored twice as the UWIFIC topped the Group A standings by securing their third win in as many matches with an 8-1 drubbing of the Enforcers.

Charles scored in the 22nd and 50th minutes, while Thwaites had conversions in the 43rd and 62nd minutes. The other goals for the UWIFIC were scored by Sean Tomlinson in the fifth minute, Jahquan Richards in the 16th minute, Mali Johnson in the 30th minute, and Roneba Cordice in the 57th minute.

Joseph Ginser scored a consolation goal for Enforcers, who were eliminated from the semi-finals after finishing their three matches with three points.

Cedar Grove CG also played unbeaten to finish at the top of the Group B standings after playing to a 2-2 draw with New Level Unlocked in their third encounter.

Javid Maynard scored in the 26th minute, and Ruben Ruebel had a 45th-minute conversion for Cedar Grove CC, who recorded wins in their other two matches.

Naheim Este scored in the 41st minute, and Sahiem Dharanit had a 67th-minute conversion for New Level Unlocked, who finished with four points from their three matches.

Striker Force and The Palace also advanced to the semi-finals after clinching the runners-up spots in Group A



and Group B, respectively.

In the semi-finals, Cedar Grove CG will take on the Strike Force, while UWIFIC will meet The Palace.

Meanwhile, Xclusive Ballaz extended their unbeaten run by securing their second win in three matches in the Gray's Green Community Football League at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

Xclusive Ballaz pulled off a 2-0 victory over Head Plug Out United in their latest outing, courtesy of goals by Fabian Ettien and Raheem Deterville.

West Side FC of Five Islands recorded their second successive draw in three matches after getting a 2-2 result against Jennings United.

Tijano Jarvis and Keon Greene had conversions for West Side FC, while Shaquille Watkins and Jason Harris scored for Jennings United, who recorded their first draw after winning their previous two matches.

After losing their opening encounter, El Guapo claimed their second successive win with a 3-1 victory over Earthquake. Abraham Barry, Troy Jules, and Kimani Richards were the goal scorers for El Guapo.

Junior Jeffrey scored a consolation goal for Earthquake, who remain winless after crashing to their third defeat in as many games.

After winning their previous two matches, Hothead and Friends maintained their unbeaten run by salvaging a 1-1 draw with West Bank Hatton in their latest outing.

Ordell Samuel had a conversion for Hothead and Friends, while Trev-aughn Edwards scored for West Bank Hatton, who now boast a record of a win, a loss, and a draw in their three matches.

## West Indies women crush host Ireland in first ODI

Hayley Matthews produced a virtuoso all-round performance and combined with Realeanna Grimmond in a record-shattering opening partnership as West Indies steamrolled Ireland by nine wickets in the first ODI here at Bready on Friday, completing their highest successful run chase in Women's ODI history.

Chasing 270 for victory, the West Indies openers made a mockery of the target, racing to 270 for one with more than 10 overs to spare.

Matthews finished unbeaten on a majestic 159 off 123 balls, while Grimmond fell just short of a deserved century, making 91 as the pair put on 258 runs, the highest partnership for any wicket for West Indies in women's ODIs, eclipsing the 204-run stand between Stafanie Taylor and Juliana Nero set back in 2011.

The chase exploded into life inside the powerplay, with Matthews and Grimmond plundering 13 fours between them in the first 10 overs.

West Indies raced to 100 in just 14 overs, and Matthews brought up her 90-ball hundred in the 28th over before shifting into sixth gear with a flurry of sixes.

Grimmond, playing only her sixth ODI, registered her second fifty but was dropped on 84, before finally falling on 91 with just 12 runs required, the sole blemish in an otherwise flawless pursuit.

Earlier, Ireland had posted a com-



**West Indies women's skipper Hayley Matthews hit 159 not out off 123 balls against Ireland in the first ODI in Bready, Ireland, on Friday, Jul 10, 2026. (Cricket Ireland)**

petitive 269 all out, built around Amy Hunter's superb 96. Hunter anchored the innings with four half-century partnerships, sharing 69 with Orla Prendergast, who made 30 and 50 with Rebecca Stokell, who weighed in with 20.

Captain Gaby Lewis with 39 provided a brisk start, and the hosts looked poised for a total well beyond 270 after reaching 38 overs at 5.71 runs per over.

But the innings unravelled in the middle overs as leg-spinner Afy Fletcher, with 4 for 49 and Matthews 3 for 52, struck in quick succession.

Matthews broke the key stand by re-

moving Lewis, and Fletcher dismissed Prendergast before the pair combined to derail Ireland's momentum with four wickets between the 34th and 40th overs.

The hosts' total proved far from sufficient. Jane Maguire's dropped catch of Matthews when she was on 52 in the 12th over proved decisive, as the West Indies captain made Ireland pay in brutal fashion.

She smashed 24 fours and two sixes in her innings, while Grimmond's 91 included 11 boundaries. The victory by nine wickets with 65 balls remaining gives West Indies a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.



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## Leewards begin Rising Stars 50-over championship in winning fashion

The Leeward Islands Tropical Wave, defending champions Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago began this year's Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Men's Under-19 50-over Championship with victories in Antigua on Saturday.

While the Leeward Islands and Barbados romped to comfortable wins over Jamaica and the Windward Islands, respectively, T&T were made to fight before completing victory over Guyana.

Half-centuries from Antiguan opener Tanez Francis and compatriot and captain Matthew Miller carried Leeward Islands to a comprehensive 120-run win over Jamaica at Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG).

Francis topscored with 82 off 98 balls, inclusive of 11 boundaries, while Miller hit 72 off 78 balls, with four fours and three sixes, to propel the Leewards to 275 for seven in their 50 overs after electing to bat first.

The Jamaicans never mounted a serious challenge to the total in their run chase and were eventually dismissed for 155 in 35.5 overs.

The Leeward Islands were given a solid start, with Francis and Amoree Jones posting a 68-run opening stand. When Alixandre Elliot struck to claim the wicket of Jones for 20, the Leeward Islands wobbled briefly to reach 80 for three.

Francis and his fellow Antiguan skipper came to their side's rescue during a 106-run fourth-wicket partnership that put the Leewards in the ascendancy at 186 for three in the 38th over.

Jamaica fought back by dismissing both batters in quick succession to reduce their opponents to 209 for five, but Lawshorn Bergan and Rondre Daniel both scored 28 runs to anchor



**Tanez Francis**

the innings and get the Leeward Islands to their eventual total.

Geovanni Grey mopped up the tail to claim four for 44, while Elliot took three for 40. Jamaica never recovered from a horrible start, in which they lost their top four batsmen with only 58 runs on the board.

Ryan Lyttleton, who scored an unbeaten 59 off 69 balls and Demarco Scott, who made 15, tried to revive the innings in a 44-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

However, once Scott was run out, Jamaica lost five wickets for 27 runs to collapse to 129 for nine to effectively end the contest. For the Leewards, Jathan Edward took three for 37, Miller returned to snare two for 12, and Kunal Tilokani finished with two for 33.

Barbados produced a record-breaking batting performance on their way to thrashing the Windward Islands by 119 runs in Bethesda.

Jordan Graham, Kemar Dixon and Gadson Bowens all scored half-centuries, while R'Jai Gittens smashed 49 off just 16 balls, to see the defend-

ing champions post a mammoth 392 for nine in their 50 overs, the highest-ever total in the tournament's history.

The Windward Islands did make a contest of their chase, but lost wickets at key intervals to eventually finish on 273 for seven in 50 overs.

Summarised scores: BARBADOS 392-9 in 50 overs (Jordan Graham 76, Kemar Dixon 67, Gadson Bowens 62, R'Jai Gittens 49, Kelani Clarke 37, Raphael Lovell 31 not out, Rajeev Parsooram 17, Jahidi Hinds 15; Aiden Burton 3-36, Kevin Joseph 2-51).

WINDWARD ISLANDS 273-7 in 50 overs (Theo Edward 92, Tyler Venner 67 not out, Aiden Burton 47, Kevin Joseph 24 not out, Cody Fontinelle 14; Rajeev Parsooram 3-46, Jahidi Hinds 2-63).

Trinidad and Tobago overcame a woeful batting performance to register an impressive 24-run victory over Guyana at Ball Beef in Liberta.

After being sent in, T&T could only muster 167 in 40.3 overs, thanks mainly to a fighting half-century by Christian Lall. Daron Dhanraj, Amrit Pittiman and Daniel Holder then grabbed three wickets apiece to bowl out Guyana for 143 in 34.3 overs.

Summarised scores: T&T 167 in 40.5 overs (Christian Lall 53, Christiano Ramanan 33, Tariq Richards 31, Renaldo Fournillier 19, Levi Ghanny 10; Joshua Budram 4-9, Romario Ramdehol 2-21, Micah Amsterdam 2-35, Dhanesh Persaud 2-44).

GUYANA 143 in 34.3 overs (Romario Ramdehol 41 not out, Shamar Apple 28, Yannick Newton 23, Dhanesh Persaud 17; Daron Dhanraj 3-20, Amrit Pittiman 3-44, Daniel Holder 3-46).

## Wadadli Bulldogs trounce Dominica at CBC tournament



*Preston Merrick, center, holds off a Dominican defender as he dribbles during an Antiguan offensive play at in their match at the CBC Tournament at Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, Guyana, Saturday, July 11, 2026. (Photo courtesy FIBA Basketball)*

Antigua and Barbuda's senior national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, rebounded from a two-point loss in overtime to host Guyana with a crushing 39-point win over Dominica in their penultimate match at the Caribbean Basketball Confederation (CBC) Tournament on Saturday.

After beating Bermuda 82-50 in their opener and losing 73-75 in overtime to Guyana, the Antiguaners surged to a commanding 90-51 victory over Dominica to claim their second win in Group A at Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, Guyana.

The Antiguaners led from the start and never trailed, steadily widening the gap after a competitive opening quarter. The Wadadli Bulldogs controlled the game from start to finish and produced one of the most dominant performances in the 10-team tournament, **which is a pre-qualifier for the 2029**

### FIBA AmeriCup.

**Preston Merrick shot a game-high 26 points, and point guard Jaden Andrew anchored the victory with a monster all-around performance, producing 16 points, 16 rebounds, 6 assists, and 5 steals.**

Xavier Spencer chipped in 15 points, and Jamaine Charles patrolled the paint with authority, adding 10 points, 13 rebounds, 5 steals, and 6 blocks for the Wadadli Bulldogs.

For Dominica, Karim Daniel sank 10 points; Jacob Barry provided 8 points, 8 rebounds, and 6 steals; and Mawell Birmingham also scored 8 points.

Guyana secured a dramatic 75-73 overtime win against Antigua and Barbuda **in their previous encounter.**

The game was a tightly contested battle from start to finish, with both teams trading double-digit leads before the Guyanese found the answers in the extra period. Guyana ultimately held

their nerve down the stretch to edge out a razor-thin victory in front of their home crowd.

The Guyanese outscored the Antiguaners 6-4 in the extra period after the game was sent into overtime, with both teams finishing the fourth and final quarter deadlocked at 69-69.

Point guard Kevon Wiggins, who scored all six points in overtime for Guyana, led the home side with 24 points, 4 steals, 3 rebounds, and 3 assists. Umar Rashid provided a strong supporting performance with 21 points and 8 rebounds, and Stanton Rose chipped in with 10 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists for the Guyanese.

For the Wadadli Bulldogs, Xavier Spencer produced 16 points and four rebounds, Preston Merrick also converted 16 points, Alexis Jackson sank 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds, Seth Joseph had nine points and seven rebounds, and Jaden Andrew chipped in with eight points, five assists, and three rebounds.

The Guyanese were beaten 68-55 by the Turks and Caicos Islands in their opening encounter but won their other three matches. Guyana prevailed 59-56 against Bermuda in their final encounter after pulling off a 68-53 victory over Dominica.

The Turks and Caicos Islands made it three wins in a row with a 76-61 victory over Bermuda after prevailing in an 81-64 victory against Dominica.

Contesting Group B are Barbados, Haiti, Grenada, the Cayman Islands, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Barbados made it three wins in as many games with a 99-77 victory over Grenada after prevailing 91-68 against Haiti