

Parliament is Meeting to Discuss 3rd Country Nationals Issue

Story on page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (second from right) and ADOMS Director General Amb. Dwight Gardiner (extreme right) joined in welcoming participants at this week's Global Maritime Security and Sanctions Enforcement Symposium being held at the St. James's Club resort

Government's Resolution on the United States 3rd Country Nationals Issue Goes Before Parliament Today

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will introduce in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, 14 July 2026, a Resolution setting out the principles that will govern any arrangement for the possible transfer to Antigua and Barbuda of third-country nationals removed from the United States of America.

The Resolution is intended to ensure that any conclusive engagement on this matter is conducted within a clear framework established in the national interest, with full regard to Antigua and Barbuda's sovereignty, laws, security, absorptive capacity, administrative capability, and financial responsibilities.

In a step that reflects the Government's commitment to openness and accountability, Antigua and Barbuda will become the first country to disclose in full both the terms proposed by the United States and the response of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. These documents make clear that no binding agreement exists and that no arrangement has been concluded, since no final agreement has been signed.

Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Gaston Browne said: "This Government believes that matters of such legal, humanitarian, financial and security importance must be handled openly and with respect for Parliament. By bringing the full proposal from the United States, and our response, before the House of Representatives, Antigua and Barbuda is demonstrating transparency and accountability, while maintaining our longstanding friendship and cooperation with the Government and people of the United States".

The Government will also be the



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

only administration, whether in the United States, the Caribbean, or elsewhere, to place this matter before its House of Representatives and Senate in a spirit of full transparency and democratic scrutiny.

The Resolution seeks to establish the principles and safeguards within which the Government may continue discussions, while preserving Antigua and Barbuda's complete sovereign discretion to accept or refuse any proposed individual on a case-by-case basis.

Among the central principles set out in the Resolution are that Antigua and Barbuda will not accept any standing, automatic, or open-ended programme; that no predetermined number of persons may be transferred without the prior approval of the Government in each individual case, including on their criminal records, and that no transfer may occur unless all necessary legal, operational, financial, and administrative arrangements have first been agreed in writing.

The Resolution further makes clear that Antigua and Barbuda will require satisfactory arrangements concerning identity, documentation, accommodation, support, legal status, funding, security, and onward or return responsibility before any proposal can be considered.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda values its longstanding friendship and cooperation with the Government and people of the United States. At the same time, it has a constitutional responsibility to protect the interests of the people of Antigua and Barbuda and to ensure that no external proposal places an undue burden on the country's institutions, resources, or social stability.

By placing the full matter before Parliament and the public, the Government is ensuring that national policy on an issue of considerable legal, humanitarian, financial, and security importance is approached with candour, responsibility, and respect for democratic oversight.

PM Browne Says Rising Illegal Activities at Sea Are A Cause For Concern

Antigua and Barbuda is this week hosting the 2026 Global Maritime Security and Sanctions Enforcement Symposium, which has brought delegates from near and far to discuss maritime security against the backdrop of rising illegal activities at sea.

The three-day symposium is being hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS) and the United States Department of State with the generous support of the Sandia National Laboratory.

In his welcome remarks, Prime Minister Gaston Browne noted that the importance of this symposium cannot be overstated as nations confront several pressing global threats, including maritime sanctions evasion, fraudulent registrations, and the proliferation of the shadow fleet.

“We are honoured to welcome our diverse friends, partners, and industry specialists from around the world. This includes representatives from the IMO, the G7 Shadow Fleet Task Force, global partners, and leading maritime intelligence experts. Our shared goal is clear: to ensure a fair, secure, and competitive industry by identifying and preventing the registration of vessels suspected of illicit activity,” the prime minister observed.

He assured delegates that Antigua and Barbuda remains deeply committed to safeguarding global safety and security through these vital multilateral partnerships.

“A testament to this dedication is our proud involvement in the founding of the Global Centre for Maritime Sanctions Monitoring (GCMSM) alongside the Republic of Malta. I am especially pleased to welcome Director General Neville Aquilina of Malta, the Centre’s Director, Martin Cauchi-Inglott, as well as leadership from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, whose pres-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



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7:00AM

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Local News

ence underscores the global weight of our mission,” he highlighted.

PM Browne noted that international cooperation relies on transparency, which is why Antigua and Barbuda championed the Registry Information Sharing Compact (RISC).

“Sharing data is our strongest defence against illicit operators, evaders, and I am thrilled to welcome RISC members to Antigua and to celebrate our newest member, Malta, in joining this critical network,” he emphasized.

Director General of Merchant Shipping, Ambassador Dwight Gardiner explained that the conference is a coming together of ship registries, maritime industry leaders, and government officials from around the world to advance and share industry efforts to increase maritime security, enhance sanctions compliance, and ensure a fair and competitive industry by preventing registration of vessels engaged in illicit activity and fraudulent registration.

He added that a key area of focus is best practices to improve US sanctions enforcement globally and prevent illicit maritime activity that threatens US interests.

Participants at the conference also include representatives from the IMO, Registry Information Sharing Compact (RISC), the Global Centre for Maritime Sanctions Enforcement (GCMSM), the Maritime UN Sanctions Enforcement (MUSE) initiative, and other global coalitions. There just over ninety persons in attendance.





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Minister Dwayne George Pleased with Carnival 2026 Preparations

Minister of Sports and Creative Industries Dwayne George has expressed confidence that Antigua and Barbuda is well on track to host what organisers hope will be the country's biggest Carnival yet, following a walkthrough of the Antigua Recreation Grounds on Monday.

Led by Cleofoster Harris, Operations Lead for the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, the minister toured the venue, which is currently being transformed into Carnival City, to assess the progress of preparations for the country's premier summer festival. Following the inspection, George said he was encouraged by the level of readiness, revealing that preparations are approximately 70 percent complete.

"With all I've heard today, I realise that we are in a really good position, and I'm happy that we are prepared," the minister said. "We have about 70 percent ready for Carnival 2026, and the level of excitement that I'm feeling already—I can already feel the rhythm."

Minister George appealed to the public to actively support the nation's cultural celebration, stressing that Carnival's continued success depends on community participation.

"Our culture can't survive unless we support our culture in person, with our families," he said. "I want to thank the Festivals Commission, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, our sponsors, and the people of Antigua and Barbuda for continuously making Carnival a success."

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to celebrate its 69th Carnival, the Minister of Sports and Creative Industries said organisers are determined to deliver the largest and most memorable festival in the event's history.

He highlighted several significant upgrades, including what he described as a modern stage spanning nearly 100 metres, along with enhanced lighting



and sound systems designed to elevate performances throughout the festivities.

"The stage will give our artistes the opportunity to truly showcase their craft and demonstrate what Antigua and Barbuda has to offer," George said.

He also praised the support of sponsors and the collaborative efforts of the Festivals Commission and his ministry in ensuring preparations remain on schedule.

Beyond entertainment, Minister Dwayne George said considerable attention has been given to improving the overall experience for patrons, noting that security, sanitation and park-

ing arrangements are all progressing well.

Confident that Antigua and Barbuda remains home to one of the Caribbean's premier festivals, the minister encouraged residents and visitors alike to attend the celebrations and help maintain the country's reputation as a leading Carnival destination.

"Let's make this a major success. Antigua and Barbuda has one of the greatest summer festivals in the region. Let's continue to live up to that name and continue making Antigua and Barbuda the example for other countries to follow," he said.

Local News



Final Preparations Underway as Carnival City Takes Shape



With just days before the curtains rise on Antigua Carnival 2026, organisers say preparations at Carnival City are entering the home stretch, with the venue expected to be fully ready in time for the Calypso Semi-Finals on 16th July, 2026.

Speaking during a walkthrough of the Antigua Recreation Grounds alongside Minister of Sports and Creative Industries Dwayne George yesterday, Cleofoster Harris, Operations Lead, Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission said work being carried out at the venue is expected to be completed before the Calypso Semi-Finals on 16th July, 2026.

“There are a few minor touches that we are going to be getting done, but by the afternoon of July 16, we’ll be in full shape, full gear and all systems go,” Harris said.

He praised Minister George for his hands-on involvement throughout the planning process, noting that the

minister has gone beyond ceremonial duties by working closely with the organising team.

“He has not only been calling on the phone, but he has been coming to our offices almost daily, sitting with us and asking how he can help. That extra push has been instrumental in ensuring Antigua’s Carnival is a success,” Harris said.

One of the most significant improvements for Carnival 2026 is the introduction of a newly acquired stage,

which has been erected since the second week of June. Harris described it as a major investment that will provide a fresh look for the festival while making setup and future operations more efficient.

Festival-goers can also expect a major upgrade in production quality through new sound, lighting and video systems provided by local production companies. The sound system has undergone extensive testing and alignment, with Harris promising significantly im-

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proved audio quality throughout Carnival City.

“The clarity is excellent, the power is excellent and everything has been engineered to work together. We are very comfortable with what we have in place this year,” he said.

Large LED screens and modern theatrical lighting will further enhance performances, while backup generators have been installed to ensure uninterrupted entertainment.

Organisers have also strengthened security for Carnival 2026 through a comprehensive plan developed in collaboration with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP).

A six-member security committee has developed detailed operational procedures covering both the interior and exterior of Carnival City, including emergency evacuation plans, surveillance and crowd management.

Before each event, security personnel will participate in operational briefings to ensure all agencies are coordinated before patrons enter the venue.

“This year we’ve changed the game,” Harris said. “We’re taking Carnival security to another level.”

The Festivals Commission has also introduced a new digital accreditation system that will require all staff, contractors and officials to be electronically scanned upon entering the venue, allowing organisers to accurately monitor personnel movements throughout the festival.

Several changes have also been made to improve parking and traffic management.

Dedicated parking areas have been established for event staff, judges and media personnel, while paid public parking will be available at Antigua Grammar School and the T.N. Kirnon Primary School grounds. The initia-

tive is expected to provide convenient parking for patrons while generating funds for both schools.

Meanwhile, Harris reported strong ticket sales for several of Carnival’s marquee events, including Party Monarch, Melting Pot and Panorama.

He encouraged patrons to purchase tickets early and take advantage of early-bird offers, noting that the Long Street ticket booth will begin daily operations this week during Carnival activities, complementing existing ticket outlets across the island.

As an added incentive, organisers have announced that the largest branded crew attending the Party Monarch

Semi-Finals on 17th July will receive a special prize.

Harris also highlighted a number of free family-oriented events designed to encourage greater public participation.

The Junior Calypso and Junior Party Monarch competitions, scheduled for Sunday, will be free to the public, while the annual Kiddies Carnival on 26th July will feature complimentary attractions, entertainment and activities for children and their families.

Harris expressed confidence that Carnival 2026 will deliver a safe, exciting and memorable experience for residents and visitors alike.



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ANTIGUA Carnival 2026

21ST & 23RD JULY
8:00PM

PAN CRAWL

ROUTE
STARTS AT SICL REDCLIFFE ST.

TUESDAY 21ST JULY	THURSDAY 23RD JULY
ORIGINAL STEEL ORCHESTRA	PANACHE STEEL ORCHESTRA
PANDEMONIUM STEEL ORCHESTRA	GEMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA
HARMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA	WESTSIDE SYMPHONY
HELLS GATE STEEL ORCHESTRA	HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA



ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

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JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350



ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



**SOCA VILLAN - YOUNG VICE - KID FRESH - EMPRESS - MENACE - ZAMONI
ISLAND PRINCE - YOUNG LYRICS - VICIOUS - ARLEN SEATON - NIKKI NOOKS - DMITRIB
DJ QUEST - DJ ALTITUDE**

HOST : IBIS AND SUPA DYMOND

JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

Sir Ronald Sanders Installed as Chairman of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development

Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and to the Organization of American States (OAS), has been installed as Chairman of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) at the OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

CIDI is the principal hemispheric forum of the OAS for policy dialogue and cooperation on development, reporting directly to the General Assembly.

In his acceptance remarks, Sir Ronald framed his chairmanship around a single, defining question for the hemisphere: “How do we create the conditions for business success in the Americas, so that growth reaches our people?” He was unambiguous that the question is a development one, not a market one. “Business is not a rival to development,” he declared. “Business is an integral partner in development. It is our enterprises, above all the micro, small, and medium firms, that create the jobs, the opportunity, and the inclusion that development promises.”

A Hemispheric Agenda Rooted in Development

Sir Ronald has organized his Work Plan on three interconnected pillars — Certainty, Capacity, and Capital — held together by the conviction that no Member State can advance development alone.

“Development is not one subject among many at the OAS,” he told the Council. “It is the foundation on which the rest of our work stands. Human rights cannot be enjoyed by people who cannot feed their families. Democracy is not sustained where citizens see no prospect of decent work. Security is not secured where young people have no place in the economy of their own country. If we neglect development, we weaken every other pillar of the Inter-American system.”

On the question of size and equity, he was equally direct: “Multilateralism



seats us at the same table despite differences in size and level of development. That equality is the foundation of our credibility.”

A Lifelong Champion of Development

Ambassador Sanders is Antigua and Barbuda’s most senior diplomat and one of the Caribbean’s foremost voices on development, multilateralism, and small-state advocacy. He has served as President of the OAS Permanent Council on three separate occasions — a distinction that has equipped him with unparalleled experience in guiding the Organization’s decision-making.

He closed his remarks with a call to the membership: “Every point of arrival is a point of departure. When the time comes for us to depart from this phase of our work on development, I ask you all to help produce meaningful results that our people can see, can feel and can measure.”



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Family and Social Services Division Hosts Child Rights Ambassadors Photography Workshop



The Family and Social Services Division is hosting a week-long Child Rights Ambassadors workshop, bringing together young Antiguan and Barbudans to explore photography as a tool for storytelling and rights advocacy.

The workshop is being delivered in partnership with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean and is the fourth of its kind held in the region.

Participants are being trained in the fundamentals of photography from building an image around a single clear message, composition, working with light, and capturing real detail before they move into the community from Wednesday to document the child rights issues that matter most to them.

The week closes Friday with participants presenting their strongest work, followed by a closing ceremony.

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Speaking on the workshop, Patrick Knight, Communication Specialist at UNICEF Eastern Caribbean, says, "The programme gives children a creative outlet to

show how their rights are being upheld or challenged in their own communities, grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child's guarantee of a child's right to expression."

Local News



Jane E. Toussaint Foundation Launches with Inaugural Wadadli Healing Symposium

A wellness advocacy group, the Jane E. Toussaint (JET) Foundation, has officially launched its first public initiative, the Wadadli Healing Symposium, to be held on 6–7 October 2026 at The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

Inspired by the enduring legacy of Jane E. Toussaint, affectionately known as ‘Granny Janie’ “the Foundation was established by the Underwood family to carry forward a tradition of service, compassion and community development. Built on generations of caring for others, the Foundation seeks to ignite the potential of Antigua and Barbuda’s youth through transformative programmes in education, health, sports and the arts while fostering resilient communities through opportunity, service and exceptional talent.

The Foundation envisions an Antigua and Barbuda where compassion and integrity drive systemic progress and every citizen is empowered to lead a life of creativity, good health and service. Its work is guided by four interconnected pillars—Education, Health, Sports and the Arts—which are designed to create measurable, community-centred impact.

As its inaugural initiative, the Wadadli Healing Symposium reflects the Foundation’s commitment to addressing some of the country’s most pressing social challenges through education, dialogue and practical action. Over two days, local, regional and international experts will share research-informed, culturally relevant strategies focused on Mental Health and Healing, Parent Engagement, Youth Development and Male Engagement.

The Symposium is designed for parents, educators, youth leaders, mental health professionals, faith-based organisations, non-profit organisations,



community advocates and members of the public who are committed to building stronger families and healthier communities. Participants will leave with practical tools, new perspectives and skills that can be applied within homes, schools, workplaces and communities.

“Our Foundation exists because we be-

lieve lasting change begins when people are equipped with knowledge, empowered by opportunity and inspired to serve one another. The Wadadli Healing Symposium is our invitation to the nation to begin that journey of healing together,” stated, Jerome Underwood, one of the foundation’s directors.

Admission to the Symposium is free, and the public is encouraged to attend, participate in meaningful conversations, learn from internationally recognised experts, including Dr. Joy DeGruy, and become part of a growing movement dedicated to healing, resilience and lasting community transformation.

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:

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- Rude Boy *Bucket of 10
- Absolut Vodka
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The St. John's Hospice Convenes Annual General Meeting



The St. John's Hospice, an organization that caters to the palliative care of seriously ill patients, convened its annual general meeting last week at Government House with both the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams in attendance. They both serve as patrons of the St. John's Hospice.

Pedro Corbin chaired the meeting and he presented the Chairman's report highlighting the work and achievements of the Board during the financial year ending 31 December 2025.

Among the areas reviewed were the continued strengthening of the organisation's governance, fundraising initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and efforts to enhance the long-term sustainability of the Hospice.

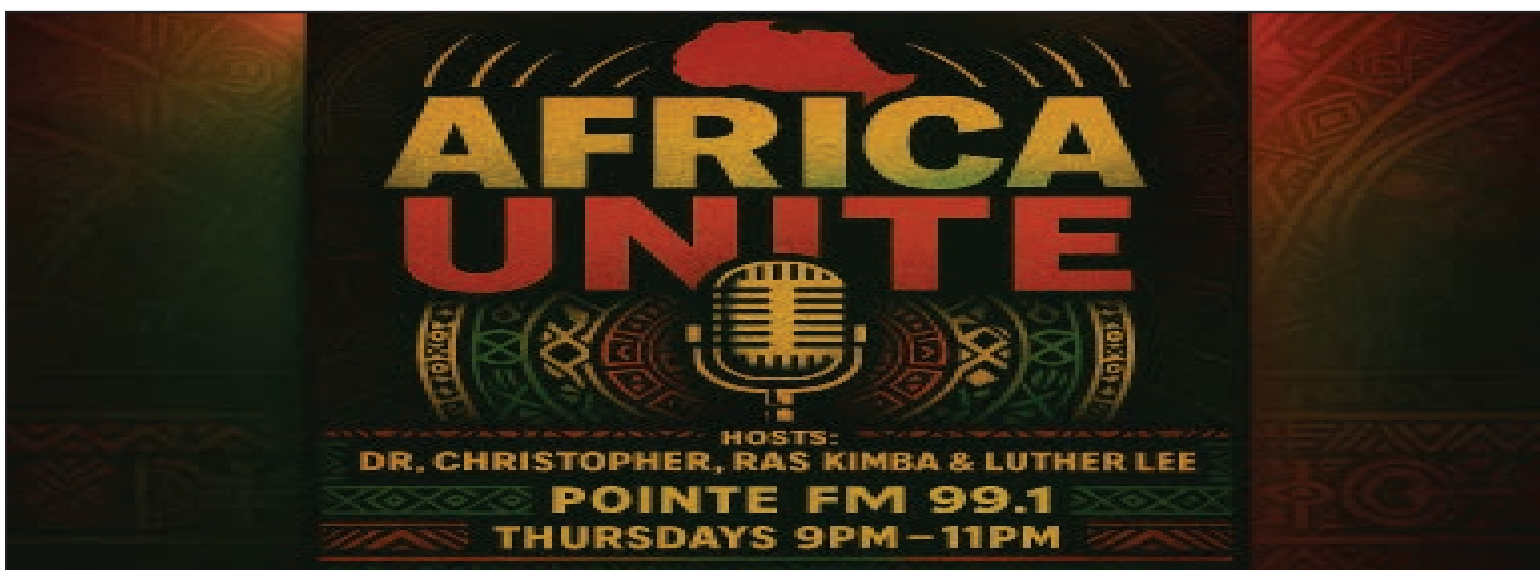
Treasurer Pauline Perry presented the audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2025, which reflected a modest operating surplus and reaffirmed the organisation's sound financial stewardship. The Board noted its appreciation for the continued generosity of donors, volun-

teers, corporate partners, and supporters whose contributions remain vital to the Hospice's mission of providing compassionate end-of-life care.

The meeting also featured a lively and engaging discussion on a number of strategic matters, including opportunities to strengthen fundraising, expand digital giving platforms, and further increase public awareness of the Hospice's invaluable work. Lady Williams offered thoughtful and practical recommendations, providing valuable insights that will assist the Board in shaping its future initiatives.

In his remarks, Sir Rodney Williams commended the Board, management, staff, and volunteers for their unwavering commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality hospice care to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. He praised the organisation for its strong governance, prudent financial management, and dedication to serving patients and their families with dignity and compassion.

He encouraged the Board to continue building on its successes and urged the wider community to support the Hospice through volunteerism, advocacy, and charitable giving, noting that the institution has become an indispensable national asset and a source of pride for Antigua and Barbuda.



High Commission of India Celebrates the 12th International Day of Yoga in Antigua and Barbuda





The High Commission of India in Georgetown, concurrently accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, in association with the Honorary Consul General of India in Antigua and Barbuda, celebrated the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) under the global theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing.” The event witnessed the participation of people from all walks of life, including members of the government, the diplomatic corps, the Indian diaspora, yoga practitioners and friends of India, reflecting the growing popularity of yoga in Antigua and Barbuda.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, and Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P. Chet Greene, were guests of honour at the event.

Addressing the gathering, Sir Rodney emphasized the importance of maintaining physical, mental and emotional well-being throughout life

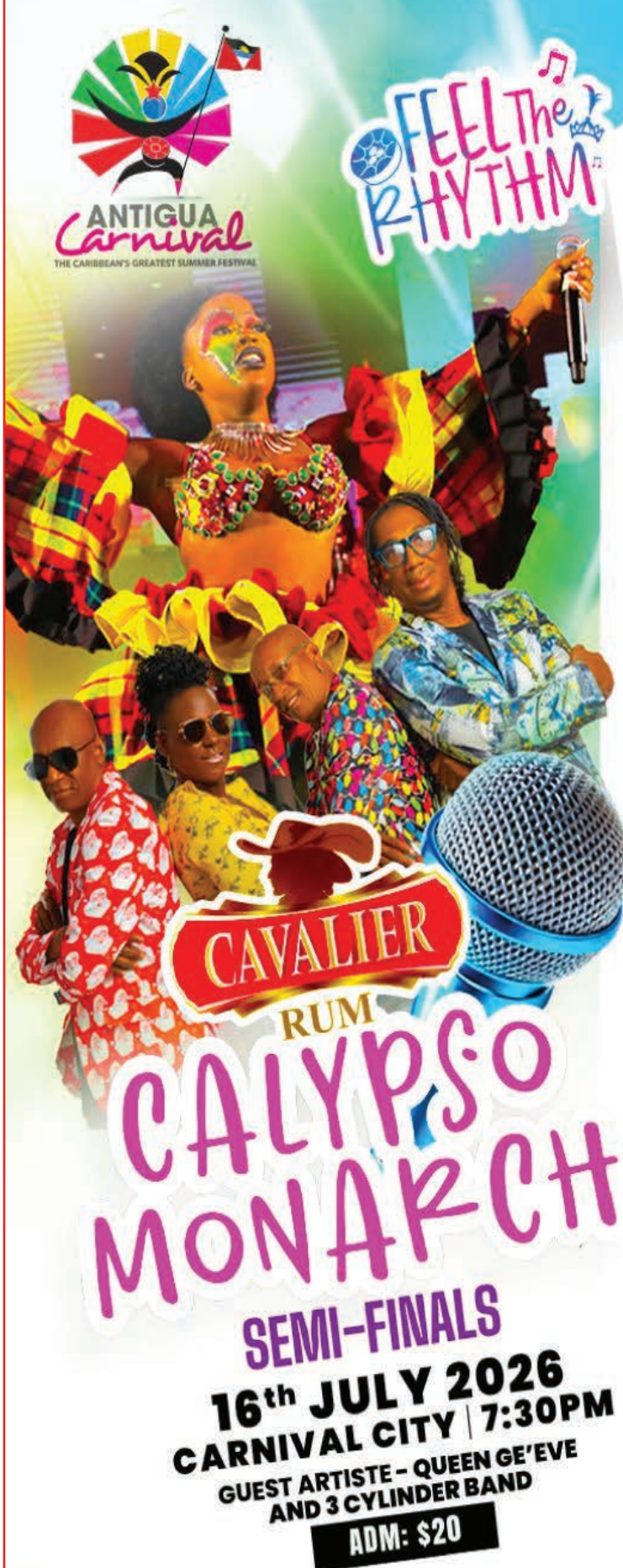
and highlighted the relevance of yoga in promoting healthy ageing. He commended the global observance of the International Day of Yoga and appreciated India’s efforts in sharing this ancient practice with the world.

In his remarks, Foreign Minister Greene underscored yoga’s role in fostering healthier lifestyles, inner peace and harmony. He noted that yoga transcends national and cultural boundaries and serves as a powerful instrument for promoting wellness, unity and mutual understanding among people.

Welcoming the gathering, Acting High Commissioner Manoj Kumar highlighted that the International Day of Yoga, observed annually on 21 June following the adoption of India’s proposal at the United Nations in 2014, has evolved into a global movement for health and well-being. He noted that the High Commission

has organized a series of yoga events over the past 100 days across Guyana, Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda, reflecting India’s continued commitment to promoting yoga across the Caribbean.

The Acting High Commissioner emphasized that yoga is far more than a form of physical exercise. Rooted in the Sanskrit word “yuj,” meaning “to unite,” yoga symbolizes harmony between the body, mind and spirit while fostering a deeper connection with nature. Referring to this year’s theme, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” he highlighted yoga’s significant contribution to preventive healthcare by strengthening physical vitality, enhancing mental resilience and promoting emotional balance, thereby enabling people to lead healthier, more active and fulfilling lives.



CALYPSO SEMI-FINALIST ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. KING FIAH | A WA U WANT |
| 2. DA WIZZ | STEELPAN TING |
| 3. DR. SOLO | FRIENDS OF ALL, ENEMIES OF NONE |
| 4. QUEEN SINGING JULIE | LIFE IS UNFAIR |
| 5. KING ZACARI | CULTURAL ASSASSINS |
| 6. KING YOUNG DESTROYER | SNAP ELECTION |
| 7. DI DACTA | LETTER TO DE PUPPET MASTER |
| 8. FAITHFUL | MY COUNTRY A PARADISE |
| 9. MONA LISA | CALYPSO |
| 10. TRINITY | WANT ME CULTURE FOR CARNIVAL |
| 11. QUEEN THALIA | A SONG OF HOPE |
| 12. BANDIT | OF OUR CULTURE |
| 13. RUEZ | TV IN YOUR HAND |
| 14. LADY MELODY | UPGRADE DE CURRICULUM |
| 15. MIGHTY ROVER | SING SOMETHING NEW |
| 16. ZOCIO | A WUK ME A WUK |
| 17. QUEEN GEE BEE | LIFE'S A MISSION, NOT COMPETITION |
| 18. RAS KANTU | WAR |
| 19. ABUMBA | CELEBRATION IN DE PAN YARD |
| 20. CALYPSO LILY | IN THIS SMALL WORLD |
| 21. MELYPNOSTICK | TEK DE MONEY |
| 22. SUPA D | ONE FAMILY |
| 23. DESTINY | WOMAN |
| 24. ROCKY DAN | ALL INCLUSIVE V.I.P |
| 25. WILLIE WAWA | OH ME, OH MY, I CRY |
| 26. LYRICAL HENRY | KING KLAS |
| 27. LYRICAL REDS | ANALYSIS |
| 28. RICHIE FRANCIS | AH LOVE MEH COUNTRY |
| 29. THE INSTRUCTOR | LEAVE WEAPON HOME |
| 30. PEETRON | EMANCIPATE YOUR MIND |
| 31. THE ALCHEMIST | KEEP GOING ON |
| 32. DR. PAUL | MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME |
| 33. REDDING | CALYPSO LEGEND |
| 34. APOSTLE ROBBY | CONFIRMED TROUBLEMAKER |
| 35. EPIC BYKE | GIVE THANKS |
| 36. SPIDER | BUY LOCAL |
| 37. RATSO | NOT GOING DOWN |





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





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



Antigua's Carnival Festivals Commission



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@antiguafestivalsofficial

RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

The Beat of Her Journey

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
— 2026 —

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Award

Vote for Your
Favourite Delegate



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

CHRISTINE *Powell*

MISS ACB
CARIBBEAN

The Monsters Are Not the Migrants

A small state's sovereignty is not for sale

By Professor C. Justin Robinson

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Three men landed in Basseterre on 19 May 2026. They were not criminals, they were not threats, they were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time and the United States wanted them gone.

They were CARICOM nationals from Jamaica and Belize, transferred under a bilateral arrangement. Now Antigua and Barbuda has published a White Paper setting out terms on which it might consider receiving a strictly limited number of third-country nationals removed from the United States. ***How did the Caribbean arrive at this point?***

Antonio Gramsci, writing from Mussolini's prison cells in the 1930s, gave us this insight: "The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born, in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear." "When one order collapses and another has not yet arrived, politics fills with monsters."

The Caribbean knows this pattern. We have been offered other people's unwanted cargo before, toxic waste, decommissioned ships and questionable goods. The packaging changes, the asymmetry does not. This is not the first time the Caribbean has been asked to absorb someone else's prob-

lem, and it won't be the last.

The post-Cold War order is fraying. No successor has established broad legitimacy, not China, not a divided Europe, not an inward-looking United States. What we have instead are fragments, an emerging "multipolar" world that looks less like balance and more like a brawl with no referee. The monsters are not coming, they are here.

The first monster is the US deportation policy itself. Small Caribbean states are being asked to help the United States execute its migration policy by receiving people who are not their nationals and who may have no family ties, shared language, lawful status or durable future. The administrative term is third-country removal, in plain language, it is outsourced deportation. The first monster is deportation dressed as partnership, and we must name it as such.

The second monster is the language used to sell the policy. At a Cabinet meeting in April 2025, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States was seeking countries willing to take some of the «most despicable human beings» and added that «the further away from America, the better.»

Consider who actually landed in Basseterre. The three individuals were transferred for immigration violations not a single criminal conviction among them. Rubio's "most despicable human beings" met Basseterre as three people who overstayed visas.

That language was designed for a domestic audience taught to see certain migrants as threats. We do not consume US political theatre we assess facts. This is the vocabulary of a great power making human beings sound

disposable before a receiving country has examined a single file. It may serve US domestic politics, but it must not become our vocabulary.

The deportees are not abstractions, they are parents, siblings, neighbours, people who made mistakes, people who sought better lives. That does not erase the rule of law, but it should erase the language of disposal.

No responsible Antiguan or Barbudan wants to admit anyone who presents a serious danger, but strength does not require dehumanization. Security begins with verified facts, complete records and sovereign assessment, not labels. We can insist on borders, law and safety without treating people as cargo. The second monster is dehumanization dressed as security, and we must refuse its vocabulary.

The third monster is diplomatic asymmetry. As of July 2026, Antigua and Barbuda is being asked to help Washington with a sensitive migration problem while its own nationals face significant restrictions on new US visa issuance. The asymmetry is plain, we are good enough to receive Washington's removals, yet our travellers must pay for the privilege of being believed.

That cannot be treated as a side issue as it goes directly to reciprocity, dignity and national interest. If Washington asks St. John's to help address a US migration problem, Washington must address how our nationals are treated under US visa policy.

This is not about selling people for visas. Human beings must never become bargaining chips. But if Antigua and Barbuda is asked to assume legal, financial, social and political risk for the benefit of the United States, it must insist on clear, written and measurable



benefit for its own nationals.

To its credit, the Government's White Paper recognizes much of this. It rejects a standing monthly transfer programme and preserves complete sovereign discretion. Its counterproposal contemplates no more than ten people in 2026, followed by a review in 2027. It sets meaningful exclusions and insists that before any person departs, written commitments must be secured for legal status, full funding, healthcare, welfare and return arrangements.

Most importantly, the White Paper makes a distinction many citizens already understand, full funding, full vetting, clear legal status and return responsibility are minimum protections, not reciprocal benefits. And it says plainly that any reciprocal benefit should include lifting blanket visa restrictions on nationals of Antigua and Barbuda.

That is the point that must be strengthened. The visa question must remain on the same diplomatic file. Antigua and Barbuda should not accept open-ended risk in return for a mood, a courtesy or the hope of favour later. Parliamentary scrutiny should precede any operational transfer.

Small states are not powerless. The United States calls our region its "third border", a phrase that acknowledges our strategic indispensability. That gives us standing to negotiate, not merely to accept. Sovereignty is not a

gift; it is a muscle and muscles that are not exercised atrophy. The third monster is the diplomatic asymmetry and we must address the imbalance.

The fourth monster is partisan reflex. This issue must not collapse into the usual question, are you for the Government or against it? The Government has a duty to disclose, the opposition has a duty to scrutinize, and citizens have a duty to demand seriousness from both.

Across the political divide, the minimum position should be clear:

No standing programme and no automatic admission.

No transfer without complete biographical, biometric, medical, criminal and protection-claim information.

No one with a criminal record beyond immigration-law violations, unresolved asylum claims, or cases resting only on expedited removal.

No departure until full cost coverage, legal status and return responsibility are secured in writing.

No arrangement without parliamentary scrutiny or while US visa restrictions remain outside the negotiation.

That position is not anti-American; it is pro-Antigua and Barbuda and friendship between states is not obe-

dience. Mature diplomacy allows a small state to say, we value the relationship, we recognize the power, we will listen respectfully, but we will not become a dumping ground for another country's unresolved migration cases, and we will not accept one-sided risk while our own nationals are bonded, restricted or presumptively treated as a problem. The fourth monster is the descent into partisan politics. This issue is not a test of party loyalty but a test of sovereignty.

The real danger is not only what Washington asks. It is how we respond to one another. The monsters thrive when compassion is mocked as weakness, caution is dismissed as disloyalty, scrutiny is branded sabotage, and foreign political slogans become local common sense.

We should not borrow our moral language from Marco Rubio's crudest line. Nor should we build our diplomatic posture on anger alone. We should be clear-eyed, firm and united around lawfulness, limitation, full funding, full vetting, parliamentary oversight, reciprocal visa treatment and the sovereign right to say no.

The monsters are not the migrants. The monsters are outsourced deportation dressed as partnership, dehumanization dressed as security, diplomatic imbalance dressed as friendship and domestic partisan reflex dressed as patriotism.

We defeat all four by remembering who we are. A small state, yes, but not a small people. A friend of the United States, yes, but not a subordinate. A country prepared to cooperate, yes, but only on terms that protect our citizens, our laws, our capacity and our dignity.

The test is not whether we accept ten people. The test is whether we accept a framework in which ten becomes twenty, and twenty becomes indefinite while our own citizens wait years for visas and post bonds to visit their families. That is the threshold, which is where sovereignty begins.

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#11



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JULY
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2026





inet PARTY MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS
COOLER FETE

17TH JULY 2026
CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00PM

ADM: \$20



ORDER OF APPEARANCE **GROOVY**

ARTISTE

SONG

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Dior | Tired Of De Work |
| 2. Daddy Fergus | One Night |
| 3. Kid Fresh | Break Away |
| 4. Bless Eye | Showtime |
| 5. Menace XL | Teddy Bear |
| 6. Naycha Kid | Jam & Fete |
| 7. Young Lyrics | Wrap Me Up |
| 8. Ezzy Rattigan | Walla Walla |
| 9. Chin | Fruit Basket |
| 10. VICIOUS | No Apology |
| 11. Island Prince | Wine Of The Year |
| 12. Raiine | So Magical |
| 13. Queen Thalia | Winner Circle |
| 14. Zan | Ah Guilty |
| 15. Empress | Til De Last |





inet PARTY MONARCH

SEMI-FINALS
COOLER FETE

17TH JULY 2026
CARNIVAL CITY | 8:00PM

ADM: \$20



ORDER OF APPEARANCE JUMPY

ARTISTE	SONG
1. Dior	Dat Bun You
2. Romel	Cruel
3. Dan Knowledge	Shake It Off
4. VICIOUS	Pressure Dem
5. Kid Fresh	Dutty Mas
6. Lyrical Reds	Working Girl
7. Da Wizz	Monster Jam
8. Peetron	Wadadli Superhero
9. Ballo	Bang E Line
10. Island Prince	Gyal Siddung
11. Chapo-Gad	Soca Obsession
12. Menace XL	Jam Hard
13. Zamoni	What We Drinking
14. Young Lyrics	Mine Yah Yiy
15. King Young Vice	In Dey



Regional News

US\$20,000 in quake aid for V'zuela

POST-EARTHQUAKE conditions in the hardest-hit parts of Venezuela have been described as “disastrous” by the Concerned Muslims of Trinidad and Tobago (CMTT).

The group has distributed US\$20,000 in relief supplies to displaced families in Caracas and La Guaira.

Speaking to the Express from Caracas yesterday, CMTT public relations officer Imtiaz Mohammed made a further appeal for citizens to support relief drives destined for Venezuela, as hundreds of people, including children and the elderly, are now without food or shelter.

The CMTT's first relief effort, which was completed yesterday, was a collaborative exercise which included Helping Hands USA and Muslim Hands UK.

The funding raised was used to purchase food and other emergency items in Caracas, with 500 hampers distributed on Saturday and yesterday.

A first tranche of 250 hampers were distributed at a government camp in Caracas, with a second distribution at a camp in La Guaira.

Mohammed noted that the distributions were “very challenging and chaotic at times”, particularly in La Guaira.

He described scenes of anxiety, with displaced Venezuelans rushing towards relief trucks.

Mohammed said most areas affected by the June 24 earthquakes were under heavy patrol by Venezuelan national security, and rescue and recovery efforts were slowed by a need for heavy equipment.

Noting that the CMTT was among civil organisations currently run-



ning relief collection drives for food items, as well as sanitary supplies, Mohammed encouraged the national community to assist the people of Venezuela.

He emphasised that many had lost their families and homes, and that long-term help would be needed to restore the affected areas to relative normalcy.

Mohammed noted reports that thousands were still missing, stating that homes, schools and businesses had been destroyed.

Videos of the weekend's hamper drive shared by Mohammed showed long lines of the displaced seeking assistance, including many young people.

The hampers contained basic food items which were now difficult for some to access, including rice, flour, beans and oil.

Mohammed said the CMTT hoped to soon finalise its second drive for goods from T&T, which would then be shipped to those in need.

A number of relief efforts have been ongoing locally, with non-governmental organisations and individuals seeking non-perishable food, medicine, personal care and building and shelter supplies for donation to affected areas in Venezuela.

Yesterday, close to 200 volunteers from Sewa International TT gathered at the National Council for Indian Culture (NCIC) in Chaguanas, to assemble 1,000 emergency relief buckets for affected families.

The relief effort was attended by Venezuelan Ambassador Álvaro Sánchez Cordero, as well as Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister Darrell Allahaar; Revan Teelucksingh, president of Sewa International TT, and Colin Greaves, head of corporate communications at Proman.

The ambassador thanked them and the volunteers for their invaluable solidarity. June's twin earthquakes in Venezuela killed more than 4,000 people and left thousands more homeless. (Trinidad Express)

One missing after two fishing boats capsize off Suriname's coast

The search is continuing for one person reported missing after two fishing boats capsized in separate incidents off the coast of Suriname over the weekend, according to the police.

They said they had first received a report last Friday that a fishing vessel had overturned at sea, but were unable to determine the exact location of the incident or how many people were on board. The report was made by the father of one of the occupants.

The Maritime Police later confirmed that two separate fishing boats had capsized and that the exact locations of the incidents remain unknown. According to maritime authorities, all four people aboard the first vessel were rescued safely.

The second boat was carrying at least three people. Two occupants were rescued, while one person remains missing. The search efforts are ongoing.



The authorities have not yet released the identities of those involved.

Police and maritime officials are

continuing their search for the missing individual while investigating the circumstances surrounding both incidents. (CMC)

US, SVG sign border security agreement

St Vincent among other CARICOM nations have signed Landmark Border Security Pact, which establishes a comprehensive Biometric Data Sharing Partnership with the United States.

The Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) was signed on Friday in Washington by Rob Law, the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, & Plans for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones, the executive director of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for

Crime and Security (IMPACS).

The signing ceremony was hosted by the Ambassador of St Kitts and Nevis and included representatives from St Vincent, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

According to the DHS, this agreement represents the department's first multilateral biometric information-sharing arrangement. The pact creates a framework for automated data exchanges intended to support the screening and

vetting of individuals who may pose immigration or security risks to the United States or CARICOM member states.

Under Secretary Rob Law noted that the partnership will significantly strengthen cooperation on regional border security.

The memorandum also specifically addresses the Citizenship-by-Investment programmes currently operating in the Eastern Caribbean.

The sharing of information through this new program is intended to en-

hance vetting practices and address risks identified in US Presidential Proclamations regarding purchased citizenship being used to conceal identities or bypass travel restrictions.

Officials from the US State Department added that the agreement marks a significant alignment of Caribbean border security standards with those of the United States. Both the DHS and CARICOM IMPACS are working to ensure the cooperation is fully operational by the end of 2026. (St Vincent Times)

Regional News



FLOODS IN SOUTH



A pensioner had to flee from rising floodwaters that entered an area of her Barrackpore home, following heavy rains yesterday.

The woman, who resides at Cumuto South Trace, has faced flooding several times in the past and it usually occurs just after ten to 15 minutes of rainfall.

Councillor for the area Joseph Lrant yesterday told the Express that a project is expected to be done to alleviate the issue. "It's not just about clearing the waterway, this was done on numerous occasions for her. There are some challenges in terms of some areas being blocked and as a result she would have given consent of us to do remedial works in certain parts of the land," Lrant said.

"Hopefully very soon we will be able to rectify her situation and hopefully

according to the weather conditions and the permission to enter, we will be doing some dredging work in that area to help alleviate until we do physical infrastructural works on the drainage itself," Lrant added as he spoke about box drains having to be constructed.

While the pensioner had an upstairs portion of her home that can be occupied, she has challenges with climbing stairs, and the Express understands that she left her premises when the waters rose.

Lrant said the pensioner was the lone person in this area to be affected yesterday as heavy showers also caused flash flooding in areas of Moruga and other parts of Barrackpore.

Chairman of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation Gowtam Maharaj however said with the flash flooding, they were able to identify further areas that

can be assisted through its recently introduced VAC master cleaning programme—an initiative to clear drains and other waterways.

He said while there was flash flooding yesterday, it quickly receded. He also stated that a reduction in the flooding was observed and attributed this to the VAC master programme which began about two months ago.

"We used the high pressure machinery and then a vacuum to pull things out from the underground clogged culverts. That's something that never was done. It was a brand-new initiative so we have been in all of the areas especially where you have town centres and junctions, where you have closed culverts, that's where you get the street flash flooding mainly," Maharaj said in a telephone interview yesterday.

He said that it was alarming and amazing the items that were extricated including sheets of ply, log, mattresses, and lots of plastic bottles. Maharaj also stated while they saw flash flooding in front of a secondary school in Barrackpore, they will be taking the cleaning exercise to that location and other areas where smaller flooding was identified. He added that the Ministry of Works had done work in larger areas including the rivers and this along with the smaller excavators from the Corporation, contributed to the quick run-off of water.

Maharaj said there was also an incident of a fallen tree in the area but this was cleared by the corporation's disaster management unit. (Trinidad Express)



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At least 28 killed, 25 critically injured after fire engulfs Bangkok bar

A huge fire tore through a bar in Thailand's capital Bangkok late on Sunday, killing at least 28 people and leaving 25 critically injured.

The blaze started near the stage of the bar in the popular Chatuchak district, then spread rapidly, cutting power and engulfing the room with smoke, eyewitnesses say.

Footage posted online shows panicked customers screaming as they fled – some with their clothes on fire – through the flame-enveloped front door of Rong Beer Na Lat Phrao.

Firefighters, who arrived at the scene just after midnight, quickly extinguished the fire. They found the bodies of most of the victims in a bathroom, where they had apparently sought shelter.

Satellite map of the Chatuchak district in Bangkok, Thailand, showing the location of Rong Beer Na Lat Phrao marked with a red dot near major roads and rail lines. An inset map of Thailand highlights the Bangkok area with a red marker. A photo inset shows the Rong Beer Na Lat Phrao building with a colourful geometric façade along Lat Phrao Road. The credit says "Photo: Google Maps, November 2025."

"Most of the people who died were found in the toilets. When the fire broke out, they panicked. There



were no lights," national police chief Kitrat Panphet said.

Kaew-udon Pongppany, 24, from Laos, fought back tears as he described trying to reach his younger brother, who did not survive.

"I grabbed a fire extinguisher and sprayed it at

the door... but I couldn't go any further. I heard people screaming," he told journalists.

One survivor escaped by seconds after she stepped outside for a cigarette, Reuters news agency reported. "There was a boom – a very fast boom... There was no way to get out at all,"

41-year-old Usa Tadsree said.

She described seeing rescuers carry out the body of a friend she was drinking and enjoying the music with, just minutes earlier.

"I lost my mind," she said. "It looked like she was asleep."

Preliminary investigations by Bangkok's disaster mitigation department suggest the fire could have been caused by an electrical short circuit in an air conditioner, though no official cause has been given.

Authorities have promised a thorough investigation.

This is not the first time such an incident has occurred in Thailand.

Despite official promises to improve fire and electrical safety standards following previous incidents, they are still often poorly enforced.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who visited the scene early on Monday, said a musician who was performing when the fire broke out told him "there was blasting and everybody tried to flee from the smoke and flames".

Many people did not make it out of the bar because they "went to the back of the building and tried to hide themselves... in the toilet", the musician said, according to Anutin.

Firefighters, who were alerted to the blaze by a

International

AROUND THE WORLD



passing driver, were reportedly able to bring the flames under control in about half an hour.

However, despite their efforts, 28 people were killed. Some 71 people were injured, including 25 who are in critical condition, authorities said.

According to an update on Monday evening, 14 people are moderately injured, while 32 are slightly injured.

The owner of the bar is among those currently in intensive care.

Initial findings suggest the majority of the victims died from smoke inhalation, said Suriyachai Raviwan, the director of Bangkok's disaster mitigation department.

Bangkok governor Chatchart Sittipunt said the flammable interior decorations on the bar's ceiling may have facilitated the blaze's rapid spread.

There are also reports of people found unconscious near the building's emergency exit, suggesting that there may have been some obstruction, the governor added.

Authorities say these suggestions can only be confirmed through further investigation by forensic officers.

One motorcyclist, Surin Jaiarn, told AFP that he helped about five people flee the burning bar using clothing to extinguish flames on their bodies.

"I feel depressed. I saw many deaths and I do not know the fate of the people

I helped," he told AFP.

The driver who alerted the fire department told Thai news outlet the Daily News that he broke windows to help two people escape.

As of Monday morning, the bar has been cordoned off, with shattered windows and furniture piled up outside its entrance. Confronting pictures have emerged of many body bags lined up outside the bar.

Inside, the furniture, walls and ceiling are completely blackened, with parts of the ceiling peeled off. When the BBC arrived at the scene on Monday, an acrid smell of burning lingered in the air.

The Chatukchak district office announced on Monday that the building the bar is located in would be closed for 30 days.

Authorities said the families of deceased victims would be given 29,300 Thai baht (\$880; £660), while those receiving treatment in hospital would be given 4,000 baht (\$120; £90).

This is not the first time Thailand has experienced such a tragedy.

In 2022, a fire broke out in a bar in a town south of Bangkok, killing 22 people.

On 1 January in 2009, 66 people died in a nightclub fire in the capital, which also injured more than 200 others while they were ringing in the new year.

In 2024, a fire started by an electrical short circuit in the famous open-air Chatuchak market killed 1,000 animals. (BBC)



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Suspect in former U.K. minister's killing rearrested on suspicion of terror



he killing of former British politician Ann Widdecombe is now being considered an act of terror, police said Monday.

A 28-year-old man in custody on suspicion of murder was rearrested on suspicion of commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism, Counter Terrorism Policing South East said.

Devon and Cornwall Police originally said the killing was not believed to be a terror-related crime and there was nothing to suggest it was politically motivated.

“We now have new information and evidence that means Counter Terrorism Policing is now leading the investigation,” head of National Counter Terrorism Policing, Laurence Taylor, said. “We are pursuing multiple lines of inquiry to establish the motivation for this attack.”

Widdecombe, 78, a former member

of Parliament, was found dead last week in her isolated rural home in a southwest England village. Police did not disclose a cause of death, saying only that she had sustained “serious injuries.”

The death sent shock waves through British politics, where Widdecombe had been a prominent voice for decades, known for her robust personality and socially conservative views opposing abortion and the expansion of LGBTQ+ rights.

The suspect, who has not been named because he hasn’t been charged, was arrested Saturday in South Yorkshire county in northern England, more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) from the village of Haytor on the edge of Dartmoor National Park, where Widdecombe was found dead Thursday.

Police said they believe Widdecombe was attacked at around 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Concerns were raised for her after she failed to appear for a

scheduled TV interview on Wednesday afternoon.

Widdecombe was a lawmaker in the House of Commons from 1987 to 2010, serving in roles including prisons minister in Prime Minister John Major’s 1990s Conservative government.

Widdecombe found fame after leaving Parliament as a contestant on the reality television shows “Strictly Come Dancing” and “Celebrity Big Brother.”

She later joined the Brexit Party, briefly serving as a member of the European Parliament before Britain left the European Union in 2020. Most recently, she joined the anti-immigration Reform UK party, often appearing in the media as a spokesperson.

Friends and colleagues contrasted her pugnacious political statements with her personal kindness and good humor. (AP)

'Jurassic Park' star Sam Neill dies at 78

Jurassic Park star Sam Neill died in Australia on Monday aged 78, his family said in a statement that described the beloved actor's death as "sudden and unexpected".

The New Zealander had in recent years undergone treatment for lymphoma but declared this year that he was cancer free.

"It is with immense sadness that the whanau of Sam Neill share the news of his passing on Monday 13 July, in Sydney Australia," the statement read, using the New Zealand Maori word for family.

"The loss was sudden and unexpected but blessed by the fact that Sam remained cancer free."

The statement did not elaborate on the cause of Neill's death, but said he had been treated at St Vincent's Private Hospital in Sydney.

"Sam was surrounded by family and passed with the dignity that has characterised his whole life," the statement said.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said Neill was "one of the greats".

"For more than fifty years he took New Zealand stories to the world and his talents helped make our film industry into what it is today — one of our greatest cultural exports," Luxon said in a statement.

"His work will be watched and loved long after all of us."

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Neill held a "special place in Australian hearts".

"Wry and dry, thoughtful and laconic, Sam fought illness with the same dignity, humour and conviction that gave strength to his every performance," Albanese said.

"He will be much mourned and long remembered."

Fellow Kiwi actor Karl Urban said "Sam was truly brilliant", while Australian actor David Wenham said Neill was "the kindest, cheekiest, most generous and supportive friend going around".

Neill was born in Northern Ireland in 1947 but moved to the rugged South Is-



land of New Zealand as a child.

He was christened "Nigel John Dermot" but ditched the name in favour of "Sam" because he feared it was too "effete" for New Zealand.

"I encouraged the nickname because I thought I'd be slightly less likely to be victimised," he told New Zealand's Otago Daily Times.

"I clung on to 'Sam' with great enthusiasm."

Neill started acting in New Zealand films in the early 1970s before moving into larger roles in Australia.

His breakthrough as a leading man came in 1993 when he played Dr Alan Grant in Steven Spielberg's Hollywood blockbuster Jurassic Park.

At one point he was even touted as a replacement for Roger Moore in the iconic role of James Bond.

"I really did not want that part," he said in 2023.

"My friend Pierce Brosnan wanted it so much. I was so relieved they offered it to someone else. They're welcome to it."

In a career spanning dozens of roles across TV and film, he also starred in Peaky Blinders, The Hunt for Red October and two more instalments of the Jurassic Park franchise.

Neill greatly endeared himself to New

Zealanders by lending his star power to local productions as well.

His performance in Jane Campion's The Piano drew wide acclaim, as did his role in Taika Waititi's Hunt for the Wilderpeople.

Neill revealed in a 2023 memoir he was "possibly dying" with stage-three non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

In the opening chapter, written while undergoing chemotherapy, Neill said: "The thing is, I'm crook. Possibly dying. I may have to speed this up."

But he revealed this year that he was cancer-free, thanks to a genetic therapy that modified his immune system.

"I was at a loss and it looked like I was on the way out, which wasn't ideal, obviously," he told Australia's Channel Seven News.

"I've just had a scan just now, and there is no cancer in my body — that's an extraordinary thing," Neill said.

When he was not acting, Neill also ran vineyards in the picturesque Central Otago region of New Zealand's South Island.

He named farm animals on the property after his co-stars, including a chicken named after Laura Dern and a cow named for Helena Bonham Carter. (AFP)

Dozens at an Ebola treatment center in northeast Congo go on strike over unpaid salaries

Dozens of people working at an Ebola treatment center in northeast Congo went on strike Monday over unpaid salaries and bonuses.

The striking staff at Rwampara General Hospital in Ituri province includes epidemiologists, case investigators, drivers and gravediggers who say they have not been paid by the Congolese authorities.

The hospital was shuttered by protesting staff, who blocked the road leading to the medical facility.

Some of the center's health workers and those working on the ground began striking last week, accusing authorities of failing to pay their wages since the outbreak began in May.

The Congolese authorities declared a fresh Ebola outbreak on May 15, after the disease had been transmitting for weeks without official detection, according to the World Health Organization. The latest outbreak is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, which has



no approved vaccine or treatment.

There are 1,926 confirmed cases so far in the country, including 702 deaths, according to Congolese authorities.

Last week, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said that the outbreak is the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak ever recorded on the continent. (AP)



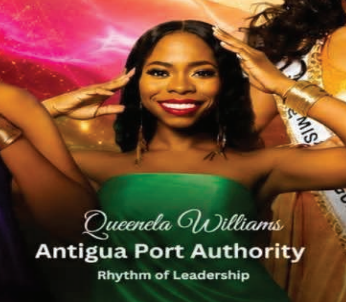

RHYTHM OF A QUEEN

The Beat of Her Journey





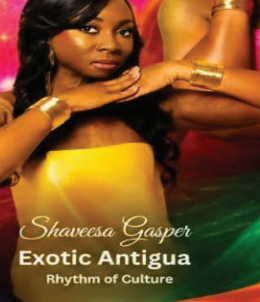
Denisha Samuel
Liat Air
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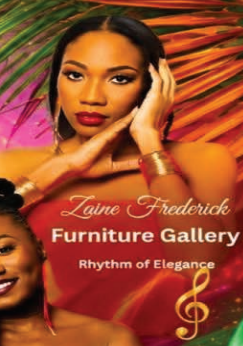
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2026



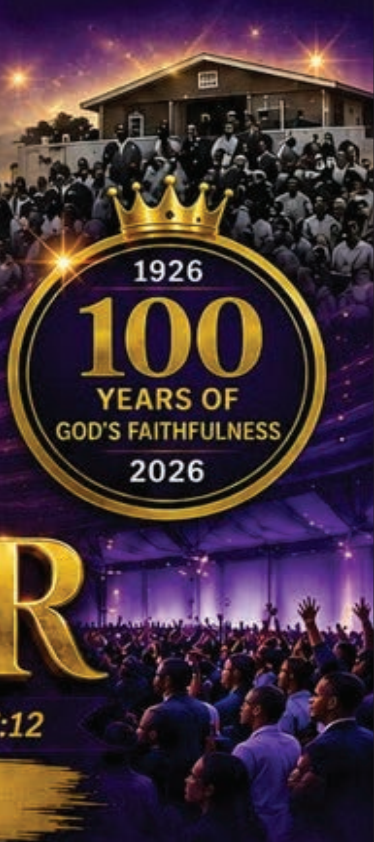
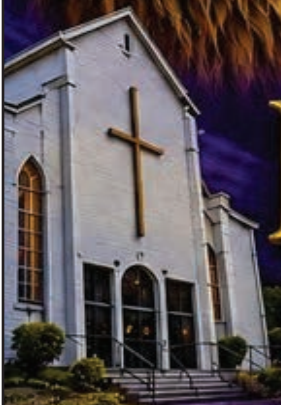
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GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

2026

"Thus far the LORD has helped us." *1 Samuel 7:12*

JULY 19TH – 26TH, 2026

A WEEK OF CELEBRATION, PRAISE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Celebrating how far God has brought us and the legacy that continues to impact our community for **His glory!**

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

CALLING ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS
to join us in our week of celebration!



REMEMBER
OUR PAST



CELEBRATE
OUR PRESENT



EMBRACE
OUR MISSION



EXPECT
OUR FUTURE

ONE CHURCH. ONE FAITH. ONE LEGACY.
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE.

Newell Mack wins ABCF Individual Road Race



Winners of the Elite Male podium at the ABCF Individual Road Race on Sunday, July 12, 2026. From left to right: Abbiel Fleming who represented second-place finisher Shawn Weathered, winner Newell Mack, and third-place finisher Steve Scott. (Photo courtesy of the ABCF)

Newell Mack has won the latest race in the 2026 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) domestic season.

Mack, riding for Team Pillars Cycling, claimed their overall title by clinching the elite male division ahead of teammate Shawn Weathered by just one second in a photo finish in the Individual Road Race on Sunday.

The competitors rode from LIAT Road, Pan Am Base, to Willikies. They turned around at Ace Heavy Equipment and Trucking Ltd. and returned to the start/finish line, a distance of approximately 24 miles. All categories rode one (1) lap.

Mack completed the race in 59 minutes and 9.50 seconds, and fellow Team Pillars Cycling teammate Shawn Weathered crossed the finish line in 59 minutes and 9.51 seconds.

Following closely behind was Steve Scott of Steve Scott Plumbing in a time of 59 minutes and 16.54 seconds.

Independent cyclist Sharon Joseph captured the female division title time by clocking one hour, 25 minutes, and 41.71 seconds.

Aiden Tonge of Team Viper won the junior male category, while teammate Elite Thomas took the title in the juvenile division.

Tonge completed the race in one hour and 3.69 seconds, while Elite Thomas crossed the finish line in 59 minutes and 52.17 seconds.

Brent George of Team Pillars Cycling claimed top honours in the masters A class by clocking one hour, 10 minutes, and 16.51 seconds.

Miguel Williams of Team Street

took second place in one hour, 10 minutes, and 18.77 seconds.

Cornell Hughes of Team Pillars Cycling won the masters B class with a time of one hour, four minutes, and 54.37 seconds.

Vaughn Gomes of Andre Simon Cycling Academy took second place in one hour, four minutes, and 54.90 seconds, while teammate Edward Henry captured third place.

Eldon Farquharson of Team Street reigned supreme in the sports class, winning the category in one hour, 11 minutes, and 18.73 seconds.

Derrick Christopher of Team Pillars Cycling claimed second place by clocking one hour, 15 minutes, and 4.55 seconds, while independent cyclist Dexter Simmons captured third place.

Sports News



Old Road and Cutting Edge retain titles in Antigua Cup Tournament



Old Road and Cutting Edge have successfully defended their division titles in the third edition of the Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday.

Old Road retained the title in the Under-17 Division by pulling off a 2-0 victory over the Villa Lions in the final. The goals were scored by Jamarion Edwards and Samuel Brazier.

Cutting Edge repeated as champions of the Girls Division by crushing the Young Warriors 4-0 in the final. Ireissia Allen scored twice, Kitonya Skepple had a conversion, and the Cutting Edge also benefited from an own goal.

There was success as well for Villa Lions, who captured the titles in the under-13 and under-15 divisions.

The Villa Lions prevailed in a three-team playoff over second-place finishers SAP and Bassa in third.

A double conversion by T'Andre James and a goal by Aiden Osbourne gave Villa Lions a 3-0 win over Bassa.

Karan Cordice scored the only goal of the match to give the Villa Lions a 1-0 victory against SAP.

Dwayne Byers also produced the

only goal of the match to propel SAP to a 1-0 victory over Bassa.

Villa Lions were awarded a 3-0 victory via default over Pigotts Bullets, who were unable to field a full team for the under-15 final to take place.

According to organizers, matches in the under-11 and under-19 divisions will be completed during this week.

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Tons by Matthews, Taylor help Windies women win series over Ireland

BREADY – West Indies women captain Hayley Matthews scored a second consecutive century, while Stafanie Taylor chipped in with one of her own to lead their side to a comprehensive six-wicket victory over Ireland women in the second One Day International (ODI) in Ireland on Sunday.

Matthews, who was named Player-of-the-Match, scored an even 100 off 94 balls, while Taylor hit an unbeaten 100 off 105 balls, as the Windies women easily overhauled Ireland women's total of 241 for seven, finishing on 242 for four in 38.5 overs.

With the win, the visitors secured an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series ahead of the final match on Wednesday.

It was another impressive display with the bat by the Windies, following their record-breaking run chase in the opening match.

They didn't get the start they would have liked, though, with Matthews' partner Realeanna Grimmond falling for a duck in the first over of the innings, caught behind off the bowling of Orla Prendergast.

But Matthews and Taylor made amends during a 158-run partnership, scoring at over six runs an over in the process. The skipper was first to her 50, bringing it up in emphatic fashion by hitting the 56th ball she faced from Aimee Maguire for a huge six.

So dominant was Matthews during the stand that by the time she reached her 13th ODI century off 94 balls by driving Louise Lit-



Stafanie Taylor, left, and Hayley Matthews both scored centuries in West Indies Womens win over Ireland Women in the second ODI in Bready, Ireland, on Sunday, July 12, 2026.

tle through the offside for a single, Taylor was only on 47.

Matthews was dismissed immediately after reaching the milestone by Little after smashing 14 fours and two sixes to make the score 159 for two at the end of the 26th over.

Ireland accounted for the cheap wickets of Deandra Dottin and Jannillea Glasgow for nine runs apiece, to see the Caribbean women slip to 199 for four, but the Windies required just 43 runs from 94 balls at that stage.

Taylor found a worthy ally in Shemaine Campbelle, with the two sharing an unbroken fifth-wicket partnership of 43 runs to see the Windies to victory with 67 balls to spare.

Taylor ensured she reached her 10th ODI century by hitting Alana Dalzell for a four and a six off consecutive deliveries to even the scores, before a no-ball by the same bowler ended the contest.

Earlier, Amy Hunter and Rebecca Stokell scored half-centuries, but Ireland were set back by a lower-order collapse that stymied their progress.

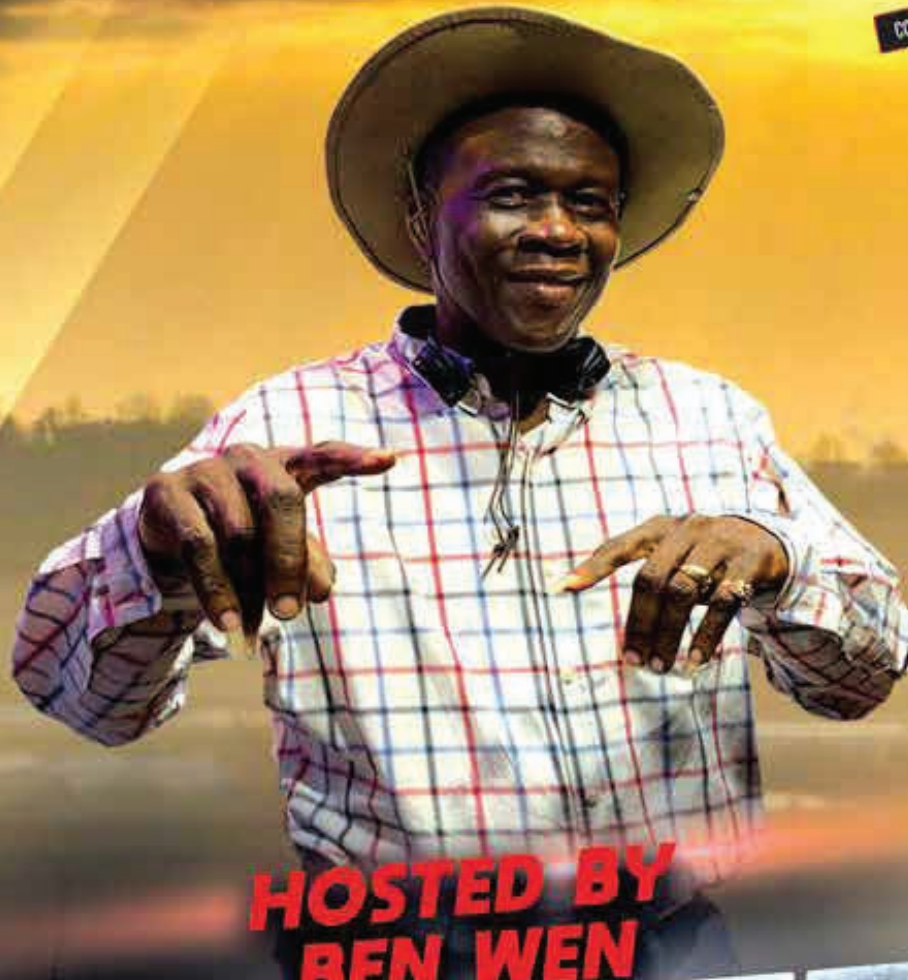
They recovered after Dottin claimed the wickets of openers Sarah Forbes and captain Gaby Lewis, while Matthews snared the key wicket of Prendergast to leave them 74 for three.

However, Hunter and Stokell resuscitated the inning during a stand of 106 runs for the fourth wicket that carried them to 180 for three after 40 overs.

But once Stokell was dismissed by Afy Fletcher after scoring 57 off 76 balls, and Hunter fell to Matthews for the top score of 67 off 87 balls to make the score 188 for five, Ireland's innings lost all momentum.

Dottin was the West Indies' best bowler with two for 15, while Matthews took two for 34. (CMC)

**SUNDAYS
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World Cup expansion to be discussed after 2026 edition, says Infantino



FIFA president Gianni Infantino

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Any further expansion of the World Cup, increasing the number of teams participating at the finals to 64, will be discussed after this year's edition, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said without providing any details.

The 2026 finals in Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America (USA) have seen 48 teams for the first time, a decision that was heavily criticised but which has not provoked much debate since the tournament kicked off on June 11.

"These are all issues that we will be examining after the World Cup," Infantino, who successfully pushed for the expansion of the finals from 32 teams, told Swiss television outlet Blue Sport.

He did not elaborate, saying only: "I think it is important that when you want to organise a World Cup, you do it for the whole world — not just Europe and South America, but effectively the entire world.

"Every nation should be allowed to

dream of participating in the World Cup. You can see that the quality of the teams is extremely high and it's getting higher and higher, all over the world.

"If you don't give smaller countries a chance to participate in the World Cup, they'll lack the incentive to keep improving."

Infantino hailed the 48-team tournament as a success, saying: "Every team played at a high level. Teams from every continent scored goals and earned at least one point.

"Nine out of 10 African teams reached the knockout stage. At the last World Cup, there were only five teams from Africa. That just goes to show how important it is to include all teams, to give them this opportunity to participate," he added.

The size of the World Cup field was increased to 32 teams in 1998. The next finals in 2030 are to be co-hosted by Morocco, Portugal and Spain, and the 2034 tournament will be in Saudi Arabia.

Infantino, who rarely gives media interviews and has limited his number of formal press conferences, admitted that introducing hydration breaks during each half, which many have seen as a cynical attempt to help television partners get more advertising revenue, had proved controversial.

"This is a topic that sparks a lot of debate. After all, we don't want to get everything perfect; we like to give everyone something to disagree with... no, joking aside. Last year, during the Club World Cup in the USA, there were cooling breaks whenever it was very hot.

"These short breaks occurred in about 60% of the matches but not in the other 40% because the temperature wasn't as high. There were many complaints, as the feeling was that all teams should face the same conditions," he said.

He also defended the high ticket prices at the World Cup, saying, "The stadiums are full; capacity utilisation is at 99.7% and it will likely reach 99.9% by the end.

"Experts determined the ticket prices before the tournament. Our experts worked on that and told us: 'These are the prices you can go with'. We see the proof now: prices that some people claimed were too high are being resold on the secondary market —which is perfectly legal here — for four or five times the original cost."

Infantino said he expected FIFA to generate a total of 13 to 14 billion Swiss francs (US\$16.08 billion to US\$17.32 billion) from the 39-day World Cup. "That is quite satisfactory," he said.

Antiguan advance to next stage of 2029 FIBA Pre-Qualifiers



The Antigua and Barbuda Wadadli Bulldogs celebrate qualifying for the next phase of the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup Pre-Qualifiers after beating the Turks and Caicos Islands in their fourth and final match at the CBC Tournament at Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, Guyana, Sunday, July 12, 2026. (Photo courtesy FIBA Basketball)

Antigua and Barbuda's senior national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, and Barbados have qualified for the next round of the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup Pre-Qualifiers, scheduled for November 2026.

Both teams achieved the feat after finishing as group winners of the Caribbean Basketball Confederation (CBC) 2029 FIBA Pre-Qualifying 10-team tournament that concluded at Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown, Guyana, on Sunday night.

Antigua and Barbuda topped the five-team Group A standings after crushing the Turks and Caicos Islands 86-57 in the final match of the tournament.

The Antiguan team seized control early, build a double-digit lead in the first quarter, and steadily extend the margin. The final quarter was even, but the outcome had long been decided.

Guard Xavier Spencer stole the spotlight with a monstrous performance, finishing with 27 points, 10 rebounds,

and 3 assists.

Preston Merrick put on a show as well, pouring in 26 points, grabbing 7 boards, and swiping 6 steals; and Jamine Charles delivered a double-double with 16 points and a game-high 12 rebounds, adding 4 blocks for the dominant Bulldogs.

Ethan Taylor did everything he could for Turks and Caicos, tallying 25 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals, and 3 blocks.

The result allowed the Wadadli Bulldogs, host Guyana, and the Turks and Caicos Islands to finish with identical records of three wins and a loss in their four round-robin matches in Group A.

However, Antigua and Barbuda were declared Group A winners due to a superior points difference based on the head-to-head points tally among the three teams.

The Antigua Wadadli Bulldogs had a points difference of 27, Guyana took second place with a -11 point differ-

ence; and the Turks and Caicos Islands finished in third place with a -16 point difference.

Unbeaten Barbados easily won Group B, coasting to a 96-84 victory over St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their final encounter to finish with four wins in as many games.

In the other results on the final day of the July 8 to 12 regional competition, Haiti took the runner-up spot in Group B, securing their third win in four matches with a 104-48 drubbing of the Cayman Islands.

After losing all three previous matches, Dominica claimed their only win of the tournament by pulling off a 72-65 victory over Bermuda, who finished at the bottom of the Group A standings without winning any of their four games.

The other team to contest the event, Grenada, finished in the cellar of Group B after losing all four encounters.