

PM Browne, Minister Greene Inaugurate CHOGM 2026 Accreditation Process

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Prime Minister Gaston Browne (left) and Foreign Affairs Minister and CHOGM Task Force chair, E.P. Chet Greene display their certificates of accreditation during a brief ceremony at the Office of the Prime Minister on Wednesday

Local News



PM Browne, Minister Greene Inaugurate CHOGM 2026 Accreditation Process



One of the most critical elements of Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November is the accreditation of all delegates and media representatives who will attend the function. This process is essential as it is one of the keys pillars of the security processes associated with hosting an event of this magnitude.

A brief ceremony was held in the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday where Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister and Chair of the National CHOGM Task Force, E.P. Chet Greene were presented with certificates of registration, making them the first two persons to be registered for the November 1 to 4 meeting.

Task Force Lead of the Accreditation Committee, Josi-Anne Hampson formally presented the certificates to both PM Browne and FA Minister Greene stating that development and testing of the system, she is pleased to announce that registration utilizing the portal can now proceed.

"Commendations to the team as well look forward to a most successful CHOGM, one that will make a major difference. As you know, we are moving away from the stale meetings that have been held in the past to a far more exciting one; one that would focus on

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CARNIVAL CORNER

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ABSOLUT. Hennessy JACK DANIEL'S
Premier Beverages

Brew
CAFE • BAR • LOUNGE

Every Friday, No Excuses

trade and investment; one that would look at the relevance of the Commonwealth to ensure that it becomes more relevant and that through CHOGM 26, the Commonwealth will exercise a more global influence on issues affecting all of humanity,” he stated.

The prime minister is of the view that the Commonwealth, with a combined population of 2.7 billion people, which is more than a third of the world’s population, could leverage this to play a more meaningful role in global affairs.

Chair of the National CHOGM Task Force, Minister Greene also congratulated the team for developing the platform to facilitate the accreditation programme, singling out IT director, Luxmore Edwards, Web Designer, Charissa Simon and Maryse Chambers of the Accreditation Committee.

“This launch is significant as it no means that we can open up Antigua and Barbuda for registration to all the other members of the Commonwealth and that is very significant. This means we have ‘checked another box’ in our preparation for hosting CHOGM,” he declared.

He acknowledged the close collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and national stakeholders in developing a robust accreditation sys-



tem that meets international standards. He also expressed appreciation to the Independent State of Samoa, host of CHOGM 2024, whose practical guidance and technical expertise have assisted the national team in developing an accreditation framework tailored to the operational requirements of CHOGM 2026 while incorporating international best practices. Minister Greene noted that this support reflects the enduring spirit of Commonwealth

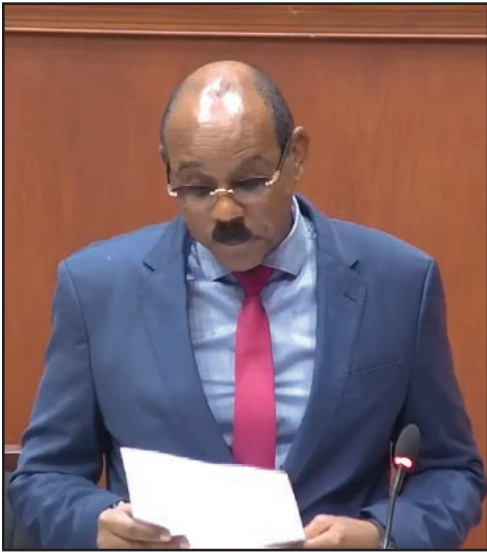
cooperation and the seamless transition between successive host nations.

Eligible participants will receive guidance on the accreditation process through their respective governments, organisations, and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Applicants are encouraged to complete the accreditation process within the prescribed timelines to facilitate the timely issuance of conference credentials.

AFRICA UNITE

HOSTS:
DR. CHRISTOPHER, RAS KIMBA & LUTHER LEE
POINTE FM 99.1
THURSDAYS 9PM – 11PM

House Approves US\$10 Increase in Airport Administration Charge



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

The **Airport Administration Charge (Amendment) Bill, 2026** has cleared the House of Representatives, paving the way for a **US\$10 increase** in the airport administration charge for passengers travelling to and from destinations outside the Caribbean region.

Presenting the bill for its second and third readings on Tuesday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the additional charge forms part of a broader initiative by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and CARICOM to establish a more reliable funding mechanism for regional institutions that have struggled for years with inconsistent contributions from member states.

“Heads have agreed that, as far as practical, countries should move towards some form of automaticity of payment,” the Prime Minister told Parliament.

He explained that governments across the region have accumulated tens of millions of dollars in unpaid contributions over several decades, making it difficult for important regional agencies to operate effectively, adding that Antigua and Barbuda has also carried long-standing arrears.

A key beneficiary of the increase will be the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA).

“So at least US\$2.50 of the US\$10 is going to go to ECCAA,” Browne said, stating that the authority must be ade-

quately funded as Antigua and Barbuda and the wider OECS seek to regain **Category One** aviation safety status from the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

According to him, restoring the designation would allow regional airlines, including LIAT 20, to operate direct flights to U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as destinations on the U.S. mainland.

“There are many people in the U.S. Virgin Islands who have petitioned us to try and get flights directly between the Virgin Islands and Antigua and Barbuda,” he said. “But again, we cannot achieve that unless we restore Category One status.”

The Prime Minister commended ECCAA for addressing deficiencies identified during previous aviation assessments and expressed confidence that an FAA review later this year could result in the restoration of the coveted safety rating before the end of 2026. He said ECCAA also requires additional fund-

ing to construct a new headquarters in Antigua and Barbuda and expand its operational capacity to maintain international aviation standards.

Further, the increased airport administration charge will help Antigua and Barbuda meet its financial commitments to regional organisations, strengthen Caribbean integration and provide resources for climate resilience initiatives.

PM Browne also pointed to the government’s recent investment of approximately **US\$55 million** to repair and expand V.C. Bird International Airport. He pointed out that additional funding will help maintain the upgraded facility and support future capital works.

The Prime Minister said the increase will **not** apply to travel within the Caribbean. Instead, the additional **US\$10** charge will be levied only on passengers travelling to and from destinations outside the region, including North America.



STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

Apua
NECESSARY. FOR LIFE

PROJECT CLEANUP

JENNINGS VILLAGE

SATURDAY
18 JULY
7:00AM

PROJECT CLEAN UP

PREPARE & PROTECT

Sir Oungku Cancels Performances on Doctors Orders

Fans of Red Hot Flames will be left disappointed this carnival season after frontman Sir Clarence Leonard Emmanuel Edwards announced that he is temporarily stepping away from the stage following a recent medical emergency.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Edwards revealed that he recently experienced a medical emergency that required immediate hospitalisation and treatment. Following a comprehensive medical evaluation, doctors have advised him to refrain from all performance-related activities for a period of time.

“After experiencing a recent medical emergency that required immediate hospitalisation and treatment, I, in consultation with the medical team, have made the difficult decision to cancel upcoming scheduled performances for Red Hot & Burning Flames,” Edwards said.

“Following a comprehensive evaluation, physicians have advised that I refrain from all performance-related activities for a minimum of four to six weeks. This recommendation has been made in the interest of protecting my health and ensuring a safe return to the stage,” he stated.

The announcement comes just as Antigua and Barbuda’s carnival season gathers momentum.

Edwards acknowledged the disappointment the cancellations may cause to fans, promoters and event organisers.

“This decision was not easily made. I deeply value every opportunity to perform, especially during the carnival season that is fast approaching, and sincerely regret the disappointment this news may bring to fans, promoters, and event partners,” he said.

Despite the setback, ‘Oungku’ expressed optimism about his recovery and thanked supporters for the overwhelming outpouring of concern and encouragement he has received.

“I am incredibly grateful for the unwavering support, understanding, and kindness shown during this time. While taking time away from the stage is difficult, the focus must

remain on recovery. I look forward to returning and sharing new memories with you as soon as it is medically possible,” he said.

He concluded by thanking well-wishers for their patience and prayers.

No details were revealed of Edwards’ medical condition.



OFFICIAL STATEMENT

After experiencing a recent medical emergency that required immediate hospitalization and treatment, I, in consultation with the medical team, have made the difficult decision to cancel upcoming scheduled performances for Red Hot & Burning Flames.

Following a comprehensive evaluation, physicians have advised that I refrain from all performance-related activities for a minimum of four to six weeks. This recommendation has been made in the interest of protecting my health and ensuring a safe return to the stage.

This decision was not easily made. I deeply value every opportunity to perform, especially during the carnival season that is fast approaching, and sincerely regret the disappointment this news may bring to fans, promoters, and event partners.

I am incredibly grateful for the unwavering support, understanding, and kindness shown during this time. While taking time away from the stage is difficult, the focus must remain on recovery. I look forward to returning and sharing new memories with you as soon as it is medically possible.

Once again, thanks for your concern, thoughtful messages, and patience. Your encouragement means more than words can express, and it is sincerely appreciated.

– **Sir Clarence Leonard Emmanuel Edwards Esq. GCH, KCN**

Security Forces, Stakeholders Review 'Exercise Stronghold'

The security forces leadership that led last week's 'Exercise Stronghold' as part of their preparation for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November convened a comprehensive review of the event on Wednesday.

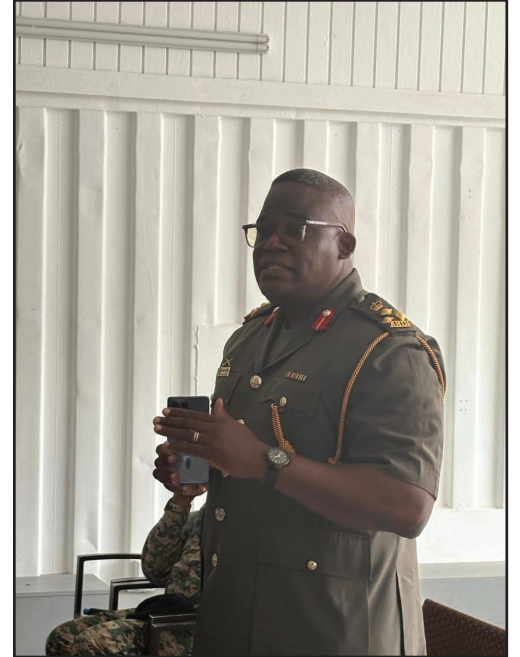
Along with members of both the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the review brought together key members of the National CHOGM Task Force to discuss in detail the successes and/or failures of the exercise.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Louisa Quashie disclosed that one of the weaknesses identified was in the area of communications and already the team expects to test the system in 'real time' during the upcoming Carnival activities to fully test the system again, and to test again 'until we get it



right'.

Another area of concern raised was the internal communications between



the teams and the security forces indicated that these issues have been identified as matters to be addressed in



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BOLYON BUCKET

-5pcs -4 Strips -5 Hot Wings

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RIDDIM BOX

-2pcs -Biscuit -Drink

\$17.99









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future exercises.

DCP Quashie thanked all the stakeholders for their participation and invited their comments and/or feedback as well as their suggestions on how the overall process of preparation may be improved.

What followed was a robust discussion on how as a team all involved need to work together to achieve the overall goal.

A commitment was given that future exercises will take place to sharpen overall responses and to heighten the preparation for this major global event, which Antigua and Barbuda will host from November 1 to 4, 2026.



STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

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

Police Announce Comprehensive Security Measures and Safety Tips for Carnival 2026



As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to celebrate Carnival 2026 from July 25 to August 4, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is assuring residents and visitors that comprehensive security measures have been implemented to ensure a safe, secure, and enjoyable festival for everyone.

The Police Administration will significantly increase its operational presence leading up to, and throughout the carnival period with enhanced mobile and foot patrols, high-visibility policing, and random stop-and-search operations at major events and venues across the island.

The Police Administration is further adopting a zero-tolerance approach to the possession and use of weapons throughout the carnival season.

Anyone found carrying or in possession of an illegal firearm, ammunition, or any offensive weapon, including knives, machetes, cleavers, scissors, pieces of iron, wood, or any other object intended to cause harm, will be arrested.

The public is also reminded that the wearing of ski masks is prohibited during Carnival 2026. Individ-

uals found violating this restriction may be subject to police action in accordance with the law.

Vendors, promoters, and bar operators are also advised to comply with all established regulations governing carnival activities.

Persons wishing to sell alcoholic beverages must first obtain the necessary approval, and the sale or distribution of beverages in glass bottles or metal cans at carnival events will not be permitted.

Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Tips

The Police Administration encourages everyone to remain vigilant and to exercise good judgment throughout the carnival season by following these practical safety tips:

- Always remain aware of your surroundings and avoid unnecessary risks.
- Do not display large amounts of cash or expensive jewellery in public.
- Carry only the cash you need and use electronic payment methods whenever possible.
- Exercise caution when using Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). Avoid using ATMs late at night, shield your PIN, and never accept assistance from strangers.
- Avoid walking alone in isolated or poorly lit areas, particularly after carnival events. Whenever possible, travel in pairs or groups.
- Avoid walking while distracted by mobile phones or wearing headphones at high volume.
- If attending events with children or elderly relatives, keep them within sight at all times and establish a

meeting point in case you become separated.

▪ Secure your home before leaving. Ensure all doors and windows are locked, and leave adequate lighting where possible.

▪ Lock your vehicle at all times and never leave keys inside the ignition.

▪ Do not leave handbags, mobile phones, jewellery, wallets, or other valuables in plain view inside parked vehicles.

▪ Park only in well-lit areas or designated parking facilities and periodically check on your vehicle.

▪ Business owners and vendors should have adequate lighting, security personnel where practical, and secure methods for storing cash and valuables.

▪ Be cautious of counterfeit currency and report any suspected incidents to the police.

▪ If you observe any suspicious behaviour or have information relating to criminal activity, immediately contact the nearest police station or call 911.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda thanks the public for its continued partnership and cooperation as officers work to maintain law and order throughout Carnival 2026.

The Police Administration extends best wishes to all residents, returning nationals, and visitors a safe, enjoyable, and incident-free Carnival 2026.

Celebrate responsibly, look out for one another, and together let us make this year's festivities memorable for all the right reasons.



**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION.**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CELEBRATING 192ND ANNIVERSARY
OF EMANCIPATION.**



EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT 2026

Experience an unforgettable night
of music... culture... history...
and pride.

Be inspired by internationally
acclaimed performer and
educator Kim Poole and
hear a powerful message
from renowned Caribbean
historian Professor Hillary
Beckles, Vice-Chancellor
of The University of the
West Indies and Chair of
the CARICOM Reparations
Commission.

PERFORMANCES:

- Nyabinghi Drummers
- Wadadlii Vibe Band
- Calypso Renditions
- Antigua Dance Academy
- DA Vibe Steel Band
- Point Iron Band
- spoken word and
Anansi storytelling,
the Point Iron Band
so much more



EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT 2026

FRIDAY, JULY 31 | 8:00 P.M. | BOTANICAL GARDENS

FREE ADMISSION



UWI
FIVE ISLANDS
CAMPUS

JR. CALYPSO MONARCH

JULY 19TH
CARNIVAL CITY - 4:30PM
FREE



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF JR. CALYPSONIANS



Antigua Carnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial



JR. PARTY MONARCH

JULY 19TH
CARNIVAL CITY - 6:30PM
FREE



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF SOCA



Antigua Carnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial

ACP Desmond Dinard Presented with King's Police Medal



Assistant Commissioner of Police, Bernard Dinard on Wednesday received the King's Police Medal that he was awarded in the King's New Year's Honours List, 2026.

The investiture ceremony took place at Government House where ACP Dinard, accompanied by his family, received the award from the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams for distinguished service to the community.

"Assistant Commissioner Dinard, today's ceremony recognises more than four decades of dedicated service to the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, to national security and to regional law-enforcement cooperation. The King's Police Medal is a highly respected distinction. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service marked by leadership, professionalism, courage, discipline and sustained devotion to duty.

"Policing is a demanding vocation. It calls upon officers to protect the public, preserve order and uphold the law, often in difficult and unpredictable cir-



cumstances. It also requires personal sacrifice, sound judgement, restraint and the courage to accept responsibility," Sir Rodney observed.

The Governor General told ACP Dinard that by receiving the King's Police Medal it recognises not merely

the passage of time, but the quality of his service throughout those years. "It acknowledges your professional development, the duties you have undertaken, the officers you have instructed and mentored, and the contribution you have made to public safety and regional security," he suggested.





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OFFICIAL PARADE ROUTES 2026

25
JUL

OPENING OF CARNIVAL & T-SHIRT MAS • 2 PM - 9 PM

Opening Parade Assembly Point: Parliament Drive (Old House of Culture)

- This is the assembly point for Floats, Steel bands, Cultural Characters and Contestants.
- A short ceremony marking the official opening of the parades will be held on Parliament Drive.

T-Shirt Mas Starting Point: Old Parham Road Near TN Kirnon School

EAST on Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Simon Bolivar Drive → **RIGHT** Factory Road → **LEFT** Parliament Drive → **RIGHT** Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → **RIGHT** Old Parham Road

26
JUL

JUNIOR CARNIVAL • 2 PM

Assembly Point: Parliament Drive (Old House of Culture)
(Assemble: 1:30 PM • Move Off: 2 PM)

RIGHT Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → **RIGHT** at roundabout onto Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Coronation Road into Carnival City

03
AUG

J'OUVERT • 3 AM - 10 AM

Starting Point: The Roundabout at Government House

EAST on Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Nugent Ave → **RIGHT** Factory Road → **LEFT** Parliament Drive → **RIGHT** Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → **RIGHT** Old Parham Road

MONDAY MAS • 2 PM - 8 PM

Starting Point: Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive
(For Floats, Steel bands, Cultural Characters and Winners)

RIGHT Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave

04
AUG

PARADE OF THE BANDS • 12 NOON

Parade Assembly Point: Corner of Factory Road and Parliament Drive

- This is the assembly point for Floats, Steel bands, Cultural Characters and Winners

Assembly Point: Old Parham Road Near TN Kirnon School

EAST on Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Simon Bolivar Drive → **RIGHT** Factory Road → **LEFT** Parliament Drive → **RIGHT** Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → Enter south west gate and cross stage → Exit **LEFT** on Coronation Road to meet band on Old Parham Road

LAST LAP • 7 PM - 10 PM

EAST on Old Parham Road → **RIGHT** Nugent Ave → **RIGHT** Factory Road → **LEFT** Parliament Drive → **RIGHT** Queen Elizabeth Highway → **RIGHT** Independence Ave → **LEFT** Redcliffe Street → **RIGHT** Thames Street → **RIGHT** High Street → **LEFT** Independence Ave → **RIGHT** Old Parham Road






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	Whine Of The Year
12. Raiine	So Magical
13. Queen Thalia	Winner Circle
14. Zan	Ah Guilty
15. Empress	Til De Last





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 KLASS |
| 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 |





ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION

EMANCIPATION OBSERVANCES



JULY 24TH
AFRICA DRESS DAY



JULY 29TH
UHURU – TV PROGRAMME
Spiritual awakening



JULY 31ST
WATCHNIGHT GATHERING
"A Night of Reflection, Remembrance and Renewal"



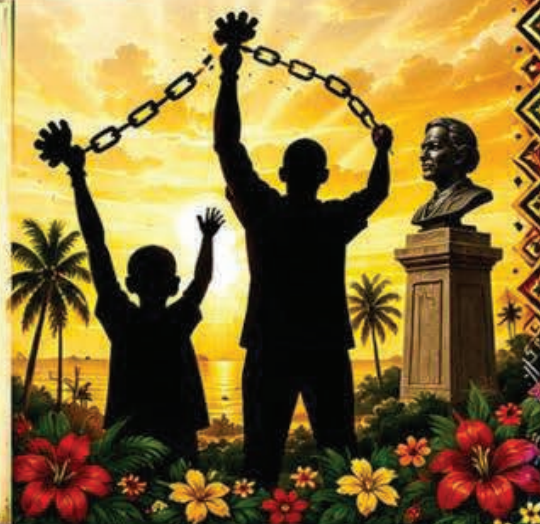
AUGUST 1ST
EMANCIPATION DAY



• EMANCIPATION BREAKFAST SERVICE –
GREENBAY MORAVIAN CHURCH **6:00 AM**



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



HONOURING OUR PAST • CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM • BUILDING OUR FUTURE

#3



Our future, Our bank

ecab
EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK

MR & MISS
Teenage
PAGEANT

KALLIE
GUISTE

ST. MARY'S
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

CARNIVAL CITY
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY
18
2026



#10



ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL



Our future, Our bank

ecab
EASTERN CARIBBEAN AMALGAMATED BANK

MR & MISS
Teenage
PAGEANT

KRISTOPHER
LEE

ST. MARY'S
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

ST
MARY'S

SECOND
SCHOOL

CARNIVAL CITY
7 PM • ADM: \$20

JULY
18
2026



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 |

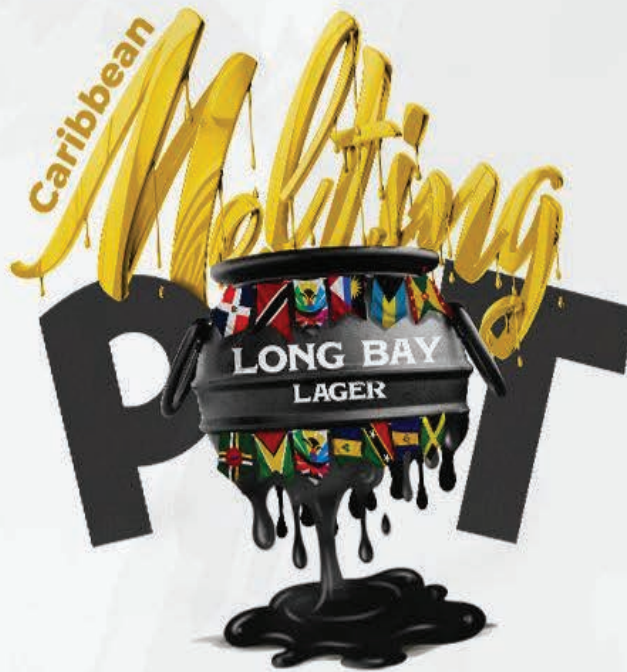




ANTIGUA
Carnival
2026

MACHEL
MONTANO

#ENCOREPERFORMANCE



JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



Regional News

JCAA announces temporary airspace restrictions for Thursday due to SpaceX Starship launch



The Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) is advising the public that the northern portion of Jamaica's airspace, the Kingston Flight Information Region, will be temporarily restricted on Thursday arising from the planned launch of SpaceX Starship Flight 13 from Starbase in Texas, United States.

The JCAA, in a statement today, said the launch is expected to affect aircraft operating through the Caribbean region.

The launch is scheduled to occur within a window extending from 5:45 p.m. to 7:56 p.m., once the operation proceeds.

The JCAA indicated that alternative launch dates have also been identified for July 17 to 22, should the launch be deferred from July 16.

It explained that commercial space launches occasionally require temporary restrictions within regional airspace to protect aircraft from possible hazards, including debris and other flight safety risks.

As a precautionary measure, the JCAA is, therefore, scheduled to implement a temporary hold on affected flights departing from Jamaica's three international airports and travelling north towards or through Cuban airspace.

"Subject to the launch proceeding, the temporary restrictions within Jamaica's airspace will take effect at 5:25 p.m. local time and will impact certain flights departing Sangster International Airport, Norman Manley International Airport and Ian Fleming International Airport. These flights may experience departure delays, changes to their planned routes, temporary holding or rerouting," the authority said.

"The restrictions will remain in place until confirmation is received that the affected airspace is safe and available for normal operations," it added.

The JCAA said it continues to coordinate closely with the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), other air navigation service

providers, airports, airlines, and other regional stakeholders to minimise the disruption while maintaining the highest levels of aviation safety.

Accordingly, the authority said it has commenced issuing, and will continue to issue, appropriate Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) containing detailed operational information for aviation stakeholders.

Passengers travelling during the affected period are encouraged to maintain contact with their respective airlines for the latest flight information, while airlines, pilots and other operational stakeholders should continue to monitor official NOTAMs and operational advisories.

The JCAA emphasised that these measures are precautionary and form part of established aviation safety procedures for commercial space operations.

It said the affected airspace will be returned to normal operations immediately following receipt of the required clearance. (Jamaica Gleaner)

New Jamaica-Colombia partnership to support women leaders

Grace to Grow Mentorship & Training Limited (GtG), a social enterprise dedicated to empowering women through leadership and mentorship, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Embassy of the Republic of Colombia to Jamaica, marking the start of a strategic partnership to advance women's leadership, gender equality, and cross-cultural collaboration between the two countries.

The MoU was signed last Thursday by Emiliana Lucía Bernard Stephenson, ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to Jamaica, and Heneka Watkis-Porter, global leadership strategist and founder and chief executive officer of Grace to Grow.

The partnership builds on the diplomatic relationship established between Colombia and Jamaica in 1965 and supports Colombia's Feminist Foreign Policy, which places gender equality, women's rights, and empowerment at the centre of its international cooperation agenda.

Under the agreement, the embassy and Grace to Grow will collaborate on leadership programmes, conferences, workshops, mentorship initiatives, training sessions and cultural exchanges aimed at strengthening the capacity of women leaders in both countries. The partnership will also facilitate the exchange of expertise, best practices, and knowledge, while encouraging collaboration among government agencies, private sector organisations, and civil society groups.

Among the flagship initiatives planned are a Leadercast leadership conference and a five-day Leadership and Culture Immersion Programme in Bogotá later this year. The programme will bring together Jamaican and Colombian women leaders to exchange perspectives on leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, culture, and social impact while building lasting professional and cultural connections. Speaking at the signing ceremony,



Bernard Stephenson said the agreement would strengthen bilateral ties through women's empowerment and create new opportunities for leadership development and collaboration between the two countries.

She added that both nations would benefit from sharing experiences, expertise, and best practices while fostering partnerships across government, academia, business, and civil society to support women's advancement and sustainable development.

Watkis-Porter welcomed the partnership, describing it as an important step in expanding opportunities for women locally and internationally.

She said the agreement reflects a shared commitment to developing women leaders and would create opportunities for learning, mentorship and cultural exchange, both in Jamaica and Colombia.

The collaboration aligns closely with Grace to Grow's mission of equipping women with the confidence, skills, and support needed to become transformational leaders in their communities and professions.

Founded by Watkis-Porter following

her personal journey of survival and healing, Grace to Grow was born out of resilience and purpose. On January 9, 2020, she survived an accidental overdose, an experience that inspired her vision for a mentorship programme supporting women who are often overlooked by society. Despite ongoing health challenges, she launched the organisation's first mentorship cohort in May 2022.

Today, Grace to Grow has supported more than 100 women through several mentorship cohorts and is backed by a growing international network of volunteer mentors committed to nurturing personal growth, leadership development, and social impact.

While the MoU establishes a broad framework for cooperation, both parties noted that individual projects and activities will be implemented through separate agreements, paving the way for sustained collaboration that strengthens leadership, promotes gender equality, and creates lasting opportunities for women in Jamaica and Colombia. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Regional News

Cuba plunged into 3rd nationwide blackout in 2 weeks as fuel runs low

Cuba suffered another blackout of the National Electric System, or SEN, on Tuesday, leaving the entire country without power, officials said.

It was the third such incident in two weeks as a United States oil embargo stressed the island's grid.

Fuel has been running out across Cuba since January, when US President Donald Trump threatened tariffs on any country that sells or provides oil to the island, deepening the island's ongoing economic and financial crisis.

Public transportation has largely been halted, and officials have cancelled tens of thousands of surgeries.

Cuba produces only 40% of the fuel it needs. A solution for fuel imports is not yet in sight.

The state-owned Electric Union re-

ported that a problem with a generating unit in the eastern province of Holguín caused "a sudden frequency change," resulting in the SEN blackout around midday.

Both the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Electric Union indicated that "protocols for its restoration have been activated," meaning that "micro-islands" are being established and then interconnected to provide power to priority locations, such as hospitals and food processing plants.

By the afternoon, some parts of the capital, Havana, had power restored, The Associated Press confirmed, while authorities indicated that 4% of the city had received electricity.

The provinces of Guantánamo and Cienfuegos reported that they had be-

gun distributing power to their hospitals, and Matanzas confirmed that power had been restored to the city's historic centre.

Last week, two nationwide blackouts — on Monday and Friday — left more than 9 million Cubans in the dark, adding to two others in March, as well as several regional outages.

The blackouts have a significant impact on the population and, combined with the energy embargo, have led to transportation limitations, reduced work hours and flight cancellations, in addition to serious public health consequences.

The power outages also affect basic activities such as cooking, water supply, and internet and telephone service. (AP)



Regional News

PAGE 25

Newly formed St Lucian company to take control of Dolphin Cove



DOLPHIN Cove Limited is set to get a new controlling shareholder after World of Dolphins Inc agreed to sell its entire 79.99 per cent stake in the Jamaica-based attractions company to Saint Lucia-incorporated Global Attractions Limited.

The July 9 agreement covers 313,901,858 ordinary shares, according to a disclosure posted by the Jamaica Stock Exchange on Monday.

Neither the purchase price nor the expected completion date was disclosed. The notice also did not identify Global Attractions' beneficial owners, explain how the acquisition will be financed, or outline the purchaser's plans for Dolphin Cove after gaining control.

Dolphin Cove's directors were formally advised of the agreement by attorneys for World of Dolphins on

July 10. The announcement moves the transaction beyond the exploratory phase disclosed last September and places one of Jamaica's best-known tourism attractions on course for its second major ownership change in just over a decade.

Dolphin Cove's shares closed on Monday at \$10.95 on the JSE Junior Market. Based on the company's 392,426,376 issued shares, that price values the company at approximately \$4.3 billion.

At the same market price, World of Dolphins' 79.99 per cent block would be worth about \$3.44 billion. The actual acquisition price may differ because the transaction transfers control of the company.

The remaining 20.01 per cent held by minority shareholders — approximately 78.5 million shares

— was worth about \$860 million at Monday's closing price.

Registry records in Saint Lucia show that Global Attractions Limited was incorporated on March 16, 2026 — less than four months before it signed the July 9 agreement to acquire control of Dolphin Cove. The company is listed as registered and tax-resident in Saint Lucia, with McNamara Corporate Services Inc as its registered agent. The basic publicly accessible registry profile does not identify Global Attractions' shareholders, directors or beneficial owners, while no company documents were listed for download.

The timing of its incorporation suggests it may have been established as a special-purpose acquisition vehicle, although neither the purchaser nor Dolphin Cove has confirmed that.

Once Global Attractions formally acquires control, it will have 30 days to make a follow-up mandatory offer to Dolphin Cove's remaining shareholders under the Securities (Takeovers and Mergers) Regulations and JSE rules.

The mandatory offer will give minority investors an opportunity, but not an obligation, to sell their shares to the new controlling shareholder. The price and other terms are expected to

be set out in the takeover bid circular that must accompany the offer.

"The purchaser will have, within 30 days of the date it acquires control, to make a 'follow-up' mandatory offer to the other shareholders of Dolphin Cove Limited," the company said.

The transaction is the culmination of a sale process announced in September 2025, when World of Dolphins invited potential purchasers to bid for some or all of its stake in the Jamaican company.

Greenhill & Co was appointed investment banker to manage that process and provide qualified bidders with access to a data room containing information on Dolphin Cove.

The sale was launched against the background of Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings involving Leisure Investments Holdings LLC, the ultimate parent of World of Dolphins, and several affiliated entities.

Leisure Investments entered Chapter 11 proceedings in Delaware in March 2025. World of Dolphins and Dolphin Cove were not themselves included in the bankruptcy proceedings, and Dolphin Cove continued to operate as an independently listed Jamaican company.

World of Dolphins acquired its controlling interest in Dolphin Cove

Regional News



through a takeover transaction announced in late 2015. The offer valued the shares at US\$0.1338 each, with the acquisition of the majority interest costing more than US\$35 million.

The stake subsequently settled at 79.99 per cent, giving World of Dolphins decisive control over shareholder votes and board appointments.

Global Attractions will inherit that controlling position once the latest transaction is completed. Any purchase of shares tendered under the subsequent mandatory offer could push its ownership above the initial 79.99 per cent.

The transaction does not automatically remove Dolphin Cove from the JSE. Delisting would require separate steps and approvals, and no proposal to take the company private has been announced.

Dolphin Cove operates marine and adventure attractions serving Jamaica's hotel and cruise tourism markets, including Dolphin Cove Ocho Rios, Dolphin Cove at Moon Palace Jamaica and Yaaman Adventure Park in St Ann, as well as Dolphin Cove Montego Bay in Hanover.

Its latest annual report lists 245 employees across the operations and describes the company as continuing to generate positive operating cash flow despite a difficult 2025 for Jamaica's tourism industry.

The sale announcement also comes just over two

weeks before Dolphin Cove's annual general meeting, scheduled for July 30 at The Courtleigh Hotel & Suites in Kingston.

Shareholders are due to vote on the re-election of directors Richard Downer, Stafford Burrowes and Steven Strom. KPMG has also indicated that it will retire as auditor at the end of the meeting, with the board seeking authority to appoint a replacement.

No connection has been disclosed between KPMG's retirement and the proposed change of control.

The previously released accounts show revenue of US\$13.1 million for 2025 and a net loss of US\$2.3 million. The loss included a US\$2.8-million impairment against amounts owed by related companies affected by the parent group's insolvency and Chapter 11 proceedings. Those results provide financial context for the acquisition but predate the takeover agreement.

The mandatory offer circular should provide the first public benchmark for the price available to minority shareholders.

Until then, key questions remain unanswered: Who ultimately owns Global Attractions; how the acquisition is being financed; and what the new controller intends to do with one of Jamaica's best-known tourism attractions. (Jamaica Observer)

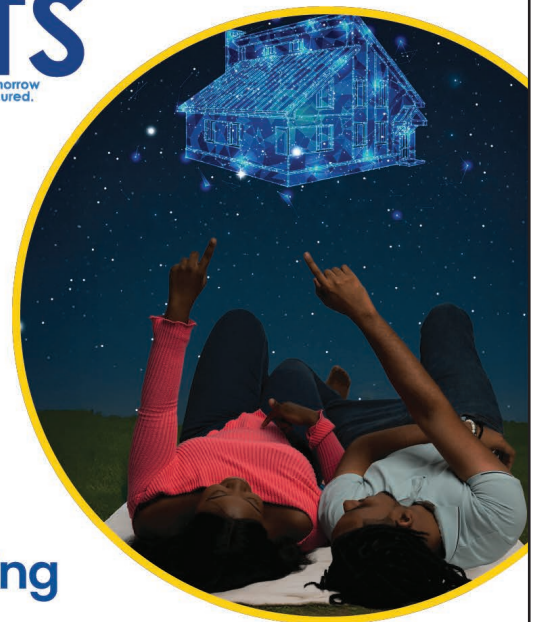


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Rastafarians in Kenya fail in bid to get cannabis legalised for religious purposes

Kenya's High Court has dismissed a bid by a Rastafarian group seeking to legalise the use of cannabis for religious purposes.

The Rastafarian community had argued that the ban on smoking cannabis infringed on their rights to freedom of religion and belief guaranteed under the constitution.

In a landmark judgement, Justice Bahati Mwamuye said the community had failed to prove drug laws violated their constitutional rights, but acknowledged the need for a broader national debate on cannabis.

There has been a continued push to legalise cannabis in Kenya, with advocates arguing that its regulated cultivation and trade could create jobs, boost tax revenue and support industrial and medicinal uses.

Under Kenya's Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act, possession of cannabis remains a criminal offence.

A person convicted of possessing cannabis solely for personal use is liable to up to five years' imprisonment or a fine of up to \$800 (£600).

Cultivating cannabis carries a penalty of a fine of \$1,900 or three times the market value of the plants, whichever is greater, and/or up to 20 years in jail.

More severe penalties apply to trafficking and other drug-related offences.

In their petition, the Rastafari Society of Kenya had argued that cannabis was a sacred sacrament in their faith and sought permission for followers to grow, possess and use it privately during worship without fear of arrest.

It maintained it was not asking for the wholesale legalisation of cannabis, but a limited exemption for religious purposes in private homes and



designated places of worship.

In their submission, the Rastafarians argued that smoking cannabis was part of their religious doctrine which must be respected and upheld.

But the state opposed their plea, arguing that creating a religious exemption would undermine the enforcement of Kenya's anti-drug laws and could create loopholes for illegal cannabis trafficking.

Justice Mwamuye also found that the evidence presented on the centrality of cannabis to the Rastafari faith was inconsistent and insufficient to establish that its use was an essential element of the religion.

He upheld the constitutionality of the drug laws prohibiting the cultivation, possession and use of cannabis, dealing a major blow to the Rastafarians' six-year legal battle.

The judge noted that any exemption permitting the use of cannabis for religious purposes would require a sound constitutional and legal foundation.

"We ought to have frank conversations on cannabis and which directions we should take," Justice Mwamuye said.

"This is not a question for the Rastafarian community only. It is a national question that cuts across the entire spectrum of our society," he added.

The community's lawyer Danstan Omari said they would appeal against the court ruling.

"Kenya cannot be the only country that is harassing the Rastafarian people. We are determined to reverse that [court's ruling] and bring back the dignity and respect of the Rastafarians in Kenya," he said.

The judgment comes seven years after another High Court ruling recognised Rastafarianism as a protected religion in Kenya, finding that a school's decision to expel a student over her dreadlocks violated her constitutional rights.

The number of Rastafarians in Kenya is unknown, but the movement is thought to be growing, especially among young people.

Their tradition of wearing dreadlocks also resonates with Kenya's anti-colonial history as many of the Mau Mau fighters who resisted British rule in the 1950s wore their hair long and matted as a symbol of defiance. (BBC)

One dead and three missing after boat sinks near Alcatraz

One person has died and three others are missing after a pontoon boat capsized around 600 yards from Alcatraz Island on Tuesday.

San Francisco Fire Department received a report at 15:37 local time of a vessel in distress, department chief Dean Crispin said at a news conference.

A marine unit first on the scene witnessed a man in the water “in severe distress” and initiated CPR, Crispin said. He was declared deceased when brought to shore.

He said 20 people were on the three-deck pontoon boat, mostly family members, who were “engaging in some kind of memorial service”.



Authorities said a search and rescue operation by the San Francisco Fire Department and the US coastguard would continue throughout the evening.

Three people on the boat were injured and transported to a local hospital, where Crispin said they were in a “stable condition”.

The other 13 members on

the boat returned safely to shore, and were not injured.

In an earlier news conference, the fire department chief said there were 19 people on the boat, and the report received at 15:37 reported a vessel on fire.

Later on Tuesday evening, he said witness accounts indicated there were 20 people

on the boat, which was a 50ft cabin cruiser.

He said there was no evidence of a fire when the fire service arrived at the boat, with witnesses reporting rough seas and a vessel which began to take on water and was turned over in the bay.

Longshoreman Justin Marceline, who alongside fisherman Mike Montoya helped rescue people from the vessel, according to Reuters news agency, said it was “complete chaos when we showed up”.

“Every time we had to grab a person, each one of them, either they were exhausted or they were frantic and were flailing,” Marceline said. (BBC)

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Midnight social media curfew proposed for UK teens aged 16 and 17



Older teenagers in the UK will face an overnight social media curfew, the government has announced - though they will be able to opt out of it by changing their account settings.

It would mean apps such as Instagram, TikTok and YouTube being set to be unavailable by default to 16 and 17-year-olds between midnight and 06:00.

The government also wants “addictive” features such as auto-play and infinite scroll to be set to be disabled, saying - combined with the curfew - the measures will improve teenagers’ focus, sleep quality and family life.

However, campaigners such as Ellen Roome, who believes her 14-year-old son Jools Sweeney died in an online challenge gone wrong in 2022, does not think the plan goes far enough as teenagers can switch the setting off.

“I just think it’s not good enough really just to have a product you can switch off, it’s a bit like offering a 17-year-old a bottle of alcohol and then moving it slightly out of arms reach, they can just drag it back in, I really wish they could go stronger and harder on these things,” she told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme.

The new plans follow the announcement in June that under-16s in the UK

would be banned entirely from a range of platforms.

It adds to a complex - and potentially confusing - mix of policies and measures from the government and tech firms intended to keep young people safe online.

They include optional parental controls over children’s devices and child-only versions of popular sites such as YouTube.

Lorna Woods, professor of internet law at Essex University, told the BBC she felt the measure was designed to target apprehensions from parents and child safety groups.

“There have been concerns about the way services keep children and young people engaged on their phones for long periods, and that this can impact their sleep, amongst other effects,” she said.

Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, has previously said it wants age verification to be handled by manufacturers of devices themselves, rather than the onus being entirely on platforms.

Apple recently introduced such “device level” age checks, meaning anyone using iPhone and iPads with the latest version of their operating software will be asked to verify their ages.

Baroness Kidron, who has strongly campaigned for safety and age assurance measures to be at a device rather than app level, was critical of the government’s approach.

Speaking to BBC Breakfast she said it should not be about “banning children from tech” but “banning tech from putting toxic products in the hands of children”.

Online safety minister Kanishka Narayan defended the action the government had taken, saying on BBC One’s Breakfast programme the combination of the curfew and limiting auto-play features meant that “Britain is already going to be the most robust place in the world when it comes to regulating” tech companies.

In an earlier statement, Technology Secretary Liz Kendall said the measures would be “crucial in helping young people get the sleep they need, focus on school and college, and spend more quality time with family and friends, all of which are fundamental to building a happy, healthy and fulfilling adult life”.

Laura Trott, the Conservative shadow education secretary, described the plans as a “dog’s dinner”.

“Either they think 16 and 17-year-olds should be on social media or they don’t, but curfews they can simply switch off won’t achieve anything,” she said.

The government said further measures would be aimed at helping children use AI chatbots safely - including by making providers introduce regular breaks for under-18s.

It says it will aim to lay its new proposed measures in front of Parliament by the end of 2026, with the aim that they take effect alongside its social media ban for under-16s next spring.

But some child safety charities and experts have cast doubt on the effectiveness or promise of a midnight curfew for older UK teens.

“While we welcome these measures

International

AROUND THE WORLD



for older teens, this latest move is yet another piecemeal set of announcements, not the comprehensive plan for children's safety that's required," said Andy Burrows, chief executive of the Molly Rose Foundation.

He added that Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer "leaves office having announced a social media ban without a plan" - with his likely successor Andy Burnham to "inherit a series of missed opportunities".

Prof Sonia Livingstone, an expert in children's digital rights at the London School of Economics, said a curfew could harm vulnerable children by limiting their access to social media when they might need it most.

"If it's a curfew on companies using push notifications to wake someone up in the night, absolutely have a curfew," Prof Livingstone told the BBC.

"But if it's a curfew that prevents a child in need of support or help or comfort reaching out to trusted sources in the middle of the night, I think that's quite harmful potentially."

Dame Rachel de Souza, children's commissioner for England, said: "We have to listen to young people. They don't want a ban, but they do want to be protected from addictive, infinite scrolling."

She added: "I want to know more about how the policies, such as a curfew, will be delivered and will be watching closely to make sure they are effective - alongside pushing Ofcom to make full use of its powers to make the online world safer for children."

Meanwhile, social media analyst Matt Navarra said the measure was "not a curfew" but a "mildly annoying settings prompt with a government press release attached".

"The UK Government is calling this 'world-leading' online safety, but with no VPN restrictions, it's leaving the side door open and putting up a sign asking teens not to use it," he said.

Previous attempts to restrict what young people can see online - for example Australia's social media ban - have been hampered by VPNs, which can hide the true location of an inter-

net user.

But the government said it would not be taking any action to restrict them in the UK for now, saying they were useful for whistle-blowers, minority groups and family privacy.

It cited findings from research it commissioned which indicated there was little to show VPNs were being used by many children to get around age checks.

"We have decided not to limit VPNs today and that's the primary conclu-

sion for now but it is something we will continue to review," Kanishka Narayan told BBC Breakfast.

In a report published on Tuesday, the government said it had trialled a selection of different options with 300 teens, and found an overnight curfew showed sleep benefits.

But Pete Etchells, professor of science communication at Bath Spa University, cautioned against the results - saying it was merely "one part of the puzzle" in restricting tech use. (BBC)

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Iran threatens to block more trade routes as US launches fresh strikes



Iran has threatened to block further trading routes in the region, as the US launched a fresh wave of strikes on military targets.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the Strait of Hormuz would remain shut until the US ended its "acts of aggression". They also threatened to close off other regional oil and gas export channels.

The warning came as the US military's Central Command (Centcom) said it had carried out drone, air and navy strikes on Iran on Wednesday morning, following another seven-hour operation overnight.

Fresh hostilities between the US and Iran in recent days have served to underscore the strategic importance of the Strait to the global economy.

The renewed attacks have also triggered a sharp rise in oil prices, as tank-

er traffic through the vital shipping route has virtually stalled.

Wednesday morning's strikes "further degraded Iran's ability to attack commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz", Centcom said in a statement.

A 90-minute wave was used to target Iran's coastal defences and cruise missile storage and launch sites on Greater Tunb Island, the Centcom officials added.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump vowed to strike Iran's bridges and power plants next week if the country did not return to talks.

"I'll save the energy targets for last, but ultimately we'll hit energy targets," Trump said in an interview on Special Report with Bret Baier that aired on Tuesday night.

The escalation in rhetoric came after Trump said a 20% toll he had threat-

ened to impose in the Strait of Hormuz would be replaced by "massive" trade and investment deals with Gulf states.

A previous threat by Trump to bomb Iran's civilian infrastructure, which was made in April, drew condemnation at the time from UN human rights chief Volker Türk, who said: "Under international law, deliberately attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure is a war crime."

A renewed US blockade on Iranian ports was imposed on Tuesday evening, which stops vessels from transiting to and from Iranian ports and coastal areas.

The blockade had previously been lifted as part of a deal that was struck by the two countries last month - known as a memorandum of understanding - that aimed to end the months-conflict.

However, a dispute over the strait has become a key point of contention.

In response to the renewal of the US blockade, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warned the US that it should "expect the closure of other oil and gas export routes that serve the interests of the United States and its allies". It did not elaborate on which routes could be affected.

Meanwhile, Iran's state-run broadcaster reported that the country's army had carried out separate attacks on US targets in Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain.

The US allies also said they intercepted drones and missiles launched from Iran. (BBC)



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July 14, 2026

National Solid Waste Management Authority Launches Pre-Carnival Clean-Up of St. John's City

The National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), in collaboration with the Central Board of Health, has commenced an intensive Pre-Carnival Clean-Up Initiative throughout St. John's City as part of preparations for Antigua Carnival 2026 *hags tag #Featherthpwn*.

The operation is being carried out daily from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. until completion, allowing crews to undertake extensive cleaning activities with minimal disruption to businesses, residents, and motorists.

Since the initiative began, significant progress has been made to the following areas:

- 12th –13th July: Newgate Street and Church Street
- 13th –14th July: Long Street, High Street, and St. Mary's Street
- 14th – 15th July: Crews will continue works along Tanner Street and Redcliffe Street.

The clean-up operation includes a range of activities aimed at improving the city's appearance and safeguarding public health, including cleaning and washing of drains, removal of debris and accumulated waste, grass cutting and vegetation management and general street and public space cleaning.

Upon completion of each cleaning activities, the Central Board of Health (CBH) will conduct fogging and disinfecting of drains and surrounding areas as part of its ongoing mosquito control and public health programme.

This collaborative initiative demonstrates the shared commitment of both NSWMA and the CBH with ensuring that St. John's City is clean, safe, and welcoming for residents and visitors during the Carnival festivities.

The NSWMA encourages the public to support this initiative by disposing of waste responsibly, refraining from littering, and helping to keep streets, drains, and public spaces clean. Every individual's contribution plays an important role in maintaining a healthy environment and preserving the improvements being made throughout the city.

As the initiative progresses, the National Solid Waste Management Authority will continue to provide updates on completed areas, upcoming locations, and the overall progress of the clean-up on our Facebook page. We look forward to sharing this journey with the public as we work together toward a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful St. John's City in preparation for Antigua Carnival.

ICC sanctions US\$12.82 million loan for Cricket West Indies

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will receive a loan from the International Cricket Council (ICC) as part of a set of governance, membership, and member support changes announced by the global body.

Following its annual meetings in Edinburgh, which also marked the re-vamping of the men's ODI and T20 World Cup formats, several decisions pertaining to member bodies were taken, including financial aid to West Indies cricket.

Mauritius has been named the ICC's 111th member, adding to its 12 Full Members and 98 other associate members.

Further, ICC announced that reinstatement conditions for Cricket Canada have been approved, which need to be met before the existing suspension on the body can be lifted.

Elsewhere, ICC received updates from Sri Lanka Cricket on a revised constitution. For now, Sri Lanka Cricket will not be able to represent at the ICC board meetings until elections are held.

Meanwhile, France Cricket has been placed on notice for breaching the ICC membership criteria.

Cricket West Indies have been handed out a US\$12.82 million loan as support by the ICC. The board, which has faced financial hurdles for several years, has been seeking ICC support, a sentiment voiced by several ex-cricketers over time.



eters over time.

As per their audited financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2025, CWI recorded a net loss of US\$28 million, following a net profit of US\$24 million the previous year.

With a forecast of US\$26 million loss in the 2026 cycle, CWI's statements had indicated loan financing from the ICC, along with commercial banking credit facilities, as ways to close the funding gap. That has now materialised.

Back in 2012, the then-West Indies Cricket Board received assisted funding alongside Zimbabwe from the ICC. In 2020, during the Covid-19

pandemic, Cricket West Indies received a US\$3 million loan from the ECB, which was duly paid back.

The ICC board has established two new subcommittees. They are the Governance Review Committee and the Franchise League Committee. The first one comprises of Devajit Saikia (BCCI), Dr. Mohammed Moosajee (Cricket South Africa), and Dr. Ros Rivaz (ICC Independent Director).

The second one comprises of Tamim Iqbal (Bangladesh Cricket Board - Chair), Dr. Rudie van Vuuren (Cricket Namibia), Devajit Saikia (BCCI), Richard Gould (England and Wales Cricket Board), and Todd Greenberg (Cricket Australia).



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Sports News

Mixed fortunes for Dredgers in ABSCA men's T20 contest



The Dredgers men's softball cricket team

The Dredgers had mixed fortunes in their latest matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5 FM and Chet Greene T20 championships.

After winning their first three matches, the Dredgers suffered their first loss in an 87-run defeat to Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js at the Clare Hall playing field.

The Buckley's 3Js made 160 for six off their 20 overs. Charanlall Ramjohn hit 47, Denley Thomas struck 45, they received 29 extras, and Kenrick Scott made 26 not out. Mike France claimed two for 15.

In reply, the Dredgers were bundled out for 73 in 12.4 overs. Kurt Douglas hit 24, and Brent Bloodman scored 23 after the first four batsmen were all dismissed without scoring.

Player of the match Rodney Williams bagged four for 24, Charanlall Ramjohn took three for 15, and Steve Martin claimed two wickets for sev-

en runs for Buckley's 3Js, who won for the fourth time in five matches.

After winning their previous four matches, Rackaman Construction Strictly Business also suffered their first loss in a three-wicket defeat to the Dredgers at the Dredgers' playing field.

Strictly Business was dismissed for 141 in 19.2 overs. Clinton Benjamin slammed 52, and Kim George made 22. Mervin Higgins took three for 13, Kurt Douglas had two for 18, and Vaughn Charles claimed two for 23.

Dredgers secured their fourth win in five matches by achieving victory at 145 for seven in 16.2 overs. Player of the match D'hari Francis hit 28, Lloy Weste struck 25, and Brent Bloodman made 22 not out. Shaquan Reifer captured two for 20, and Kadeem Josiah claimed two for 33.

After losing their previous three matches, Goody's Advent 300 notched up their first win by beat-

ing PMS by 34 runs at Rising Sun.

Player of the match Zack Thomas slammed an unbeaten 57, and Kennedy Tonge cracked 33 to lift 300 to 152 for eight from their 20 overs. Hughan Tonge captured three for 24, Julian Charles claimed two for 22, and Vishal Gobin bagged two for 23.

In reply, PMS crashed to 118 all out in 18.5 overs to suffer their fourth defeat in five matches. Walter Carr hit 44, and Clarence Francis made 24. Kimani George grabbed three for 27,

Zack Thomas claimed two wickets for eight runs, and Jared Roberts took two for 12.

Mix-Up Stars also recorded their first win in five matches by pulling off a four-wicket victory against Goody's Advent 300 in Clare Hall.

Malique Jacobs cracked 41, and Jamoy Jarvis hit 27 not out as 300 was restricted to 117 for eight from their 20 overs. Almond Peters snapped up three for 12, Malique Gerald claimed two wickets for eight runs, and player of the match Isiah Viville took two for 17.

Mix-Up Stars achieved victory by scoring 118 for six with one ball to spare. Frederick Floyd struck 33, Isiah Viville hit 29, and Peter Bellefonte made 27. Kerry Burton took two for 14, Andra Samuel had two for 24, and Zack Thomas claimed two for 28.

UWIFIC and Strike Force to clash in final of New Winthorpes league

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIFIC) and Strike Force have advanced to the final in the New Winthorpes Community Football League.

Both teams booked their spots in the final by recording victories in the semi-finals at the New Winthorpes playing field on Tuesday.

The UWIFIC prevailed 1-0 against The Palace in a sudden-death penalty shootout after both teams battled to a 2-2 draw in regulation time of the match.

Tyriq “Castro” Hughes put The Palace ahead with a 23rd-minute conversion. Roneba Cordice snatched the equalizer for UWIFIC with a strike in the 35th minute as both teams reached halftime level at 1-1.

Joshua Ferdinand scored in the 53rd minute to give UWIFIC a 2-1 lead, but The Palace was able to draw level in

the 61st minute when Deondre Harrigan converted a penalty kick.

Strike Force snatched a 3-2 victory over Cedar Grove CG in the other semi-final encounter.

Jayden Martin gave Strike Force the lead via a conversion in the 27th minute. Kishorn Hamilton scored the equalizer for Cedar Grove CG with a strike in the 43rd minute as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

Theodore Akponu restored the Strike Force lead, putting his team 2-1 ahead with a 48th-minute conversion. Team-mate Amos Christian extended Strike Force’s advantage with a conversion in the 55th minute.

Jahron Thomas scored a second goal for Cedar Grove CG in the 69th minute to reduce the deficit and margin of defeat.

Strike Force and UWIFIC will clash in the final at the New Winthorpes

playing field on Thursday at 6 pm.

The winner of the competition, which involved the participation of eight teams, will collect a grand prize of EC\$1,500.

The re-birth of the New Winthorpes Community Football League is a collaborative venture by Nat Pan My Team and Real Blizzard FC.

Meanwhile, WSV FC claimed their first win in three matches in the Gray’s Green Community Football League at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

After losing their previous two matches, WSV FC recorded a 3-0 victory against Herberts FC, who suffered their third loss in as many games.

Amoy James, Hamilton Joseph, and Mahlique Whyte were the goal scorers for WSV FC.



WSV FC football team

Sports News



Defeat for Antigua Schools in Garfield Sobers Tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Schools team suffered their first loss in the annual Sir Garfield Sobers International Under-19 Cricket Tournament in Barbados on Tuesday.

The Antiguan lost by six wickets to the New York Tri-State Youth Development team in their second match at the international tournament.

Antigua Schools were dismissed for just 101 in 26.3 overs, with only four batsmen reaching double figures.

Opener and captain Hosea Roberts hit 22 off 32 balls, Isiah Harris struck 12, Ondre Peters scored 11, and Keno Goodwin got 10. Captain Ajay Prithiviraj snapped up four wickets for six runs for the New York Tri-State Youth Development team.

In reply, the New York Tri-State Youth Development team achieved victory by scoring 106 for four in 18.3 overs.

Opener Laksh Warty hit an unbeaten 36 off 49 balls, fellow opener Aarav Chopra struck 22, and Emmanuel Lewis made 16.

Isiah Harris claimed two for 13, Hosea Roberts captured one for 11, and Anthony Pierre picked up one for 19.

The Antigua School made a successful start to their campaign in the tournament on Monday.

The young Antiguan cricketers launched their campaign by pulling off a 27-run victory over Combermere School of Barbados in a 30-over

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one-day match at Foundation School Ground in Bridgetown.

The Antiguan were dismissed for 178 in 29.4 overs after losing the toss

and being sent in to bat.

Chasing 179 to win, Combermere School was restricted to 151 for nine off their allotted 30 overs.

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Antigua and Barbuda Commonwealth Games Association Announces 12-Member Team for Glasgow 2026



The Antigua and Barbuda Commonwealth Games Association is proud to announce its 12-member squad for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, taking place in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August 2026. The reduced edition of the Games will feature 10 sports, and Antigua and Barbuda will be represented across four disciplines.

Team roster (sport — athlete — events)
 - Athletics (Team Manager: Kesswin Anthony)

- Soniya Jones — 100m, 200m
- Geolyna Dowdye — 100m, 200m
- Dwayne Fleming — 100m, 200m
- Cejhae Greene — 100m
- Christopher Johnson — Shot put
- Boxing (Team Manager: Ralston Ryan)

- Alston Ryan — 63.5 kg
- Zalaan Jan — 80 kg
- Swimming (Team Manager: Wayne Mitchell)

- Jadon Wuilliez — 50m breast, 100m breast, 50m free
- Ethan Stubbs-Green — 100m fly, 200m fly, 200m free, 100m free, 400m free

- Aunjulique Liddie — 50m free, 100m free, 50m fly, 100m fly
- Bianca Mitchell — 50m free, 100m free

- Track Cycling (Team Manager: St. Clair Williams)

- Atiba Quidan — 1000m time trial, sprint, keirin

Key delegation details

- Chef de Mission: Ms. Karen Joseph
- Team assistance and welfare officer: Mr. Eric Henry
- Flag bearer: Alston Ryan

- Nation Baton carrier: Aunjulique Liddie

- The President, Hon. E. P. Chet Greene, and General Secretary, Cliff Williams, are expected to attend the Games.

The team is expected to be operational in Glasgow from 22 July to 2 August 2026, with athletes arriving in advance of their respective competition start dates as required.

Commenting on the selections, Association Secretary General, Cliff Williams said: “We congratulate our athletes and

team officials on their selection. This talented and dedicated group will proudly wear Antigua and Barbuda’s colours in Glasgow. We wish them every success and look forward to strong performances on the international stage.”

The Association thanks the athletes, coaches, support staff and partners for their commitment in the lead-up to the Games. It will provide further updates on team preparations, departure details, and event schedules in the coming weeks.



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 TOGETHER.*

Windies women complete clean sweep of Ireland in ODI series

West Indies Women completed a 3-0 One-Day International (ODI) sweep of Ireland, winning the final ODI in Breda by 64 runs despite arguably their weakest batting performance of the tour on Wednesday.

Stafanie Taylor entered elite company with her 10th ODI century, and her second in two matches, but West Indies were shaky on either side of her 105, as no other batter in the top seven crossed 30 in their total of 257.

Ireland conceded 31 extras, including an eye-popping 27 wides. But Taylor's run out off the very last ball ensured Ireland claimed all 10 West Indies wickets for the first time in a women's ODI since 2003.

Eventually though, West Indies' 257 was enough for a comfortable win as Ireland was dismissed for 193 in 43.1 overs.

Ireland had suffered scathing defeats in the first two ODIs, a nine-wicket loss defending 269, and then a six-wicket loss in another hot West Indies chase, including twin tons from Taylor and Hayley Matthews.

Ireland got Matthews cheaply this time and had the West Indies struggling at 82 for five. But Taylor was stubborn and defiant, sourcing help from the lower-order and carrying the West Indies past 250 runs.

Aaliyah Alleyne hammered 33 off 30 balls, including six fours. Jahzarah Claxton struck 30, and Deandra Dottin contributed 21.

It meant Ireland would have had to complete their third-highest ODI chase ever. Despite showing promise in parts, the Irish fell well short.

That West Indies were reduced to 48 for four was largely down to Orla Prendergast's tidy opening spell.

Prendergast gave 18 from her first



West Indies celebrate with their trophy after winning their three-match women's ODI series against Ireland women in Breda, Ireland, on Wednesday, July 15, 2026. (Photo courtesy of CWI Media)

five overs, accounting for Matthews with an away swinger, and conceded just one further boundary, also picking Ashmini Munisar later to cap off her figures of two for 37.

Jane Maguire claimed two for 44, and Georgina Dempsey bagged two for 61 as Ireland kept chipping away at batters around Taylor, who herself was the third run-out of the innings.

Taylor couldn't take the field at the start of the second innings due to muscle cramps, but her controlled assault that preceded it laid the base for West Indies' total.

Taylor hit 10 fours, primarily targeting the region down the ground and through covers. Her tenth century now draws her level with England's Nat Sciver-Brunt, with only six others, including Matthews (12), having hit more. It wasn't her only major milestone of the day, she also ticked past 10,000 international runs.

Ireland's response was heavily banking on No.3 Amy Hunter, who came into the game with scores of 96 and 67 from the first two games. But it was

skipper Gaby Lewis, who stepped on the pedal to start with, including sweetly timed back-to-back sixes.

Those remained the only sixes in either innings, as West Indies stalled Ireland's chase as soon as Lewis got out.

From 86 for two, Ireland kept regularly losing wickets, with only No.7 Leah Paul crossing 30 with a knock of 32 off 47 balls. Her partnership with Louise Little (23) provided a semblance of resistance, but it only helped them get close to 200, and nothing more.

The spin duo of Karishma Ramharack and Afy Fletcher shared six wickets and identical figures of three for 33, while Matthew claimed two for 37. Her three wickets allowed Fletcher to overtake Matthews for most wickets in the series (8).

It's now the third time West Indies have defeated Ireland in a bilateral ODI series, bringing an end to their run of series losses in the format. Since January 2025, the West Indies had lost to England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Australia.