

Police Open Satellite Post At Carnival City

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Miss Optimist 2026 Phoenix Branker (second from left) and her runners-up at Sunday's Show at the UWI Global Campus

Police Open Satellite Post At Carnival City



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has officially opened a satellite police post at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG), as part of its security arrangements for the Carnival.

The opening of the satellite post comes at an opportune time as the nation prepares to officially launch its Carnival celebrations, scheduled for July 25 to August 4, 2026.

The satellite police post is strategically located in the area of the grounds formerly used as the Sir Vivian Richards Players' Pavilion. The facility is fully operational and equipped with essential services, providing police officers with a comfortable location from which to coordinate their operations throughout the Carnival season.

Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers welcomed the initiative and described it as a timely and important addition to the Force's security arrangements for the carnival season. He noted that the post will not only strengthen the physical presence of the police in and around Carnival City, but will also provide officers with an ideal location from which to effectively carry out their duties during the festivities.

The Police Administration express-

es sincere gratitude to the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission for its partnership and support in making this initiative possible.

The administration also extends appreciation to the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) for pro-

viding the essential utility services necessary for the operation of the facility, and to the management of Townhouse Mega Store for generously donating a desk telephone to the satellite post.

The satellite post will remain operational throughout the entire Carnival season, with an increased police presence during major shows and events taking place at Carnival City.

Members of the public who require police assistance may call 462-0789.

The Police Administration wishes all residents and visitors a safe, peaceful, and enjoyable Carnival 2026 and encourages everyone to give the police their full cooperation and support throughout the festive season.



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Police Investigate Social Media Claims of Human Remains Found Off Parham Coast

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has launched an investigation into claims circulating on social media that human remains were discovered underwater approximately three nautical miles east of Parham Dock.

Police confirmed that the report is being treated with the utmost seriousness and that a joint operation with the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) Coast Guard is actively underway to verify the information.

According to a statement issued by the Police Administration, officers and members of the Coast Guard conducted investigations in the area on Saturday. However, despite their efforts, investigators have so far been unable to determine the precise location where the alleged discovery was made.

Authorities said they remain committed to locating the reported site but said that a successful underwater search operation depends on receiving accurate and reliable information.

“The Police and the ABDF Coast Guard continue to work closely together to verify the information received and to accurately identify the reported location,” the statement outlined.

Officials noted that identifying the exact coordinates is critical to ensuring that available personnel and resources can be deployed effectively during what could become a comprehensive underwater search.



The Police Administration is now appealing to anyone with information that could assist investigators in identifying the exact location of the alleged discovery to come forward.

The force acknowledged the sensitivity of the reports, particularly given the number of unresolved missing person cases in Antigua and Barbuda and the anguish experienced by families still awaiting answers about the fate of their loved ones.

Police Commissioner Everton Jeffers reaffirmed his commitment, and that of the Royal Police Force, to pursue every credible lead that may assist investigators in bringing closure to those ongoing cases.

“The Police Administration acknowledges the sensitive nature of these

claims, particularly in light of the number of persons who have been reported missing over a period of time, and the many families who continue to await answers and closure regarding the disappearance of their loved ones,” the statement noted.

Commissioner Jeffers also assured the public that investigators will continue to pursue all credible information and that updates will be provided as soon as verified facts become available.

Anyone with information that could assist the investigation is urged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at **462-3913** or **462-3914**, call **911**, or speak with any police officer. Information can also be submitted anonymously through **Crime Stoppers** at **800-TIPS (8477)**.


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Antigua and Barbuda Students Take Part in Art Exchange with Jersey

Three students from the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), accompanied by their art tutor Mark Brown, Head of the Department of Fine Arts and Creative Studies, are representing Antigua and Barbuda in a collaborative art exchange with Jersey, using creativity to build connections between young people and celebrate the culture and identity of both islands.

Joyce Murray-Watkins, Trinity Hughes and Tse Pigott are working alongside artists on a public mural at Elizabeth Marina under the theme “Safe Haven Across the Sea”. The first phase of the exchange runs from 19 to 24 July, including collaborative mural work, cultural activities and community engagement. In October, the Jersey artists will travel to Antigua and Barbuda to work with their counterparts on a second mural ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 and Antigua Art Week.

The initiative is the latest exchange of a relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey that has continued to grow across education, skills development, sport and culture. This has included a hospitality work and training



partnership established in 2022; the Leadership and Entrepreneurship Accelerator Programme (LEAP), through which young Antiguan and Barbudan women have participated in leadership and entrepreneurship development in Jersey; two youth cricket tours to Jersey; and musical exchanges that have seen young musicians from the Jersey Music Service travel to Antigua and Barbuda to perform alongside the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO).

The relationship was further strengthened through a new Memorandum of Understanding signed in

Jersey on 8 November 2024 by the Minister of Education Daryll S. Matthew and Jersey’s Deputy Kirsten Morel, who at the time served as Jersey’s Minister for Sustainable Economic Development.

Minister Matthew said: “Education flourishes when it is enriched by culture, creativity, and collaboration. This partnership between ABCAS and Jersey demonstrates our shared commitment to preparing the next generation through meaningful international engagements and artistic excellence. I am delighted to see Joyce, Trinity and Tse represent our country through their creativity.”

High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill noted, “This art exchange demonstrates how the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey continues to deepen and create meaningful opportunities for our young people. From leadership and sport to education and now the visual arts, these partnerships are allowing young Antiguan and Barbudans to share their talents, broaden their experiences and build lasting international connections.”

James Tyson, Head of Programme at ArtHouse Jersey, welcomed the exchange as a continuation of the growing friendship between the two islands:

“This wonderful exchange is the continuation of a growing friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and Jersey that has provided opportunities for people from both islands, whether in music, sport or art, to meet together and to celebrate our respective cultures.”

Mark Brown said, “This collaboration offers our students an exceptional opportunity to engage with fellow young artists, broaden their creative perspectives and build meaningful international connections.”

ECAB Launches Game Changers Scholarship

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank on Monday launched the Game Changers Scholarship established to ease the financial burden associated with nationals pursuing both academic and athletic excellence internationally.

A ceremony was held at the financial institution's Redcliffe Street branch, where government officials joined in endorsing the initiative.

Addressing the ceremony, ECAB's Chief Executive Officer Michael Spencer described the programme as an "investment in the future of our young people". He spoke of the bank's commitment to moving beyond its role as a financial institution to supporting young people in their educational and athletic journeys, all in an effort to build communities and create opportunities.

"Across Antigua and Barbuda, we are blessed with extraordinary young people who excel in classrooms, on tracks, in swimming pools, and on football fields. They demonstrate discipline, resilience, determination, and an unwavering commitment to excellence."

"Yet, for so many of these talented young athletes, the journey to higher education and international competition is often accompanied by significant financial challenges. Too often, an opportunity earned through years of hard work can become difficult to pursue because of the costs associated with studying abroad. Today, ECAB is taking a meaningful step to help bridge that gap," Mr. Spencer declared.



Minister of Sports and Creative Industries Dwayne George who attended the ceremony applauded the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) for being a good corporate citizen. He underscored the importance of collaboration in ensuring young athletes are given the opportunity at becoming the best they can in whatever sporting discipline they choose, singling out ECAB for its efforts.

"I understand fully the dreams and aspirations many young Antiguan and Barbudans have of mastering the sporting disciplines in which they are interested and competing at the national and international levels. Dreams of becoming the next Joella Lloyd, Janil Williams, Peter Byers, Quinton Griffith and Karin Clashing," he said. "As a Government, and in partnership with Corporate Antigua and Barbuda, we

must do all in our power to ensure the dreams and aspirations of our future generation are realised, while at the same time place emphasis on sports development".

ECAB's Marketing and Communications Manager K. Michele Marshall explained that the scholarship, in the amount of EC \$25,000 annually, is intended to ease the financial burden associated with pursuing both academic and athletic excellence internationally.

Student athletes who have demonstrated excellence in football, swimming and track and field, and have secured a partial scholarship from an accredited high school, college or university are eligible to apply. She said applicants must be residents of Antigua and Barbuda between the ages of 14 and 21 years-old, entering their first year of study abroad.



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AIDS Secretariat Strengthens Workplace Response Through Professional Development Workshop



Professionals from across the public and private sectors are this week participating in a five-day Professional Development Workshop hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda AIDS Secretariat at the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre. The initiative is designed to strengthen participants' knowledge and capacity to respond appropriately to HIV and AIDS and

other related issues in the workplace while promoting inclusive, supportive, and non-discriminatory environments.

The workshop covers a range of topics, including HIV and AIDS, mental health, healthy relationships, stigma and discrimination, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), confidentiality, and substance abuse. Through these sessions, participants are being

equipped with the tools to better support employees, clients, and members of the public while fostering workplaces grounded in respect, professionalism, and compassion.

In delivering the keynote address, Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, reminded participants that many people carry invisible burdens and that professionals are often in positions



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where their words, actions, and decisions can profoundly affect the lives of others.

The Minister emphasized that while scientific advances have made HIV a manageable chronic condition, stigma, fear, misinformation, and discrimination remain among the greatest barriers to testing, treatment, and care. He noted that ending HIV is not solely a medical challenge but a social responsibility that requires empathy, understanding, and collaboration across all sectors.

He also stressed that confidentiality is more than a professional obligation noting it is a promise that every individual's dignity and privacy will be protected. The Minister encouraged participants to use the knowledge gained throughout the workshop to create workplaces where people feel safe to seek help, disclose concerns without fear of discrimination, and access the support they need.

AIDS Programme Manager Delcora Williams highlighted emerging trends in the national HIV response, noting a concerning increase in cases among persons between the ages of 16 and 24. She encouraged individuals to know their status through regular HIV testing and reminded participants that education, early diagnosis, and supportive workplace environments are critical components of prevention and care.

Also attending the opening ceremony was Permanent Secretary, Stacey Gregg-Paige.

The five-day workshop reflects the Ministry's and the AIDS Secretariat's commitment to building the capacity of professionals across Antigua and Barbuda to address HIV and AIDS and related social and health issues with greater confidence, sensitivity, and professionalism. Participants are expected to apply the knowledge and skills gained to help create workplaces where confidentiality is respected, stigma is challenged, and every individual is treated with dignity and compassion.





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Local News

Antigua and Barbuda Welcomes the Caribbean Premier League to the 'Home of Party Cricket'

The 'Biggest Party' in Sport, returns to the 'Home of Party Cricket' from August 20 to August 25 2026, as Antigua and Barbuda once again welcomes the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League to the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium for six unforgettable days of exciting cricket, carnival energy, culture and camaraderie as passionate fans come together under the lights for electrifying matches that only the twin-island paradise can deliver.

Cricket fans can cheer on the dynamic Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in four exciting home matches against, St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots, Trinbago Knight Riders, Guyana Amazon Warriors and Barbados Tridents at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, with every game beginning at 7:00 p.m. local time.

Chief Marketing Officer for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Charmaine Spencer noted that, "Sports tourism continues to be an important component of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism strategy to diversify visitor experiences, extend visitor stays, encourage group travel, and strengthen year-round tourism demand.

"Events such as CPL also provide us with the opportunity to showcase our hospitality, beauty, and culture as we invite visitors to explore all the destination has to offer beyond the cricket", added Spencer.

Sabrina Webster, Brand & Marketing Communications Manager, Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, pointed out that, "Our 2026 campaign, 'Come for the Fete, Stay for the Match', invites fans to experience the very best of Antigua and Barbuda through the energy and excitement of CPL. From the lively Party Stand and the relaxed Grass Mound to the elevated Premium Hospitality suites, each Falcons home match is designed to offer something special for every fan."

"This is what makes Antigua and Bar-





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**ANTIGUA
 Carnival
 2026**



**21ST
 & 23RD
 JULY
 8:00PM**



**PAN
 CRAWL**



ROUTE
STARTS AT SICL REDCLIFFE ST.

TUESDAY 21ST JULY
 ORIGINAL STEEL ORCHESTRA
 PANDEMONIUM STEEL ORCHESTRA
 HARMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA
 HELLS GATE STEEL ORCHESTRA

THURSDAY 23RD JULY
 PANACHE STEEL ORCHESTRA
 GEMONITES STEEL ORCHESTRA
 WESTSIDE SYMPHONY
 HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA

Local News

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buda the Home of Party Cricket. We invite fans to come for the fete, stay for the match, and leave with memories that will bring them back again and again", Webster said.

In Antigua and Barbuda, the celebration does not end when the final wicket falls. Visitors travelling for CPL are encouraged to experience the destination beyond the stadium.

From award-winning beaches and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Nelson's Dockyard to local cuisine, island adventures and rich cultural experiences, Antigua and Barbuda offers the perfect opportunity to pair world-class cricket with an unforgettable Caribbean vacation.

Whether travelling for cricket, or a late summer escape, Antigua and Barbuda invites cricket lovers, diaspora travellers, vacationers, and first-time visitors alike to experience the CPL 2026 and be immersed in the destination which is proudly known as the 'Home of Party Cricket'.

Tickets for CPL 2026 matches in Antigua and Barbuda are available through the official CPL website, the official ticketing platform, RUBIS Service Stations and the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Antigua & Barbuda Falcons CPL 2026 Home Schedule (Sir Vivian Richards Stadium)

All matches are scheduled to begin

at **7:00 PM** local time:

- **Thursday, August 20:** Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs. St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots
- **Saturday, August 22:** Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs. Trinbago Knight Riders
- **Sunday, August 23:** Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs. Guyana Amazon Warriors
- **Tuesday, August 25:** Antigua & Barbuda Falcons vs. Barbados Tridents

For more information on cricketing events in Antigua and Barbuda, go to visitantiguabarbuda.com/sports



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- Da Vibz Steel Band
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- spoken word and Anastis storytelling, the Point Iron Band so much more

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educator Kim Pole and
hear a powerful message
from renowned Caribbean
Historian Professor Hilary
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GAME CHANGERS SCHOLARSHIP

What is the ECAB Game Changers Scholarship?

The ECAB Game Changers Scholarship awards one (1) student-athlete a one-time grant of EC \$25,000.

This scholarship supports outstanding athletes in Track and Field, Football, and Swimming who have received partial scholarships to study abroad.

Eligibility Criteria

- Age range between 14 to 21 years.
- Resident of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Entering first year of study at the time the scholarship is awarded.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from your local coach.
- Submit a 500-word essay explaining why they should be considered for the scholarship.

How to Apply



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

For more information and to apply, visit www.ecabank.com or email gamechangers@ecabank.com. Application Deadline: **August 21, 2026.**



Phoenix Branker Wins Optimist Petit Show, 2026



The Optimist Club of St. John's held its 31st annual Miss Petit Show at the UWI Global Campus on Sunday and after what has been described as an 'incredible' afternoon of sterling performances, Phoenix Branker, sponsored by Auto Craze emerged as the overall winner.

Branker dominated the pageant by winning three of the segments; Personality and Aspiration, Interview and Performing Talent.

The organisers also congratulated the runners-up in the pageant for contributing to the overall high standard of the show. The first runner-up prize went to Serenity Joyce sponsored by Civil Engineering and Associated Services; Syriah Martin, sponsored by Bryson's Shipping and Insurance, won the second runner up award; while third runner-up went to Malya Peltier, sponsored by CTV Entertainment Systems.

The organisers congratulated

all the delegates for their hard work, confidence and growth throughout the programme.

"Thank you for embracing the Optimist spirit and sharing your unique talents with us. Your dedication, courage and determination have made this year's programme truly unforgettable," the Optimist Club said in a statement to the delegates.




**OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. JOHN'S
OPTIMIST PETIT SHOW 2026**
Sun 19th July 2026 * 5:30pm * UWI Global Campus



PHOENIX BRANKER
"DREAM, BELIEVE, SHINE!"



AUTO CRAZE ACCESSORIES & PARTS




**OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. JOHN'S
OPTIMIST PETIT SHOW 2026**
Sun 19th July 2026 * 5:30pm * UWI Global Campus



SYRIAH MARTIN
"DREAM, BELIEVE, SHINE!"



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**OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. JOHN'S
OPTIMIST PETIT SHOW 2026**
Sun 19th July 2026 * 5:30pm * UWI Global Campus



MALYA PELTIER
"DREAM, BELIEVE, SHINE!"



CTV ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEMS




**OPTIMIST CLUB OF ST. JOHN'S
OPTIMIST PETIT SHOW 2026**
Sun 19th July 2026 * 5:30pm * UWI Global Campus



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"DREAM, BELIEVE, SHINE!"



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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





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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"



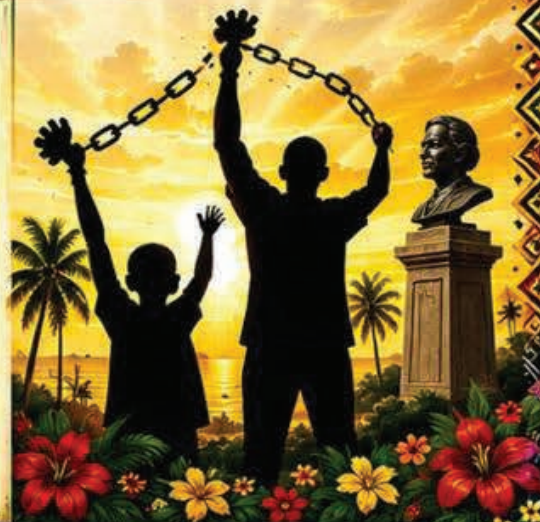
AUGUST 1ST
EMANCIPATION DAY



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



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



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Sir Garfield Sobers: The Life Innings That Made All Caribbean People Stand Tall



By Ambassador Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim

The passing of The Right Excellent Sir Garfield St. Auburn Sobers, OCC, National Hero of Barbados, on 17 July 2026 marks the close of one of the most extraordinary chapters in Caribbean history.

The world has lost perhaps the most complete cricketer ever to play the game. The Caribbean, however, has lost something even greater—a son whose life helped redefine the identity, confidence and aspirations of a region emerging from the long shadow of colonialism. Sir Garfield's greatness cannot be measured solely by statistics, remarkable though they are. In 93 Test matches between 1954 and 1974, he amassed 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78, scored 26 centuries, claimed 235 wickets, held 109 catches, recorded the highest individual Test score in history at the time with an unbeaten 365 against Pakistan, and became the first cricketer to strike six consecutive sixes in an over in first-class cricket.

Equally extraordinary, he excelled

as a fast-medium bowler, a left-arm orthodox spinner and a left-arm wrist spinner while remaining one of cricket's finest batsmen. More than half a century after his retirement, he remains the benchmark against which all-round excellence is measured. Yet the true measure of Sir Garfield Sobers lies beyond the boundary rope.

His international career began before the first wave of English-speaking Caribbean independence and matured alongside the birth of sovereign Caribbean nations. As constitutions were being drafted, flags were being raised and new democracies established, Sir Garfield Sobers was helping to forge an equally important achievement: the confidence of a people.

While visionary leaders such as Errol Barrow, Norman Manley, Sir Alexander Bustamante, Dr. Eric Williams, Forbes Burnham and Sir Vere Cornwall Bird were constructing the institutions of sovereign government, Sobers was constructing something equally indispensable: the conviction that Caribbean people could stand as equals with any nation on earth.

He belonged to what may rightly be described as the Caribbean's golden generation. Alongside Sir Frank Worrell, Sir Everton Weekes, Sir Clyde Walcott, Conrad Hunte, Rohan Kanhai, Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith he transformed the West Indies cricket team into far more than a sporting institution. It became the living expression of a united Caribbean—one people, many nations, bound together by shared history, shared struggle and shared ambition. Sir Frank Worrell had already demonstrated that Caribbean leadership could transcend race and insularity by becoming the first full-time Black captain of the West Indies, uniting players from across the region under a common purpose. Sobers inherited that legacy and elevated

it to unprecedented heights.

Long before regional integration became institutionalized through the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, in 1973 and later expanded through the Association of Caribbean States in 1994, West Indies cricket had already demonstrated that the Caribbean could think, compete and triumph as one civilization. The same spirit that united 11 players beneath the Maroon Cap now finds expression through these regional institutions as they pursue economic integration, maritime cooperation, sustainable development, climate resilience and a stronger Caribbean voice in global affairs. Before the Caribbean possessed significant economic or geopolitical influence, it possessed extraordinary cultural influence.

Sir Garfield Sobers became one of the region's earliest ambassadors of soft power, commanding worldwide respect not through military or economic might, but through unmatched excellence, humility and sportsmanship. It was no coincidence that his rise paralleled the emergence of Caribbean nationalism. Whenever those runs were scored against the former imperial power that had introduced the game to the Caribbean, many West Indians came to see them as symbolic installments in a larger claim for justice, recognition and historical repair.

Every century restored dignity. Every victory challenged inherited assumptions of racial and colonial superiority. These were not merely runs upon a scoreboard. They became symbols of a civilization reclaiming its confidence. Long before reparatory justice emerged as a formal agenda of Caribbean diplomacy, West Indies cricket had already begun recovering something priceless—the self-belief, pride and dignity of a people.

Political independence transferred



constitutional authority. Psychological decolonization restored belief. Sir Garfield Sobers helped accomplish the latter. He gave generations of Caribbean boys and girls permission to believe that they could equal—and surpass—the very nations that had once governed them. This interpretation does not suggest that Sobers consciously viewed every innings as a political statement. Rather, history has invested those performances with profound meaning. Cricket, introduced as an instrument of empire, had been mastered by the descendants of the colonized and transformed into one of the Caribbean's greatest instruments of psychological liberation.

The distinguished Trinidadian historian and intellectual C. L. R. James captured this enduring truth when he famously observed, “What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?” Sir Garfield Sobers became one of the finest illustrations of that timeless insight. His own character was shaped by hardship.

His father, Shamont Sobers, was lost at sea during the Second World War while Garfield was still a child. Raised in modest circumstances by his mother, Thelma, he learned resilience, humility and perseverance long before international acclaim arrived. Another defining moment came in 1959, when

his close friend and West Indies teammate Collie Smith died following a motor vehicle accident in England in which Sobers himself survived. The tragedy profoundly affected him. Rather than allowing grief to define his life, he transformed personal loss into renewed purpose, carrying himself thereafter with a maturity, grace and quiet dignity that earned admiration throughout the cricketing world.

His life became an affirmation of the Black Caribbean experience itself—not one defined by victimhood, but by resilience; not imprisoned by history, but strengthened through it; not diminished by adversity, but elevated through excellence. Just as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. advanced the cause of human dignity through moral leadership and peaceful resistance, Sir Garfield Sobers demonstrated on the cricket field that excellence itself could become a powerful instrument for challenging inherited assumptions about race, worth and human potential.

Sir Garfield Sobers proved that excellence itself can become a form of diplomacy. Without delivering speeches at the United Nations, negotiating treaties or occupying political office, he altered how the world perceived the Caribbean and, perhaps more importantly, how Caribbean people perceived themselves. His achievements

became a passport for regional respect, demonstrating that a small archipelago of developing nations could produce a standard of excellence that the entire world would acknowledge without qualification.

Today, the Caribbean faces challenges different from those confronting the generation of independence. Climate resilience, technological innovation, food and energy security, maritime cooperation, youth empowerment, the blue economy and reparatory justice now shape the regional agenda. These aspirations demand

the same confidence, imagination and collective purpose that Sir Garfield inspired throughout his remarkable life.

His legacy therefore extends far beyond cricket. It is a blueprint for regional development: that individual excellence achieves its highest purpose when it strengthens collective dignity, and that personal achievement finds its fullest meaning when it advances the progress of an entire people. Antigua and Barbuda's decision to lower its national flags to half-mast is therefore profoundly fitting. Sir Garfield Sobers belonged to Barbados by birth, but to the Caribbean by destiny. His achievements became part of the common inheritance of every Caribbean citizen.

Future generations will remember Sir Garfield Sobers as cricket's greatest all-rounder. History, however, may remember him for something even greater. At a defining moment in the Caribbean's journey from colonial dependency to sovereign confidence, he became one of the defining embodiments of the region's emerging self-belief. His bat scored runs, but his life restored dignity.

His wickets won matches, but his example inspired confidence. Long after the applause has faded, the Caribbean will continue to draw strength from the innings he played on behalf of us all.

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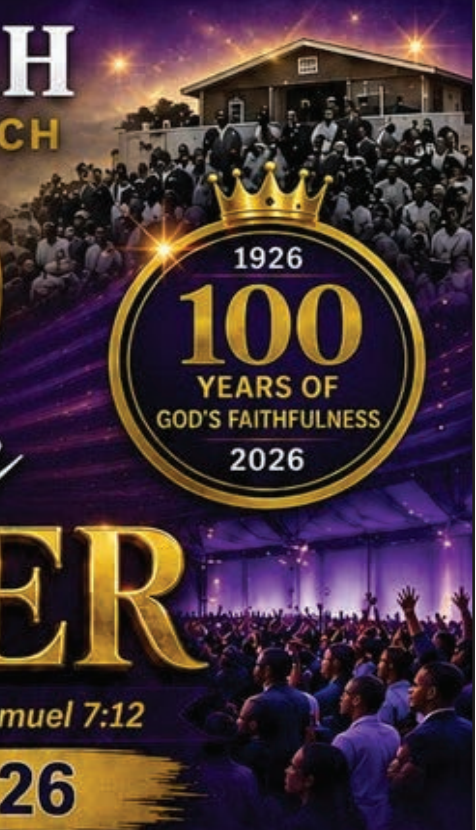
- APUA INET MARKET STREET, ST. JOHN'S
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**RIDDIM
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"Thus far the LORD has helped us." *1 Samuel 7:12*

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
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OUR PAST



CELEBRATE
OUR PRESENT



EMBRACE
OUR MISSION



EXPECT
OUR FUTURE

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

Regional News

Double disaster - Holness, CARICOM offer condolences as maritime incidents rock Caribbean

Jamaica's Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has expressed condolences to the government and people of Guyana following the capsizing of the MV Barima, which was carrying 116 passengers and a 17-member crew.

"I am deeply saddened by the capsizing of the MV Barima and the distress this incident has caused," Holness said in a statement on social media.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I express our solidarity with President Irfaan Ali, the Government and people of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and especially to the families and loved ones of those affected.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by this event, as well as the brave rescue teams who continue their efforts with dedication and courage.

"We pray for strength and comfort for all those affected."

At the same time, CARICOM said it was "deeply saddened" by the capsizing of the passenger ferry and that it was closely following the ongoing search-and-rescue operation to account for all passengers and crew.

The regional grouping extended its prayers and support to families anxiously awaiting news of their loved ones, while paying tribute to the courage, dedication and selfless efforts of rescue teams and others responding to the incident.

The vessel capsized on Saturday night while travelling to Port Kaituma, a small village in Guyana's Barima-Waini administrative region.

Preliminary reports suggest that a large wave may have caused the incident, according to Guyana's Public Works Minister Juan Edghill. However, a full investigation is expected.

As of Sunday, 67 people, including 15 children, had been rescued as



search-and-rescue teams continued efforts to account for everyone on board.

Edghill rejected reports that the vessel had been overloaded or suffered mechanical problems, saying the MV Barima was licensed to carry significantly more cargo and passengers than were on board. He said preliminary accounts pointed to tidal conditions, while cautioning that the cause would be subject to investigation.

Meanwhile, in St Lucia, at least three people are reported dead, several others injured and one person missing after two boats collided off the island's west coast early Sunday.

The head-on collision occurred in waters between Soufrière and Canaries, involving one vessel travelling south and another heading north.

Several passengers reportedly suffered serious injuries, including broken arms and legs. Rescuers found survivors clinging to wreckage before bringing them ashore to a nearby beach, where they received medical treatment.

Search efforts were continuing for the missing person. Meanwhile, the police had not issued an official statement on the incident at the time of publication. (Jamaica Gleaner)

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Signs of hope despite gang violence and political uncertainty in Haiti



For millions of Haitians, daily life has become a struggle to stay safe, find enough food and simply move around their own neighbourhood.

Powerful armed gangs control large parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, and continue expanding into other parts of the country. Families are fleeing their homes in record numbers, schools and health centres have closed, and humanitarian agencies are struggling to meet soaring needs as funding runs dangerously low.

Over the last weekend, the Northern Department Police (DDN) said that for the period June 1 to July 17, several gang members were fatally wounded during exchanges of fire with the police, and a quantity of firearms seized.

The police said on July 15, in the Latanbri area, a locality in the Morin neighbourhood, gang leader Peterson Belony and his right-hand man, known as “Dejwe” were fatally wounded. They said during the period June 27 – 28, in the commune of Li-

monade, gang leader Alland Gérôme, alias “Jhon” was fatally wounded.

In addition, 391 people were arrested. Murder, attempted murder, robbery, rape, illegal possession of firearms, kidnapping, unlawful confinement, criminal conspiracy, and breach of trust are the main charges, the police added.

Meanwhile, three new Haitian criminal groups have been added to the UN blacklist. They are Gran Grif, Kraze Baryè, and 400 Mawozo.

According to the UN website, as of Monday, the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen as violence, displacement and economic hardship reinforce one another.

It said more than half the country's population of around 11 million now needs relief aid.

Around 6.4 million people need humanitarian assistance with 3.3 million prioritized for support

1.47 million people have fled their

homes largely due to violence and more than 5.8 million people are expected to go hungry this year.

The UN said violence continues to disrupt healthcare, clean water supplies and education, while aid organisations are trying to keep hospitals, nutrition programmes and emergency shelters operating despite shrinking resources.

The 2026 humanitarian appeal is critically underfunded. By mid-June, only 25 per cent of the required US\$880 million had been received, limiting life-saving operations.

It noted that Haiti has not had an elected president since the murder of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, due to long-term instability and insecurity and that restoring democratic government remains one of the country's biggest challenges, but credible voting cannot take place unless security improves significantly.

“Armed gangs continue to control

Regional News



many neighbourhoods and major roads, making it difficult to register voters, move election materials and guarantee public safety,” according to the UN website.

It said even so, preparations have accelerated in recent months and with a US\$120 million election budget agreed it is hoped that the first round of voting can be held before the end of 2026, allowing an elected president to take office in February 2027.

The UN said violence by heavily armed gangs concentrated largely in Port-au-Prince remains the single biggest obstacle to Haiti’s recovery and that competition between rival criminal groups over territory and extortion has fuelled increasingly brutal fighting.

The consequences for ordinary Haitians are devastating.

In one major outbreak of violence around the Cité Soleil neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince, earlier this year, at least 542 people were killed and 355

injured. During those clashes at least 176 women and girls were raped.

Children are also increasingly caught up in the crisis. Many have been forced to flee their homes, while others are being recruited by gangs or exposed to extreme violence.

The UN said that for the first time in many months, Haitian security forces have begun to record some tangible, if limited, successes against armed gangs.

“Specialised police units have pushed criminal groups out of several strategic locations in Port-au-Prince, reopening some major roads and allowing government institutions to return to parts of the city centre.

“A major new development has been the launch of the Gang Suppression Force, a UN-backed international security operation established to help Haiti regain control of areas dominated by criminal groups.”

Meanwhile, two specialised judicial

units have begun operating to investigate mass crimes, sexual violence and major financial crimes.

But the UN notes that despite these recent operations, gangs remain capable of launching deadly attacks, extorting communities and disrupting everyday life.

“Egregious human rights violations continue across Haiti. Armed gangs are responsible for killings, kidnappings, rape and the forced displacement of entire communities. Sexual violence is increasingly being used to terrorise neighbourhoods under gang control.”

The UN said that Haiti’s political, security and humanitarian crises are all connected. It will be hard to hold elections without better security. Security gains will be difficult to sustain without stronger governance.

“And none of it will work if millions of people are still struggling with hunger, displacement and violence.” (CMC)

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
ANTIGUA CARNIVAL
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RHYTHM OF A QUEEN
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Rhythm of Resilience

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Rhythm of Purpose

Queenella Williams
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Rhythm of Leadership

Christine Powell
ACB Caribbean
Rhythm of Strength

Shaveesa Gasper
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Rhythm of Culture

Zaine Frederick
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Aaliyah Taylor
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21ST JULY 2026
8:00 PM
ARG (ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS)
TICKETS
RESERVED SEATING - EC\$50
GENERAL ADMISSION - EC\$30

Sumfest history: Mavado, Kartel take Gully/Gaza era full circle



For 18 years it remained one of dancehall's biggest unanswered questions: Could the music that once divided a nation ever become the force that united it?

Shortly after 2:00 am on Sunday that question was answered inside Plantation Cove as a Taste of Reggae Sumfest delivered an experience of history-making proportions.

Vybz Kartel and Mavado stood shoulder to shoulder on the festival's grand stage, writing a new chapter in one of the most defining narratives in dancehall culture. The showdown was far more than an exhibition of hit songs. It was the closing of a circle that began during the combative Gully/Gaza era — a rivalry that shaped an entire generation of dancehall fans and forever altered the genre's landscape.

Dressed for battle, but performing in brotherhood, both deejays were ready to give fans exactly what they asked for.

The Real McKoy, Real Deal, Send A Hell, the entertainers elicited loud cheers of approval from the sold-out crowd.

The tension that once defined the rivalry had given way to celebration.

"This a history innu," Mavado declared.

"Memba dat," Kartel responded before embracing his long-time rival.

"We ago gi unnu supm unnu never see yet," Kartel continued.

For two hours they spewed hit after hit from their arsenal of songs.

For Professor Donna Hope, one of Jamaica's foremost authorities on dancehall culture, the significance of the moment extended well beyond nostalgia.

"Eighteen years later... We have been through many things, they've been in exile in different ways, they lost things, they gained things, and so the energy was different," she reflected after the performance. "Gaza/Gully in 2008 was a very combative energy but Reggae Sumfest 2026, it was different. Their performance reminded people that dancehall culture is alive and well and Vybz Kartel and Mavado are powerful artistes that have matured and now understand the mission and are carrying it out."

Even while revisiting songs born from lyrical warfare, the two men frequently completed each other's lyrics, laughed together, and embraced the shared legacy they helped create. Records that once encouraged fans to choose sides became reminders of just how deeply both artistes have shaped modern dancehall.

Mavado confidently held his own with crowd favourites, including Weh Dem A Do, Top Shatta Nah Miss, Chat Too Much, Warn Dem, and Amazing Grace.

Kartel answered with equal force, unleashing anthem after anthem through Gaza Army, Broad Daylight, Kill Dem All, Done, Weh Dem A Go, Murder Informa, and Never Scared.

Female fans were delighted with selections including Love Dem, Picture Me & You, Beg You (A Touch), and Come Home, while Mavado countered with Squeeze Breast, Bicycle, Ever Blessed, When You Feel Lonely, and Never Believe You.

The surprises continued as Mavado invited Stacious to recreate their hit Come Into My Room, while Kartel called on Gaza Hindu to perform Spice's verses on Ramping Shop and Virginity.

"It's a good feeling to be back on a Sumfest stage," said Stacious. "Tonight I'm here not just as an artiste, but as a fan of dancehall who lived through the era where Gully/Gaza did a run road... Mavado hasn't performed in Jamaica for a while so I was happy to witness that return and be a part of it... [I]t's always fun when we connect..."

As they got ready to draw the curtains on their historic set, the clash songs and romance anthems gave way to messages of gratitude and faith as the deejays delivered Hope and Pray, God Is the Greatest, The Messiah, and Thank Yuh Jah.

Then came the perfect ending. Their first collaboration, Happiest Days.

"This a the first song me and him ever do," Kartel reminded the audience. "Listen to it good and see how everything come full circle."

Few closing songs could carry greater symbolism — history, legacy secured! (Jamaica Observer)

Mount Olympus, home of the ancient Greek gods, vies for World Heritage status



Snow-capped for much of the year, Mount Olympus, the mythological home of ancient Greece's 12 Olympian gods, has captured the imagination through the millennia. Rising to 2,918 metres (9,573 feet) from a base practically at sea level, the ancient Greeks believed the throne of Zeus, king of the gods, stood on the highest of its craggy, often mist-shrouded peaks.

Now, modern-day Greeks hope their tallest mountain will be inducted into UNESCO's World Heritage List as a mixed cultural and natural site. The nomination is to be discussed when the World Heritage Committee meets in Busan, South Korea from Sunday through July 29.

"Olympus is our life. It is the place we grew up in," said Evangelos Geroliolios, mayor of Dion-Olympus, based in Litochoro, the mountain's main town. "It is the place we see every day but, at the same time, it is also a place which carries with it myth, history, biodiversity, extraordinary beauty and a very great cultural weight."

SEAT OF THE GODS

Few locations are as central to ancient

Greek mythology as Mount Olympus. It was here that Zeus was said to have established his court after overthrowing his father, Cronus, in a 10-year war that ended the reign of the Titans.

Interest in Olympus may receive another boost with the theatrical release this week of Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey*, a new adaptation of Homer's epic, in which the mountain serves as the home of Zeus and the Olympian gods who influence Odysseus' journey.

On one of Olympus's lower peaks, excavations have uncovered an open-air sanctuary, with the oldest finds dating to the Hellenistic period, which ran from 323 BC to 30 BC. According to Greece's original UNESCO nomination, the sanctuary is believed to have been one mentioned by the ancient philosopher and historian Plutarch who, in the 2nd century, wrote of processions to one of Olympus's peaks for animal sacrifices to Zeus.

The mountain retained religious significance into the Christian era. A chapel on the peak of Prophet Elias, at 2,803 metres, is believed to be the

highest altitude chapel in the Christian Orthodox world. The mountain's Enipeas Gorge holds the remains of a monastery founded in 1542, while a roughly 20-minute walk from there leads to the Holy Cave of St Dionysios, a chapel built into a cave from where a small spring flows, believed to carry holy water.

The mountain's slopes, which reach practically to the sea, also host a wealth of flora and fauna, including endemic species. It is this blending of culture, myth, natural beauty and biodiversity that locals hope will see their mountain declared a World Heritage site.

"It is a place we love. It is a place that many people from all over the world visit to see, to live, to experience. We want to protect it," Geroliolios said. Its inclusion on UNESCO's list would be "something very big that goes beyond not just local boundaries, but national boundaries. It is something that concerns the entire world. It is very important".

INCLUSION FAR FROM CERTAIN
Greece began the process to have Mount Olympus recognised as a World

Heritage site in 2014, inscribing it on its Tentative List – the mandatory first step in any nomination. The Tentative List is where countries include sites they can then formally nominate over the next five to 10 years.

The nomination process includes a preliminary assessment followed by submission of a full nomination file, which is then evaluated over 14 months by advisory bodies, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Recommendations by the advisory bodies are then discussed during the World Heritage Committee's annual meeting, where representatives of 21 countries vote on nominated sites.

Greece's Mount Olympus nomination is far from certain. A draft of the Busan meeting's agenda indicates the committee will refer the nomination back to Greece and request further details.

Still, locals hope the mountain's cultural and natural wonders will secure it a place and will play a role in securing more protection for the mountain.

THE NEED FOR PROTECTION

The mayor, Geroliolios, said inclusion on the World Heritage list "places some greater obligations on our part to protect this environment".

Environmental protection is also foremost in the mind of mountain guide Babis Marinidis, president of the Alpine Club of Litochoro.

Including Olympus on UNESCO's World Heritage list would likely attract more people to the mountain and the surrounding area, Marinidis said. "How many people can this mountain, this ecosystem, bear?" he asked. Although much of Olympus was designated a national park decades ago and there are regulations in place, many are openly flouted, with Marinidis saying visitors regularly ignore "no swimming" or "no camping" signs.

The ever-growing number of visitors had led local authorities to consider imposing entrance fees and registering visitor numbers. "I used to be against

that," Marinidis said. "But now, with so many people, I believe some limit must be imposed."

CLAIMED MANY LIVES

The mythological home of the gods attracts hikers and mountaineers from across the world. While technical climbing experience isn't mandatory to reach the summit, the mountain is also not to be trifled with.

With its combination of changeable weather and treacherous terrain, it has claimed many lives. The most recent fatality was on July 11, when a 64-year-old Greek hiker died after collapsing on a trail. In May, rescue crews found the body of a 25-year-old Spanish man days after he went missing

while attempting to reach the summit in the snow.

"You need to be careful," and safety measures must always be kept in mind, said 32-year-old hiker Triantafyllos Giannospyros, who was visiting the mountain for the first time. "But, with care and with good organisation, it isn't something you should be afraid of."

Stavroula Vourou, who runs a hotel in Litochoro, the town from where many hikers set off, echoed his sentiment.

"Everyone sets off to go up and conquer a mountain that needs respect," she said. "You respect this mountain, it respects you too." (AP)



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Andy Burnham set to take over as new British PM

Andy Burnham will Monday become Britain's sixth prime minister to move into Downing Street since 2016, with an in-tray overflowing with challenges and little time to make his mark.

The new leader takes over from the unpopular Keir Starmer just two years after the outgoing prime minister led Labour to power in a landslide election victory after 14 years of Conservative rule.

After being asked by King Charles III to form the next government, Burnham, 56, is due to make his first speech Monday outside 10 Downing Street shortly after Starmer has said his farewells.

In an interview with *The Times* published late Sunday, Burnham set out his ambition for change, saying he wanted to draw a line under a decade of political turmoil.

"What we've been doing hasn't been working. That's the way I see it," he said.

"I am going to try and do things in a different way."

In his first speech he was to acknowledge he feels "acutely conscious" of the need for a more stable brand of politics, as he becomes the sixth new prime minister in the last 10 years.

Burnham will set out "priorities for restoring confidence in government and giving Britain more breathing room" amid the cost-of-living crisis, his team said.

Delivering growth and devolving power to regional communities are also expected to feature.

An announcement on his senior cabinet appointments was also expected on Monday with all eyes on who will replace Rachel Reeves as finance minister.

The former mayor of Greater Manchester, nicknamed the "King of the North", has been parachuted in by the Labour Party, after Starmer resigned last month, with MPs viewing him as the party's best chance of reining in Nigel Farage's anti-immigration Reform UK party.

Deputy Labour Party leader Lucy Powell said Sunday Burnham's mayoral experience away from the London centre of government meant he understood the "bigger, bolder measures" needed to



deliver on Labour's election manifesto promises.

Among Burnham's most urgent challenges will be a tepid economy, high government borrowing costs, a ballooning welfare bill and irregular migrants arriving in small boats that have fuelled support for Reform.

Unpredictable energy prices due to the US-Iran war and a volatile American president in Donald Trump also threaten to buffet his premiership.

Burnham told *The Times* he would take a "different approach to public spending, and to running the economy — more focused on early investment, early intervention, setting people up for success, and much less paying for failure."

He promised "early moves to help" with the cost of living, saying that while campaigning he heard the "pressure people feel around their finances".

Starmer announced that he would resign as prime minister and Labour Party leader in late June after a string of scandals, missteps and policy U-turns blighted his leadership.

But Burnham, who only returned as a member of parliament four weeks ago, has little room to manoeuvre amid sluggish economic growth, high public debt and strict financial rules requiring him to balance government spending against tax revenue.

Monday's handover will begin with Starmer visiting Buckingham Palace to formally tender his resignation to the king, after making a brief statement out-

side 10 Downing Street.

Burnham will then make his own trip to Buckingham Palace, before his first speech as prime minister which will be a moment of "reflection and resolution," he will say, stressing Britain must be honest about the challenges it faces.

Burnham was an MP between 2001 and 2017, serving as a minister the governments of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

He has since reinvented himself as a man of the people, melding a relaxed, folksy style with slick social media videos.

But he has only three years to turn things around, with Reform tipped in polls to win the next general election expected in 2029.

Burnham told supporters on Friday his Labour takeover was the "last chance" for the party to get things right.

Critics have accused Starmer's government of being under-prepared for power when he was elected in July 2024.

Burnham has insisted he has a "plan".

But his swift "coronation" as Labour leader has raised questions on how he will achieve his aims.

His first policy announcement came on Saturday when he scrapped Starmer's flagship nationwide digital ID scheme, estimated to cost £1.8 billion over three years.

A spokesperson said the time and resources would be diverted "to where it's most needed, such as helping with the cost of living". (AFP)

Norway opens new memorial for victims of 2011 massacre



Norway has opened a new memorial for the 77 victims of the country's deadliest terror attack in peacetime, days before its 15th anniversary.

On 22 July 2011, neo-Nazi Anders Breivik killed eight people with a car bomb in Oslo and shot dead another 69 - mostly teenagers - at a youth camp on Utoeya island. Hundreds more were injured in Norway's worst atrocity in recent history.

On Sunday, survivors and relatives of the victims gathered in Oslo for the unveiling of a large artwork showing a bird native to Utoeya island.

The artist said the work was two-fold - to remember the victims and to engage the public in an act of democratic resilience against far-right ideologies that inspired the attack.

The contemporary artwork features a huge blue steel frame supporting a 12-metre (39ft) high stone mosaic that depicts a small wading bird, as

well as straw and sticks reflected in the water.

Called Upholding, the memorial is located in Oslo's renovated government district, close to the location of the bomb blast that started the 2011 attack.

The artist Matias Faldbakken said he had seen the bird on Utoeya island. Many of those killed on the island were teenagers involved with the Norwegian Labour Party's youth wing, the AUF.

The names of all 77 victims are engraved on the memorial.

"July 22, 2011 was a brutal attack not only on individuals, but also on our democracy," said Merete Stamneshaugen, head of a support group for victims and survivors, quoted by the AFP news agency.

Norway's Crown Prince Haakon and government officials also attended the inauguration ceremony in Oslo on

Sunday.

Haakon also visited the new 22 July Centre - Norway's national memorial and education centre dedicated to the attacks.

In 2012, Breivik was sentenced to 21 years in jail, the maximum a court in Norway can impose, though it can be extended for as long as he is deemed a threat.

Over the years, Breivik has challenged the terms of his sentence.

In 2016, he partially won his human rights case against Norway before it was overturned the following year.

In 2022, he failed in his bid for parole, with the court ruling he had not changed and remained a risk to society. In 2024, he unsuccessfully sued the government over claims of isolation, as he is kept separately from other prisoners for security reasons. (BBC)

Sports News

KCBA Knights name squad for MDBA Youth Summer Invitational Splash



Kevin Cox Basketball Academy (KCBA) Knights

After preparing for the 3rd Annual MDBA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational Splash Tournament, slated for August 11-15 in Antigua, the Kevin Cox Basketball Academy (KCBA) Knights have assembled a 10-member squad to represent Grenada in the 16 and under division.

Team Grenada is comprised of Aiden Francis, Paul Mitchell, Shawn Emmanuel, Tevin Hypolite, Trey Phillips, Ethan Purcell, Joseph Beckford, Loveon Morain, Romain John, and Thaj Marshall.

The Kevin Cox Basketball Academy is dedicated to helping every player reach his/her full potential, both on and off the court. The academy emphasizes leadership, teamwork, discipline, and a genuine love for the game,

empowering players to grow not only as athletes but also as individuals in every aspect of life.

Kevin Cox, CEO of the Kevin Cox Basketball Academy, is one of Grenada's outstanding basketball figures and role models.

Cox, born in Carriacou, Grenada, is a former American collegiate and professional basketball player whose deep passion and dedication to the game have defined both his athletic and academic journey.

He played four years at the collegiate level in the United States of America (USA). During his freshman year, he attended Seminole State College (NJCAA Division I) in Oklahoma.

As a sophomore, he played for Kings-

borough Community College (NJCAA Division III) in New York. He completed both his junior and senior years at the University of the District of Columbia (NCAA Division II) in Washington, D.C.

After graduating, Cox went on to play professionally for three years.

Kevin Cox also represented Grenada's national team in the FIBA AmeriCup 2021 and 2029 Caribbean Pre-Qualifiers, held in Suriname in 2018 and in Georgetown, Guyana, in 2026.

Over six games, he averaged 15.2 points, 6.8 rebounds, and 2.2 assists per game in Suriname and, in Guyana, 20.5 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 1.8 steals per game.

New Zealand beat West Indies in a thriller to clinch ODI series



New Zealand's Matthew Fisher, center, celebrates the dismissal of West Indies captain Shai Hope, right, for his first ODI wicket during the fourth international at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Sunday, July 19, 2026. (Getty Images)

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — Mark Chapman scored 80 and Mitchell Santner shepherded the tail to guide New Zealand to a tense one-wicket win over West Indies in the fourth One-Day International (ODI) at the Kensington Ovals on Sunday to an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

Santner was dropped with three runs needed and one wicket in hand, and last batter Jayden Lennox survived reviews for caught behind and lbw, before New Zealand edged past West Indies' modest total of 188 with 35 balls remaining.

Santner, the New Zealand captain, hit the winning runs from the first ball of the 45th over to finish on 34 not out and to spoil West Indies' hopes of achieving a series-leveling victory to pay tribute to cricket great Gary Sobers.

"It was pretty chaotic, especially the ending," Santner said. "You try to chip off the total as much as you can. Even partnerships of 10 or 15 at that stage was going a long way. It probably shouldn't have got that close but it was nice to get over the line."

The West Indies had expressed a fervent hope to honour Sobers in his home

town of Bridgetown and at Kensington Oval, the stadium where he nurtured his career and made his name. Sobers died Friday aged 89; both teams wore black armbands and flags flew at half-staff in his memory.

Two seats were left empty in the pavilion named for Sobers and a minute of silence was observed before play began. Sobers is considered the greatest West Indies cricketer and likely the greatest all-rounder in the history of the game with more than 8,000 Test runs and 200 wickets.

West Indies' hopes of honouring him had an early setback when New Zealand won the toss and chose to bowl. Teams bowling first have won all four matches in the series to date.

New Zealand won Game 2 by five wickets and Game 3 by six wickets after losing the first ODI by seven wickets.

Conditions were difficult in Barbados and West Indies slipped to 58 for three and 81 for six before the innings was revived by a seventh-wicket partnership of 81 between Amir Jangoo and Gudakesh Motie.

Jangoo scored 51, reaching his half

century from 71 balls, as West Indies ground toward a modest total. Motie made 41.

Young pacer Matthew Fisher took three for 40, his first ODI wickets for New Zealand. His first scalp was West Indies captain Shai Hope (2), who fell to the best ball of the day, a cross-seamer which jagged back sharply from outside off stump.

Despite a bad start to their chase, losing two wickets with only six runs on the board, New Zealand was heading toward a comfortable win after Chapman and Michael Bracewell put on 65 for the fifth wicket.

Chapman's dismissal left New Zealand at 142 for five, needing only 47 runs to win with almost 25 overs remaining.

But left-arm spinner Motie and pacer Alzarri Joseph epitomized West Indies' intent, bowling their team to the brink of victory. Motie took five for 47 and Joseph claimed one for 23, putting heavy pressure on New Zealand through the closing overs.

Bracewell (32) was out to Motie's first ball after a short rain break, then Nathan Smith (8), Jacob Duffy (1) and Fisher (1) were all dismissed quickly.

New Zealand needed eight runs when Lennox went in at No. 11. Santner took New Zealand within one run of victory but left Lennox to face a full over from Vitel Lawes, which yielded two confident appeals, both rejected under review.

Lennox survived and Santner finished the match from the first ball of the next over.

"It's been a really good cricket game for the onlookers," Hope said. "If you watch a game like this as a neutral you're going to be really happy to see play like this."

"It was one that could have gone to either side. I must commend our guys for the fight they showed."

The last match of the five-game ODI series will be played at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Tuesday.

CWI to honour Kemar Roach's historic 300-Test wicket milestone



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

Cricket West Indies (CWI) will formally honour Barbadian fast bowler Kemar Roach for his outstanding achievement of claiming 300 Test wickets during the innings break of the fifth One-Day International (ODI) between the West Indies and New Zealand at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Tuesday.

Roach became only the fifth West Indian and second Barbadian to reach the coveted 300-wicket landmark, achieving the milestone during the West Indies' win over Sri Lanka in the first match of the two-Test series in Antigua last month.

He joins an elite list comprising Jamaican Courtney Walsh (519), Sir Antiguan Sir Curtly Ambrose (405), Barbadian Malcolm Marshall (376), and Guyanese Lance Gibbs (305).

The on-field presentation will see Cricket West Indies joined by representatives of the Government of Barbados and Barbados Cricket Association

(BCA).

With free admission being announced in honour of the late Sir Garfield Sobers, Barbadians and cricket supporters are encouraged to fill the stands to show their appreciation for Roach's historic accomplishment.

CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow spoke on Roach's illustrious career and opportunity for the West Indies cricket family and the people of Barbados to recognise one of the region's modern greats.

"For the better part of two decades, Kemar has represented the West Indies with distinction, displaying extraordinary skill, heart and determination every time he has worn the maroon cap. He has been an outstanding ambassador for Caribbean cricket, and an inspiration to generations of young fast bowlers.

"I am personally heartened to witness a player of this generation whose un-

wavering commitment and exceptional contributions have earned him a rightful place among the legends of our game.

"On behalf of Cricket West Indies, I once again extend heartfelt congratulations to Kemar on this remarkable achievement. It is a richly deserved honour, and one that reflects the profound impact he has made on West Indies cricket."

Since making his Test debut against Bangladesh in 2009, Roach has established himself as one of the finest fast bowlers of his generation.

His 300 Test wickets have come at an average of approximately 28.83 and an economy rate of 3.10, including 12 five-wicket hauls and one 10-wicket match haul.

Renowned for his exceptional control, late movement and relentless accuracy, he has enjoyed success in all major Test-playing nations and has consistently led the West Indies attack throughout his career.

In recent years, he has played a pivotal leadership role within the West Indies bowling unit and remains an inspiration to aspiring cricketers throughout the region.

Cricket West Indies invites patrons attending the fifth ODI at Kensington Oval to remain in their seats during the innings interval and join in saluting Kemar Roach on his crowning achievement.

Spain's World Cup champions return home for royal welcome

MADRID (AP) — Spain's World Cup-winning soccer team returned home on Monday, where the 26-man squad were greeted by the country's royals before meeting with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

The squad later board an open-top bus for a raucous parade through central Madrid. Hundreds of thousands of fans greeted them as they travel down Madrid's historic avenues from near Moncloa Palace, the prime minister's official residence, to Cibeles Square.

A ceremony with the players held at the square, where previous Spain teams and their supporters have traditionally gathered to celebrate.

Spain walked off with the trophy at Sunday's final after defeating now-dethroned champion Argentina 1-0 in East Rutherford, New Jersey. It was only the second time, after a 2010 victory in South Africa, that Spain had won the title.

The team was congratulated by the leaders of the three countries that co-hosted the tournament, US President Donald Trump, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

After the final whistle, Madrid erupted into celebrations, with thousands of supporters pouring into the streets from bars and restaurants, many draped in Spanish flags or wearing the team's colours.

Crowds packed the capital's Puerta de Sol and other major squares — singing, dancing and setting off flares while car horns blared. Many celebrated Sunday's victory



Players from Spain's national soccer team pose with the World Cup trophy as they arrive at Madrid airport on Monday, July 20, 2026, after being crowned World Cup champions with a victory over Argentina in the final in East Rutherford, New Jersey, near New York, USA. (AP)

long into the wee hours of Monday morning.

"I'm very happy. I've slept three or four hours, but for the team, I'll do whatever it takes," 19-year-old Victor Álvarez said.

The men's victory, combined with the Women's World Cup won by Spain in 2023, makes the European nation the first to hold both titles simultaneously.

"Honestly, it was very exciting. We preferred not to go to any bar or anything, to experience it at home, focused and very happy, very joyful," 59-year-old civil servant Gema Rodero said.

Celebrations were dampened, however, after local authorities reported that a 13-year-old in Salamanca, northwest of Madrid, had died after a fountain he had climbed onto with friends to mark the victory had collapsed.

For many young supporters, the triumph is their first time witnessing the men's team lift the trophy, and the national delirium that has followed.

Spain now is markedly different from 2010, when the Iberian nation was beset by a debt crisis, 20% unemployment and nationalist regions fighting to win more autonomy.

The economy is expanding, the unemployment rate has halved and the country is forecast to again be among the Eurozone's fastest-growing major economies. Nationalist and separatist tensions have considerably cooled.

Groups of fans began securing their spots near Cibeles Square late Monday morning ahead of the team's arrival, bringing umbrellas to protect against the sun and temperatures of up to 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit).

Strictly Business and Female Flyers win titles in ABSCA T20 tourney



Members of Alzarri and Sharon Joseph, North Sails Antigua Female Flyers team after winning the ABSCA women's T20 competition at the Dredgers playing field in St. John's on Sunday, July 19, 2026. (Photos courtesy of the ABSCA)



Members of Rackaman Construction Strictly Business team pose with their trophy after winning the ABSCA men's T20 competition at the Dredgers playing field in St. John's on Sunday, July 19, 2026. (Photos courtesy of the ABSCA)

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business and Alzarri and Sharon Joseph, North Sails Antigua Female Flyers have captured the titles in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) WTP 93.5 FM and Chet Greene T20 Championships.

Both teams achieved title honours in the T20 competition by recording victories in the finals at the Dredgers playing field in St. John's on Sunday.

Strictly Business captured the men's T20 title by pulling off a 32-run victory against Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js in the final.

Strictly Business made 141 for five off 20 overs. Kim George hit 49, player of the match Kerry Mentore cracked 31, and Clinton Benjamin scored 21. Kenrick Scott claimed two wickets for eight runs, and Rodney Williams picked up two for 15.

In reply, the Buckley's 3Js were dismissed for 109 in 18.2 overs. Denley Thomas hit 49, and Rodney Williams got 11. Kerry Mentore snapped up three for 12, Shaquan Reifer took two

for 14, and Ashfield Weatherhead captured two for 31.

The Buckley's 3Js had advanced to the final by pulling off a five-wicket victory over the Goody's Advent 300 in the second semi-final at the Clare Hall playing field.

Andra Samuel hit 41, Kennedy Tonge struck 28, and Zach Thomas got 14. Rodney Williams captured two for 22.

The Buckley's 3Js achieved victory by scoring 117 for five in 14.5 overs. Player of the match Nigel Fergus slammed 51, Denley Thomas hit 27, and Kenrick Scott chipped in with 14. Jared Roberts claimed two for 18.

Strictly Business booked their spot in the championship decider by surging to a commanding 49-run victory over the Dredgers in the first semi-final.

Strictly Business made 132 for five off their allotted 20 overs. In reply, the Dredgers were dismissed for 83 in 19.4 overs.

Female Flyers captured the women's T20 title by recording a 27-run victory over Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors in the final.

The Female Flyers made 129 for six off their 20 overs. Player of the match Makada Hector slammed 45, Terez Parker hit 27, Sevley Ireland got 13, and Manela James scored 10. Grace Persaud claimed two for 24.

In reply, the Survivors were dismissed for 102 in 19.4 overs. Joan Samuel and Sacha Michael each made 31, and Kimberly Anthony scored 19. Vonetta Bachelors snapped up five for 30, and Makeda Hector picked up two wickets for eight runs.

Although sponsorship was drastically reduced due to several reasons, the ABSCA has expressed its sincere gratitude to the sponsors and other officials who came forward and supported this year's successful staging and completion of its T20 competition.

The ABSCA is thanking the clubs/teams, umpires, scorers and all who contributed to the event. The ABSCA is also expressing its gratitude to Raymond "Racaman" Leadette; Devon Joseph of DEJ Enterprise, St. John's Co-operative Credit Union, WTP 93.5 FM and Paul Chet Greene for their sponsorship and contributions.