

Diann Black-Layne Steps Down As Director of the Environment

Story on page 2



Minister Responsible for Carnival, Dwayne George, makes presentation to the new Queen of Carnival Zaine Frederick as members of the Festivals Commission look on

Diann Black-Layne Steps Down As Director of the Environment

Ambassador Diann Black-Layne is stepping down as the Director of the Department of the Environment, a post she has held for multiple decades.

The announcement comes from the Ministry of Health and the Environment which also announced that Ambassador Ruleta Camacho-Thomas has been appointed as Acting Director of the Department of Environment.

The Ministry expresses its sincere appreciation to Diann Black-Layne for her dedicated service and leadership as Director of the Department of Environment. Throughout her distinguished tenure, Black-Layne played an instrumental role in shaping the Department into the respected institution it is today, laying a strong foundation for environmental protection, climate resilience, and sustainable development in Antigua and Barbuda. Her vision, passion, and unwavering commitment have left a lasting legacy that will continue to benefit the nation for years to come.

The Ministry, together with its management and staff, as well as the staff of the Department of Environment, extends its heartfelt gratitude to Black-Layne for her many years of exemplary service and wishes her a long, healthy, and fulfilling retirement. The Ministry also wishes her every success and happiness in her new endeavours that she will choose to pursue in this new chapter of her life.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of extends sincere congratulations to Ambassador Ruleta Camacho-Thomas on her appointment as Acting Director of the Department of Environment. It noted that Ambassador Camacho-Thomas has consistently



Ambassador Diann Black-Layne

demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to environ-

mental stewardship and sustainable development. The Ministry is confident that her experience, vision, and commitment will continue to strengthen the Department as it advances its mandate to protect and sustainably manage the nation's natural resources.

The Ministry says it and looks forward to Ambassador Camacho-Thomas' continued leadership in advancing the Department's work and building upon the strong foundation established by her predecessor. The Ministry wishes her every success as she assumes her responsibilities as Acting Director of the Department of Environment and remains confident that the Department will continue to make meaningful strides under her stewardship.




STATE INSURANCE
 COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind



You only need a group of 5 people to sign up for Group Medical Insurance.

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 info@sicfinancial.com www.sicfinancial.com

Government Is Exploring New Building Technologies In China To Benefit Antigua and Barbuda

A high-level government technical delegation is undertaking an extensive 16-city mission across China aimed at identifying technologies, equipment, materials and strategic partnerships to advance Antigua and Barbuda's housing and infrastructure development programme.

Led by Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner, the delegation includes Deputy Director of Public Works Telly Cornelius, Public Works Engineer Nigel Francis, Public Works Senior Architect Randell Pyle, and Chairman of NAMCO Brian D'Ornellas.

During the mission, the team will visit manufacturers, engineering and construction companies, technology providers and other major industry operations across China. The delegation will also engage Chinese officials and industry leaders as it evaluates solutions that can be adapted to Antigua and Barbuda's development needs.

A major focus will be housing, including construction systems and technologies that could allow the Government to build quality homes faster and more cost-effectively.

The delegation will also examine solutions for government office buildings, sewerage and wastewater systems, urban renewal, municipal infrastructure, construction equipment and other critical public works.

Minister Turner said the mission is focused on finding practical solutions that can translate into projects on the ground.

"We are not simply going to China to observe. We are going to identify solutions, establish partnerships and determine what can work for Antigua and Barbuda. Whether it is housing, sewerage, government buildings or other critical infrastructure, our objective is to find ways to deliver better, faster and at greater value for the people."

The 16-city programme will allow Antigua and Barbuda's technical team



to assess technologies and products directly, engage manufacturers and engineers, and explore opportunities for

cooperation, procurement and technology transfer.



FEEDING THE VYBEZ
 ...IN THE FETE AND ON THE ROAD!!

BENNA BOX
 -2pcs -Burger -Biscuit -Fries
\$39.99

BOLLYON BUCKET
 -5pcs -4 Strips -5 Hot Wings
\$59.99

RIDDIM BOX
 -2pcs -Biscuit -Drink
\$17.99

Facebook: @KFCANU

AllMart

First Responders Strengthen Skills in Mental Health Crisis Management

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), recently concluded a four-day Crisis Management and De-escalation Training for police officers and other first responders, aimed at strengthening the country's response to persons experiencing mental health crises.

Held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, at the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority Conference Room, the training brought together representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Police Force, Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, His Majesty's Prison, the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP), and the Antigua and Barbuda Fire Service.

The programme focused on equipping participants with practical knowledge and evidence-based techniques to safely assess, communicate with, and de-escalate situations involving individuals experiencing mental health crises. Participants also explored strategies for reducing stigma, promoting human rights, and strengthening collaboration among agencies that are often the first point of contact during mental health emergencies.

The training forms part of the Ministry's ongoing commitment to improving mental health services and ensuring that frontline responders are equipped with the skills necessary to provide compassionate, appropriate, and effective assistance while safeguarding the wellbeing of both the individual in crisis and



Family photo from recent first responders workshop conducted by PAHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health



Teaching session at first responders workshop conducted by PAHO

the wider community.

By investing in the capacity of first responders, Antigua and Barbuda continues to strengthen its national mental health response and improve outcomes for persons living with mental health conditions.

The Ministry of Health, expressed its appreciation to the Pan Amer-

ican Health Organization (PAHO) for its continued partnership and technical support in advancing mental health initiatives in Antigua and Barbuda. The Ministry also thanked all participating agencies and officers for their commitment to enhancing their knowledge and skills in this critical area.

New Queen of Carnival Attributes Win to Hard Work & Dedication



Zaine Frederick has described her journey towards winning the Queen of Carnival crown on Tuesday evening as one of self-discovery.

Frederick spoke to members of the media just minutes after she staved off competition from six delegates to capture the coveted title of Queen of Carnival 2026.

She said the possibilities are endless for anyone seeking to challenge themselves through pageantry, giving insight into her own experience.

"This journey has really allowed me to discover parts of myself that I did not know existed. I would encourage any young woman out there to go and take a chance," Zaine stated.

Tuesday evening's competition was made up of five judged segments un-

der the theme, 'Feel the Rhythm of Pageantry'.

Frederick, delegate number seven, who was sponsored by Furniture Gallery, won Best Interview, Best Performing Talent, and Staying True to the Theme, expressing satisfaction that her hard work has paid off.

"When you know that you have put in the work, you kind of have this sense of confidence that you're going to do well," the beauty queen declared. "I will not say that I looked forward to winning or I expected to win because the competition was a great one. But I know the work that I put in, and I'm just glad that the results rather turned out to be exactly what I expected".

Asked who or what served as her inspiration, Zaine Frederick spoke of her

young sister and the mission she is on to serve as her role model.

Looking ahead, she intends to represent Antigua and Barbuda regionally, while at the same time expanding her platform and placing emphasis on entrepreneurship.

"I'm a young entrepreneur myself, and I would have seen the capabilities that owning my own business has provided for me. I'm more confident and I'm independent, and I believe that is something that every young girl out there should be able to experience," Frederick noted.

In addition to the Queen of Carnival title, Zaine Frederick, a graduate of The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, is the reigning Miss Saint John's Rural West.

Local News

CHOGM National Taskforce Launches “Dual Thresholds” Public Art Initiative Ahead of CHOGM 2026

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to welcome the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026 the CHOGM National Taskforce has officially launched **Dual Thresholds** a landmark public art initiative that celebrates the nation’s cultural identity while symbolizing the unity, diversity and enduring partnerships of the Commonwealth’s 56 member states.

The exhibition will feature **28 free-standing, double-sided door** creating **56 individual artistic canvases** each representing one Commonwealth member state. Together the doors will form a powerful visual representation of the Commonwealth family interpreted through the artistic and cultural lens of Antigua and Barbuda.

Designed and executed by Antiguan and Barbudan artists each artwork will draw inspiration from the nation’s landscapes, heritage, history, ecology and material culture showcasing the creativity and cultural richness of Antigua and Barbuda.

As part of the official launch of *Dual Thresholds* two doors were unveiled during the launch of **Art Week** facilitated by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority offering the public a first look at the creativity and artistic excellence that will define the full exhibition.



The showcased pieces highlight the exceptional talent of Antiguan and Barbudan artists **Heather Doram** and **Dylan Elias Phillips** whose distinctive artistic expressions reflect the depth diversity and cultural heritage of Antigua and Barbuda’s vibrant creative community.

To bring this ambitious vision to life the CHOGM National Taskforce is launching a **National Door Donation Drive**.

The Taskforce is inviting donations of **new or gently used wooden doors** from homeowners, businesses, hotels, schools, contractors and construction projects across Antigua and Barbuda. Each donated door will become part of a lasting public art installation and

contribute to the cultural legacy of CHOGM 2026.

Members of the public wishing to contribute to this historic initiative may donate doors at **The Barracks** or **Quay Studios** at Redcliffe Quay. For further information or to arrange a donation please contact **Dylan Elias Phillips** at (268) 780-7618 or **Khan Cordice** at (268) 727-8712.

The CHOGM National Taskforce encourages citizens, residents, businesses and community partners to support this national initiative and help bring *Dual Thresholds* to life as a lasting celebration of Antigua and Barbuda’s creativity, culture and Commonwealth spirit.



Claim Your Keys. Secure Your Land.

Apply today.








Home Advantage



LOTS
Land Ownership. Tomorrow Secured.



SJA Makes Lasting Investments With TOW Prize Monies

St. Joseph's Academy has transformed success in the Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Competition into a lasting investment in the future of its students with the purchase of two commercial convection ovens for the school's Home Economics Department.

The ovens were purchased using a combined EC\$12,500 in prize money earned through the school's outstanding performances in the competition over two consecutive years.

In 2023, St. Joseph's Academy's representative, Azarie Crump, captured the coveted title of Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Champion, earning the school's first-place cash prize of EC\$10,000, generously sponsored by the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), the competition's official sponsor.

Building on that success, the school returned to the competition in 2024, where student Calbert Francis III delivered another impressive performance, placing fourth and securing an additional EC\$2,500 in prize money.

The school invested its EC\$12,500 in prize money in two commercial convection ovens for its Food and Nutrition Department, creating a lasting benefit for current and future students. The new equipment will enhance practical culinary training by providing access to industry-standard tools and



Rudolph Davis (left), Principal of St. Joseph's Academy, and Michelle Marshall (right), Marketing Manager of Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), with the school's newly acquired commercial convection ovens, purchased using prize money earned through the Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Competition.

preparing students for careers in the hospitality industry.

Highlighting the impact the new equipment will have on classroom learning, Chanda Joseph, Food and Nutrition Teacher at St. Joseph's Academy, said:

"These new commercial convection ovens will completely shift how I teach food and nutrition to my boys. Instead

of just following recipes, we're now exploring the science behind why food cooks the way it does, experimenting with temperatures, timing, and techniques that bring out the best in every dish. For competitions, the even heat and faster cooking mean we can run full practice menus in record time, build the speed and consistency that judges look for."

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

**HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER**



TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM
CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991
 **POINT FM99.1**



MACHEL MONTANO

**SKINNY FABULOUS - TIAN WINTER- VOICE - MUDDY
TRIPLE-K - TIZZY**

JULY 30TH

8:00PM @ CARNIVAL CITY

EARLY BIRD
GENERAL

\$100

RHYTHM
ROOM

\$350

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



JUNIOR CARNIVAL

JULY 26TH

ST JOHN'S - 2 PM

CARNIVAL CITY - FREE



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF OUR CHILDREN



Antigua Carnival



@antiguafestivalsofficial

The 'Stars of Tomorrow' Gives Recognition to Beneficiaries Of The Social Protection Board



Social Protection Board, used its platform, the Annual Children Awards Ceremony to recognise the achievements of graduates from among the Board's approximately 400 beneficiaries under the theme "Stars of Tomorrow."

The ceremony was chaired by Director of the Youth Education and Empowerment Programme (YEPP) Dr. Troy Allen, and graduates ranging from five-year-old pre-schoolers to eighteen-year-old tertiary students filled the room, alongside their parents, guardians, teachers, and members of the Social Protection Board's sponsor network.

In her opening remarks, Mary Baltimore, Operations Manager of the Social Protection Board, told the audience that the Board's work goes well beyond its monthly stipend programme.

"Our commitment extends far beyond monetary assistance. We believe in supporting the whole child by focusing on education, personal growth, development, and overall well-being," she said.

She thanked the Board's staff and sponsors directly for what she called their "commitment, teamwork, and tireless effort" in making the day possible.

Guest speaker Senator Shaquan



O'Neil shared a personal story of resilience with the graduates, encouraging them to draw strength from the community around them rather than face challenges alone.

"Use your story of where you came from to be better in life. Use your story to power your future," he told students, adding that the road ahead would not always be easy but that self-belief and respect for others would carry them through it.

This year's Valedictorian, Teeann John-Jules of the Irene B. Williams Secondary School, delivered the stu-

dent address, reflecting on the discipline it took to reach graduation.

"There were late nights, tough subjects, and moments where I wanted to give up, but I kept pushing. I learned that showing up, staying organised, and asking for help makes all the difference," she said, encouraging younger students still coming up through the system to stay focused and trust the process.

Minister of State within the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, delivered the feature address, telling graduates plainly that circumstance does not decide outcome.

"Your address does not define you. Your family's income does not define you. The challenges you face do not define you," she said, adding that character, determination, and kindness were what would carry each of them forward.

Certificates and top student awards were presented across pre-school, primary, secondary, and tertiary categories, with dental certificates and gift cards contributed by sponsors including Family Dentistry, Pearl Dentistry, Ghanem Dental Center, Signs and Impressions, Harpers, Paper Clips, Business Systems and Supplies, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

Sunrise Airways Launches Inaugural Flight from Antigua to Barbados

The inaugural Sunrise Airways flight from V.C. Bird International Airport in Antigua to

Grantley Adams International Airport in Barbados departed on Wednesday July 22nd, diversifying the regional travel markets for both destinations

Senior members from the Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism

Authority, including the Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism the Honourable Michael Freeland, Tourism Authority CEO Colin James, and Director of tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America Shermain Jeremy, were on board to commemorate the launch of the new route.

Sunrise Airways Chief Executive Officer Garry Stone and Chairman Philippe Bayard were also present to mark the occasion. The flight departed Antigua and Barbuda at 10:45 a.m. and arrived at Grantley Adams International Airport at midday.

Upon arrival, the Antiguan delegation was welcomed by senior representatives of the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., underscoring the enduring diplomatic relationship between the two nations and their continued commitment to strengthening regional connectivity.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation and Civil Aviation, Michael Freeland, speaking during the welcome ceremony, said the inaugural flight represents yet another example of the collaborative spirit that Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados has long embraced. The minister



further thanked the Board of Sunrise Airways for their continued support of Antigua and Barbuda as a destination, to which Sunrise CEO confirmed, the Airline “remains committed to Antigua and Barbuda as a regional travel

hub.”

The introduction of Sunrise Airways’ new service expands options for inter-regional travel and represents another important step toward a more connected and united Caribbean.



268 736 7165

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



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



Local News

Senator O'Donoghue Launches "Your Future Is Yours" Award to Inspire Young Dreamers

Seventy-one students were honoured during Villa Primary School's 2026 Graduation Ceremony, but for one graduate, the occasion was marked by a special recognition designed to inspire a lifetime of ambition and possibility.

Senator Angelica O'Donoghue, an alumna of Villa Primary School, presented the inaugural "Your Future Is Yours" Award to graduate Nerissa Harris, recognizing her for embodying "the courage to dream, the determination to achieve, and the belief that your future has no limits".

Selected by the school's teachers from among the graduating class of 71 students, Nerissa was chosen as the student who best exemplified perseverance, character, and the determination to succeed despite life's challenges.

More than a commemorative plaque, the award also included sponsorship of Nerissa's registration fees to attend Princess Margaret Secondary School, where she earned placement through the National Assessment, along with financial assistance toward the purchase of her school uniforms.

Senator O'Donoghue explained that while she has previously sponsored awards at her alma mater, she wanted to establish something that celebrates students whose dreams are matched by resilience and determination.

"Success isn't defined by where you begin or the obstacles you face. It is defined by your willingness to dream,



to persevere, and to keep believing that your future belongs to you. I wanted this award to recognize a child who embodies that spirit and to remind them that someone believes in their potential."

She added that investing in young people is one of the most meaningful ways to strengthen communities and create opportunities for the next generation.

Guardian of the award recipient, Tahna Weston, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Senator O'Donoghue, thanking her not only for the sponsorship but also for believing in Nerissa's



abilities and investing in her future.

Senator O'Donoghue also presented a laptop computer to Top Graduating Girl and Salutatorian, Jaedah Baird, recognizing her outstanding academic achievement and encouraging her continued pursuit of excellence as she transitions to secondary school.

The Senator Angelica O'Donoghue "Your Future Is Yours" Award is expected to become an annual presentation, recognizing Villa Primary School graduates who demonstrate courage, determination, and the belief that their future has no limits.



ANTIGUA

[f](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu) [currytandoorihouseanu](https://www.facebook.com/currytandoorihouseanu)

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

[@](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu) [curryhouseanu](https://www.instagram.com/curryhouseanu)

[📞](tel:2687367165) (268) 736-7165



FEEL The RHYTHM of Pageantry

BEST PERFORMING TALENT

DELEGATE #7 ZAINE FREDERICK
MISS FURNITURE GALLERY

BEST COSTUME

DELEGATE #4 – CHRISTINE POWELL
MISS ACB CARIBBEAN

BEST EVENING WEAR

DELEGATE #6 – AALIYAH TAYLOR
MISS COOL AND SMOOTH

BEST INTERVIEW

DELEGATE #7 – ZAINE FREDERICK
'MISS FURNITURE GALLERY

TRUE TO THEME

DELEGATE #7 – ZAINE FREDERICK
MISS FURNITURE GALLERY



FEEL The RHYTHM OF Pageantry

2ND RUNNER UP
DELEGATE #6 – AALIYAH TAYLOR
MISS COOL AND SMOOTH

1ST RUNNER UP
DELEGATE # 4 – CHRISTINE POWELL
MISS ACB CARIBBEAN

WINNER
DELEGATE # 7 – ZAINE FREDERICK
MISS FURNITURE GALLERY



FEEL The RHYTHM OF Pageantry

UNJUDGED AWARDS

MISS PHOTOGENIC

DELEGATE # 3 – QUEENELLA WILLIAMS
MISS ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA PORT AUTHORITY

MISS CONGENIALITY

DELEGATE #1– DENESHA SAMUEL– MISS LIAT AIR

PEOPLE CHOICE AWARD

DELEGATE #1 – DENESHA SAMUEL – MISS LIAT AIR

BEST SWIMWEAR

DELEGATE # 4 – CHRISTINE POWELL
MISS ACB CARIBBEAN



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF SOCA

inet PARTY MONARCH

AUGUST 2ND

📍 CARNIVAL CITY 🕒 9PM

Ticket \$40

ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE



A vibrant, colorful poster for the Antigua Carnival Rhythm Court. The background is a bright blue sky with confetti and a large, stylized sunburst logo in the center. The sunburst logo features a black silhouette of a person with arms raised, surrounded by colorful rays. Below the logo, the text "ANTIGUA Carnival" is written in a stylized font, with "ANTIGUA" in black and "Carnival" in pink. Underneath that, it says "THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL". To the right, there's a logo that says "FEEL THE RHYTHM" with a musical note and a crown. The main title "RHYTHM COURT" is written in large, bold, pink and purple letters with a white outline. Below the title, there's a pink box with white text that says "MON JULY 27TH AND WED JULY 29TH" and "TIME 11AM UNTIL". Below that, it says "DJs: DJ TENNY | DJ CRUMPZ | DJ EZ-P". Then, it says "VIBES: TRADITIONAL GAMES COMPETITION! WARRI AND DOMINO". Below that, it says "WIN: \$1,000 DAILY UP FOR GRABS!". At the bottom, it says "LOCAL FOOD | GAMES | MEET FRIENDS | COMMUNITY VIBEZ" and "COME FOR THE VIBEZ, STAY FOR THE RHYTHM." The background also shows a crowd of people at a carnival event, with a large, colorful tent on the right.

ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

FEEL THE RHYTHM

RHYTHM COURT

MON JULY 27TH
AND WED JULY 29TH | TIME 11AM UNTIL

DJs: DJ TENNY | DJ CRUMPZ | DJ EZ-P

VIBES: TRADITIONAL GAMES COMPETITION!
WARRI AND DOMINO

WIN: \$1,000 DAILY
UP FOR GRABS!

LOCAL FOOD | GAMES | MEET FRIENDS | COMMUNITY VIBEZ
COME FOR THE VIBEZ, STAY FOR THE RHYTHM.

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

RHYME AND RESOLVE: CLIMATE CALLS

 Good Humans
 268 Inc

Our Planet, Our Responsibility

The earth is speaking soft today,
 Yet louder with each passing day.
 The winds are changing, tides arise,
 A warning written in our skies.

The forests whisper, oceans cry,
 The smoke keeps reaching ever high.
 The coral fades beneath the sea,
 While asking, "What will become of me?"

The rivers carry more than rain,
 They carry plastic, waste and pain.
 The mountains stand but slowly sigh,
 As countless species wave goodbye.

Yet hope is never far away,
 It's found in choices made each day.
 Not only grand, not only new,
 But in the little things we do.

A bottle placed inside the bin,
 May start a change that grows within.
 A can recycled, glass restored,
 Becomes tomorrow's new reward.

A compost pile instead of waste,
 Means nothing precious goes to waste.
 The scraps we thought were good as gone,
 Can help new life keep growing on.

A tree today provides tomorrow,
 A shade for joy, relief from sorrow.
 Its branches dance against the breeze,
 Its roots protect both land and seas.

The climate isn't just a chart,
 It's every beating human heart.
 It's every farmer watching skies,
 And every child with hopeful eyes.

It's every fisherman at dawn,
 Who wonders where the fish have gone.
 It's every family forced to flee,
 From storms that reshape land and sea.

We've watched the hurricanes grow strong,
 Their seasons stretching deep and long.
 We've seen the droughts consume the land,
 While empty rivers cross the sand.

We've seen the flooding take control,
 Leaving scars on every soul.
 The earthquakes shake beneath our feet,
 Reminding us our world is deep.

But still there stands a brighter way,
 If we begin our work today.
 For change is built with hand in hand,
 Across each nation, sea and land.

The schools can teach, the youth can lead,
 Communities can plant the seed.
 Businesses can play their part,
 With innovation, mind and heart.

Governments can choose to stand,
 Protecting sea as well as land.
 Policies that look ahead,
 Instead of words that stay unsaid.

Tourists too can help us grow,
 By caring where they choose to go.
 Respect the beaches, reefs and bays,
 Leave only footprints through your days.

Hotels can lessen what they throw,
 And watch sustainability grow.
 Restaurants can compost more,
 Instead of sending scraps offshore.

Waste is not the end we fear,
 But often opportunity near.
 The things we throw, the things we waste,
 Still hold tremendous hidden grace.

A bottle isn't simply trash,
 Nor cans that sparkle with a flash.
 Glass can live another life,
 Reducing mining, easing strife.

Food can nourish soils once more,
 Instead of filling landfill's core.
 Every choice begins to show,
 The kind of future we will know.

Climate conscious is a choice,
 A daily action, not a voice.
 Not only speeches, plans or praise,
 But countless ordinary days.

It's switching off an empty light,

Protecting stars that fill the night.
 It's carrying bottles you reuse,
 And thinking first before you choose.

It's asking questions, seeking more,
 Of what our actions stand for.
 It's seeing value where we tread,
 Not simply what gets thrown instead.

Because this planet isn't ours,
 To use until its final hours.
 We borrow it from those to be,
 From every child we'll never see.

Our children deserve skies of blue,
 Clean oceans sparkling into view.
 They deserve forests standing tall,
 And wildlife thriving through it all.

So let us answer nature's call,
 Before we stumble, before we fall.
 For every action, great or small,
 Still echoes through the lives of all.

The future isn't built someday,
 It's shaped by choices made today.
 So stand with hope, let courage bloom,
 And never make the earth your tomb.

Be climate conscious, proud and wise,
 See possibility arise.
 For when we choose to care as one,
 The greatest victories are won.

One heart can start, one voice can guide,
 One dream can spread both far and wide.
 Together let this message ring—
 Protect the earth, protect everything.

Kim Poole Brings Soul-Fusion to Antigua

The performing artist arrives for Emancipation Watch Night and begins a new musical journey into the sounds of Carnival.

International performing artist Kim Poole is bringing her distinctive Soul-Fusion sound to Antigua and Barbuda during the nation's 192nd Emancipation celebrations, arriving at a moment when history, reparations and the vibrant energy of Carnival meet.

Poole will perform at the Emancipation Watch Night service alongside Sir Hilary Beckles, Chair of the CARICOM Reparations Commission and one of the world's leading reparations scholars and elders. On Friday 31st July from 8pm at the Botanical Gardens, the gathering will unite music, cultural memory, historical reflection and the continuing call for justice across the Caribbean and the wider African world.

For Poole, the invitation is both a performance opportunity and the beginning of a new musical exploration. Her music has always reflected the journey she is living. As that journey now turns toward the Caribbean, she is ready to listen for the rhythms, voices and creative energy that make Antigua and Barbuda distinctive.

Her musical style, which she calls Soul-Fusion, moves freely across soul, African diasporic rhythms, spiritual expression, spoken word, jazz, movement and cultural storytelling. Rather than treating musical traditions as fixed categories, Poole allows the places, people and experiences she encounters to shape the next chapter of her sound.

Antigua and Barbuda offers a rich environment for that evolution. The island's musical landscape carries the pulse of calypso, soca, steelpan,



Kim Poole

drumming, Carnival procession, sacred gathering and African-Caribbean memory. Poole arrives not only to share her own music, but also to listen—to local musicians, cultural bearers, storytellers and the rhythms moving through the island during Carnival season.

That spirit of exchange is central to her work as an activist. Her performances connect music to questions of identity, freedom, cultural inheritance and collective possibility. She approaches the stage as a place where audiences can experience joy while also confronting the histories that continue to shape African-descended communities.

Her Emancipation Watch Night appearance carries particular significance. Sir Hilary Beckles will offer the historical and intellectual grounding of the reparations movement, while Poole's performance

will engage its emotional, spiritual and creative dimensions. Together, their presence reflects the many languages through which reparations must be understood: policy, history, scholarship, memory, music and lived cultural experience.

Poole's arrival just in time for Carnival also places her within one of the Caribbean's most powerful traditions of cultural survival. Carnival is celebration, but it is also testimony. Its music, masquerade, movement and public gathering carry the histories of people who transformed restriction into expression and ancestral memory into new forms of freedom.

For Poole, these are not simply sounds to borrow. They are living cultural languages to encounter with respect, curiosity and collaboration. Her time in Antigua and Barbuda may become part of future compositions as she continues developing music shaped by her travels throughout Global Africa.

As Antigua and Barbuda commemorates 192 years of Emancipation, Kim Poole arrives ready to contribute her voice—and to discover what the island may add to her own. The result may be more than a single performance. It may be the beginning of a new sound: Soul-Fusion meeting the spirit of Antigua, the movement of Carnival and the continuing music of freedom.

"My future music will reflect my current journey, and now it is time to include the Carnival vibes. I'm looking for the sounds of the islands, and Antigua is a great place to start."

— Kim Poole



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REPARATIONS SUPPORT COMMISSION.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
CELEBRATING 192ND ANNIVERSARY
OF EMANCIPATION.

EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT → 2026 ←



PERFORMANCES:

- Nyabinghi Drummers
- Wadadli Vybez Band
- Calypso Renditions
- Antigua Dance Academy
- Da Vibz Steel Band
- Point Iron Band
- spoken word and Anastis storytelling, the Point Iron Band so much more

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

Be inspired by internationally
acclaimed performer and
educator Kim Pole and
hear a powerful message
from renowned Caribbean
Historian Professor Hilary
Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of
The University of the
West Indies and Chair of
the CARICOM Reparations



EMANCIPATION WATCHNIGHT 2026

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

FREE ADMISSION



FEEL THE
RHYTHM
OF Calypso

CAVALIER RUM CALYPSO MONARCH

JULY 31ST

📍 CARNIVAL CITY 8PM

Ticket \$40





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"



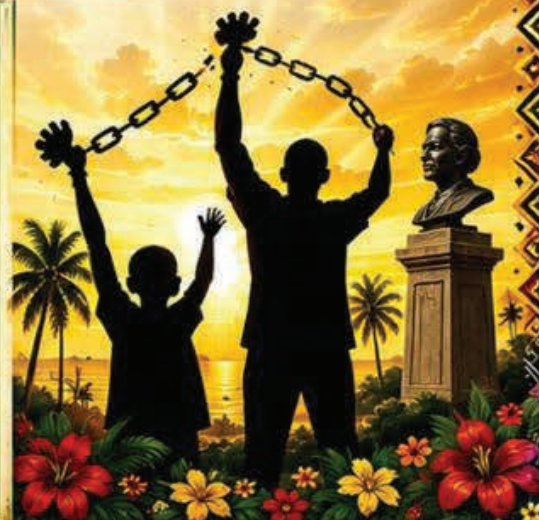
AUGUST 1ST
EMANCIPATION DAY



• 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

Regional News



Death toll from Guyana boating tragedy nears 50

The death toll from last Saturday's boating disaster has risen to 41, with eight more people rescued as the search continues along Guyana's Essequibo Coast, the Guyana Government said in a statement Tuesday.

It said 14 bodies had been recovered and 77 people rescued as of 2 p.m. local time, with 16 vessels deployed in the wreckage area as the search-and-rescue operation continued.

Guyana President Irfaan Ali, yesterday, proclaimed three days of national mourning beginning July 22.

The Government estimates that 179 people, including 18 crew members, were aboard the 87-year-old vessel when it went down almost 10 miles from the Essequibo Coast late Saturday night.

The official manifest listed 116 passengers and a 17-member crew. The captain and another crew member have since been detained as investigations continue into the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

"The designated search area has been expanded by an additional 400 square miles, extending up to Waini Point, to maximise the likelihood of locating any remaining persons," the government statement said, adding that French and local divers were continuing underwater search-and-recovery operations at the wreckage site.

"The identification of recovered bodies is currently being undertaken by family members at Suddie Hospital," the statement read. It added that stakeholders involved in the operation had been advised that any bodies retrieved during search-and-rescue or recovery operations should be immediately transferred to the custody of the Guyana Police Force at the established facility at Charity River Dam.

In the proclamation, Ali said, "The tragic loss of lives, arising from the disaster involving the M.V. Barima has



brought profound and widespread sorrow and immeasurable grief throughout our nation.

"At this time of deep national sadness, as we pause to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives, to stand with their families, to offer comfort to survivors, and to demonstrate our collective compassion and

solidarity."

He said that during the period of national mourning, all national flags of Guyana would be flown at half-mast on government buildings, public institutions, and other appropriate locations throughout the country as a mark of respect and remembrance for those whose lives were lost. (CMC)

Pilates Instructor Wanted

Join Ciba Fitness! We're seeking a passionate, professional Pilates Instructor to deliver exceptional reformer and mat classes in a welcoming, client-focused studio. Certification and excellent communication skills required. Competitive compensation, ongoing development, and a supportive team environment. Apply today and inspire movement, strength, and confidence.

GENERATOR RENTALS

GENERATORS FOR RENT

**150KVA single phase 3wire.120/240v.
50KVA single phase 3wire 120/240v.**

CONTACT:

**THE ELECTRIC CONNECTION.
PAYNTERS.**

Telephone: 462-6615 Or 727-0300

Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro trial date set for next June

A start date has been set for the criminal trial of Nicolás Maduro on drug trafficking charges.

Maduro, 63, and his wife, Cilia Flores, 69, have been held at a Brooklyn jail ever since U.S. forces seized them from their Caracas home in a stunning raid in the middle of the night and brought them to New York in early January.

Both have pleaded not guilty. They face potential life prison sentences if a jury agrees that they were part of a conspiracy to send cocaine into the U.S.

He and his wife were in court on Wednesday. Maduro was wearing a tan prison outfit and sneakers. He was not handcuffed.

President Donald Trump's administration has defended the raid as a "surgical law enforcement operation" in a criminal case first brought six years ago. Maduro has called himself a prisoner of war and his capture a kidnapping.

U.S. prosecutors say Maduro carried out a conspiracy to move thousands of tons of cocaine into the U.S. by colluding with Venezuelan law enforcement to help drug kingpins.

"I am not guilty. I am a decent man, the constitutional president of my country," he said in Spanish at his arraignment in January.

Maduro's lawyer, Barry Pollack, has said he expects to contest the legality of Maduro's "military abduction."

The lawyers have said there are complex legal defenses that the court must address before a trial can begin.

Maduro and Flores have not asked to be released on bail.

A group of protesters gathered outside the courthouse in downtown Manhattan, with some waving placards that read: "Free President Maduro." Some of the protesters accused the U.S. government of pursuing fabricated charges against Maduro.

"This is what the U.S. has always done with coups and assassinations," said Ché Marino of Workers World Party, a Marxist-Leninist communist party. (NBC)



Regional News

CXC to conduct regional sensitisation on SBA reform



The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) will be conducting sensitisation sessions across its 21-member territories to assist stakeholders with understanding the recently announced reform to its School Based Assessment (SBA) framework.

Speaking in an interview with JIS News, Director of Operations at CXC, Dr Nicole Manning, said the organisation will provide additional information to help teachers, students and other stakeholders navigate the transition.

“We are aware that persons are not so familiar with the paper 32 because they may not have been so engaged. But it exists. It’s on our website,” she said.

Recently the CXC announced that candidates pursuing non-practical-based subjects will transition from the traditional SBA to Paper 032, which will be conducted under examination conditions with adjustments to

preserve elements of extended and reflective learning.

Candidates will receive their assessment topics approximately one month in advance and be allowed to carry reference notes to the exam.

Dr Manning stressed that the sensitisation programme will also provide an opportunity for CXC to address questions and concerns from stakeholders across the region.

Additionally, it will issue frequently asked questions, conduct live webinars and work through local registrars to provide guidance on the reforms.

This approach is intended to ensure that students, teachers and parents are adequately informed about the changes and understand how the revised assessment framework will operate.

The director is encouraging stakeholders to engage with CXC as the reforms are implemented, noting that the

organisation will continue its communication efforts across the region.

The reforms are aimed at strengthening the integrity of CXC qualifications amid the growing use of Generative Artificial Intelligence and other technological developments affecting assessment.

Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) students will have the option of completing either the SBA or Paper 032 in 2027 before full implementation of Paper 032 in non-practical-based subjects in 2028.

Meanwhile, Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) candidates will transition to Paper 032 for non-practical-based subjects effective May-June 2027.

Dr Manning is encouraging stakeholders to review the available information, including the syllabus and specimen papers, to gain a better understanding of the assessment. (JIS)

Efforts to refloat sunken Guyanese vessel to begin Wednesday



The Guyana Government says it will begin operations at midday on Wednesday to refloat the sunken MV Barima using specialised flotation equipment as rescue and recovery efforts enter a critical new phase.

The MV Barima capsized Saturday night, resulting so far in the deaths of 53 people, including 15 children and the rescue of 76 others.

Authorities say the search continues for the estimated 70 people still unaccounted for after the 87-year-old vessel sank as it made its way from Georgetown to Port Kaituma, a small village within the Barima-Waini administrative region of the country.

“We are continuing all night. There is a plan also being discussed now between the technical people, the Coast Guard and the expertise that came in. We are going to try to activate that plan by midday tomorrow,” President Irfaan Ali said during a late-night briefing on Tuesday with families of

those still missing following the maritime tragedy.

He assured them that technical teams and emergency responders would continue working around the clock until every possible effort has been exhausted. He said the operation will involve using flotation devices in an effort to move the vessel from the seabed.

President Ali said it allows responders greater access to continue the rescue and recovery mission and that additional divers and specialised assets are scheduled to arrive early Wednesday to support the operation.

Ali said teams from the Guyana Defence Force Coast Guard, police, private sector partners and civilian volunteers will maintain their search throughout the night.

President Ali said the Government has utilised advanced seabed mapping technology, with support from Exxon-Mobil, to determine the vessel’s exact

position and guide recovery efforts. The survey revealed that the vessel is resting on its starboard side on the seabed, with its stern closest to the shoreline.

“We have not ruled out rescue just yet,” he told the families.

The official manifest had 116 passengers and a 17-member crew but the authorities said that as many as 179 passengers and crew may have been on board the vessel.

Guyana’s Prime Minister Mark Phillips said that “based on the fact that they had 179 passengers on board... there is a likelihood that they may encounter more bodies there”.

“But right now, the focus and the concentration is on searching and recovering as much as possible bodies from the vessel,” Phillips said, adding that the authorities are also facilitating the release of bodies to loved ones. (CMC)

Cause of Nolan Wells' death still unknown, initial results of independent autopsy show

The cause and way in which Mississippi teenager Nolan Wells died after going missing earlier this month are still unknown following a preliminary independent autopsy.

The body of Wells, 18, was found in the water near Horn Island two days after he did not return with friends from a boating trip there on 4 July.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office said they did not suspect foul play, but Wells' family requested an independent autopsy to address what they say are "serious, unanswered questions about the circumstances that left Nolan alone on the island and about how he died".

Initial findings from the autopsy show foul play cannot be ruled out, the family's lawyer said on Wednesday.

Ben Crump told a press conference that the exam had found some red discoloration on the back of the teenager's head, the cause of which has not been determined.

The examiner, forensic pathologist Dr Roger Mitchell, did note there were no wounds on the skin or fractures of the skull in the area.

Mitchell, according to Crump, could not determine if there was any bruising on Wells' body because it had been too decomposed, nor could he tell if Wells was conscious or unconscious when he went into the water.

If Wells did drown, determining how he got into the water and whether or not he was conscious or unconscious when he did so is the "crux of the matter," Crump said.

Mitchell's autopsy report also stated that parts of Wells' throat had been held back following the initial autopsy, which is standard practice if there are any concerns.

"Therefore, this pathologist cannot rule out injury to the neck as a con-



tributing a contributor or a cause of death," said Crump.

Mitchell also noted that the original toxicology results had not yet been received.

"We have more questions than answers at this time," said the lawyer, who specialises in wrongful death lawsuits.

The results from an initial autopsy carried out by the Jackson County Coroner have not yet been released. The BBC has contacted them for comment.

Crump and the Wells family have questioned conflicting reports that have surfaced in the time since Wells went missing.

His mother Christine Wonsley was the first to raise the alarm that her son, who played American football at Southwest Mississippi Communi-

ty College and was described by his coach as a "happy-go-lucky kid", had gone missing after he did not return on the evening of 4 July.

She said she was bothered that her son's mobile phone and car keys had been found with his friends after they returned from Horn Island and felt "uncomfortable" about the police saying her son had accidentally drowned.

Crump has also questioned this, saying: "This is a kid who knew how to swim."

"It is our hope that our local authorities will do what they need to do, because us having the preliminary autopsy results and hearing nothing from them — it's heartbreaking, and it's concerning," Wonsley said on Wednesday. "Which again is why we are here, why we have asked for this help." (BBC)

France records over 5,700 excess deaths in June heatwave



France recorded 5,764 more deaths than usual during a record-breaking heatwave last month, health authorities said on Wednesday, describing the excess mortality among people aged 15 and older as “unprecedented”.

It was the highest excess mortality rate during a heatwave in the country since a devastating episode of high temperatures in 2003 that killed around 15,000 people, they added.

Three heatwaves have swept across France since May, the latest in increasingly frequent such extreme weather events that scientists have linked to man-made climate change.

The soaring temperatures caused havoc in a country where many homes, schools and hospitals are not designed for heat and do not have air conditioning.

They have also dried up riverbeds and sparked wildfires, including one that last week ravaged a tenth of the vast UNESCO-listed forest of Fon-

tainebleau outside Paris.

The extra deaths between June 17 and July 2 this year were due to “all causes” — none yet clearly linked to the heat, Santé Publique France said, saying final figures would be published in the autumn.

In comparison, the country reported 5,722 excess fatalities linked to high temperatures between June and mid-September last year.

Of the excess deaths last month, around two-thirds were people aged 75 or older, while less than a fifth were aged 45 to 64.

Half passed away in just three days from June 25 to 27.

France last month recorded its hottest June since records began in 1947 with a heatwave that saw temperatures spike above 40C in many places.

The average temperatures on June 24 and 25, 2026, were the highest ever recorded in France, all months combined.

Deaths in the Paris region rose by 80 per cent, Santé Publique France said, after saying last week they doubled in the week of June 22 to 28.

During that last week of June, four young children died across France after finding themselves trapped in boiling hot cars.

This did not however, appear to affect official death rates for that age category.

At least 300 more people died than usual during an uncommonly early first heatwave in May.

Scientists have said human-caused climate change was “unequivocally” responsible for the intensity of the heatwave that battered Europe in late June.

Of the 53 heatwaves recorded nationwide from 1947 until late June, half have occurred since 2010, according to national met office Meteo-France. (AFP)

Michelin-starred restaurateur faces jail for using ants as dessert garnish



South Korean prosecutors sought a one-year jail term for the owner of a Michelin-starred restaurant accused of using ants as a dessert garnish, local media reported.

Ants are not among the 10 insect species approved for human consumption under the country's laws. The approved list includes grasshoppers, locusts and two-spotted crickets, among others.

Prosecutors on Monday also asked that the restaurant, which holds two Michelin stars, be fined 20 million Korean won (\$13,510; £10,100).

The owner admitted to serving ants but argued that they were used in a "small part" of the restaurant's 15-course menu – as a topping for sorbets – and that diners were told they could opt for non-ant toppings.

The case came to light after officials from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety found reviews that diners had posted online with photographs of

dishes sprinkled with ants.

Investigators estimate that some 49,000 ants, imported from the US and Thailand, were used in several dishes over four years.

Health authorities also found that the restaurant used ants that "contained up to 55 times more heavy metals than typical edible insects", according to a report on The Chosun Daily.

South Korean authorities consider several criteria in deciding whether insects can be approved as food. These include food safety risks, toxicity, nutritional value, and whether they can be bred and processed hygienically.

In its defence the restaurant owner argued that just 60% of diners had opted to try the ants, while the rest were served alternatives like fermented vinegar and edible flowers.

He added that restaurants in other countries, such as Australia, Denmark and the UK, also use ants as ingredi-

ents.

Court documents did not name the restaurant nor its owner. Ten restaurants in South Korea, all located in capital city Seoul, have been awarded two Michelin stars.

The Michelin Guide awards up to three stars to eateries based on ingredient quality, flavour mastery, cooking technique, chef's personality and consistency.

Two stars denote restaurants that do "excellent cooking" and are "worth a detour", according to Michelin's criteria.

The court is set to deliver its verdict on 2 September.

Ants are eaten, sometimes even valued as a delicacy, in several Asian, African and Latin American cultures. Weaver ants and their eggs are used in Thai and Cambodian cooking, while in Colombia, queen ants are as prized as caviar. (BBC)



OPENING OF CARNIVAL
AND T-SHIRT MAS.

FEEL THE
RHYTHM

JULY 25 2:00 PM
ST. JOHN'S



Sports News

Five teams to battle in MDBA Youth Summer Invitational Splash

The anticipation is reaching its climax for the 3rd Annual MDBA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational Splash Tournament, which is slated to take place at the JSC Sports Complex from August 11 to 15.

This year, five sensational youth development teams are ready and eager to light up the island in an exciting summer basketball showdown.

Representing the Spanish community in Antigua and Barbuda will be Jr. Spanish Lava, who will be making their first appearance in the tournament. They are expected to be one of the most exciting and well-supported teams throughout the competition.

Also returning from the famous Noel “Nyah” Roberts Park, better known as the Lower Ottos Basketball Court, are the Dadli Ballers. This will be their second appearance in the tournament, and they will be looking to accomplish greater things this time around.

Under the guidance of Byron Andrew, the household name Wadadli Elites will be making their tournament debut as they seek to capture the championship on home soil in this youth summer basketball battle.

The Wadadli Elites are well known for creating a storm wherever they compete, so fans can certainly expect plenty of excitement from this talented squad.

From the Spice Isle of Grenada, the MDBA tournament proudly



The Dadli Ballers youth basketball team

welcomes the Kevin Cox Basketball Academy (KCBA) Knights for their first outing in the tournament.

KCBA Knight's coach Kevin Cox is a remarkable basketball icon in Grenada, and the MDBA tournament looks forward to seeing the outstanding young talent developed through the Knights' programme as they aim to make a strong statement in this year's competition.

Returning as the defending champions are the Antiguan Ballers, who reclaimed the crown from the Bajan Ballers from Barbados and will now attempt to defend their title.

Coached by Cedric “Supa” David and his staff, the Antiguan Ballers

will have to outplay these hungry challengers, who have nothing to lose, and lift a second championship trophy in this year's showdown.

After conducting a small analysis among the participating teams, the Wadadli Elites are slight favorites to win the tournament. Close behind are the Antiguan Ballers and the KCBA Knights from Grenada, while Jr. Spanish Lava and the Dadli Ballers are also expected to make a strong push.

Of course, predictions only go so far. The only way to find out who will be crowned champions is when the battle begins on August 11 in what promises to be an unforgettable summer basketball showdown.

Willock gets first win in Masters Division in ABDA draughts tourney

The nation's top player, Bernard "Premier" Willock, recorded his first win in the Masters Division on the second day of the Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association's (ABDA) Cool and Smooth Invitational Tournament at the Gray's Green Community Basketball Court, also known as Knockle Block.

After being held to a 3-3 draw by St. Clair Josiah in his opening encounter, Willock rebounded to pull off a commanding 7-1 victory over Marvin "Bruce" Gray in his second match at the invitational draughts tournament on Tuesday night.

Anthony "Tony" Gomes also recorded his first win in two matches in the Masters Division. After battling to a 4-4 draw with Marvin "Bruce" Gray in his first encounter, Gomes prevailed 6-3 against St. Clair Josiah in his second match.

Amakusa Jeremiah continued his successful campaign in the Seniors Division. After coasting to a 6-3 victory against Eustace "Zocio" Samuel in his opening encounter, Jeremiah recorded his second win in as many matches with a 7-1 drubbing of Tion "Hard GT" Grant.

Although Jeremiah's unbeaten run remained intact, he was held to a 3-3 draw by Stevenson "Smoothie" Vital in his third encounter.

Two other second-round matches in the Seniors Division all ended in draws.

Tion "Hard GT" Grant fought to a 4-4 draw with Eustace "Zocio" Samuel, and Samuel and Stevenson "Smoothie" Vital also played to a 4-4 draw.





CARNIVAL CORNER

The Count Down to Carnival Is On at the Brew










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

\$75

Unlimited drinks
on select brands

ENJOY UNLIMITED SELECTIONS FROM:

- Jack Daniel's
- Hennessy
- Rude Boy *Bucket of 10
- Absolut Vodka
- Angostura 7 Year



ABSOLUT. Hennessy JACK DANIEL'S
Premier Beverages



Brew
CAFE • BAR • LOUNGE

Every Friday, No Excuses

West Indies beat New Zealand in final ODI

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — Shimron Hetmyer held his nerve late in the run chase to make an unbeaten 69 and steer West Indies to a two-wicket win over New Zealand in the fifth and final One-Day International (ODI) at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Tuesday night.

New Zealand took the series 3-2, clinching it in Game 4 after winning Game 2 by five wickets and Game 3 by six wickets in a comeback following West Indies' seven-wicket victory in the opening game.

Hetmyer's fifth ODI half-century and his fifth-wicket partnership of 95 runs with Sherfane Rutherford (61) allowed the West Indies to achieve victory at 269 for eight in 47.3 overs in reply to New Zealand's 268 for nine. All five matches in the series were won by the team batting second.

When Hetmyer and Rutherford were together in a fifth-wicket partnership that built on the foundation set by Shai Hope (39) and Keacy Carty (20), who put on 59 for the third wicket, West Indies looked like winning with ease.

But the match was a seesawing encounter. Rutherford was out when West Indies was 218 for five, needing 41 to win with almost 10 overs remaining, and then Gudakesh Motie fell at 239 for six.

When Jacob Duffy dismissed Matthew Forde (8) and Alzarri Joseph (0) with consecutive deliveries in the 45th over, and with 21 runs still needed for a West Indies win, the complexion of the match changed again.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner made the unusual decision to take left-arm spinner Jayden Lennox out of the attack after he had taken three for 35 from nine overs.

Hetmyer hit two sixes off Duffy in the 47th over and West Indies got home with 15 balls to spare. Lennox took 14 wickets at an average of 13.6 and was



West Indies batsmen Shimron Hetmyer, left, and Sherfane Rutherford added 95 runs in a fifth-wicket partnership against New Zealand during the fifth and final ODI at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. (Getty Images)

voted player of the series.

"I wasn't really thinking about getting a half-century to be honest, I was just thinking about how ... I can make sure the team crosses the line," Hetmyer said.

"Every time a new batter came out I was just like 'make sure you're there at the end.' I'm just happy that I could be there to make sure we crossed the line."

New Zealand appeared to be heading for a much bigger total when it was 181 for three in the 35th over and 230 for five with five overs to go.

Will Young made 56, Tom Latham struck 69, and Nick Kelly scored 64 in their innings. But the finish was missing against tight bowling, especially from Alzarri Joseph, who took two for 38 from his 10 overs.

West Indies' innings began at more than eight runs per over through the first five overs. Then, in a double setback, the Windies lost openers Ack-

em Auguste (34) and Justin Greaves (22) in the space of five deliveries.

Still, the home team was scoring at more seven runs per over after 10 overs as Hope and Carty kept up the pace.

New Zealand began to apply pressure through the spinners, Carty faced a series of dot balls and after the West Indies reached 118 for two, both players were dismissed within three overs.

Hope fell to a poor ball from Lennox, which he tried to hoist over the leg side field but pulled to Kristian Clarke coming off the midwicket boundary.

Carty was frustrated to be pinned down and finally slashed across the line at a straight ball from Lennox, which hit his middle stump.

Rutherford stepped up first to revive the innings and found a like-minded partner in Hetmyer, who was determined to be in at the finish.

Tebas: Infantino should resign for ‘destroying the football industry’



Spain's Rodri (16) is greeted by FIFA President Gianni Infantino and US President Donald J. Trump during the presentation ceremony after the World Cup final soccer match between Spain and Argentina in East Rutherford, New Jersey, near New York, USA, Sunday, July 19, 2026. (AP)

MADRID (AP) -- Gianni Infantino should resign as head of FIFA for “destroying the football industry” by expanding international competitions, La Liga president Javier Tebas said Wednesday.

It is not the first time he has lashed out at Infantino over fixture congestion and for considering a proposal to expand the 2030 men's World Cup from 48 teams to 64.

“Increasing the number of national teams makes no sense. The football industry isn't just the World Cup, which is the most important event. But not everything can revolve around the World Cup,” Tebas told *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

“In my opinion, yes, I think his time is up,” he said of Infantino. “However, he has the support of the system and the federations, so there's not much more to add, is there? There's no opposition candidate, nobody wants to stand just to lose. This is the system and it's rotten at its core.

“He shouldn't stay, but he won't leave. I've heard many people who are against Infantino. They say it, but then they do nothing. I don't know what's worse, the silence or the complicity, because those

who stay silent are perfectly aware of the damage football is suffering.”

South American soccer's ruling body CONMEBOL has made an official proposal to expand the 2030 World Cup to 64 teams. The competition is already set to be the most sprawling edition with six host nations spread across three continents.

“It's national competition that sustains this sport,” Tebas added. “They are destroying the football industry, which generates tens of thousands of jobs, for an event that lasts 40 days and involves a minority of players.”

He also criticized world football's governing body FIFA over the new hydration breaks implemented at the World Cup which ended Sunday, as well as the extended 27-minute halftime interval — rather than the standard 15 — during the final that saw Spain defeat Argentina 1-0.

The hydration breaks midway through each half were introduced to help players deal with the summer heat in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

But critics say they had unintended consequences, ruining the flow of the game and giving coaches a chance to tactically shift momentum in their

team's favour.

“FIFA arranges things as it pleases, for what it wants, for its own interests — certainly not for football,” Tebas said.

“Hydration breaks are a lie. We have them in La Liga, but only when it's genuinely hot. Here, the pitches in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Atlanta had air conditioning. It was a lie — and just a break for advertising.”

Infantino announced in April that he would run for re-election for a fourth term as president. The vote for the 2027–2031 period is scheduled for March 18 in Morocco.

The Football Supporters Europe (FSE) group also called on the wider soccer community to hold FIFA to account.

In a statement on its website headlined “A World Cup that failed supporters”, the FSE demanded “structural governance reforms to hand decision-making power back to the FIFA Council and Congress and ensure full consultation with clubs, leagues, players and supporters.”

It added, “The 2026 World Cup should have been a celebration of the game and the supporters who give it life. Instead, it has too often become a case study in what is so deeply wrong with football today.

“From the outset, supporters were asked to place their trust in FIFA and “chill”, but it prioritized spectacle and commercialization over the match-going experience with key elements of football's identity being messed with. Over the last month, we've seen football contorted to the whim of Gianni Infantino and the Trump administration. “All this created an environment of confusion and distrust that has severely damaged the reputation of FIFA, the World Cup, and the integrity of football itself.

“The lessons from this World Cup are clear: FIFA is unfit to govern global football. The future of the game cannot rest in the hands of a man, who has proven yet again that he puts financial and political interests ahead of the future of our game.”

Antigua Falcons named overseas players for 2026 CPL



The Antigua & Barbuda Falcons have announced their overseas contingent ahead of the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), combining two established international headliners with a group of specialist bowlers and rising subcontinental talent.

The overseas signings confirmed for the upcoming campaign are England's Moeen Ali, Sri Lanka's Kusal Perera, Milind Kumar of USA, Canadian Tajinder Singh, and the Pakistani duo of Shadab Khan and Sufiyan Muqeem.

The Falcons' overseas plans for 2026 have been carefully structured around player availability. Moeen Ali and Kusal Perera are fully available for the entire tournament and will be with the squad from day one, giving the side a

settled top-order presence throughout the campaign.

Milind Kumar and Tajinder Singh will also link up with the team at the start of the season, available for the first three matches of the campaign.

Shadab Khan and Sufiyan Muqeem will be available for seven matches during the tournament, adding proven and emerging spin options to the squad as the campaign progresses.

Moeen Ali headlines the signings as one of white-ball cricket's most experienced all-rounders. The left-handed batter and off-spinner was part of England's 2019 World Cup and 2022 T20 World Cup-winning

squads and continues to be a highly sought-after franchise performer despite stepping back from international duty in 2024.

His ability to bat in the top order and hold down an over of spin makes him a valuable all-format asset for the Falcons.

Kusal Perera brings genuine explosiveness at the top of the order. The Sri Lankan left-handed wicketkeeper-batter, a member of Sri Lanka's 2014 ICC World Twenty20-winning squad, is renowned for his aggressive strokeplay and became the fastest Sri Lankan to 1,000 T20I runs. His powerplay hitting and glove work add depth and firepower to the Falcons' batting order.

Milind Kumar is a right-handed batter and occasional off-break bowler who

represents the USA national team after a prolific career in Indian domestic cricket, including a Ranji Trophy-leading run tally in 2018-19. His experience across the franchise circuit and the USA international setup makes him a reliable top-order option for the opening phase of the campaign.

Tajinder Singh is an all-rounder who bats right-handed and bowls off-spin, representing Canada on the international stage. He has built a strong reputation in North American franchise cricket, including standout performances in Major League Cricket, and joins the Falcons looking to make an early impact.

Shadab Khan is one of world cricket's leading white-ball all-rounders. The Pakistan vice-captain in T20Is combines classical leg-spin with genuine lower-order hitting, and has captained Islamabad United to Pakistan Super League success. His control, experience and big-match temperament strengthen the Falcons' spin-bowling and finishing options.

Sufiyan Muqeem joins as one of the most exciting young spinners in world cricket. The left-arm wrist-spinner was named Player of the Tournament at PSL 2026 after finishing as the competition's leading wicket-taker for Peshawar Zalmi, adding to earlier international experience in both T20I and ODI cricket for Pakistan. His wicket-taking threat gives the Falcons a genuine matchwinner in the middle overs.

Combined with a core West Indian contingent led by Fabian Allen and Evin Lewis, the Falcons' overseas group gives the franchise a balanced blend of experience and emerging talent as they build their squad for the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League.