

Cabinet Summons Security Agencies to Discuss Rising Crime

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Minister of State Kiz Johnson (centre in red dress) poses with parishioners at the church service marking the start of Youth Week

Cabinet Summons Security Agencies to Discuss Rising Crime



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

The Prime Minister, Hon. Gaston Browne, chairman of the Cabinet has summoned representatives of the country's security apparatus for this morning (Monday) to discuss the troubling issue of rising gun-related crimes.

The Prime Minister made the announcement during the Browne and Browne show on Saturday as he discussed the recent spate of shootings, including one in the vicinity of the West Bus Station last week during which two youth were injured. Much of these shootings are believed to be gang-related.

National Security Minister Sir Steadroy Benjamin said the police, immigration, customs and the ONDCP are all expected to be rep-



resented at the meeting that will seek to arrive at a broad consensus on a set of measures to tackle the problem.

"We want to address this matter in a serious way as we cannot afford to have criminals disrupt the lives of ordinary citizens, nor must we allow them to tarnish Antigua and Barbuda's reputation as a safe destination to travel and to do business," Sir Steadroy stated.

While the meeting was planned ahead of the shooting of businessman, Yida Zhang, Sir Steadroy said the incident adds to a growing list of shootings in the country and which must come to an end.

Meanwhile, the police are currently conducting an investigation into the shooting incident that allegedly

happened at the YIDA Special Economic Zone near Parham on Sunday afternoon. Yida has been hospitalized nursing gunshot wounds.

The police are still trying to pull together what exactly happened within the otherwise heavily guarded Special Economic Zone.

According to reports the attack occurred near a warehouse on the Crabbs Peninsula compound shortly after 4 p.m. Preliminary reports indicate that a gunman entered the property and shot Zhang.

He was taken to the hospital, where his condition was reported as stable.

Authorities have not determined a motive nor established how the attacker gained access to the compound.



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National CHOGM Task Appeals For Cooperation As It Mounts “Exercise Resilience” On Monday August 10



The National Task Force planning Antigua and Barbuda’s hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November is appealing to members of the public for cooperation as it mounts **Exercise Resilience** on Monday August 10, from Midday to 6:00pm.

Coordinated by the Task Force’s Security Planning Sub-Committee in collaboration of the Business Forum Committee, **Exercise Resilience** will be centered around the Sticky Wicket Restaurant and Conference Centre, Barnacle Point, and the Copper and Lumber Store Hotel in English Harbour.

In appealing for the cooperation and understanding from the public, a spokesman for the Task Force’ Media and Public Affairs Committee noted that these exercises are critical events designed to test the country’s readiness to host this significant meeting of one of the largest groupings of nations in the world.

“We understand that many persons will be inconvenienced by this exercise especially because it will involve several road closures. The Task Force is mindful of this. How-

ever, the planned event forms part of the national preparations to host this international meeting which will benefit the entire nation in multiple ways,” the spokesman added.

According to the spokesman Exercise Resilience is designed to assess and strengthen the nation’s security readiness, emergency response capabilities, inter-agency coordination, and overall operational effectiveness in a live, controlled environment.

During the exercise, participating

agencies will simulate real-time security operations, including VIP and VVIP motorcade movements, venue security, screening procedures, emergency response scenarios, and coordinated operational protocols similar to those that will be implemented during official CHOGM events, including activities surrounding the CHOGM Business Forum at Sticky Wicket.

It noted that as part of the exercise, members of the public should ex-





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WHAT TO EXPECT & WHAT TO DO

Police officers and other security personnel will be deployed along affected routes to assist motorists, direct traffic, and ensure the safe and orderly movement of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

- ✓ Allow extra travel time
- ✓ Follow all Police directions
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- ✓ Expect temporary delays
- ✓ Don't stop or park in restricted areas

For more information: 462-0045 / 462-0150

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pect temporary road closures, traffic diversions, and restricted access along several major roadways. There will also be restricted parking in and around the Sticky Wicket area, including sections near the old terminal of the V.C. Bird International Airport.

Motorists, airport users, residents, and business operators are strongly encouraged to plan ahead, travel early where possible, and allow additional time to reach their destinations in order to minimize delays.

The areas expected to be affected include:

- Roads leading to hotels and official venues in the eastern, western, northern, and southern sections of the island;
- Sir George Walter Highway;
- Sir Sydney Walling Highway;
- Old Parham Road;
- Friars Hill Road;
- Valley Road;
- Roads leading to and from the V.C. Bird International Airport; and
- The English Harbour and Dockyard area.

Pedestrian movement will also be regulated within designated locations throughout the exercise. Police officers and other security personnel will be strategically deployed along affected routes to assist motorists, direct traffic, and ensure the safe and orderly movement of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The public is urged to comply with all traffic diversions, road signs, and instructions issued by police officers and other authorized personnel. Residents are also encouraged to follow official media platforms for additional updates and advisories before and during the exercise.

The National Task Force and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda regret any inconvenience

these temporary security measures may cause and sincerely thank the public for its continued patience, understanding, and cooperation as

Antigua and Barbuda continues its preparations to successfully host CHOGM 2026.



Ministry of Ed./BOE Tour Expansion Work Underway At Two Schools



The Ministry of Education and the Board of Education which are carrying out expansion work at two government-owned secondary schools have completed recent tours of the ongoing construction work.

In a joint statement they say this forms part of their commitment to improving the country's educational infrastructure following the tour of expansion works underway at the Antigua Grammar School and Clare Hall Secondary School.

Officials reviewed progress on the two projects, which began last year, while highlighting the collaborative effort to address school infrastructure needs. The works form part of the Board of Education's summer maintenance programme, covering more than 40 schools.

At the Antigua Grammar School, officials toured the ongoing expansion of the Home Economics Department, which will bring the school's Food & Nutrition facilities, located on the lower floor, together with Home Management and Clothing & Textiles on the upper floor, all under one roof. The development will create a more integrated and functional space for practical instruction in which students develop

technical and life skills.

The tour then continued to the Clare Hall Secondary School, where a sig-

nificant expansion is underway to help ease overcrowding and increase the school's capacity. This project



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will provide seven additional classrooms - three on the lower floor and four on the upper - creating space to accommodate approximately 200 additional students.

The expansion works are being financed through the Education Levy, administered by the Board of Education, with the Ministry providing the strategic direction to ensure that infrastructural investments align with the wider priorities of the national education system. Both projects are expected to be completed in time for the 2026–2027 school year.

Education Minister Daryll Matthew, said the projects reflect the Government's policy of investing in educational facilities that are responsive to the present and future needs of students.

Executive Secretary of the Board of Education, Carla Farquhar, said the projects demonstrate precisely why responsible stewardship of the Education Levy remains central to the work of the Board.

Farquhar also underscored the importance of contributors remaining compliant with their Education Levy obligations.

The joint tour forms part of a wider effort by the Ministry and the Board of Education to increase public awareness of investments being made in the education sector.



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The poster features a vibrant photograph of three Antigua Carnival dancers in the background. They are wearing elaborate costumes with large, multi-colored feathered headdresses (pink, blue, yellow, and white) and intricate beaded jewelry. The dancer on the left is smiling and holding a small object, the middle dancer is looking upwards, and the dancer on the right is holding a microphone. In the foreground, centered over the image, is the Antigua Carnival logo. The logo consists of a stylized black bird or mask shape with a red star on its forehead, surrounded by colorful geometric shapes in green, yellow, blue, red, and pink. Below the logo, the text 'ANTIGUA' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and 'Carnival' is in a large, pink, cursive script font. Underneath 'Carnival' is the tagline 'THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The main message 'THANK YOU' is written in very large, bold, pink, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, 'SEE YOU AT LEGENDARY 70' is in bold, pink, sans-serif capital letters. The dates 'JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027' are in bold, pink, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, followed by the text 'ANTIGUA CARNIVAL' and '@ANTIGUAFESTIVALSOFFICIAL'.

ANTIGUA
Carnival
THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

THANK YOU

SEE YOU AT LEGENDARY 70

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

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Minister Kiz Johnson Recommends New Ways to Communicate Youth-related Issues



Minister of State in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, Kiz Johnson, has challenged Antigua and Barbuda to change the way it speaks about and responds to young people, warning against narratives that portray the nation's youth as lost, doomed or unlikely to succeed.

Minister Johnson issued the call on Sunday as National Youth Week 2026 officially opened with a Service of Praise and Worship at the Salvation Army's Central Citadel on Long Street.

Speaking under this year's theme, "Building Intentionally: Youth in Motion," the Minister of State said meaningful youth development cannot be left to chance, but must be driven by deliberate planning, investment and a clear sense of purpose.

"Youth in Motion reminds us that our young people are not standing still," Johnson said. "They are moving forward, innovating and shaping the future of our nation."

She used the occasion to push back against negative stereotypes regarding young people, calling on adults and institutions to recognise



their potential rather than constantly comparing them to previous generations.

"Let us stop belittling our young people, doing the comparisons, saying that they are lost, they are doomed and they won't amount to anything," Minister Johnson remarked.

Her message was accompanied by a call for greater investment in op-

portunities that allow young people to develop their skills, pursue entrepreneurship and participate meaningfully in national development.

She argued that responsibility for empowering youth does not rest with government alone, but must involve families, schools, churches, businesses and other sections of society.

Director of the Department of



Youth Affairs, Dr. Jrucilla Samuel, meanwhile, took aim at another longstanding perception, that young people are increasingly self-centred, unfocused or unwilling to contribute.

“This blanket narrative is flawed;

it has shackled generations, and has stunted their developments,” Samuel said.

She called on employers, institutions and other sectors of society to give young people genuine opportunities, particularly access to

decent work that allows them to develop professionally and become economically independent.

National Youth Ambassador Christal Percival delivered a message directly to her peers, reminding them that they do not need to have every aspect of their future planned before taking the first step.

“You do not have to have your entire life figured out to start moving in the right direction,” Percival said.

She also encouraged young people not to allow age, titles or their present circumstances to determine what they believe they can accomplish.

The week is intended to move beyond simply celebrating young people by placing greater focus on purpose, opportunity, participation and the role youth can play in shaping Antigua and Barbuda’s future.



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OCS's Top CSEC Student Axleigh Akez Sweeps Grant Thornton Awards

Ottos Comprehensive School's 2025 top CSEC student, Axleigh Akez, has added another major achievement to her academic record after securing both the Accounting and Business awards presented annually by Grant Thornton.

Akez achieved the distinction after excelling in the two subject areas during the 2025 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations.

Grant Thornton traditionally presents two awards to outstanding Ottos Comprehensive School students who demonstrate strong performance in Accounting and Business. This time, Akez's results saw her emerge as the recipient of both honours.

The achievement comes as Akez continues to build on the strong academic foundation she established at Ottos Comprehensive.

She is currently a second-year matriculated student at the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), where she is enrolled in the School of Business and Accounting.

With ambitions of advancing even further academically, Akez says perseverance and determination will remain central to her journey. She has also spoke openly about the importance of her faith, crediting Jehovah God for the blessings and opportunities she has received.

Her accomplishments have brought considerable pride to her family, relatives, friends and loved ones, who continue to encourage and support her educational aspirations.

Grant Thornton's continued investment in students at Ottos Comprehensive School has also been welcomed.



Through the annual Accounting and Business awards, the firm provides additional encouragement to young people who excel academically and may be considering future studies and careers in business, accounting and related professions.

Akez's double recognition is an

especially notable accomplishment for the former Ottos Comprehensive student, who has transitioned from topping her school's 2025 CSEC results to pursuing further studies in the same fields in which she distinguished herself.



Halo Foundation Comes to the Rescue...Again!

H. E. Lady Williams with scholarship recipient Amejah Nibbs.

Another deserving young Antiguan and Barbudan is getting a major boost to his educational dreams as he has received funding from the Halo Foundation to pursue higher education abroad.

The Foundation has announced that it has donated \$10,000 in scholarship funds to Amejah Nibbs to pursue studies at the GBSB Global Business School.

The cheque was handed over by

Her Excellency Lady Williams, President of the Halo Foundation. "We are providing funds to assist Amejah in his first year of study. He was accepted into the school and, according to his explanation, he was promised a scholarship from a local institution which did not meet the date of the payment deadline."

"We cannot answer every call for assistance," she said, "None-

theless, education of our young people is something we regard very seriously — along with other youth-centered activity (such as agricultural training), arts and culture, community outreach, the differently abled, the elderly, history and heritage, the environment, health, sports, uniformed bodies, women and girls and world peace."

Ministry of Agriculture Officers Complete Training In Sweet Potato Production

The Ministry of Agriculture is collaborating with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) to conduct training on meristem tissue culture propagation and the production of clean sweet potato planting material, thereby helping to strengthen regional and national capacity in producing healthy, disease-free planting material.

As part of a regional capacity-building initiative, two officers from Antigua and Barbuda have also been participating in the training. Jahmol Colbourne, Plant Protection Officer within the Ministry of Agriculture, is currently undergoing training, while Vernon Bird Jr., of the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Analytical Services, recently completed the programme. Both received hands-on experience in sweet potato germplasm quarantine, tissue culture, pathogen diagnostics, greenhouse management, plant propagation, and the production of clean sweet potato planting material.

This training initiative is funded by the European Union and FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) and implemented by IICA under the Next Generation Sweet Potato in the Caribbean Project.

Every trained professional strengthens the region's ability to produce healthier planting material, protect valuable germplasm, and support a more productive sweet potato industry.



Vernon Bird Jr., of the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Analytical Services

ECSE to Host Online Directors' Education and Accreditation Programme in September 2026



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The Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE) is inviting directors, senior executives, governance professionals, and aspiring board leaders across the region to participate in the upcoming online session of the Directors' Education and Accreditation Programme (DEAP), scheduled for 28-30 September 2026.

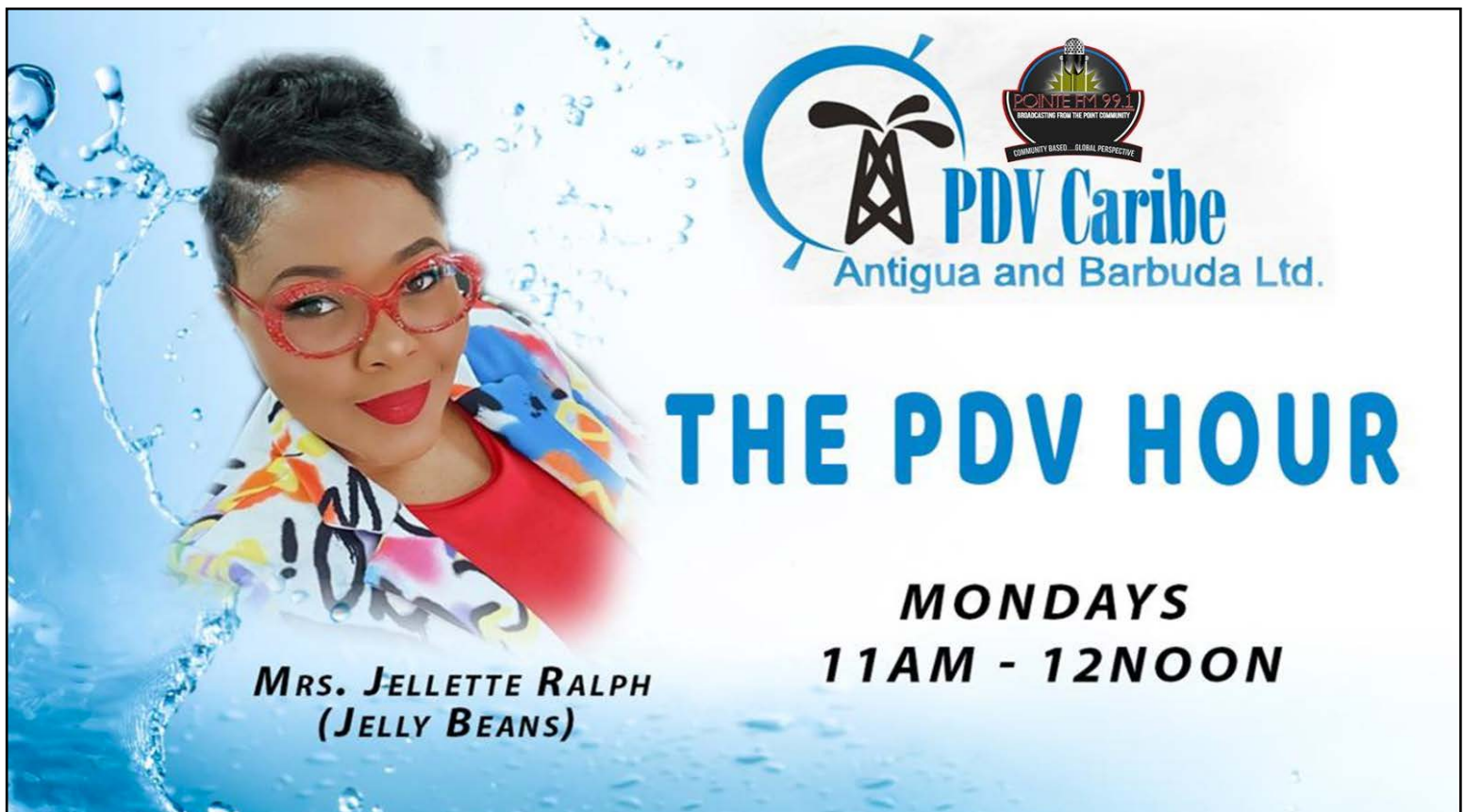
Offered jointly by the ECSE and the Chartered Governance Institute of Canada (CGIC), DEAP is an advanced

director training course designed to strengthen participants' understanding of board responsibilities, corporate governance practices, and the critical leadership role directors play in guiding effective, accountable organisations.

The programme is open to directors, corporate secretaries, chief executive officers, and other senior executives of public and private companies, as well as public sector statutory corporations. Legal practitioners, accountants, char-

tered secretaries, professional corporate advisers, and persons preparing for future directorships are also encouraged to register.

Interested persons may access further details and registration information on the ECSE's website at www.ecseonline.com, or contact the ECSE by e-mail at info@ecseonline.com or by telephone at 869 466 7192. Early registration is encouraged, as spaces are limited.



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ANUCON 2026 Returns Bigger, Bolder and Ready To Level Up

AnuCon, the annual meeting of gamers, cosplayers, anime lovers, comic book fans, creators and pop—culture enthusiasts, is returning for its fifth edition this upcoming weekend.

“AnuCon is back, and its fifth edition promises to be bigger, bolder and more exciting than ever! Antigua and Barbuda’s ultimate fandom experience is back! AnuCon 2026 returns on Saturday, August 15, promising an even bigger celebration of anime, gaming, comics, cosplay and pop culture,” a conference statement said.

The highly anticipated convention takes over the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre from 12 noon to 9 p.m., bringing together artists, gamers, cosplayers, creators, entertainers and fans for a full day of fun and entertainment. Admission is \$30, with children under 13 entering free.

“This year’s activities include the popular Cosplay Masquerade, gaming competitions, trivia, arm wrestling and spicy noodle eating competition, along with prizes, surprises and other activities throughout the day.

“A major highlight of AnuCon 2026 will be the appearance of international guest TropicFox, a Los Angeles-based professional cosplayer, model, make-up artist, prop maker and performer,” the statement added.

Making her first visit to Antigua and Barbuda, TropicFox brings international cosplay experience to the convention and has expressed her excitement about visiting the twin-island nation and engaging with its growing cosplay community.

AnuCon continues to provide a safe, inclusive and exciting space for people who share a passion for anime, gaming, comics, technology and creativity, while welcoming newcomers who simply want to experience the fun.

Major sponsor, TechShop is supporting the event and the community it represents.

“One of the reasons we were excited



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to come on board is because AnuCon represents a growing community of anime, gaming, comic-book and technology enthusiasts,” said TechShop’s Novan Francis. “Comic conventions are among some of the largest fan gatherings worldwide, and to know that Antigua and Barbuda is hosting its own for the fifth consecutive year is something to be applauded.” He continued.

Dwayne Riley, President of the

AnuCon Board of Directors, said the continued growth of the convention demonstrates the increasing interest in fandom culture locally. “AnuCon is a fun, family-friendly event for everyone, enthusiasts and spectators alike. The community of comic, anime, gaming and cosplay supporters is growing rapidly, and we are happy to provide a safe and exciting environment where everyone can come together,” Riley said.

Ian Joseph Flies National Flag at Major African Festival in Germany

Antigua and Barbuda is being represented at one of Germany's major celebrations of African culture, where Ian Joseph is using the opportunity to make connections and gain exposure to discussions surrounding tourism, trade and international cooperation.

Joseph is currently in Tübingen, Germany, attending the 26th Afrika Festival, a four-day event that combines African culture and entertainment with opportunities for networking and conversations on tourism and economic development.

Speaking to Pointe Express, by telephone from Germany, Joseph said the festival has attracted participants from several countries, creating an environment where cultural celebration and business engagement take place side by side.

This is Joseph's third time attending the annual event, and he believes gatherings of this nature can provide valuable opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda to strengthen connections with Africa and other international partners.

While African music, food, dance and fashion are major attractions, Joseph said the festival also provides a platform for conversations about trade among African nations and opportunities for greater engagement with countries outside the continent.

The festival, being staged under the banner "One Festival | Four Days | One Africa," opened on Thursday, August 6 and concludes on Sunday, August 9.

Activities are being held daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with the festival grounds transformed into a vibrant display of African heritage.

Visitors are being treated to African cuisine and beverages, a cultural market, live music, dancing and activities for children and families.



One of Saturday's major attractions was the Cultural Parade, which showcased African traditions through colourful displays and performances. Africanbongoman & Think Twice Band were also among the performers, while DJ Gaga and Afrobeats artists kept the entertainment flowing.

The festival entered its final day on Sunday with another packed programme.

For Joseph, however, the experience extends beyond the performances and festivities. His participation places Antigua and Barbuda in an international space where relationships are being formed and discussions are taking place on culture, tourism, business and trade, areas that could potentially open doors for greater engagement between the Caribbean, Africa and Europe.

The African Queen Who Would Not Be Defeated by the Mighty Roman Empire



*By Ambassador
Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim*

At the height of its power, Rome projected near invincibility. Its armies conquered vast territories around the Mediterranean and extended Roman authority across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Yet beyond Egypt's southern frontier, Rome encountered an African kingdom that refused to be intimidated.

At the centre of that resistance stood Queen Amanirenas of Kush, whose reign is generally placed in the late first century BCE, approximately 40 BCE to 10 BCE. She became one of the most formidable female rulers of the ancient world. Her story challenges a persistent distortion in how African history is sometimes understood. Africa's history did not commence in chains. Slavery forms part of the African historical experience, but it cannot be permitted to define African civilisation.

Long before the slave trades that

later devastated the continent, Africa possessed organised kingdoms, political institutions, armies and trading networks. The Kingdom of Kush, located principally in what is today northern Sudan, was one such civilisation, with its own rulers, military traditions, monumental architecture, religious institutions and commerce. Among its rulers were powerful queens known by the title Kandake, and Amanirenas emerged as one of the greatest among them.

Her reign coincided with Roman expansion. In 30 BCE, Octavian, later Emperor Augustus, defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra VII, and Egypt became a Roman province. Rome was now Kush's immediate northern neighbour. Amanirenas faced a stark choice: wait for Rome to determine the future or resist.

She chose resistance.

Beginning around 25 BCE, Kushite forces advanced northward into Roman-controlled Egypt and attacked several settlements, including Syene, modern Aswan. Rome was accustomed to deciding where wars would be fought, but Kush carried the conflict into Roman territory.

During these campaigns, statues symbolising Roman authority were seized. Archaeologists later discovered a bronze head of Augustus taken to Meroë and buried beneath a temple entrance, so that those entering would effectively walk over the emperor's image. It declared that imperial might would not automatically command African submission.

Rome retaliated under the prefect Gaius Petronius, whose forces advanced south and captured territory, including Napata. Yet Rome did not permanently conquer the Kushite heartland. After continued resis-

tance, the conflict ended in a negotiated peace around 21–20 BCE. The settlement stabilised relations between the two powers and allowed Kush to retain its independence. Amanirenas had therefore achieved something extraordinary: she had confronted one of history's greatest empires and emerged with the sovereignty of her kingdom intact.

Her achievement is especially important because she lived centuries before the systems of enslavement through which Africa would later often be presented to the world. She reminds us that bondage was an assault upon African peoples; it was not their original condition. Despite the painful imposition of slavery, there have always been proud moments when African civilisation revealed courage, resilience, political intelligence, leadership and strength. Whenever afforded freedom and opportunity to determine their own destiny, African peoples have demonstrated their capacity to govern, build, create, defend and excel with distinction.

The centuries that followed would test that same spirit of independence under profoundly different and brutal circumstances.

Centuries later, different systems of enslavement increasingly drew Africans into long-distance markets. The trans-Saharan slave trade did not begin on one precise date. Trade routes across the Sahara existed in antiquity, linking sub-Saharan Africa with North Africa and the Mediterranean, and enslaved persons were moved along some of them. The trade expanded substantially from approximately the 7th century CE onward, alongside the expansion of Islamic states and commercial networks across North Africa.



Queen Amanirenas

The trans-Saharan system differed from the later Atlantic slave trade and varied across regions. Nor did it end on a single date. Its decline accelerated during the 19th century as abolitionist pressures, political change and European colonial expansion disrupted older networks. Tunisia abolished slavery in 1846, while other territories acted at different times. Nevertheless, slavery and hereditary servitude persisted in some parts of the Sahara and Sahel into the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

From the 15th century onward, another devastating system developed across the Atlantic. European powers transported millions of Africans to the Americas, where plantation economies increasingly depended upon enslaved labour. By the 18th century, Britain had become one of the dominant European participants. Atlantic slavery became especially brutal because it was increasingly racialised, hereditary and embedded in colonial law. Africans and their descendants could legally be treated as property.

Yet resistance never disappeared.

Enslaved Africans rebelled, escaped, preserved cultural traditions, established Maroon communities and continually challenged the systems imposed upon them. That spirit found one of its most dramatic Caribbean expressions in Haiti, where formerly enslaved people defeated colonial forces and declared independence on 1 January 1804. Separated by nearly eighteen centuries, Amanirenas and the Haitian revolutionaries inhabited different worlds, yet both rejected the assumption that superior power created a right to domination.

Britain abolished its legal participation in the transatlantic slave trade in 1807, but ending the trade did not free those already enslaved. The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 took effect on 1 August 1834 across most British colonies to which the Act applied. Across much of the British Caribbean, formerly enslaved people were compelled to enter an apprenticeship system, with full freedom following on 1 August 1838. Antigua, however, proceeded directly to full emancipation on 1 August 1834 without implementing apprenticeship.

Yet emancipation exposed another injustice. The British government compensated slave owners rather than the formerly enslaved, setting aside approximately £20 million for those claiming the loss of human beings as property. Those who had endured generations of forced labour received no equivalent compensation. Freedom had been proclaimed, but justice remained incomplete.

For Caribbean peoples of African descent, that inheritance reaches far beyond the plantation. Their ancestry extends to African societies of rulers, warriors, builders, farmers, traders, scholars, craftsmen, mothers and fathers who possessed their own cultures and institutions. In that broader sense, Caribbean people carry an inheritance of nobility, courage and fortitude—not necessarily a lit-

eral royal bloodline, but a civilisational inheritance grounded in dignity, endurance, resistance and the determination to survive.

The courage displayed by Amanirenas would echo centuries later in resistance to enslavement, Maroon communities, the Haitian Revolution, emancipation struggles, labour movements and Caribbean political independence. The chains of slavery disrupted the historical continuity of African peoples; they did not erase their inheritance. African and Caribbean history must therefore tell not only what was done to our ancestors, but what they achieved, defended, resisted and survived.

But our history must lead us to something greater than pride in survival. Having inherited the memory of what happens when human beings are degraded and treated as less than human, we must resist every form of treatment that dehumanises another person, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnicity, religion, origin or social standing. Our opposition to injustice cannot apply only when the victim resembles us.

More than two thousand years ago, Amanirenas confronted the mightiest empire of her age and refused to surrender her people's sovereignty. Rome expected submission. Kush resisted. Her story reminds us that oppression may constrain a people for a time, but it does not define their potential. When given freedom, opportunity and the ability to determine their own destiny, people who have endured adversity can rise, lead, create and shine with distinction. Our greatest inheritance, therefore, is not simply the courage to defend our own freedom, but the moral strength to defend the dignity, humanity and freedom of every human being—for genuine human advancement must protect dignity, pursue justice, expand opportunity and ultimately serve the good of all.



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First Runner-Up: Myst Carnival

Second Runner-Up: Rebel Nation

J'OUVERT

First Band on the Road: Liberta Black Thing

Largest Band on the Road: Caution

First Jam Band on the Road: High Voltage

Sweetest Jam Band on the Road: Revo Band

BEST J'OUVERT TROUPE

Winner: ChattaBox Company Ltd.

First Runner-Up: Flava FM One Caribbean

Second Runner-Up: Brewmasters J'ouvert Troupe

CARNIVAL MONDAY WEAR

Large Band Category

Winner: Myst Carnival

First Runner-Up: Sechuns The Band

Second Runner-Up: Insane Carnival

BEST FLOATS

Winner: Central Board of Health

First Runner-Up: Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries

Second Runner-Up: Chinese Association

CARNIVAL TUESDAY

Small Band Category

Winner: RT Performers Cultural Entertainment

First Runner-Up: Bachannal Carnival

Second Runner-Up: WACC Mas

Large Band Category

Winner: Sechuns The Band

First Runner-Up: Insane Carnival

Second Runner-Up: Myst Carnival

BAND OF THE YEAR

Winner: Sechuns The Band

First Runner-Up: Insane Carnival

Second Runner-Up: Myst Carnival

ROAD MARCH 2026

Winner:

BALLO - "Bang E Line"

Played 101 times

First Runner-Up:

**Soca Villan & Island Prince
"Gyal Sidung"**

Played 89 times

Second Runner-Up:

**Dan Knowledge
"Shake It Off"**

Played 74 times



#antiguacarnival

Life in Cuba revolves around small bursts of electricity

A 20-minute burst of electricity is a small miracle in Havana nowadays – a miracle that sometimes comes at 3 a.m.

That's when 72-year-old Leidis Rodríguez frantically cooked beans after the lights switched on this week following hours of uninterrupted blackouts.

"The power has come back on, everyone go!" Rodríguez shouted.

In the wake of sometimes day-long blackouts in Cuba – fuelled by the oil blockade imposed by the Trump administration in January – Cubans are planning their lives around the lights turning back on.

Those small bursts of relief last a few minutes or a few hours. They come at any time, day or night. Increasingly, electricity flicks on when Rodríguez and her 41-year-old daughter, Yaimara Matos, would normally be asleep.

When the power comes on, the family stops everything they're doing.

"You want to do everything at the same time – wash clothes, iron, cook, tidy the rooms, because it's impossible in the dark, and even get a little relief from the heat," Matos said. "What we used to do in 10 hours, we now have to do in two."

That's the case for Cubans across the island, whose lives have been transformed by one of the worst crises the island has seen since the Cuban revolution. Daily life has turned into a tangle of compounding crises families have to unravel.

Public transportation and cultural events have come to a standstill. So has tourism, the country's economic engine, especially as tourism companies have withdrawn, leaving 25,000 hospitality jobs vacant. Flights to the island are regularly cancelled and workdays have been shortened to adjust to the new reality of a Cuba without power. Medicine shortages have worsened and food rots in fridges without power.

"If there's no electricity, there's no water because it doesn't get pumped to the tank. When there's water, there's no electricity," Rodríguez lamented.

Power outages are nothing new to the Caribbean nation. Endemic blackouts began to worsen five years ago as a



result of a crumbling energy grid, decades-long US sanctions and failed economic reforms by the communist-run government.

But the quality of life began to rapidly deteriorate when US President Donald Trump threatened to impose a tariff on any goods from countries that sell or provide it with oil, Cuba's main source of power. The move, combined with even more rigid sanctions, was aimed at pressuring Cuba's government into political change. The worst effects have been felt by average Cubans.

Previously, most blackouts were scheduled by the government to save power, so each family knew how long they would be without electricity – usually two or three hours. Now there is no longer any predictability: an outage can last 12 hours, 30 hours or longer. Increasingly, the entire island goes dark. Last weekend's grid collapse marked the sixth time this year.

Cubans like Rodríguez and Matos, long accustomed to adapting to crisis, have found ways to cope. The family bought a small power generator, which they're only able to run a few hours a day.

Others install solar panels – often sent by relatives abroad. Some purchase rechargeable fans or solar-powered vehi-

cles since gasoline is also unavailable.

Lianet Barroso once cooked with a gas stove. Now she cooks over a wood fire. Unsure of when she will next get water when the power does go on, she fills up as many plastic bottles as she can.

"Life for Cubans has become difficult, harsh and sad," Barroso said.

In several municipalities, particularly in Havana, residents staged neighbourhood protests after blackouts lasting more than 48 hours, banging pots and pans and burning garbage piled up on street corners.

Meanwhile, with inflation surging as Cuba's currency is increasingly devalued against the dollar, many people are struggling to even pay for food that could later go bad in a blackout.

At 10 p.m. on Tuesday, 64-year-old Caridad Delgado was preparing food for her cat during a blackout under the light of a rechargeable lamp, something the family bought with remittances from her three children, who had emigrated from the island.

Months ago at this hour, she said, "I'd probably be watching a soap opera. Now I can't even dream of it."

"There's just too much anguish, too much desperation," she said. "I try to carry on with life." (AP)

Caricom calls for greater protection and inclusion of indigenous peoples



The Caribbean Community (Caricom) is calling for stronger policies to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and expand opportunities for their social and economic development across the region.

In a message marking Sunday's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Caricom Secretary General Dr Carla Barnett said indigenous communities have played an integral role in shaping the Caribbean's history, culture and identity.

"The wisdom, traditions and contributions of the Caribbean's indigenous peoples are an integral part of our shared history, and their voices, leadership and prosperity are essential to an equitable and sustainable community," she said.

This year's observance is being held under the United Nations theme, "Honouring Indigenous Midwives:

Safeguarding Life and Well-being."

Caricom said the theme recognises the important role indigenous midwives play as custodians of ancestral knowledge, caregivers and guardians of cultural traditions passed down through generations.

It said traditional knowledge also remains important in areas including agriculture, medicine, environmental protection, language and community governance.

The regional grouping noted that indigenous peoples were the first guardians of the Caribbean's lands and natural resources and said their knowledge of environmental stewardship and sustainable development has become increasingly important as the region confronts climate change and biodiversity loss.

The community also pointed to its recently relaunched Ten-Point Plan for

Reparatory Justice: A Manifesto for the Coming Enlightenment, which includes a call for an Indigenous Peoples Development Programme.

Caricom said such a programme is intended to help indigenous communities thrive by expanding opportunities for social and economic development.

It said achieving that objective will require meaningful dialogue and policies that respect the rights, dignity and aspirations of indigenous peoples.

The secretary general urged Member States to recognise the contributions of indigenous midwives and other traditional knowledge holders while ensuring indigenous communities are able to participate fully in Caribbean society.

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed annually on August 9. (CMC)

Regional News

Grenada: Two women dead following boating incident



A festive Carnival Saturday was marred by tragedy yesterday when a serious boating incident off Grand Anse Beach claimed the lives of two women.

According to eyewitness accounts, the two women jumped together from a vessel identified as the Kayak Princess. In a horrific turn of events, they both came into contact with the boat's propeller.

The impact was immediate for one of the victims, who reportedly died at the scene. The second woman was rushed to the General Hospital in a desperate attempt to save her life, but she later succumbed to her injuries.

Following the incident, reports indicated that one body could still be seen in the sea while authorities worked the scene.

The captain of the Kayak Princess has been detained by police as investigations into the fatal accident continue.

While the sequence of events has been described by those on the beach, authorities have noted that they have

yet to officially confirm the exact circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Further updates are expected as the investigation progresses. (Jamaica Observer)

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Puerto Rico rations water supplies due to intense drought



Hundreds of thousands of people are going without running water for two days at a time in Puerto Rico, as authorities in the US territory take drastic measures to combat a severe drought.

Many households on the Caribbean island have been split into two groups - with each having their water supply shut off for 48 hours on a rotating basis.

Residents in the capital, San Juan, where the taps were turned off on Friday, decried the rationing. Officials have not said when the measure will end.

Most of Puerto Rico is facing moderate to severe drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor, which has been compounded by long-term issues with the island's infrastructure.

Puerto Rico's water authority says about 65% of the water it produces is lost or goes unbilled, much of it through leaks and ageing pipes, according to the BBC's US news partner CBS.

The island's Governor Jenniffer González has acknowledged these issues, but says rationing was implemented due to the weather, which has left the crucial Carraízo reservoir depleted.

Puerto Rico experienced its driest July on record, with 68% of the island currently facing drought conditions.

Seven regions usually served by the reservoir have been affected, with 180,000 properties subject to rationing, the government said.

González said the decision was taken "after carefully evaluating the current conditions of the Carraízo reservoir in conjunction with weather forecasts".

"This situation is beyond our control," she said in a statement. "It is the result of the weather conditions we have been facing, which experts had warned about weeks ago."

As the mains outages take effect, people have been queuing at water tanker trucks sent to affected regions to fill up large bottles.

"It's unbelievable to live through this today," San Juan resident Gloriana Baba told CBS, describing the conditions as "brutal".

But there is some confusion in the territory as to which households and businesses will be affected and when.

The Morcelo area, south of San Juan, was promised water on Friday, with the supply set to be shut off on Sunday, after the first 48-hour period had ended. But residents have told local media that running water was not available.

"People are uncertain because they know we're in the 48-hour window where we're supposed to have drinking water," community leader Rubén Torres told newspaper El Nuevo Dia on Saturday.

Water rationing measures have been tried previously in 2020 and 2015, when some 400,000 households only received running water every third day.

Puerto Rico has previously been shaken by the kind of extreme weather events scientists say are more likely due to human-induced climate change.

The island's electricity grid was devastated in 2017 by Hurricane Maria, which caused thousands of deaths. Scientists say the extreme amounts of rainfall it brought was made more likely due to climate change.

González also told CNN there were more than 1,000 wildfires currently burning in Puerto Rico, and that rain could return when a cloud of Saharan dust drifts away from the Caribbean.

"It's a difficult situation," she said, adding that the US federal government was "helping us out", without elaborating.

BBC News has approached the US disaster agency Fema for comment. (BBC)

Ecuador charges ex-minister over presidential candidate assassination case



Prosecutors in Ecuador have charged a former interior minister and six others on suspicion of being involved in the assassination of a presidential candidate in 2023.

José Serrano and the head of cartel Los Lobos, Wilmer “Pipo” Chavarria, were implicated in the murder of Fernando Villavicencio at a campaign event in the capital, Quito, days before the election.

Five people linked to the criminal gang were jailed over the hit in 2024, while Pipo was captured in Spain last year, having faked his own death.

Villavicencio, a journalist turned prominent legislator, was known for his anti-corruption stance and was one of few candidates to allege links between organised crime and government officials.

He had continued to appear at public campaigns after being given a security detail due to his receiving a number of death threats.

Daniel Noboa, who ultimately went

on to win the election and become Ecuador’s president, has taken a hardline military approach to combatting crime gangs.

The five convicted over Villavicencio’s murder in 2024 were said to have orchestrated the hit. The alleged gunman was shot dead at the scene, while six other men were found murdered in prison while awaiting trial.

The seven named by the Ecuadorean Attorney General’s Office on Saturday were accused of playing an indirect role in the killing - many of whom had links to Los Lobos, or “The Wolves”, one of the nation’s most powerful criminal gangs.

Five of these were now considered fugitives, it said.

Serrano and Xavier Jordán were currently located in the US, former assemblyman Ronny Aleaga was in Venezuela, while Pipo remained in Spain with an extradition request pending.

The Attorney General’s Office has requested Interpol red notices for their

capture and extradition.

Ángel Esteban Aguilar, also known as Lobo Menor, was arrested in Mexico City in March and returned to Ecuador after a red notice was issued over the murder of Villavicencio.

He was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2013 for the murder of Serrano’s brother but fled after being granted parole.

The other accused is senior Los Lobos member Luis Arboleda.

Pre-trial hearings are currently taking place and a judge will decide whether prosecutors have a case that can proceed to a full trial.

Ecuador’s location - sandwiched between Colombia and Peru, the world’s largest producers of cocaine - has turned it into a key transit country for the illicit drug, with cartels like Los Lobos using corruption and violence to control supply routes.

It is said to have deep connections to the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel in Mexico. (BBC)

Residents warned to brace for the worst as Canada wildfire rages out of control

A state of emergency has been declared after thousands of people were forced to flee their homes as a fast-moving wildfire in a remote part of western Canada spread rapidly, doubling in size since it was first detected on Friday.

The Bald Range fire now occupies more than 39 sq miles (103 sq km) across the Summerland, Peachland and other districts of British Columbia, according to the BC Wildfire Service.

“We have to brace ourselves for the worst,” Summerland Mayor Doug Holmes told Reuters.

Officials said the flames were so high that they had created their own weather systems, which creates lightning.

British Columbia Premier David Eby told a news conference on Saturday that one fire official had likened the fire to “a bomb going off”.

“Homes have been lost, and properties have been destroyed. Some people became trapped as conditions changed very quickly, and needed to be rescued,” the premier said.

A state of emergency allows the provincial government access to special powers including travel restrictions and supply protections to prevent price gouging, and extra resources to coordinate rescue work.

Summerland has a population of about 12,000 people,



according to the 2021 census, and Peachland is home to about 6,500 residents.

The Bald Range wildfires triggered the largest evacuation event this summer and more than 20,000 people across British Columbia have evacuated their homes, officials say.

“A lot of farms have been affected. We don’t know how many structures have been lost. They’re still busy fighting the fire,” Summerland Mayor Doug Holmes said.

Hundreds of residents living in Summerland care facilities, including senior

housing, were being relocated to safer areas, according to Interior Health, a publicly funded health authority in BC.

It was not yet clear how many structures had been destroyed in the blaze.

The nearby districts of Okanagan, Peachland, Okanagan-Similkameen and the Snpink’tn Indian Band also issued evacuation orders, as well as evacuation alerts in some areas.

In Okanagan, there are a lot of horses that residents have been struggling to evacuate, Canadian broadcaster CBC reported.

Those unable to relocate their animals left their gates open in the hope the animals would find their own way to safety, local residents told CBC.

Some owners also painted markings on their animals to make them easier to identify later, according to the outlet.

Hundreds of wildfires have raged across Canada this summer, with nearly 200 burning in Ontario in July, sending air quality in Toronto to one of the worst levels in the world for a few days.

Smoke from those Canadian wildfires drifted down into parts of the US, including Minnesota and New York, leading US President Donald Trump to threaten new tariffs on the US’s northern neighbour. (BBC)

Ancient Roman shipwreck discovered off Sicily coast



Italian divers have discovered an ancient Roman shipwreck off the coast of Sicily, believed to be more than 2,000 years old.

The vessel was found piled high with hundreds of well-preserved containers, which were used to transport goods such as wine and olive oil.

Italy's Culture Minister Alessandro Giuli hailed the wreck as "one of the most important underwater archaeological discoveries of recent years".

Specialist police divers found the ship around 46m (150ft) deep, after a tip-off from fishermen. The wreckage is 21m (69ft) long and 6m (20ft) wide, according to reports in local media.

The culture ministry says it dates from the second or 1st Century BC.

Fisherman and free-diver Giacomo De Mola described stumbling across the historic vessel while surveying the

seabed near Mazara del Vallo.

He wrote on social media that he had decided to dive and investigate after seeing something that appeared to be a large rock on his scanner.

"I get closer. And my heart stops. It wasn't a rock," he said. Instead, he saw hundreds of amphorae - tall ceramic jars used to store goods in the ancient era, mostly wine, oil or grain.

"This is, without a doubt, the most incredible discovery of my life," he said. "It's hard to describe what it feels like to be among the first humans, in nearly 20 centuries, to see that place again."

He posted a video of the wreck, showing eels, snappers and "countless marine life" living among the jars, noting: "The sea never ceases to amaze us."

"This time we didn't just find a wreck, we found a piece of our history."

Specialist divers from the cultural heritage protection arm of Italy's police, known as the Carabinieri Art Squad, were sent to the site.

Officials say safety measures will be taken to safeguard it while it undergoes investigation, as experts work to determine the nature of the wreck and learn more about its cargo.

The Mediterranean seabed is thought to be scattered with similar ancient wrecks.

Another 1st or 2nd Century BC vessel was found north-west of Rome in 2023, again laden with hundreds of amphorae.

In 2018, a Greek merchant ship dating back more than 2,400 years was found lying on its side off the Bulgarian coast. At the time, it was hailed as the world's oldest-known intact shipwreck. (BBC)

Boat capsizes in New York Harbor, woman and 5-month-old baby die



The operator of a boat that capsized in New York Harbor, killing a mother and her infant daughter, is facing criminal charges and authorities are investigating whether the vessel was an illegal charter, the U.S. Coast Guard said Sunday.

The 22-foot Bayliner speedboat overturned around 10:25 p.m. Saturday near Liberty Island, home to the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Twelve people were rescued from the water before police arrived, and police divers later located the 27-year-old woman and 5-month-old girl in the water.

Both were taken to a hospital where they were pronounced dead. According to the Coast Guard, the others were in stable condition.

“We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life last night, and our thoughts are with the victims’ family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time,” said Captain Doreen McCarthy, the Coast Guard Sector New York Commander. “We are extremely grateful for the heroic, swift actions of our partner agencies and Good Samaritan vessel who assisted in rescuing survivors from the water.”

Manuel Hernandez, 46, of New York, has been charged with 13

counts of reckless endangerment, police said. No phone number for him could be found Sunday, and the case has not yet been entered into online court records.

The victims’ identities have not been released pending notification of family, police said Sunday.

McCarthy said Coast Guard investigators are working with police to investigate and are committed to holding lawbreakers accountable. According to the Coast Guard, an illegal charter is any passenger-for-hire vessel operation that lacks Coast Guard credentials, safety equipment and inspection certificates. (AP)



Republic Bank
CPL
CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE

2026

MATCH SCHEDULE

FRI 7 AUG	JKM		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
SAT 8 AUG	SKNP		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
SUN 9 AUG	ABF		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
TUE 11 AUG	JKM		v		BR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 12 AUG	SLK		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 13 AUG	JKM		v		GAW	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
FRI 14 AUG	SLK		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 15 AUG	JKM		v		TKR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
SUN 16 AUG	SLK		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
TUE 18 AUG	JKM		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 19 AUG	SLK		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 20 AUG	ABF		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
FRI 21 AUG	SLK		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 22 AUG	ABF		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SUN 23 AUG	ABF		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
TUE 25 AUG	ABF		v		BR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
WED 26 AUG	TKR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 27 AUG	SKNP		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 28 AUG	TKR		v		BR	8:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SAT 29 AUG	TKR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SUN 30 AUG	SKNP		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
MON 31 AUG	TKR		v		JKM	5:00 PM	TRINIDAD
TUE 1 SEP	SKNP		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
WED 2 SEP	TKR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 3 SEP	SKNP		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 4 SEP	GAW		v		JKM	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 5 SEP	BR		v		TKR	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 6 SEP	GAW		v		SKNP	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 6 SEP	BR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
TUE 8 SEP	GAW		v		ABF	7:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 9 SEP	GAW		v		SLK	7:00 PM	GUYANA
THU 10 SEP	BR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 11 SEP	GAW		v		TKR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 12 SEP	BR		v		JKM	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 13 SEP	BR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
WED 16 SEP	ELIMINATOR - 3 RD v 4 TH					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
THU 17 SEP	QUALIFIER - 1 ST v 2 ND					8:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 18 SEP	QUALIFIER 2 - WINNER ELIMINATOR v LOSER QUALIFIER 1					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 20 SEP	FINAL					7:00 PM	BARBADOS

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WCPL FIXTURES

BARBADOS 2026

SAT 5 SEP **BT**  **V**  **TKR** **3:00 PM**

SUN 6 SEP **JE**  **V**  **GAW** **2:00 PM**

THU 10 SEP **TKR**  **V**  **JE** **10:00 AM**

SAT 12 SEP **TKR**  **V**  **GAW** **10:00 AM**

SAT 12 SEP **BT**  **V**  **JE** **3:00 PM**

SUN 13 SEP **GAW**  **V**  **BT** **2:00 PM**

WED 16 SEP **PLAYOFF** **2ND V 3RD** **10:00 AM**

THU 17 SEP **FINAL** **2:00 PM**



WCPL



Antiguans fail to medal in weightlifting at CAC Games



All three Antiguan and Barbudan weightlifters failed in their bids to win a medal during the country's debut in the weightlifting competitions at the Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, which concluded in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Saturday.

Antiguan Ijauni Nathaniel, Kevesha Nedwell, and Daniel Antonio were unable to finish among the top contenders in their respective divisions during their debut appearance in the CAC Games weightlifting competitions at the Jose Joaquin Puella Weightlifting Pavilion.

Competing among a field of 10 weightlifters in the Men's 79-kilogram contest, Nathaniel finished last in the Clean & Jerk category and ninth in the Snatch division.

Nathaniel's best effort was 95 kilograms in the Clean & Jerk and 53 kilograms in the Snatch category.

Julio Mayora of Venezuela won the gold medals by winning both divisions. Mayora lifted 193 kilograms to top the Clean & Jerk category and hoisted 151

kilograms to win the Snatch division.

Juan Martinez of Colombia won silver ahead of Cuba's Edisnel Corrales, who took bronze in the Clean and Jerk category, with both weightlifters producing lifts of 187 kilograms.

Corrales claimed silver in the snatch category with a lift of 150 kilograms, while Martinez took the bronze with an effort of 146 kilograms.

Competing among a field of 10 weightlifters in the women's 77-kilogram contest, Kevesha Nedwell secured ninth-place finishes in both the Clean & Jerk and Snatch divisions.

Nedwell could only muster a lift of 45 kilograms in the Clean & Jerk category and 40 kilograms in the Snatch division.

Mari Sanchez of Colombia won the gold medals by winning both divisions. Mayora lifted 140 kilograms to top the Clean & Jerk category and hoisted 112 kilograms to win the Snatch division.

Aremi Fuentes of Mexico won silver in both divisions. Fuentes produced a lift of 133 kilograms in the Clean & Jerk category and lifted 107 kilograms

in the Snatch division.

Daiana Serrano of the Dominican Republic claimed bronze in both divisions. Serrano lifted 130 kilograms in the Clean & Jerk category and hoisted 106 kilograms in the Snatch division.

Competing in a field of 10 weightlifters in the Men's 110-kilogram contest, Daniel Antonio finished last in both the Clean & Jerk and Snatch divisions.

Antonio only managed to lift 100 kilograms in the Clean & Jerk category and failed in all three efforts to lift 85 kilograms in the Snatch division.

Mauricio Loaiza of Venezuela won the gold medal in the Clean & Jerk division with a lift of 211 kilograms. Josue Medina of Mexico took silver by lifting 206 kilograms, and Marcos Bonilla lifted 205 kilograms to clinch bronze.

Medina won the gold medal in the Snatch division with a lift of 172 kilograms. Loaiza claimed silver by lifting 171 kilograms, and Bonilla captured the bronze with a lift of 166 kilograms.

Antigua and Barbuda Falcons win thrilling CPL opener

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons opened their 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) campaign with a thrilling two-wicket victory over the Jamaica Kingsmen at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Friday night.

Playing in the opening match of the CPL season, the Falcons successfully chased 168, reaching 168 for eight from the final delivery after restricting the Kingsmen to 167 for seven off their 20 overs.

Captain Rovman Powell led the Kingsmen with a breezy 47 off 37 balls, opener Reeza Hendrick, who was making his CPL debut, struck 42 off 25 balls, and Keemo Paul chipped in with 16 off six balls.

Antiguan and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph delivered a decisive performance with the ball, claiming three wickets for 34 runs from his four overs.

His spell included the important wickets of Powell and Andre Russell for eight, while he also contributed to the run-out of opener Shayan Jahangir, who made 13.

Joseph's performance earned him the Player-of-the-Match award and helped place the Falcons in a strong position during a closely contested encounter.

Reflecting his performance, Joseph said, "It was really good playing my first game for the Falcons and putting in a performance like that. The team played really well together, and everyone really enjoyed being out on the field together."

Joseph also expressed optimism for the rest of the season, stating, "We have a strong bowling lineup that, in my opinion, is one of the best in



Players of the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons celebrates after taking a wicket during their Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League T20 match against the Jamaica Kingsmen at Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Friday, August 7, 2026. (CPLT20)

the competition and a batting lineup that can adjust to all conditions. I've been saying from the inception, this year will be really special for the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons."

Chasing 168 for victory, Rahkeem Cornwall provided the Falcons with early momentum, striking 24 from 21 deliveries in a useful opening cameo that included two fours and two sixes.

His contribution helped the Falcons reach 46 during the powerplay despite the early loss of Evin Lewis for six. Tim Robinson continued the rebuilding effort with a knock of 40 from 30 balls before Tajinder Singh took control of the chase.

Singh struck an impressive 62 from just 37 deliveries, including seven fours and one six, to keep the Falcons on course. Despite losing two wickets in the final over, the Falcons held their nerve. Shamar Springer (seven not out) completed two runs

from the last delivery to secure the dramatic victory.

Keemo Paul captured three for 29, Russell claimed two for 34, and pacer Hunain Shah picked up two for 38.

The match also marked Fabian Allen's first outing as Falcons captain. Allen praised the team's all-round effort and expressed confidence in the group's ability to build on their opening performance.

"It was a tight call at the end, but a win is a win," Allen said. "I am happy with the way the guys bowled and the way they batted. Alzarri came in with a crucial spell and bowled brilliantly, while Tajinder delivered with the bat. It was a good chase."

Reflecting on beginning his captaincy with a victory, Allen added, "The first win is always a great feeling. I am happy with it, and as we go forward, I will continue to learn from the experience."

Winnings start for Leewards in CWI women's U-19 tournament



The Leeward Islands made a winning start to their campaign in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship in Antigua on Saturday.

The Leeward Islands launched their campaign by snatching a narrow one-run win via the DLS Method against the Windward Islands at Ball Beef in Liberta during a rain-affected opening round of matches in the T20 competition.

The Leewards were awarded victory after rain brought a premature end to the match. The Leewards made 118 for eight off their 20 overs, and the Windward Islands reached 50 for two in nine overs when rain came and ended the match.

Opener Jaeda Tyrell hit 31 not out off 39 balls for the Windwards. Only two players managed to reach double figures in the Lee-

wards innings, which benefitted from a contribution of 41 extras, including 22 wides and 15 no balls.

Opener Zara Skerritt hit 36 not out off 52 balls, and captain Aaliyah Weekes got 14 off 17 balls. Jaeda Tyrell also starred with the ball for the Windwards by picking up three wickets for 21 runs.

Trinidad and Tobago, who finished third in last year's tournament in Trinidad, also made a winning start to their campaign by securing a commanding eight-wicket victory over Jamaica in Bethesda.

The Jamaicans were bundled out for 39 in 11.5 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat, and Trinidad and Tobago completed victory by scoring 42 for two with 76 balls to spare.

Opener Teandra Morgan was

the only Jamaican batter to reach double figures with 14. Off-spinner Samara Ramnath snapped up four wickets for eight runs and leg-spinner Brianna Harricharan picked up three wickets without conceding any runs.

Harricharan also hit an unbeaten 14 with the bat for the Trinidadians.

But the other first-round match between defending champions Barbados and 2024 winners Guyana ended in no result due to rain at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The match was abandoned when the heavy showers returned, with Guyana on three without loss in the first over after winning the toss and opting to bat. The match was initially reduced from 20 to 16 overs due to rain.

Knight Riders start CPL title defense with victory



Trinbago Knight Riders spinner Sunil Narine, second right, celebrates after picking up a wicket against St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in the Caribbean Premier League at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Saturday, August 8, 2026. (CPLT20)

The Trinbago Knight Riders started their title defending campaign in the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) T20 Tournament with a 19-run win via the DLS Method over the St. Kitts & Nevis Patriots in a rain-affected match at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Saturday night.

Off-spinner Sunil Narine snapped up three wickets for seven run to restrict the Patriots to 109 for nine off their 20 overs. Matthew Breetzke's run-a-ball 35 not out was enough for the Knight Riders to be awarded victory after reaching 94 for two in 15 overs when rain stopped play.

Experienced West Indies international Joshua da Silva was a point of concern, retiring hurt from his innings in

visible pain on 18 from 22 balls, while opener Colin Munroe chipped in with 17 for the Knight Riders.

With Narine's economical effort removing three of the top four, he removed the dangerous Kyle Mayers (0) first ball as he dismissed three of the top five Patriots batsmen.

After being reduced to 16 for three, middle-order batsman Kevin Wickham help to rebuild the Patriots' innings.

Wickham struck 38 off 44 ball at a measured rate to take the Patriots to a total that was competitive despite appearing sub-par. Terrence Hinds captured three for 33 and left-arm pacer Dominic Drakes picked up two for 20.

In response, the Knight Riders open-

ing pair of Alex Hales and Colin Munro looked to be positive in their approach but struggled to score at a damaging rate.

When Hales fell for a frustrating 9 from 11 balls to Jason Holder, and Munro for a run-a-ball 17 shortly thereafter, still inside the PowerPlay, a rebuild was the way forward.

Da Silva and Breetzke showed that occupying the crease allowed for an innings to be built chasing the low total and when the former retired hurt, little was left to be done in pursuit.

When the rain came for a second time, the game was eventually called as a DLS result. At that stage, Trinbago's loss of only two wickets was the key with the Knight Rider well ahead of the par score of 75.

Fenton fails to medal in finals at World Athletics Championships

Antigua and Barbuda's sprinter Tyra Fenton missed out on winning a medal in the women's 200-meter finals at the 2026 World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon, USA, on Saturday night.

Fenton finished last in 23.52 seconds in the finals at Hayward Field at the University of Oregon. Mia Maxwell of the United States of America (USA) clocked a personal best of 22.37 seconds to win gold and the women's 200-meter title.

Jamaica's Shanoya Douglas took silver in 22.68 seconds, and Mariah Maxwell of the USA claimed bronze with a time of 22.77 seconds.

The 16-year-old Fenton became the first Antiguan female athlete to reach a final at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships on Friday.

Fenton booked her spot in this year's women's 200-meter finals by securing a third-place finish in the third semi-finals with a time of 23.25 seconds.

The Antiguan teenager advanced to the semi-finals by placing second in her opening-round heat with a season-best time of 23.15 seconds.

The other two athletes in the three-member Antigua and Barbuda team at the event, Kettia Ambrose and Kasiya Daley, also failed in their bids to win a medal at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships.

Ambrose, who is a student at St. John's University in New York, bowed out of the women's 400-meter contest in the semi-finals. Ambrose missed out on advancing to the finals by finishing sixth in the third semi-finals in a time of 54.82 seconds.

Ambrose booked her spot in the



Tyra Fenton

semi-finals with a time of 54.36 seconds to clinch fifth place in her opening-round heat.

Ambrose also failed in her bid to advance in the women's 200-meter event. Ambrose bowed out of the competition by finishing seventh in her opening-round heat in a time of 24.61 seconds.

Daley also bowed out of the men's

200-meter contest after failing to advance from the opening-round heats. Daley failed to advance after finishing last in Heat 7 with a time of 21.23 seconds.

The Antiguan team was accompanied by Coach Teddy Daley and Team Leader Jo-Ann Small at the August 5 to 9 event in Oregon.