

Cabinet Approves 60-Day Grace Period for Immigrants to Regularize Status

Story on page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne chaired Monday's high level meeting to discuss rising gun crimes in the country

Cabinet Approves 60-Day Grace Period for Immigrants to Regularize Status

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda, at a specially convened meeting on Monday, 10 August 2026, agreed to a series of measures aimed at strengthening the country's borders and enhancing national security.

The meeting included the National Security Council and senior officials from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy (OND-CP), the Immigration Department, the Customs and Excise Division, and the National Solid Waste Management Authority.

As part of the measures approved, the Cabinet has agreed that, with immediate effect, immigrants whose legal status in Antigua and Barbuda has expired will have a maximum of 60 days to regularize their status with the Immigration Department.

Persons who fail to regularize their status within the 60-day grace period will be required to leave the country. The Cabinet has indicated that such individuals may return to Antigua and Barbuda at a later date, subject to the applicable immigration requirements.

The Cabinet said the 60-day period is intended to provide persons with expired immigration status a reasonable opportunity to regularize their circumstances while strengthening the country's border management and national security framework.

The Government is encouraging all affected persons to use the grace period to ensure that their immigration status is brought into compliance with the laws of Antigua and Barbuda.




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Prime Minister Browne Calls for Greater Accountability in Sentencing of Criminal Offenders



Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne has called for greater cooperation between the Judiciary, Parliament and the Executive in addressing the recent increase in crime and violence, while emphasizing the need for sentences that are proportionate to the seriousness of criminal offences.

Speaking at a national security meeting with senior security and law enforcement officials on Monday, Prime Minister Browne expressed particular concern about repeat offenders and persons convicted of gun-related crimes receiving sentences which, in his view, do not adequately reflect the seriousness of their offences.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the constitutional separation of powers among the Judiciary, Executive and Parliament, but said there must nevertheless be a degree of cooperation among the three branches in fulfilling their respective responsibilities for the governance and security of the country.

Prime Minister Browne pointed specifically to legislation which provides for sentences of up to 15 years for certain gun offences. He questioned whether sentences of only two or three

years for serious gun-related offences provide a sufficient deterrent or adequately protect the wider society.

“We are asking for your cooperation. We are demanding it in order to keep our country safe,” the Prime Minister said, while stressing that his comments were not intended to undermine the independence of the Judiciary.

The Prime Minister also raised concerns about the repeated incarceration and release of known offenders, describing the situation as a revolving door that makes the work of law enforcement more difficult. He said the Government would rather see dangerous repeat offenders properly incarcerated than returned to communities where they may commit additional offences.

Prime Minister Browne stressed, however, that stronger sentencing must be accompanied by meaningful rehabilitation.

He called for the prison system to provide mandatory skills and trade training to inmates, particularly repeat offenders who may lack the skills necessary to secure employment upon release.

The Prime Minister said longer peri-

ods of incarceration, where warranted by the seriousness of the offence, could also provide an opportunity for offenders to acquire skills that would assist their reintegration into society and reduce recidivism.

He further proposed that capable prisoners be given opportunities to contribute labour to appropriate national programmes, including the maintenance and cleaning of public spaces, as part of a structured rehabilitation and skills-development programme.

He called on the police and other law enforcement agencies to provide the courts with relevant intelligence and information concerning repeat offenders, including their criminal histories and patterns of offending, so that the justice system would have the information necessary to make informed decisions.

Prime Minister Browne also argued that appropriate sentences can, in some circumstances, protect offenders themselves by removing them from situations in which they may continue to engage in dangerous criminal activity.

He said the Government will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the country’s response to crime and will maintain its call for a justice system that balances rehabilitation, deterrence and the protection of society.

The Prime Minister concluded that the escalating challenge of crime requires all institutions of the State to fulfill their respective responsibilities, while respecting the constitutional framework governing the separation of powers.

“We are trying to protect our country,” Prime Minister Browne said, reaffirming that the Government will continue to take the necessary steps to strengthen public safety and restore confidence in the country’s ability to confront serious and repeat criminal offending.

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A Review of Exercise Resilience Takes Place On Tuesday



Members of the National Task Force involved in Monday's Exercise Resilience will meet on Tuesday to review that outcome of the event as they seek to improve on the overall state of readiness to host various events that form part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM).

Monday's event was centered around two key venues; the Sticky Wicket where the CHOGM Business Forum

will take place and the Copper and Lumber Store in English Harbour, where one of the closing activities will take place.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Louisa Quashie said the general feedback from those involved in both events was positive and overall everyone felt quite pleased with what the exercise was able to accomplish.

With this in mind, Task Force Leads

will meet at the police headquarters this afternoon where a review of Exercise Resilience will take place. This meeting is expected to identify areas that need strengthening as well as an opportunity to build on the more positive areas.

Like a similar exercise that was held over two days in July, Exercise Resilience involved several road closures and divergences as the organisers simulated various scenarios that may occur when moving VVIP's to and from the events during CHOGM.

The exercise is a 'real-time' stress-test of the systems that have been developed and designed to accomplish this critical task as seamlessly as possible.

Antigua and Barbuda will host CHOGM from November 1 to 4 this year. While the main venue will be the American University of Antigua at Jabberwock, other events will take place at Sticky Wicket, the University of the West Indies FIC, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and the St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration on Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

Concerns Raised Over Nationals Receiving Medical Care in Colombia Following Earthquake



MINISTRY OF
HEALTH, WELLNESS,
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Government of Antigua and Barbuda



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through the Ministry of Health is closely monitoring the situation in Colombia following Monday's earthquake, with particular attention to Antiguan and Barbudan nationals currently in the country receiving medical treatment.

The Government has already reached out to the hospitals providing care to patients from Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the accommodation facilities where patients and accompanying persons are staying, to ascertain their status and ensure that the necessary support remains available.

Based on the information received, the hospitals continue to provide medical services, operating with skeletal staff in the aftermath of the earthquake. Importantly, the care of Antigua and Barbuda's patients remains uninterrupted, and arrangements remain in place for their continued medical treatment.

The accommodation facilities housing Antiguan and Barbudan patients

and accompanying persons have sustained minimal to no damage and remain operational. As a result, the facilities continue to accommodate nationals without significant disruption.

The Government is mindful that news of an earthquake in a country where loved ones are receiving medical care can understandably cause concern for families here at home. The Ministry is therefore maintaining communication with the relevant healthcare and accommodation providers and will continue to monitor developments closely.

Minister of Health, Michael Joseph, said the Government's immediate priority is the welfare of Antiguan and Barbudans receiving care overseas.

"I am pleased that based on the information received, our patients continue to receive the care they require and that the facilities accommodating our citizens remain largely unaffected. We will continue to stay in contact with our partners on the ground and will respond appropriately should circum-



Health Minister Michael Joseph

stances change."

The Ministry will continue to liaise with healthcare providers and accommodation facilities as information becomes available and will assess any developments that may have implications for patients receiving treatment in Colombia.

The Ministry also extends its thoughts to the people of Colombia as they respond to the effects of the earthquake and undertake the necessary emergency and recovery efforts.

The Ministry will provide further information should there be significant developments requiring public notification.

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Festival Executives Say Fetes Not Affecting Carnival Shows

The chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission says there are no immediate concerns on her part as to whether private fetes are negatively impacting carnival shows.

Appearing on WTP Media Monday morning, Elizabeth Makhoul was responding to questions on whether private fetes being held as part of the carnival festivities are drawing patrons away from Carnival City.

She said every event being held during the carnival season is important to the overall success of the festival, noting that while it may be the view of some people that there should be no competition for patrons and that all attention should be given to the events within Antigua Recreation Grounds, there is freedom of choice.

“The carnival fetes are here and they are here to stay,” Makhoul declared. “They contribute a lot to the economy, they make our carnival offering more exciting and people want choices, and it is up to you what you want to choose.”

The Festivals Commission Chairman highlighted the working relationship that exists with promoters, stressing the importance of striking a balance, which will ensure the cultural aspects embedded within the shows are not diminished.

“We are happy with the flow and the energy in Carnival City. People are going to go where they want to go. We can’t beat anybody into coming to Carnival City,” she argued.



chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission says Elizabeth Makhoul

Makhoul emphasised the role of carnival in Antigua and Barbuda’s tourism product, which should be preserved at every level, while at the same time prove appealing to residents and visitors in light of regional and international competition.

“We are not competing with last year’s carnival or carnival 20 years ago, 30 years ago. Lots of things are different now than it was back then. We’re competing with Grenada, Barbados, Toronto, and we have to make sure we find that balance that our visitors and locals alike can appreciate.”

Director of Culture Khan Cordice, a commissioner on the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, also expressed similar sentiments in support of Makhoul’s position. He said a balance currently exists between fetes being held around the same time that carnival shows are scheduled, noting that the decision on what event should be supported rests with citizens, residents and visitors.

Cordice acknowledged that criticism is inevitable, but argued that those who complain are mainly in the minority.

“What we have here is a set of people that often see the proverbial cup as half empty and have never seen it as half full. The people who contribute annually are doing their best to make things happen. It’s not for us to tell a show it can’t function,” Cordice stated.

While examining the activities during the week of carnival, the Director of Culture observed that there are not many events that compete with the shows that form part of the carnival activities.

He questioned the motives of those that are taking issue with events being held simultaneously inside and outside of Carnival City, and believes their time can be better spent ensuring the overall success of the annual summer festival.

“We have a lot of people who are passionate at the wrong time, and are putting their energies in the wrong places,” Khan Cordice asserted.



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Police Continue Probe Into Shooting Incident at Crabbes Peninsula



Zhang Yida

Police are continuing investigations into a shooting incident at Crabbs Peninsula that left a 59-year-old man nursing gunshot wounds.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on Sunday, August 9, police received a report of a shooting at the Yida Special Economic Zone at Crabbs Peninsula.

Officers from the Parham Police Station and other departments responded to the report and commenced investigations into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The victim, 59-year-old Zhang Yida, was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where he was treated for two gunshot wounds to the upper body. He remains hospitalized and is reported to be in stable condition.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident or who may have information that could assist with the investigation to come forward.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, the Parham Police Station at 463-2060, or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).



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Two Teenagers Have Been Remanded In West Bus Station Shooting Case



Two teenagers have been remanded in custody following appearances in the Magistrate's Court on Monday to face charges arising out of last week's shooting incident near the West Bus Station.

Both suspects are charged separately for their alleged involvement in the August 6 matter where two people were hospitalized nursing gunshot wounds.

Royli Richards, 18, of Ottos is charged with unlawfully and maliciously shooting Jahlini Barzey of Villa with intent to murder contrary to the Offence Against the Person Act of the Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Attorney-at-Law Leon 'Chaku' Symister appeared for Richards.

In the second matter, Kajorni Defreitas of Golden Grove, 19, is charged with unlawfully and maliciously shooting Dejohn Tea Meade of Seatons with intent to murder contrary to the Offences Against the Person Chapter 300 of the revised laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Defreitas is being represented by Attorney-at-Law Damien Benjamin.

Both have been remanded until October 7, 2026, for case management.



Lions Club of Antigua Calls on Men to Prioritize Their Health at Annual Prostate Screening Event

The annual Prostate Screening clinic organized jointly by the Antigua Lion's Club and urologist, Dr. Dwayne Thwaites, will take place on Saturday at the Lion's den.

The Club wants men in Antigua and Barbuda who are 40 years or older to prioritise their health by attending the clinic on Saturday 15 from 7:00 am to 11:00.

Now in its 18th year, the programme has become one of the country's leading men's health initiatives, providing accessible and affordable prostate cancer screening while raising awareness about the importance of early detection. Over the years, the initiative has benefited hundreds of men by identifying health concerns early and facilitating timely referrals for medical treatment.

In a media release, the Lion's Club said for this Annual Screening, it will be having pre-registration on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th August from 2:00 - 5:00p.m at the Lion's Den (Lower Friars Hill Road by the Roundabout).

Prostate cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting men worldwide. Medical professionals continue to emphasize that early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes and increases survival rates. The Lions Club of Antigua is therefore urging men, particularly those aged 40 years and older, or those with a family history of prostate cancer, to take advantage of this important screening opportunity.

Registration for the screening is **EC\$35.00**, making it an affordable investment in one's health and well-being.

President of the Lions Club of Antigua, **Lion Gail Henry- Lewis MJF**, stressed the importance of men taking proactive steps to safeguard their health.

"Far too often, men delay seeking



The poster features the Lions International logo at the top left. A large blue ribbon is draped across the right side, with a circular tagline that reads "Your Health IS IN YOUR HANDS." Below the ribbon, the text "PROSTATE SCREENING" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath, it says "EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES." A yellow banner at the bottom contains icons for a calendar, a clock, a location pin, and a price tag, with the following details: "SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2026", "7:00 AM - 11:00 AM", "LIONS DEN, CROSS STREET", and "REGISTRATION \$35". Below this banner, a yellow section says "BREAKFAST WILL BE SOLD by Leos!" with a Leos logo and icons of a coffee cup, bread, a glass, and a bottle. At the bottom, a white section titled "PARTNERS" lists four organizations: Island Diagnostic Centre, Biohealth Medical Laboratory, "We MB Care" Medical Benefits Scheme, and the American University of Antigua College of Medicine.

medical attention until serious health issues develop. Our annual prostate screening programme is designed to encourage early detection because it truly saves lives. We encourage every man to make his health a priority not only for himself but for his family and loved ones. A few minutes today could make all the difference tomorrow."

In addition to the health screening, patrons will have the opportunity to support the **Antigua Leo Club**, whose members will be offering breakfast for sale throughout the morning. Proceeds will assist the Leos in continuing their youth leadership and community service programmes.

“Clear Skies Should Not Make Us Complacent”



The sun may be shining and life across Antigua and Barbuda may be going about as normal, but there is something we cannot afford to forget: we are still in hurricane season.

Too often, we begin preparing only when a storm appears on the forecast and starts heading towards the Caribbean. But for a small island state like ours, preparedness cannot be a last minute exercise.

Hurricanes expose our vulnerabilities. In a matter of hours, a major storm can damage homes, disrupt electricity and water, affect businesses and livelihoods, and destroy critical infrastructure. Economically, a hurricane can wipe away years of development and force governments to redirect significant portions of annual expenditure from healthcare, education, roads and other priorities towards relief and re-



building.

We saw the devastating reality of this in 2017 when Hurricane Irma struck Barbuda. The Category 5 hurricane caused catastrophic destruction, severely damaging homes and infrastructure and ultimately forcing the evacuation of the island. It remains a powerful reminder of how quickly life can change.

But preparedness is not only the responsibility of government and emergency services. It begins with each of us.

As citizens, we must know what is required of us. Have an emergency plan, secure important documents, keep basic food, water, medication and other

supplies available, pay attention to official weather information and ensure our surroundings are safe.

We must also look beyond our own homes. Check on an elderly neighbour, assist someone who may be vulnerable and make sure our families understand what to do in an emergency. A prepared community is a stronger community.

Clear skies today should never make us complacent about tomorrow. Hurricane season continues through November, and we must remain vigilant.

We cannot control when the next hurricane will come, but we can control how prepared we are when it does.

Senator Shaquan O'Neil



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ANTIGUA CARNIVAL ROAD RESULTS

2026

T-SHIRT MAS

Winner: Insane Carnival

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

Regional News



Japan eyes T&T oil and gas

As the US-Iran war continues to limit maritime movement across the Strait of Hormuz, choking energy supplies to countries that have historically sourced much of their oil and gas from the Middle East, Japan says it may turn to Trinidad and Tobago to fill the void.

During a one-day visit to this country on Friday, Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi met with Minister of Foreign and Caricom Affairs Sean Sobers to discuss potentially sourcing oil and natural gas from Trinidad and Tobago, as well as collaboration as the country assumes a non-permanent seat on the United Nations' Security Council. The meeting was described by Japanese officials as a "good occasion to align understandings and perspectives" against the backdrop of the international community.

Motegi, who has been serving under Japan's first woman Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi since she assumed the role last October, made his first visit to this country after a fleet of similar meetings across Panama, Mexico and Ecuador in the past few days, according to Japanese officials.

Just hours after meeting with Sobers as part of an effort to strengthen collaboration and cooperation with the Caribbean and Latin America, Motegi left for Tokyo.

He is only the second of two Japanese foreign affairs ministers to have visited T&T.

At a news briefing with the Express at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, St Ann's, on Friday evening, Director General for Press and Public Diplomacy of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Toshihiro Kitamura said discussions between Sobers and Motegi involved T&T's abundance of crude oil and natural gas, and the establishment of a supply chain between the country and the Asian economic giant.

"Japan, more than 90% of its crude



oil consumption comes from the Middle East. So, at this time, because of the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz, our imports from the Middle East have been badly, negatively affected. So, we'd like to diversify our sources of origin from other parts of the world," he said.

According to Kitamura, this region, including T&T, is the potential candidate for the diversification of energy. "So, the ministers have reaffirmed our commitment to further explore the co-operation, in many areas, including the energy sectors.

"Today, we have no tangible or complete outcome to be announced to the public—but based on the discussions that they had, we are going to follow up that discussion between the two foreign ministers," he explained.

Kitamura said several Japanese companies had shown interest in investing in the country, a particular area of interest being water resource management.

He referenced a 2024 agreement between the Toshiba Group and T&T, to construct five water treatment facil-

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Regional News

PAGE 17

ities under the National Water Sector Transformation Programme. A Toshiba release stated that it covers the facilities with a 66,000-cubic-metres-per-day capacity.

According to the company, the scope of work covers the construction of a new treatment plant, the upgrade of one plant, and the refurbishment and rehabilitation of three plants.

Kitamura also referenced the ownership stake of Marubeni at the Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago and investments by the Mitsubishi Corporation into the Caribbean Gas Chemical Ltd. Petroleum by-products such as methanol and dimethyl, he said, are already being exported to Japan from Trinidad from as far back as 2020. He noted one reason for Motegi's visit to Panama was to ensure passage to export products from T&T.

"Mr Motegi visited Panama because of the importance of the Panama Canal; in order to export from here, we have to go through the canal," he said.

Kitamura noted similarities between T&T and Japan, stating that support for local disaster resilience was also discussed during the Foreign Minister's visit.

Japan, widely considered disaster-prone, has in the past been subjected to powerful and devastating earthquakes, tsunamis, heatwaves and other natural phenomena, prompting the establishment of robust national monitoring systems to mitigate harm. Kitamura said Japan remains happy to share its expertise, technology and knowledge with the country.

"Trinidad and Tobago and Japan are both island nations. So we both suffer from natural disasters...one example of our assistance was providing assistance of US\$2.1 million to the Caricom secretariat. Sargassum was a big issue and in 2022 we provided the equipment to collect it. We also provided capacity building to monitor the maritime domain," he said.

As Trinidad and Tobago ramps up its "crime fighting" efforts, Kitamura was asked if Japan intended to aid the Government with its national security. He noted some restrictions and regulations, but said Japan remained ready to do so.

He said Japan had a track record of supporting countries in dealing with issues such as drugs and crime through international organisations such as the

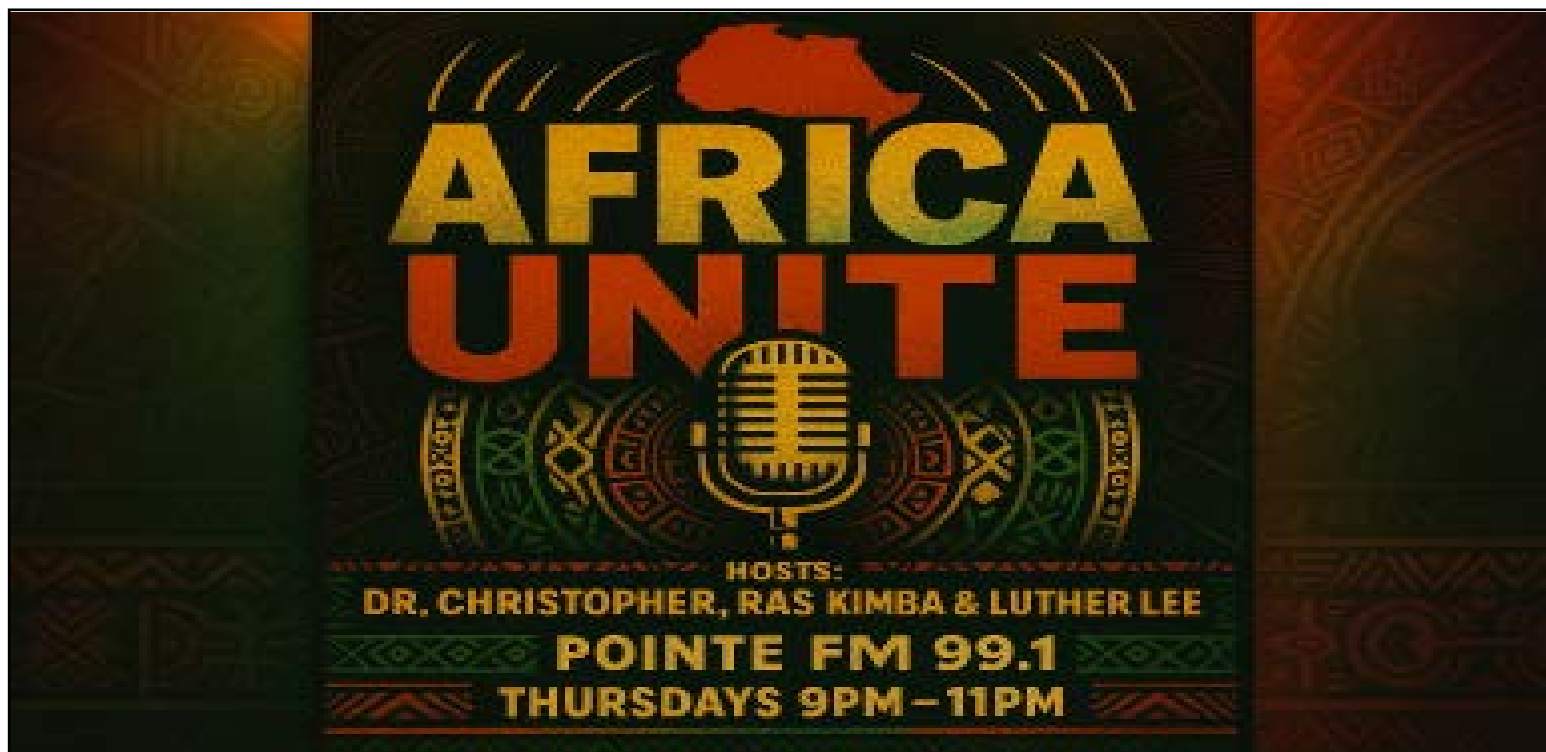
United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.

"It's not impossible to support Trinidad and Tobago—for example, through the UNODC. Providing police patrol vehicles could be possible as we already have a record of helping Ecuador, for example, where we have provided patrol vessels for anti-IUU fishing (illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing). So, we have provided powerful vessels to the government.

"According to the Ecuadorian government, some vessels came off the coast of Galapagos Islands and caught sharks and made shark fin soup.

"They wanted to increase their capacity of monitoring, so we supported the Ecuadorian government with their patrols. We provided capacity building for the personnel, for example. We provided equipment for maritime domain awareness," he said.

Officials, however, said they were not aware of any official requests for aid in this regard from T&T. However, it was noted the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at times invites countries to participate in its capacity building and training initiatives to address maritime and cybersecurity risks. (Trinidad Express)



Regional News

CCJ under scrutiny - Regional court urged to move on allegations of division, 'toxic' environment

Allegations that have emerged about the operations of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) should be urgently addressed, a former senior regional diplomat has asserted.

"It is not a trivial matter, and I am hoping that those responsible for the CCJ itself will in fact treat it with the urgency and the seriousness with which it deserves," Ambassador Byron Blake, former assistant secretary general of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), told *The Gleaner* yesterday.

He stressed that "allegations are not proven facts", and called for the CCJ "to institute an appropriate arrangement to cauterise the situation before it gets out of hand".

Blake was responding to articles published in Trinidad and Tobago's *Sunday Express* newspaper, which cited a series of emails it said it obtained, raising several allegations about the court's operations, the relationship among judges, and what one email reportedly referred to as an increasingly 'toxic' environment at the court.

The *Gleaner* has not seen the alleged emails.

In a statement, also published by the *Sunday Express*, the CCJ pointed to its independence, impartiality, integrity, and commitment to public confidence in the execution of its duties.

"The court is mindful that questions and allegations presented without the benefit of context, background, or an appreciation of the nature of judicial deliberations, collegial discussions, and institutional governance may lend themselves to misunderstanding or mischaracterisation," the statement read.

The *Sunday Express* said the CCJ did not directly address the 15 questions it sent to its president, Justice Winston Anderson, last Wednesday. Anderson, who is Jamaican, took over as president in July last year.



The *Gleaner* has since sought a response from the CCJ president regarding the allegations.

Blake, who is also the former deputy permanent representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, said he is not surprised by disagreements within the regional court. However, he said he would be shocked if early steps were not taken to resolve the matter.

Under the agreement establishing the CCJ, disciplinary matters are handled primarily through the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC), formal tribunal processes, and heads of government of CARICOM member states.

The RJLSC is an independent body responsible for appointing judges, except the president, and overseeing discipline among other judges and employees.

The president of the CCJ is appointed by a qualified majority of three-quarters of the contracting parties, and on the recommendation of the RJLSC. On appointment, the president also assumes chairmanship of the RJLSC.

Established in 2001 and opened in 2005, the CCJ is the regional judicial tribunal for CARICOM and is headquartered in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The court acts as an international court with exclusive jurisdiction to interpret and apply the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which governs CARICOM and the single market and economy.

It also serves as the final court of appeal for five CARICOM states.

The newspaper revelation of tension among judges of the top regional court comes amid debate in Jamaica and other CARICOM states that do not use the CCJ as their final appellate court, and instead retain the United Kingdom-based Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as their final court on civil and criminal appeals.

Emphasising that the CCJ, over the years, has issued "solid, solid judgments", Blake rejected any speculation about how the allegations could impact the integrity of the court.

"What the present situation might be is an early warning that says 'this must be taken care of by the organisation'," he said.

"Certainly we can say, for an organisation which has been operating for more than 20 years, you couldn't use something that happens in just one or two years, and is still to be resolved and adjudicated, to make a case," he added.

He also highlighted the independence of the CCJ which, he argued, protects the court from external influence.

Meanwhile, leading Jamaican lawyer and former Solicitor General Michael Hylton, King's Counsel, described the allegations as "very unfortunate", stating that he was looking forward to hearing responses from the "relevant persons".

He said, however, that the impact of the situation on advocacy in Jamaica for the island to join the CCJ's appellate jurisdiction will "depend on whether it turns out to be true or not, and how it is dealt with". (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

U.S. Deputy Secretary Landau heads to Guyana for energy, investment talks

United States Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau will travel to Guyana as part of an official regional visit from 9th August to 12th August, 2026, targeting expanded economic cooperation, strategic energy partnerships, and bilateral investment opportunities.

The high-level visit prioritises diplomatic and economic engagement in Georgetown, where Deputy Secretary Landau will meet with President Irfaan Ali and senior cabinet members. Discussions between Washington and Georgetown will center on strengthening U.S. private sector investment and deepening technical collaboration across strategic national sectors, with a primary emphasis on energy resilience and critical minerals extraction.

According to a media note released by the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Spokesperson, the regional itinerary also includes a stop in Trinidad and Tobago, where Deputy Secretary Landau will meet with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to reinforce shared security, economic cooperation, and regional

energy initiatives.

The state department emphasised that Deputy Secretary Landau's tour highlights the ongoing commitment of the United States to advancing economic prosperity, hemispheric stability, and regional security through strategic partnerships across the Western Hemisphere.

Kaieteur News previously reported that United States (U.S.) Department of War has struck an US\$85.5M equity investment deal to acquire and expand a bauxite mine in Guyana, part of a broader effort by Washington to break China's grip on critical mineral supply chains, a move the Guyanese government is yet to publicly address.

The agreement, announced by the Department's Economic Defense Unit (EDU) alongside the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy, channels funding through the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) programme. Combined with US\$64.5M in private co-investment, it forms a US\$150M package aimed at acquiring and expanding the



First Bauxite (FBX) mine, building new calcination facilities in Guyana, and eventually constructing a brown-fused alumina plant in the United States.

U.S. officials described the deal as a direct response to American reliance on Chinese-controlled sources for refractory-grade bauxite, a

material used in high-temperature components such as heat shields, turbine engines and missile parts. Once fully operational, the project is expected to meet all U.S. military demand for brown-fused alumina and all domestic demand for refractory bauxite.



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Regional News



George K. Kollitides II, Director of the Economic Defense Unit, said the Department is no longer waiting for supply chain dependencies to be exploited, framing the investment as a way to convert emerging opportunities into advantages for U.S. forces.

“This agreement shows how EDU and the Department can partner with the commercial sector to rapidly turn opportunities into advantages for the warfighter,” Kollitides II.

Michael Cadenazzi, Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy, added that defense readiness depends on secure, regional access to critical minerals, and said the arrangement is meant to keep Western Hemisphere resources inside supply chains that serve the U.S. and its allies. To ensure the transaction moves swiftly, the U.S. Department of State also stepped in to provide “critical funding to support infrastructure associated with the project, enabling the U.S. government to act quickly and reinforce the long-term viability of the supply chain.”

Refractory-grade bauxite serves as a vital component in modern defense systems, required to build “high-temperature-resistant materials used to make critical components for our warfighters such as heat shields, thermal barriers, and turbine engines in guided missiles, rockets, military aircraft, and space systems”.

Beyond weapon manufacturing, the high-purity ore is considered a “vital raw material for steel and alu-

minum production, energy infrastructure, and industrial furnaces, making it a cornerstone of a modern, industrial economy”. To ensure the transaction moves swiftly, the U.S. Department of State also stepped in to provide “critical funding to support infrastructure associated with the project, enabling the U.S. government to act quickly and reinforce the long-term viability of the supply chain”.

The bauxite deal is the latest step in a wider American push into Guyana’s mineral and energy sector. U.S. Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg met with Guyanese officials, including President Irfaan Ali, in May 2026 as Washington moved to deepen ties with Guyana. At the time, Guyana’s Foreign Secretary Robert Persaud told the Associated Press that Guyana wanted to attract U.S. investment but was seeking more value-added processing rather than raw mineral exports.

Guyana’s bauxite sector already draws interest from other major powers. Chinese-owned BOSAI Minerals holds a substantial existing footprint in the industry.

Despite the scale of the deal and its explicit framing as a counter to Chinese influence in the country, the government of Guyana has not issued any public statement or response. This newspaper’s attempts to reach Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat for a comment were unsuccessful. (Kaieteur News)

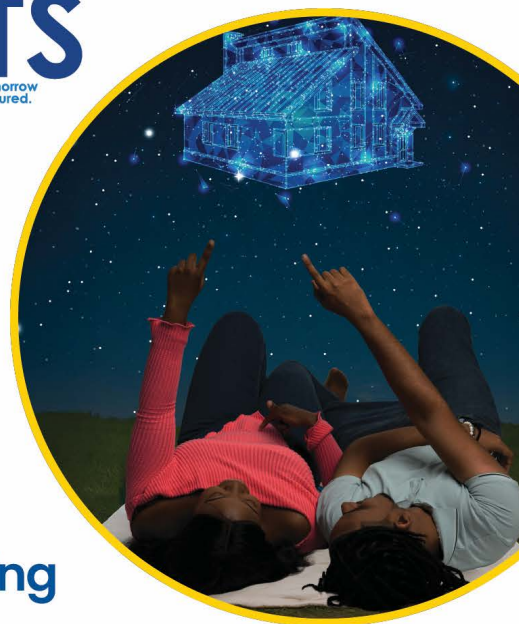


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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Israel rejects Trump's 15-point plan for Gaza, stoking tensions with U.S.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insists he has rejected President Donald Trump's plan for Gaza and will not "withdraw forces until the Palestinian group Hamas "fully disarms, risking more obstacles in the increasingly complex efforts to reduce escalation on multiple fronts in the region.

"Israel rejects the 15-point document," Netanyahu said at a cabinet meeting on Sunday, referring to the plan endorsed last month by Hamas.

The Israeli army "will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed ... and will continue to thwart threats against our forces and our citizens", Netanyahu said, adding that Israel is "talking to the Americans about this issue".

"They have ideas, some of which are acceptable to us and some are not acceptable to us, and we know how to stand firm on these things," Netanyahu said.

There was no immediate response from the White House.

In a statement published on Telegram later on Sunday, Hamas said it remained committed to fully implementing the plan.

The Palestinian armed group called on mediators and guarantor countries to "assume their responsibilities" and prevent any "violations or breaches" that could derail the process.

Israel has continued "to carry out near-daily deadly attacks across the Gaza Strip regardless of a so-called "ceasefire" with Hamas last "October.

Trump announced a "historic" agreement on 30th July, that entailed "the complete disarmament of Hamas and all other armed groups in Gaza", which he called "a monumental step toward lasting peace and security". The deal was credited to the U.S.-led Board of Peace, inaugurated in February 2026 and including roughly 40 countries – including Israel and several Arab



states, though no Palestinian representatives – with Trump installed as its chair for life.

Speaking to his cabinet Sunday, Netanyahu vowed that "as long as I am prime minister, no Palestinian state will arise" and emphasised that Israel would not abide by the U.S.-backed plan.

Israel's desire for "real disarmament, not fictitious disarmament" would mean the removal of all weaponry, including lighter weapons, he said.

The 15-point plan calls for initially focusing on Hamas's heavy weaponry, military production sites, weapons depots and the group's extensive tunnel network.

Reporting from Washington DC, Al Jazeera's Patty Culhane said that Netanyahu is playing a "very dangerous game" with Trump.

Israel is becoming increasingly unpopular in the U.S, with the Democratic Party "very much sliding towards the Palestinian cause", said Culhane.

Furthermore, Trump could decide to "say it is time to split with Israel", which would likely see many in the Republican Party, "the last staunchest

ally of Israel in the U.S", follow suit, Culhane said.

Reporting from Gaza City, Al Jazeera's Hani Mahmoud said Netanyahu's statement raises "serious questions" for Palestinians about the path out of hostilities.

"The full rejection here puts the sequencing and the steps into question," Mahmoud said.

Reporting from Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank, Al Jazeera's Nour Odeh said Netanyahu's stated conditions could prove "extremely problematic for the Board of Peace and the mediators who have been working for months now to try to carry out the disarmament of Hamas".

The roadmap would eventually involve transferring Gaza's day-to-day administration to a technocratic Palestinian committee operating under the oversight of the Board of Peace.

But the board has "very limited power" to move forward without Israeli support, Odeh said.

"Netanyahu has hit the reset button," she said.

Since Hamas and Israel agreed to a nominal ceasefire last October, experts have expressed scepticism that Israel would honour the agreement as its forces have continued to pummel Gaza, killing hundreds of people.

At least one child was injured in Israeli army gunfire in the Al-Najjar neighbourhood of Khan Younis on Sunday, the Palestinian Wafa news agency reported.

Since the "ceasefire" started in mid-October last year, at least 1,258 people have been killed and 4,139 wounded with more than 800 bodies recovered from rubble, according to Gaza's health ministry.

The overall death toll in Gaza since October 2023 is at least 73,386 and 174,250 wounded. (Al Jazeera English)

Over 200 firefighters battle blaze in southern France



A fast-moving wildfire was raging in southern France on Sunday, forcing evacuations as more than 200 firefighters raced to contain the blaze.

The fire broke out around 12:45 pm (1045 GMT) in the Lozere region, about 140 kilometres (85 miles) northwest of Montpellier.

Officials said it might have been sparked by a vehicle catching fire on a local road.

By late afternoon, the fire had burned some 153 hectares (370 acres) and continued to spread.

Around 270 firefighters from Lozere

and neighbouring departments were deployed, backed by four Canadair water bombers and two Dash aircraft.

A Lozere fire service spokesman said their combined efforts had helped “contain the blaze and save two homes” that were directly threatened.

“The flanks are being held. Work is now focused on the head of the fire, which remains inaccessible,” he added.

As a precaution, two hamlets in the municipality of La Tieule, directly in the path of the flames, were evacuated at around 5:00 pm, affecting about 20 homes.

“This is an area with a great deal of woodland. It’s extremely dry. The drought is unlike anything we’ve seen in a long time,” said Marc Toulouse, a senior fire officer in Lozere.

Local authorities urged residents not to call emergency services to report the blaze, warning that doing so could overload crews already fighting the fire.

French officials are still taking stock of the damage caused by a series of fires, mainly in the south of France, including largest wildfire since 1949, in the southwest Gironde region. (AFP)

Powerful earthquake shakes Colombia and Ecuador prompting people to evacuate homes and buildings

A powerful earthquake in western Colombia on Monday shook the South American nation and neighboring Ecuador, prompting people to evacuate homes and buildings.

The United States Geological Survey and Colombia’s counterpart both reported a 7.4 magnitude, while relatively deep. Both reported the epicenter in San Jose Del Palmar, a community

about 250 miles (400 kilometers) west of Colombia’s capital, Bogota.

Authorities did not immediately report damages or injuries.

The temblor follows two

back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes in Venezuela in late June. Those earthquakes destroyed hundreds of buildings and killed more than 5,000 people. (AP)

Sudan's war threatens an 'entire generation's' future, UN warns



More than 8 million school-age children in Sudan remain out of the classroom because of the ongoing civil war that erupted more than three years ago, the United Nations has said.

Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed delivered the warning on Friday at an informal UN Security Council session on safeguarding education in Sudan, as the war entered its 1,210th day.

“Among everything this war is taking, one of the most significant is the future of Sudan — depriving the education of its children,” Mohammed said, cautioning that the conflict is depriving an “entire generation” of its future.

Nearly three-quarters of schools have been damaged, destroyed or otherwise rendered unusable in the country's Darfur since fighting erupted in April 2023, according to the UN.

“Five children in every six are out of

school, and parents will tell you they would rather keep their children at home than send them to a classroom, because home for them is the only place left where they can keep them safe,” Mohammed said.

Since 2024, the UN has documented more than 67 attacks on schools and more than 154 instances of schools being used for military purposes, Mohammed said, noting that the figures almost certainly understate the true toll.

More than half of Sudan's teachers have gone unpaid, though many continue working “against all odds”, Mohammed said.

“Sudan has already lost a generation to its earlier wars, and it is losing another one now,” the deputy secretary-general said, adding that the burden of the conflict falls disproportionately on women and children who “had no say in any of it, but suffer most”.

She said the UN and its partners have brought more than a million Sudanese children back into some form of learning this year, but this remained far short of what is needed.

Since the conflict began between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group, UNICEF has issued multiple warnings on the fighting's impact on children. Approximately 15 million people across the country have been displaced so far, with nearly 33 million people — more than half of them children — in dire need of humanitarian assistance, according to the children's agency.

Visiting Sudan earlier this year, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk described accounts of mass killings and gang rape, calling the conflict “not just another conflict” but “a human rights catastrophe unfolding in real time”. (Al Jazeera English)



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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

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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



Sports News



Antigua name squad for CFU Boys Under-14 Challenge Series



The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has announced its national squad to represent the twin-island state at the 2026 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Boys Challenge Series in the Dominican Republic later this month.

The tournament will be staged in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from **August 16 to 23**.

The 18-member Antigua and Barbuda squad will be captained by forward Allan Henry, with Calvin Wilman as the vice-captain.

**The squad also includes Antonio Richmond, Leyland Powell, Kawan-
ie Atherly, Aaron Alfred, and Jah-
quan Barthley.**

Also selected are Shamani Abrams,

Uzziah Martin-Zachariah, Kaique Martin, T'Andre James, and Zuriel Archibald.

The other players are Zenworth Thomas, Kaliel Burnett, Chase Gardner, Tevon Henderson, Jordan Murray, and William Dorsett Jr.

The team will be aided and guided by a coaching, managerial, and support staff.

Auchland "Pin Up" Jarvis is the head coach, Rolston "Lexie" Phoenix is the assistant coach, and Oscar Lake is the goalkeeper coach. Ian Bailey is the team's manager; Mclean Lawrence is the physiotherapist; Karanja Mack is the equipment manager, and Karil Knight is the safe guard officer.

The under-14 challenge series tournament is organized by the Caribbean Football Union and features young talent from across the region competing in a week-long developmental showcase.

The official match groupings and divisions for the **2026 CFU Under-14 Boys Challenge Series** feature **28 teams** divided across two distinct competitive tiers.

Tier I features 12 teams split into three groups. Group A comprised Barbados, Bermuda, the Dominican Republic, and Martinique. Group B consists of

French Guiana, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad & Tobago, while Group C will feature Aruba, Curaçao, Jamaica, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Tier II features 16 teams split into four groups. In Group A are Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, St. Martin, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Battling for top honours in Group B are Antigua and Barbuda, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Contesting Group C are Anguilla, the Bahamas, Guyana, and Montserrat, while battling for supremacy in Group D will be Grenada, St. Lucia, Suriname, and the US Virgin Islands.

The Antigua and Barbuda Under-14 national football team (the young Benna Boys) will play three preliminary-round matches in Tier II, Group B.

Antigua and Barbuda will face the Cayman Islands on August 16, will oppose Dominica on August 17, and will meet the Turks and Caicos Islands on August 19.

Following the three round-robin group matches, the top teams from each group will advance to the playoff and crossover knockout rounds, which are scheduled to take place from August 20 to 23.

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Falcons slump to narrow loss to Kings in CPL tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons suffered a narrow four-run loss to the St. Lucia Kings in their second match of the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sunday night.

Opener Andries Gous' hit a superb 82 to guide the St. Lucia Kings, who were playing their opening match in their 2026 CPL campaign, to a competitive total of 187 for eight off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

The Kings captain Roston Chase then produced a crucial spell in the middle overs, grabbing two for 18, to halt what had looked like a comfortable chase and restricted the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons to 183 for seven off their 20 overs.

The Kings were the most aggressive team during the powerplay in last year's tournament, and they once again came out firing, reaching 53 for one from the first six overs.

Gous led the charge, continuing to push the tempo while wickets fell regularly around him. Ackeem Auguste (18), Roston Chase (10), and Matthew Forde (15) could only manage cameos, but Gous seemed to have an answer for everything the Falcons attack threw at him.

Just as the Kings were building momentum, rain brought a delay of approximately 40 minutes with three overs remaining in their innings. Gous eventually fell for a brilliant 82, caught superbly by Evin Lewis, before McKenny Clarke (15 not out) and Shadley van Schalkwyk (10) combined for 25 valuable unbeaten runs to take the Kings to a competitive total.

The Falcons were outstanding in the field, taking five excellent catches throughout the innings. Antiguan fast bowler Alzarri Joseph was the pick of the bowlers with three for 32.



St. Lucia Kings opener Andries Gous

Shamar Springer claimed the key wicket of Gous, as well as Joshua Bishop three balls later, finishing with two for 39. Rakeem Cornwall also celebrated his 50th CPL wicket when he bowled Ackeem Auguste.

Cornwall then got the Falcons' chase off to a flying start, smashing five boundaries in a breezy 27 from just 13 deliveries before his assault was brought to an end by Maheesh Theekshana, who finished with two for 18.

Evin Lewis, who slammed 48 off 24 balls, and Tim Robinson (30 off 20 balls) continued to put the Falcons firmly in control, combining for a 56-run second-wicket partnership.

At the halfway stage, the Falcons were cruising at 109 for two and appeared to be on course for victory.

However, the dismissal of Tajinder Singh for a run-a-ball 21 and Karima Gore (2) triggered a collapse in momentum. Jahmar Hamilton, in particular, struggled to find his rhythm, managing just 10 from 20 deliveries as the pressure mounted.

Hamilton struggled to find the middle of the bat with any regularity, slowing the scoring rate despite Fabian Allen's best efforts at the other end.

The match went down to the final over, with the Falcons needing 13 runs for victory. Matthew Forde, despite an expensive spell, was entrusted with the crucial over and responded with a series of singles before Hamilton was run out with two balls remaining.

That brought Springer, who made four, to the crease, and he immediately smashed a boundary straight back over Forde's head to take the match to the final delivery, with the Falcons needing five runs for victory.

Forde held his nerve. Springer top-edged the final delivery high into the air, and Darren Nedd completed the catch to seal a dramatic four-run victory for the Kings. Allen was left not out on 28 off 17 balls.

The two teams will meet again on Friday at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia, with the Falcons looking to turn the tables.

Grenadian team arrive for MDA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational

The KCBA Knights of Grenada touched down in Antigua ahead of what promises to be a highly competitive week of youth basketball during the 3rd Annual MDBA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational Splash Tournament, which will take place at the JSC Sports Complex from August 11 to 15.

KCBA founder and coach Kevin Cox expressed gratitude for the team's safe arrival while highlighting the extensive preparation that has gone into getting his players ready for the tournament.

Speaking following the team's arrival, Cox first gave thanks for the opportunity to participate and for the safe journey to Antigua.

"First of all, we have to thank God for getting the team together and allowing us to land safely in Antigua. I also want to thank you for inviting us here," Cox said.

According to the KCBA coach, preparing the team for the tournament has been a summer-long process rather than a last-minute effort.

Cox revealed that he organized a skills camp throughout the month of July, with all 10 players selected for the Grenada team participating in the programme.

"I made the extra effort to try and get this group of guys together, and throughout the whole summer, these guys, I had them doing a lot of work," he explained.

"I had a skills camp that was happening for the entire month of July. Each and every one of those players was a part of my camp."

The preparation did not stop at individual development. Cox said the players also participated in team training outside of the skills camp, allowing the group to build chemistry and prepare collectively for the challenges awaiting them in Antigua.

"My camp consisted of 27 players, and these 10 guys were a part of it. So we were working all summer, man, and we're ready and we're pumped. We're going to take on whatever challenge comes," he said.

With the tournament set to bring together talented youth teams from across the region, Cox believes Antigua's



Kevin Cox Basketball Academy (KCBA) Knights of Grenada

basketball community should expect a KCBA Knights team that competes with determination from the opening whistle to the final buzzer.

Asked what Antigua should expect from the Grenadian academy, Cox kept his answer simple.

"With my team, I would say you've got to look out for fight. We're going to come out fighting all night," he said.

However, while Cox has confidence in his players' abilities, he stressed that confidence must be accompanied by humility and respect.

As the Knights prepare to compete against teams outside their usual local competition, the coach believes it is important for his players to understand that every opponent presents a different challenge.

"As I told my guys, I trust and believe in the talent we have. But at the same time, what I try to instill in them is that you have to respect every opponent that we play, regardless of how talented I think my guys are," Cox explained.

He cautioned his players against entering games with the assumption that they will simply overpower their opponents.

"You can't go out there being so

big-headed, thinking like, 'Okay, we're gonna run over every team,'" Cox said.

"Because I know when you're playing against different teams outside of what you're used to locally, you don't know what to expect."

For Cox, believing in the team while respecting the opposition is the balance he wants his players to maintain throughout the tournament.

Beyond tactics and preparation, Cox is also placing emphasis on his players' mental approach to the tournament.

The coach wants his young athletes to play with confidence, learn from their mistakes and avoid being afraid of making errors on the court.

The Knights enter the MDBA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational Splash Tournament not only looking to compete, but also to gain valuable experience, represent Grenada with pride and demonstrate the development taking place within the Kevin Cox Basketball Academy.

The other participating teams are Junior Spanish Lava, Dadli Ballers, Antiguan Ballers, and the Wadadli Elites.

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Defeat for Leewards in Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship

After winning their opening game against the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands suffered their first loss in the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship in Antigua on Sunday.

Jamaica women pulled off a six-wicket victory over the Leeward Islands women at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Leewards posted 90 for four off their 20 overs, anchored by an unbeaten 31 from Aaliyah Weekes, but Jamaica claimed victory by scoring 92 for four with two balls to spare.

Teandra Morgan led the way for the Jamaicans with a composed 28, while teammate Sashane Ricketts had earlier restricted the home side by picking up two for eight.

Trinidad & Tobago continued their impressive start to the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Championship, securing back-to-back victories

with a tense three-wicket triumph over Guyana in Liberta.

After being asked to bowl first, the T&T attack seized control early, restricting Guyana to a modest 79 for seven from their 20 overs.

Off-spinner Samara Ramnath was the chief destroyer, claiming brilliant figures of three for 20, while the fielding unit kept the pressure on throughout the innings.

Allia Henry top-scored for Guyana with a fighting 22, but the lack of support meant the total always looked under-par.

In response, the Trinidadian chase was far from straightforward. Guyana's Kaiana Leitch produced a decent spell to rattle the top order, finishing with three for 16, leaving T&T wobbling at 46 for five in the 11th over.

However, valuable knocks from Jessica Davis, 19, and Brianna Harricha-

ran, 17, steadied the ship. T&T eventually scrambled past the finish line with 16.1 overs bowled, reaching 80 for seven to secure the win.

The victory places Trinidad & Tobago in a strong early position in the standings. In the day's other second-round fixture, defending champions Barbados Women produced a ruthless performance to crush the Windward Islands by nine wickets in Bethesda.

The Bajan women skittled out the Windward Islands women for just 67 in 14.3 overs.

Zaniyah Bruce was unplayable, finishing with stunning figures of three wickets for two runs, as Zoe McCallister also chipped in with two for 15.

Barbados chased down the target with ease, reaching 68 for one in 11.4 overs, with Jadaeya Holder hitting an unbeaten 26.

Cont from page 32

Jarvis; and setters Allisha Jno-Baptiste and Jaya Carr.

Antigua and Barbuda will be among eight teams, which will battle for supremacy in the ECVA men's championship.

The eight teams are divided into two pools of four to battle in a round-robin preliminary stage. The top two finishers at the end of the group stage will advance to the semi-finals.

Antigua and Barbuda are current back-to-back champions of the ECVA's senior men's championship, winning the titles in 2024 and 2025 on home soil in St. John's.

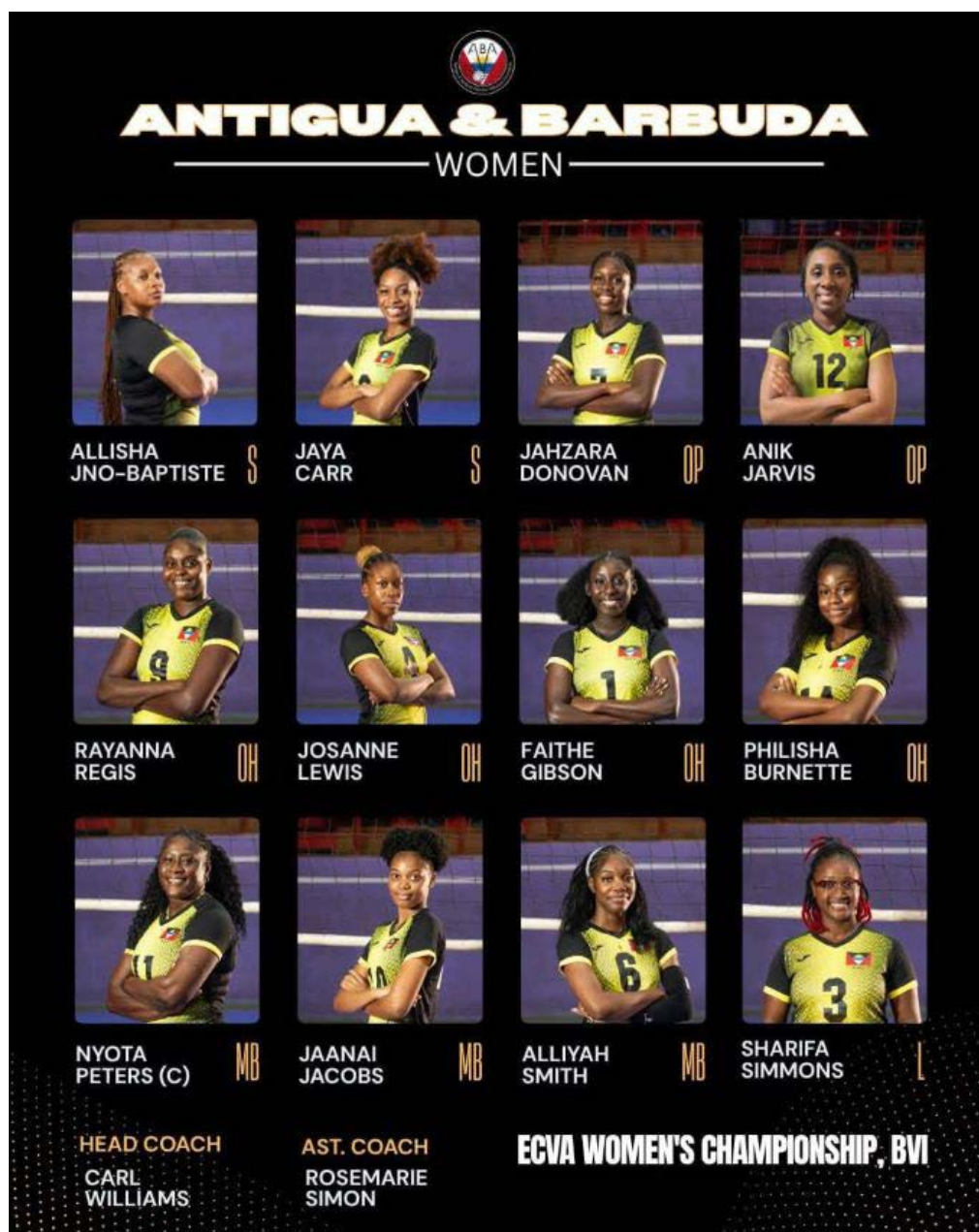
The Antiguan will enter the men's tournament as the top seed and will compete in Pool A alongside St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Pool B will feature the host British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica, Bermuda, and Anguilla.

The Antiguan will launch their campaign against St. Lucia on August 12. Antigua and Barbuda will face St. Vincent and the Grenadines on August 13 and will clash with Grenada on August 14.

Antigua and Barbuda are among seven teams that will compete for supremacy in the ECVA women's tournament.

The Antiguan will contest Pool A with two other teams after St. Vincent and the Grenadines pulled out of the women's tournament. The Antiguan will compete against teams from the



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
WOMEN

			
ALLISHA JNO-BAPTISTE S	JAYA CARR S	JAHZARA DONOVAN OP	ANIK JARVIS OP
			
RAYANNA REGIS OH	JOSANNE LEWIS OH	FAITHE GIBSON OH	PHILISHA BURNETTE OH
			
NYOTA PETERS (C) MB	JAANA JACOBS MB	ALLIYAH SMITH MB	SHARIFA SIMMONS L
HEAD COACH CARL WILLIAMS		AST. COACH ROSEMARIE SIMON	

ECVA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP, BVI

British Virgin Islands and Grenada.

Contesting Pool B will be the senior national teams of St. Lucia, Bermuda, Anguilla, and Dominica.

Antigua and Barbuda will open their

campaign in the women's contest against Grenada on August 12. The Antiguan will then take on the British Virgin Islands on August 13.



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ABAVA announces teams for ECVA Senior Volleyball Championships

The Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association (ABAVA) has announced the national teams to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 2026 ECVA Senior Volleyball Championships this week.

Both ECVA's senior men's and women's championships will be held simultaneously in Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands (BVI), from Wednesday, August 12, to Sunday, August 16.

According to an ABAVA media release, the players' selection reflects the commitment, hard work, discipline, and dedication they have shown throughout the preparation process, and the national volleyball association is confident that both teams will compete with pride while representing the nation with distinction.

Both the senior men's and women's national teams have been preparing diligently and are ready to take on the region's best, carrying the national colours with determination, unity, and pride.

Antigua and Barbuda's 11-member senior men's team will be captained by outside hitter Cairon Davis. The squad also includes fellow outside hitters Erwin Mathurin, Jamarie James, and Amali Mannix.

Also included are setters Dominick Anthony and Collin Thomas and opposite hitters Asafa Donovan and Paul Richards.

Completing the squad are middle blockers Dwight Bonnie and Abner Farquhar and libero Jedidiah Christian.

The senior men's national team is being guided by head coach Fitzroy Benjamin and assistant coach Braulio



Estrada-Lopez.

The senior women's national team is being guided by head coach Carl "The Truth" Williams and assistant coach Rosemarie Simon.

The 12-member Antigua and Barbuda women's national team will be captained by middle blocker Nyota Peters.

The squad also includes fellow middle blockers Jaanai Jacobs and Alliyah Smith and libero Sharifa Simmons.

Also included are outside hitters Rayana Regis, Josanne Lewis, Faith Gibson, and Phillisha Burnette; opposite hitters Jahzara Donovan and Anik

Con.t on page 31