

PM Browne Takes His Concerns To the Public

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Left to right: Dr. Afi Williams, Cuban Ambassador Sergio Martinez and Dr. Radcliffe Robins at Tuesday night's presentation of funds to help a children's hospital in Cuba.

PM Browne Takes His Concerns To the Public

The point of view regarding sentencing for repeat offenders shared by Prime Minister Gaston Browne at Monday's meeting between the Cabinet and members of the nation's security apparatus, is being brought to the public for its input.

This as the prime minister continues to lament over what he sees as lenient sentences being handed down by the judiciary, especially to repeated offender brought to the court on gun-related charges.

"Our Parliament increased the maximum sentence to 15 years for gun crimes. We were advised by members of the judiciary that no minimum sentencing should be legislated, which will fetter discretion and would constitute a trespass on the domain of the judiciary.

"However, we find that some in the judiciary are abusing the discretion in law, by imposing lenient sentences on repeat offenders and others who have committed heinous crimes," PM Browne said in a social media post on Tuesday.

According to the head of government and chairman of the Cabinet, these short sentences have now resulted in approximately 250 repeat offenders, who are stretching law enforcement capabilities and putting the entire society at risk.

Noting that the Executive has the authority to ask for the removal of these under-performing members of the Judiciary from the jurisdiction, the prime minister posed the question of whether or not 'under-performing' members of the judiciary should be removed from the jurisdiction. He is also inviting members of the public to share their views on the matter.

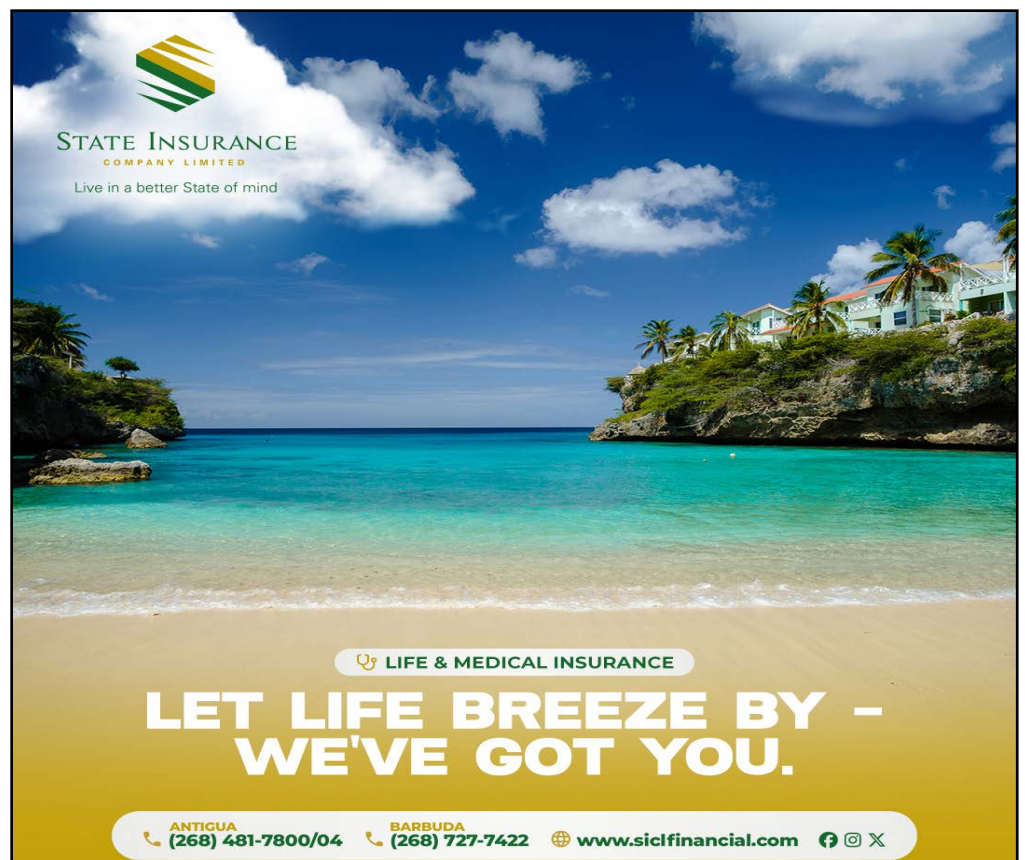
"Alternatively, if the court refuses to remove them from the jurisdiction and they are non-belongers - should the Executive exercise its right to remove them from the state in the interest of national security and protection of the citizenry from these criminals?



"Seeking public advice," he stated.

Over the past few weeks there have been an upsurge in shootings with a number of persons nursing gun-shot wounds in the hospital. The prime minister has made his views on the

matter quite clear; tougher jail sentences for those convicted of gun-related crimes. He did however issue a caveat; the penal system should provide rehabilitation for those convicted of these crimes.



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Residents Urged to Report Blocked or Restricted Public Beach Access

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, through the Development Control Authority (DCA), is encouraging residents to report instances where public access to beaches is being blocked or restricted.

The appeal forms part of efforts to protect public access to Antigua and Barbuda's coastline and to ensure that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy the country's beaches.

Under the message "Public Beach Access Is Your Right!", the Ministry, through the DCA, is reminding the public that Antigua and Barbuda's beaches are for everyone and that lawful access to these important natural spaces must be protected.

Residents who encounter barriers, gates, fencing, or other measures that appear to block or restrict established public access to a beach are encouraged to report the matter to the relevant authorities for investigation.

The DCA also notes that longstanding public use may establish access rights and that developments are required to make appropriate provisions for beach access where applicable.

With continued development in coastal areas, the Ministry and DCA are seeking to raise public awareness of the importance of preserving traditional and lawful access points.

Members of the public are therefore being encouraged to remain vigilant and report concerns rather than allowing established access routes to disappear without being brought to the attention of the authorities.

Antigua and Barbuda's beaches are an important part of the country's natural heritage, culture, recreation and tourism product, making their continued accessibility an issue of national importance.

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, through the Develop-



ment Control Authority, is reaffirming the message:




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Friends of Cuba Society Makes Presentation To the Cuban People



The Friends of Cuba Society, an organization that comprises mainly persons who have studied in Cuba on scholarships, has made a donation of over thirty thousand dollars to assist children at a hospital in that country.

A formal presentation of the cheque was made Tuesday evening at the Cuban Embassy where Dr. Radcliffe Robins, one of the first persons to complete medical training in Cuba, officiated. He presented the symbolic cheque to the Cuban Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Sergio Martinez.

Recalling how the government and people of Cuba have never faltered in

their internationalist posture of helping other countries despite the stifling effect of the American economic and financial embargo, Dr. Robins made a special appeal to the Antigua and Barbuda public to help the suffering people of Cuba.

“A friend in need is a friend indeed is the philosophy of the Cuban government. They have come to the assistance of countless countries in the Caribbean, Africa, Latin America and even in Europe. Today, I am proud to be able to present to the Cuban people this token of our support for them as they are forced to endure greater hardships imposed by our neighbours to

the north.” Dr. Robins stated.

He called for the building of relationships between the Cuban people and the people in Antigua and Barbuda noting that ‘they never flinched once, in their support for the people of Antigua and Barbuda’.

“When the chips are down, who are your friends. When the chips are down, who are you friends,” he repeated rhetorically.

In accepting the donation, Ambassador Martinez underscored the significance of the gesture to millions of people in Cuba.

“Today, we doubly appreciate this



gesture because along with the important material and practical value of this donation, it also carries a human value with the message directed to millions of Cuban men, women and children that tells them, you are not alone. You have the support of your brothers from Antigua and Barbuda who will be with you in these difficult times and in your struggle and resistance against the unjust and genocidal policy of the economic blockade,” he noted.

Several persons; Ambassador George Goodwin, Dr. James Knight, Dr. Gregson Williams, Dr. Afi Williams and Dr. Robins were presented with letters of commendation for their unwavering efforts to help the people of Cuba.

The US embargo against Cuba has been in place for more than sixty years.

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Sentences in Child Sex Cases Under Fire from Social Transformation Minister

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Rawdon Turner has launched a forceful defence of Prime Minister Gaston Browne's criticism of sentences handed down in cases involving the sexual abuse of children.

In a strongly worded Facebook post, the Minister rejected any suggestion that concerns about the sentences should be dismissed on the basis of the separation of powers.

"Do not lecture me about separation of powers while our children are being destroyed," he declared.

The Minister then highlighted a series of cases involving children as young as three years old, drawing attention to the sentences imposed on the offenders.

Among the cases cited was that of a 56-year-old man who admitted sexually assaulting his five-year-old great-niece. The child later complained of pain, and a medical examination reportedly revealed signs of infection. The man received a sentence of three years and six months.

In another case, a 25-year-old man reportedly pursued a 13-year-old girl through social media and had sexual intercourse with her on two occasions. He received 38 months in prison.

The Minister also highlighted a case involving a 21-year-old man who admitted having sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl, but received two



Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Rawdon Turner

years' probation rather than a prison sentence.

Another case involved an 11-year-old foster child who was sexually violated by the adult son of the woman into whose care she had been placed. The child became pregnant, while the offender received one year and two months in prison.

Other cases cited by Minister Turner included a three-year-old child who was sexually assaulted by a man occupying the position of a grandparent, for which the offender received five years in prison, and a five-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted twice by

her uncle, who received five years and three months at sentencing.

Minister Rawdon Turner also referenced a case involving a 13-year-old girl whose relative offered to take her to school but instead diverted to an isolated road, where she was forced and coerced into sexual acts. The offender's effective sentence was five years.

Turner underscored the ages of the victims in a stark reminder of the vulnerability of those involved. "These are children," he declared.

The outrage from the Minister of Social and Urban Transformation comes amid growing public and political discussion about the treatment of offenders convicted of sexual offences against minors, including concerns over whether existing laws and sentencing practices provide an adequate deterrent and sufficient protection for children.

The Minister said he understands Prime Minister Browne's recent expression of outrage and frustration over sentences handed down in cases involving the sexual violation of children.

"So when Prime Minister Gaston Browne expresses outrage and frustration at sentences being handed down in cases involving the sexual violation of children, I understand him," he wrote.

"I share that frustration."



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Fire Arm and Ammunition Case Against 20-year Resumes Today



Sekani Isaac

The case against 20-year-old Sekani Isaac of Clare Hall who has been charged with the alleged unlawful manufacture and possession of a modified firearm and ammunition, will resume in the Magistrate's Court today (Wednesday).

The charges stem from an incident at Clare Hall on Saturday, August 8, during which police found a modified pipe gun and one (1) 9mm round of ammunition.

He is accused of unlawfully manufacturing the pipe gun without being the holder of the required gunsmith licence, and of possessing the firearm



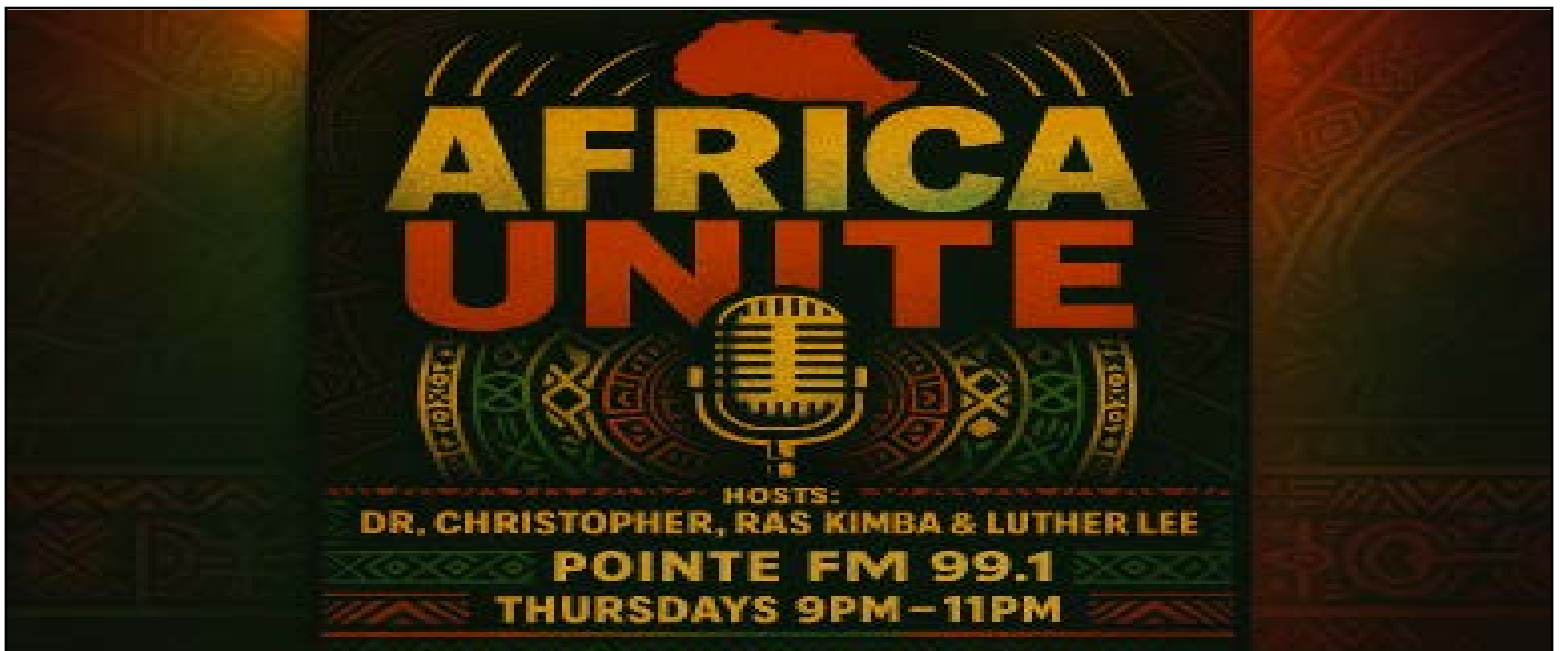
and ammunition without the appropriate firearm user's licence.

Isaac was subsequently arrested and formally charged with the offences and appeared before the court on Tuesday. The Police Administration continues to express serious concern over the unlawful possession and manufacture of firearms and reiterates its commitment to removing illegal weapons from the nation's communities.

Members of the public are encouraged

to continue supporting the police in their crime-fighting efforts by reporting information concerning illegal firearms, ammunition, or other criminal activities. Information may be shared with the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477), or the nearest police station.

The police remain committed to working in partnership with the public to enhance safety and security throughout Antigua and Barbuda.



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11

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Regional News

Jamaican FBI Most-Wanted fraudster pleads not guilty in \$32M fraud case

A Jamaican-born South Florida woman who was captured in Jamaica after being placed on the FBI's Most Wanted Fraudsters list pleaded not guilty Monday to federal charges stemming from an alleged scheme to fraudulently obtain more than \$32 million in COVID-19 relief funds.

Elaine Angene Escoe, 41, appeared in federal court Aug. 10 for her arraignment before Magistrate Judge Brandy Brentari Galler, according to court records.

Escoe waived a formal reading of the indictment, entered a plea of not guilty and demanded a jury trial. The proceeding lasted about seven minutes.

The judge also granted a standing discovery order requiring prosecutors and the defense to exchange information and comply with criminal discovery rules in the Southern District of Florida. Motions involving matters not covered by the order generally



must be filed within 28 days.

Escoe's arraignment comes weeks after authorities said she was captured in Jamaica and returned to South Florida to face prosecution.

She was returned to the United States on July 25 after Jamaican authorities took her into custody following a tip about her whereabouts, according to federal authorities.

Escoe had been added to the FBI's Most Wanted Fraudsters list as investigators searched for her in connection with an alleged scheme involv-



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Regional News

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ing more than \$32 million in federal pandemic relief funds. The FBI had offered a reward of up to \$150,000 for information leading to her arrest and conviction.

Federal prosecutors allege Escoe and other members of the group submitted fraudulent applications to obtain money through several federal COVID-19 relief programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program, Restaurant Revitalization Fund, Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

Investigators allege the applications contained fabricated tax documents, falsified banking records and false information about businesses seeking relief.

According to prosecutors, some of the businesses were controlled by members of the alleged group, while other applicants paid kickbacks of as much as 50% of the relief funds they received.

Authorities allege the proceeds were subsequently moved among members of the group as part of a money-laundering operation.

Escoc faces charges including conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit money laundering, wire fraud, concealment of money laundering and transactional money laundering.

Federal authorities say Escoc became a fugitive after failing to appear for a court proceeding in 2025. A federal arrest warrant was issued in May 2025, and investigators said she was last seen in Palm Beach County before leaving the United States.

The FBI later placed her on its Most Wanted Fraudsters list. Authorities said a tip eventually led investigators to Jamaica, where she was taken into custody before being returned to the Southern District of Florida.

Several other defendants linked to the alleged scheme have already pleaded guilty or been convicted, according to federal authorities. Pros-

ecutors have described Escoc as the last remaining defendant charged in the case.

Her case will now proceed toward a

jury trial. No trial date had been listed in Monday's court filing.

Escoc is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in court.



Regional News

Shyne, Calypso Rose, Alan Cavé and Patra to receive honors at 2026 Caribbean Music Awards

International recording artist, politician and humanitarian Shyne will receive the Global Ambassador Honor at the fourth annual Caribbean Music Awards, while calypso legend Calypso Rose, Haitian-American singer-songwriter Alan Cavé and Jamaican dancehall icon Patra will also be recognized during the ceremony.

The Caribbean Music Awards will take place Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026, at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA) in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Presented by Tourism Trinidad Limited, with support from the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited, the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism, and Global Trinidad and Tobago, this year's ceremony will serve as the centerpiece of the inaugural Caribbean Music Awards Elite Weekend Experience.

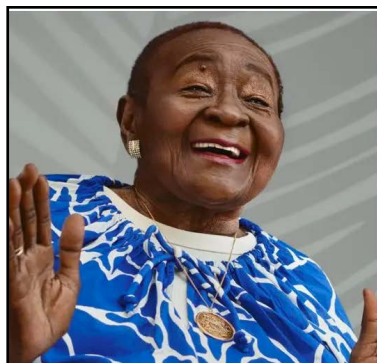
The three-day celebration, taking place Sept. 18-20 throughout Trinidad and Tobago, will bring together artists, fans, industry leaders, cultural tastemakers and visitors from across the Caribbean and beyond to celebrate the region's music and cultural influence.

Inspired by the theme "Sounds of the Caribbean," the 2026 awards will honor four artists whose careers have helped shape Caribbean music's international reach.

Patra to receive Lifetime Achievement Honor

Patra will receive the Lifetime Achievement Honor for her pioneering contributions to dancehall, reggae and global Black music.

Born in Westmoreland, Ja-



maica, Patra began her career as a female DJ known as "Lady Patra" before gaining international recognition through her work with dancehall star Shabba Ranks, including their collaboration on "Family Affair."

Shyne recognized as Global Ambassador

Shyne will receive the Global Ambassador Honor for his evolution from internationally known recording artist to cultural leader, humanitarian and advocate for Belize and the Caribbean.

His 2000 self-titled debut album on Bad Boy Records debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard 200 and was later certified Gold.

In the years since, Shyne has shifted much of his focus toward public service, youth empowerment and cultural advocacy. He has also served as Belize's Music and Goodwill Ambassador.

The award recognizes his



contributions to Caribbean culture and his efforts to promote Belize and the wider region on the international stage.

Calypso Rose to receive Elite Calypso Honor

Tobago-born calypso icon Calypso Rose will receive the Elite Calypso Honor for her decades-long contribution to Caribbean music and her role in bringing calypso to audiences worldwide.

A trailblazer for women in Caribbean music, Calypso Rose has spent more than six decades performing and recording, becoming one of the genre's most influential figures.

She made history as the first woman to win Trinidad and Tobago's Road March title and later achieved international recognition, including with her platinum-selling album *Far From Home*.

Alan Cavé to receive Elite Konpa Honor

Haitian-American singer-songwriter Alan Cavé will receive the Elite Konpa Honor for his influence on Haitian music and the international Konpa movement.

Known as the "King of Kompa Love," Cavé has spent more than three decades building a career as a songwriter, vocalist and performer.

He first gained prominence as a member of the Haitian band Zin before establishing himself as a successful solo artist. His music and songwriting have helped shape contemporary Konpa while influencing musicians across Haiti, the Caribbean and the diaspora.

Caribbean Music Awards expands to Trinidad and Tobago

The four honorees will be celebrated as part of the Caribbean Music Awards Elite Weekend Experience, which will feature a welcome reception, industry programming, cultural activations, fan experiences, the awards ceremony, an official after-party and a special Steelpan celebration featuring Stars and Steel.

The event marks an international expansion for the Caribbean Music Awards following three successful years in Brooklyn, New York.

Organizers said the move to Trinidad and Tobago reflects the awards' broader mission of celebrating Caribbean music and culture across different parts of the region.

Tickets and additional information about the Caribbean Music Awards Elite Weekend Experience are available at CaribMusicAwards.com.

Guyana's Government Reviewing Port Kaituma Wharf Contracts After MV Barima Tragedy



Guyana's government is reviewing contracts related to the Port Kaituma wharf project as part of its broader response to the MV Barima tragedy, with legal action being considered if evidence of negligence is uncovered.

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mohabir Anil Nandlall, SC, disclosed the review during Tuesday's edition of his Issues in the News programme, where he outlined the government's ongoing response to the July 18 incident.

Nandlall said that while a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) and a criminal investigation are continuing, his chambers are examining the contractual arrangements for the wharf that was intended to accommodate the MV Ma Lisha at Port Kaituma.

His comments follow recent remarks by Minister of Public Works Bishop Juan Edghill, who said the MV Ma Lisha has not yet begun operating on the

Port Kaituma route.

Edghill explained that the newly constructed wharf developed structural problems after significant movement of the surrounding soil, forcing sections of the facility to be rebuilt.

According to Nandlall, the contractual review forms part of a wider government response that also includes the police investigation, the Commission of Inquiry, ongoing support from the Ministries of Health, Human Services and Social Security, and the HEART initiative established to provide immediate and long-term assistance to affected families.

"This will make further recommendations for more persons to be investigated," Nandlall said.

He stressed that the Commission of Inquiry would complement, rather than replace, the work of law enforcement agencies.

"The Commission of Inquiry cannot usurp the functional responsibilities of the state and the state agencies," he said, adding that while the commission would make findings and recommendations, questions of criminal and civil liability would remain the responsibility of the relevant authorities and the courts.

Nandlall said investigations into all aspects of the tragedy remain ongoing, with state agencies continuing to carry out their respective responsibilities.

On Tuesday, the government said that the search and recovery operations following the MV Barima tragedy, resulting in the deaths of 73 people and more than 30 others missing and presumed dead, have ended.

However, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre remains operational, and the government said "there has been no change in the status of the identification of the recovered bodies".

Spain to introduce temporary border checks on visitors from Italy

Spain has announced it will introduce temporary border checks on visitors from Italy in response to Rome imposing similar measures after a mass rush of people from Morocco into Ceuta.

The checks, which come “amid the persistent irregular migration pressure” facing Italy, will start at midnight on Saturday and last until 7 September, Spain’s interior ministry said in a statement.

Hours earlier, Spain threatened Italy with countermeasures if it did not swiftly lift its own border checks, drawing a rebuff from Rome.

The rare spat between the EU and Nato allies came after tens of thousands of people crossed from Morocco to Spain’s north African territory on 30-31 July in an unprecedented, deadly rush.

The scenes infuriated EU members that back a hard line on irregular immigration, including Italy, which imposed border checks on people arriving from Spain for one month.

The Spanish government criticised the measure on Friday as “unfair, contrary to the EU’s interests and discriminatory for the Spanish population”.

Foreign minister José Manuel Albares described it as “a torpedo fired at the hull of European unity”.

“We urge the government of Italy to rectify, put an end to the checks and treat Spaniards like other European citizens,” he added.

He threatened “proportional measures” in response by Sunday if Italy failed to comply.

Within hours, the government of Italy’s far-right prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, said it “had no intention of revising the decision” before 15 August, when it said Spanish authorities “expected a new wave of migration” to hit Ceuta.

Meloni’s office said in a statement: “Italy does not accept ultimatums or impositions from abroad regarding national security and border control.

“Only when there is certainty that there are no security or terrorism risks to Italy, that no new wave is occurring, and that no irregular migrants are heading



toward European territory, will the decision be reconsidered.”

Spain’s interior ministry announced the reciprocal measures within hours.

Spanish police have been monitoring online rumours and social media about possible fresh arrivals in Ceuta in mid-August, according to local media. But authorities have not expressly said they expect a repeat of last week’s rush.

Border authorities would in the meantime “do their utmost to ensure maximum ease of movement for Spanish and European citizens” who are not affected by border checks, the Italian statement added.

Italy, which does not share a land border with Spain, introduced border controls at maritime and air entry points for third-country nationals arriving from Spain.

The move, announced on 31 July, was an “extraordinary measure” intended to “safeguard national security and prevent possible repercussions for our nation”, Meloni said at the time.

She was among several EU leaders who called for Spain to be suspended from the visa-free Schengen travel zone after the Ceuta incident, despite such a

move being legally impossible.

Italy’s coalition government has sought to stop the tens of thousands of people who land in small boats on the country’s shores each year.

The Spanish government warned against “creating rifts and sterile conflicts driven by internal electoral motives” and said “we trust that pro-European sentiment, common sense and good faith prevail”.

Of the 72,000 people who entered Ceuta, 70,000 have returned to Morocco, according to official Spanish figures.

Spanish authorities said 80 people died in the crossings.

Moroccan rights groups, however, estimate the figure to be higher. The Moroccan Association for Human Rights and the European Coordination for Human Rights in Morocco on Friday said at least 141 deaths were recorded and that the toll was likely to rise.

Morocco’s interior ministry has said 11 people died on its side of the border, all but one by drowning.

Those who remain in Ceuta – including hundreds of unaccompanied children – face dire living conditions with little access to food, water and shelter.

Bashar al Assad sentenced to death in absentia by Syrian court for war crimes

Former Syrian president Bashar al Assad has been sentenced to death in absentia for crimes against humanity and war crimes, following a ruling by a court in the country.

Assad fled the capital Damascus, and flew to Moscow in December 2024 after his government fell following a lightning offensive by anti-regime forces.

On Tuesday, the Fourth Criminal Court in Damascus sentenced him and his brother Maher al Assad in absentia for the crimes carried out from 2011 to the end of the regime.

During Syria's almost 14-year conflict, about half a million people were killed.

"Bashar Assad used state agencies to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity", judge Fakhreddine al Aryan said during a court session that was aired live on state TV.

Assad's maternal cousin Atef Najib - detained in Syria - was also sentenced to death for leading the 2011 crackdown in the southern province of Daraa, where more than a dozen teenagers were detained and tortured for anti-regime graffiti.

The incident in Daraa sparked a mass uprising against the Assad regime, and later the civil war, which lasted until the fall of the government.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as of 2021, the civil war displaced 6.9 million inside Syria and led to 5.6 million fleeing the country.

In 2015, the group called the conflict the "world's worst humanitarian crisis".

From 2011 onwards, Assad's rule saw widespread accusations of atrocities, including the use of chemical weapons such as sarin, chlorine, and mustard gas.



In 2013, a gas attack on rebel-held eastern Ghouta near Damascus killed scores of civilians.

There were also widespread reports of rapes, beheadings, and torture under Assad: Sky's chief correspondent Stuart Ramsay reported from Homs prison after the regime's fall, where many prisoners were murdered after forced confessions.

Assad was born in 1965, and became president in 2000 after his father Hafez died, having previously worked as an orthodontist in the UK.

He maintained the family's rule and

the dominance of their Alawite sect in the Sunni Muslim-majority country and Syria's status as an Iranian ally, and was leader for 24 years.

Meanwhile, Maher al Assad was a former commander of the Syrian military's 4th Armoured Division - which Syrian opposition activists have accused of killings, torture, extortion and drug trafficking.

Atef Najib is also a former Syrian army brigadier general who was head of the Political Security Branch in southern Syria's Daraa province under Assad in 2011.

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The image shows a vibrant scene from the Antigua Carnival parade. Several dancers are visible, wearing elaborate costumes featuring large, colorful feathered headdresses in shades of blue, pink, yellow, and white. They are adorned with gold jewelry and traditional Caribbean attire. The background is filled with more dancers and the festive atmosphere of the event.

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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



Sports News



Winning starts for Scorpions and Tigers in Parham Super League

The Freemans Village Scorpions and the Potters Tigers got off to winning starts in the fourth edition of the Parham Super League, which is organized by Eastboy Promotions.

Freemans Village launched their campaign in Group 1 of the 10-team round-robin competition with a 4-0 drubbing of newcomers Blackburn Palace in their opening encounter at the Parham playing field on Sunday.

Goals by Brandon Stachell in the 12th minute and Jahmar Malone in the 16th minute gave the Scorpions a two-nil lead at halftime.

Freemans Village wrapped up their victory with two more second-half

goals, which were scored by Mellique London in the 55th minute and Vaughn Jackson in the 65th minute.

The Potters Tigers kicked off their campaign in Group 2 by recording a commanding 3-0 victory against newcomers Point West Ham in their opening encounter.

Daniel Bryan scored in the 18th minute, Jamour Martin had a 23rd-minute conversion, and Kwami Byers sealed the win for the Tigers by scoring the third and final goal with a strike in the 50th minute.

Two other opening-round matches were postponed on Saturday due to heavy rain across Antigua.

The Parham Super League will resume with a double-header at the Parham playing field on Wednesday.

Defending champions Garden Stars will begin their title defense against Swetes FC in a Group 1 affair at 6 pm. Two-time back-to-back champions Pigotts will launch their campaign in Group 2 against newcomers Glanvilles FC at 7:30 pm.

Similar to third edition of the PSL in 2025, this year's winning team will take home a grand prize of EC\$3,000, with the EC\$1,000 going to the runners-up.



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Antiguans continue participation in ECVA National Volleyball Referees Course

Two Antiguan are among participants involved in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) National Referees Course, which resumed in Tortola, British Virgin Islands (BVI, on Monday.

The Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) representatives, Delron Frederick and Chadiya Martin, are participating in the ECVA National Volleyball Referees Course, bringing together officials from across the region for a three-phase training programme designed to raise the standard of officiating in volleyball.

The course is a three-phase training programme designed to raise the standard of officiating in volleyball.

The three-stage course includes on-line sessions from July 21 to August 6, classroom instruction on August 10 and 11, and practical, on-court training from August 12 to 16.

The other participants are representing Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Maarten, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Montserrat, St. Eustatius, the British Virgin Islands, | Bermuda, and Anguilla.

The course is being led by instructors Brian Charles and Reginald Williamsburg.

The ECVA extends its appreciation to both for their commitment to the programme and wishes all participants success as they enter the practical training phase, which will take place during the 2026 ECVA Men's and Women's Senior Tournament in the BVI from August 12 to 16.

The Antigua and Barbuda Volleyball Association has expressed its congratulations to Frederick and Martin on their selection to participate in the ECVA course.

The ABAVA said this opportunity reflects the association's continued commitment to developing quality volleyball officials and strengthening the standard of officiating across Antigua and Barbuda.



Delron Frederick, left, and Chadiya Martin

The ABAVA is also wishing Chadiya and Delron every success as they complete the course and look forward to welcoming them home with new

knowledge and experience that will benefit the volleyball community in Antigua and Barbuda.

Sports News

MDBA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational Splash officially opened

The stage is officially set for what promises to be a highly competitive 3rd Annual MDBA Youth Summer Basketball Invitational Splash Tournament, following Monday night's official soft opening at the JSC Sports Complex.

The five-team round-robin tournament, slated for August 11 to 15, got off to an encouraging start as coaches, players, organizers, sponsors, and basketball supporters gathered to officially usher in the third edition of the youth basketball showcase.

Monday night's soft opening set the precedence for what is expected to be a fiercely contested tournament, with the majority of the participating teams appearing evenly balanced and eager to showcase the skills, discipline, and basketball aptitude they have developed throughout their preparations.

The Wadadli Elites, coached by Irwin "Wanga" Armstrong, and Antiguan Ballers, which is guided by coach Cedric "Supa" David, are among early favourites.

Based on the current polling, the Wadadli Elites enter the tournament as the



Antiguan Ballers

Antiguan Ballers are the defending champions

early favourites, followed closely by the defending champions, the Antiguan Ballers.

Newcomers Kevin Cox Basketball Academy (KCB) Knights of Grenada are next in the polling, followed by Dadli Ballers, with Jr. Spanish Lava rounding out the initial projections.

However, with youth basketball often producing unexpected results, the polling will mean very little once the players step between the lines.

During Monday night's

soft opening, coaches from all participating teams gave their assessments of their respective preparations leading into the tournament.

Despite representing different teams and communities, the coaches shared similar sentiments regarding the importance of youth development, discipline, teamwork, fair play, and creating a positive atmosphere throughout the competition.

Coach Guy Yearwood will lead Jr Spanish Lava, while Carol Cornelius is at the helm of the Dad-

li Ballers. Kevin "Big Ticket" Cox, founder of the Kevin Cox Basketball Academy Knights from Grenada, is also preparing his young charges for their highly anticipated tournament debut in Antigua & Barbuda.

Antiguan basketball legend Carl "Bowlie" Knight and senior national team coach Bradburry Browne also gave motivational speeches to inspire the young players.

Knight delivered a powerful and impactful motivational speech to the young players, encouraging the future basketball prospects to recognize the opportunities available to them and continue developing themselves both on and off the court.

The young ballers also received an important message from Browne, who is the assistant coach of the Antigua & Barbuda Bulldogs that are preparing for the 2029 FIBA AmeriCup Qualifiers.

Coach Browne reminded the players that there are pathways, or feeders, into the senior national basketball programme and urged them to remain focused, disciplined, humble, and committed to their development.

Villa's Emery eyes Super Cup success against PSG despite depleted squad



Aston Villa's head coach Unai Emery smiles after the Europa League final soccer match between Freiburg and Aston Villa in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, May 21, 2026. (AP)

AUSTRIA (Reuters) - Aston Villa manager Unai Emery is determined to keep pushing the club to new heights as they prepare to face European champions Paris St. Germain in Wednesday's UEFA Super Cup at the Red Bull Arena in Salzburg, having ended a 30-year wait for major silverware last season.

Villa secured their place in the season curtain-raiser by beating Freiburg 3-0 in the Europa League final in May, earning Emery a record-extending fifth title in the competition and the club's first major trophy since the League Cup in 1996.

The triumph marked Villa's first continental success since they won the European Cup by defeating Bayern Munich in the final in 1982 and then beat Barcelona to win the Super Cup.

"I have been here four years at As-

ton Villa. I am happy with how we are responding and how the players are responding," Emery told reporters in Salzburg on Wednesday.

"The players have followed us and everything we are trying to set in our standards. We want to build our own mentality. We are thankful for the players. But we want more. We are not stopping here."

The Spaniard is still seeking his first Super Cup title after three previous unsuccessful attempts, while PSG coach Luis Enrique will be looking to retain the trophy.

Villa, however, arrive in Austria having undergone significant changes to their squad during the transfer window.

Midfielder Youri Tielemans has joined Manchester United, while Morgan Rogers moved to Chelsea for a British record fee. Jadon San-

cho and Douglas Luiz have also departed, with Lucas Digne joining PSG.

Injuries have further complicated Emery's preparations, with midfielder Amadou Onana and new signing Johan Manzambi unavailable. Despite the departures, he said Villa's ambitions remain unchanged as the club continues to grow on and off the pitch.

"The effort is not changing. The club is making a really huge effort. The club is moving in the same direction as I am trying to move," Emery said.

"We are increasing our budget through the good results on the pitch and through selling some players. Aston Villa now can have a better brand in the way we are progressing. It is a huge responsibility for me and the players."

Villa will also be without several key players involved at the World Cup and who have been granted additional rest.

England defender Ezri Konsa and striker Ollie Watkins plus Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez are all unavailable.

"We do not have some players because they finished their season late. They're resting, which is very necessary," Emery said.

"PSG are in the same situation as us. Tomorrow we will start with the players we have and we hope to get a good result with the capacity that we have."

ABAVA team-up with Starlings club to stage invitational tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABAVA) is teaming up with visiting Starling Volleyball Club of Trinidad and Tobago to stage an invitational competition in Antigua this week.

The indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex will come alive as Starlings Volleyball Club of Trinidad & Tobago touches down in Antigua for the ABAVA-Starlings Invitational tournament from August 12 to 15.

The Trinidadian visitors will go head-to-head with local teams over four days of friendly competition, bringing together athletes across different levels for some good Caribbean volleyball, new connections, and plenty of action on court.

ABAVA club teams, the University of West Indies (UWI), Dynasty, Starz, Mixed Stars, Invaders, and Velocity, will engage Starlings in the friendly volleyball tournament.

Based at the Southern Regional Indoor Sporting Arena in Pleasantville, San Fernando, Starlings



traces its roots all the way back to the early 1990s and has grown into a respected volleyball institution in Trinidad & Tobago.

Under the leadership of Coach & Manager Danwantee D. Ramadhin, affectionately known as

“Nado,” Starlings describes itself as more than a team, a family built on unity, discipline, mutual respect, and support.

The club has also played a role in developing numerous athletes who have gone on to represent Trinidad & Tobago at the na-

tional level.

For Starlings, this Invitational in Antigua is an opportunity to test themselves against quality opposition, gain valuable competitive experience, strengthen team chemistry, and continue raising the standard of their programme.

Round-robin matches will be played on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and will culminate with the championship final and a presentation ceremony on Saturday.

Four matches will be played on each day of the tournament. Matches start at 5 pm daily, admission is free, and drinks will be on sale.

The invitational tournament will commence with the opening round of matches on Wednesday.

Starlings will meet Dynasty at 5 pm, Mixed Team will clash with Invaders at 6 pm, Starlings will launch their campaign against Chargers Velocity at 7 pm, and Invaders will face off against UWI in the final opening-day encounter at 8 pm.