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PM Condemns 'Slackers' In The ONDCP

Story on page 2



Hundreds turned out dressed as various characters at AnuCon held on Saturday. Organizers say it was one of their biggest events ever

PM Condemns 'Slackers' In The ONDCP

Against the backdrop of renewed focus on crime and violence in the country, the prime minister is turning his attention to one arm of the security apparatus, the Office of National Drug and Money-Laundering Control Policy (ONDCP) accusing some of its officers of refusing to perform their duties.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne made the revelation on Saturday during the Browne and Browne show on the Point Network.

According to the prime minister the officers were off the job for up to five months complaining of the conditions under which they were required to perform their duties. However, he noted that despite the required renovations carried out by Public Works and the assessment carried out by government's chief chemist, Dr. Linroy Christian, the officers, with the support of their union, have refused to work for a full day, opting to leave at midday.

PM Browne also revealed that the staff underwent testing to see whether or not there were any residual effects for working in a building declared to have had mold. Those tests, he reported came back negative.

In a letter sent to PM Browne last Saturday from Col. Edward Croft, Director of the ONDCP, highlighted the steps that were taken to improve working conditions and noted that Dr. Christian recommended that the building was now suitable for normal operations.



ations.

In hearing the details presented by Col. Croft, the prime minister said it is clear that some staff at the agency had become 'disruptive', are refusing to work and that he had had enough of their indiscipline.

"Everything they have asked for, we have done. Even to get tested to see if they have any form of respiratory disease because of the incidence of mold in the building. When a government goes the extra mile to make sure that the staff is fine after you have fixed that that was wrong, they are still refusing to go to work," he exclaimed.

PM Browne revealed that ONDCP has not assisted to apprehend anyone in the last several years and that if this attitude continues, then he will have

no other choice but to close the agency and turn the operations over to a special unit within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda.

"If you by the nature of your action, a quasi-law enforcement entity and an essential service, are now colluding with 'a third rate' union and have decided that they should not go to work, what are we supposed to do; allow them to continue to cheat the system and collect full pay. I rather lock it down; the country would be better served if these duties were performed by an arm within the police force" he declared.

PM Browne said he has a responsibility to ensure that there are no abuses to the government system and wherever that happens he has a duty to put a stop to it.



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PM Browne Provides Insights Into the New \$250,000 Creative Industries Development Fund

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is leading the charge to establish what he termed ‘an eco-system’ to support the nation’s artists and to foster their development so that they will make music that will appeal to audiences regionally and internationally.

PM Browne revealed on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday that following discussions on the role of soca artists, in particular during the recent Carnival festivities, he took the message to the Cabinet last Wednesday and lobbied for the establishment of a Creative Industries Development Fund.

“We are making \$250-thousand available initially into the fund and this amount will be made available annually to assist with production of the soca artists’ music. Clearly, those who are already getting a monthly stipend from the government will not be eligible, but the younger ones who show promise and who are producing good material will benefit from this facility,” he stated.

The prime minister emphasized that only local artists will benefit from the fund and in cases where local artists are invited to represent Antigua and Barbuda overseas, funding to cover those travel and other costs will come from the fund.

“This is yet another facility that we are putting in place to develop our local artists to produce songs not only for our consumption, but songs that can travel beyond the shores of Antigua and Barbuda,” he declared.

The prime minister shared a long-held view about promoting a regional competition of the leading soca artists, but said he had been advised that such an undertaking could prove prohibitive because of the huge costs that are involved.

A Cabinet statement said the establishment of the Fund is also intended to support the continued development of local talent and ensure that Antigua and Barbuda’s rich musical and cultural traditions remain vibrant and continue to



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

be passed on to future generations.

In a related decision, Cabinet agreed that selected shows affiliated with Antigua and Barbuda Carnival 2027 will also be offered on a pay-per-view basis to audiences locally, regionally and internationally.

The decision is intended to expand the commercial reach of Carnival productions and create additional revenue opportunities for artistes, producers and other participants in the creative sector.

By making Carnival-affiliated shows accessible through a pay-per-view platform, the Government intends to allow Antiguan and Barbudans at home and abroad, as well as regional and international audiences, to participate in the country’s premier cultural celebration.

Cabinet views the initiative as an opportunity to transform Carnival productions into commercially viable cultural products with a market extending beyond Antigua and Barbuda.

The combination of the Creative Industries Development Fund and the expansion of Carnival productions to international pay-per-view audiences is expected to strengthen the economic potential of the creative sector while preserving and promoting Antigua and Barbuda’s cultural identity.



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Blue Ocean Completes Crabbe's Harbour Dredging Ahead of LNG Vessel Operations

The Blue Ocean Dredging Company, in which the Government holds a majority shareholding, has informed the Cabinet that it has successfully completed the task of dredging the harbour at Crabbe's Peninsula thus paving the way for operations of the LNG Vessel into and from this vital facility.

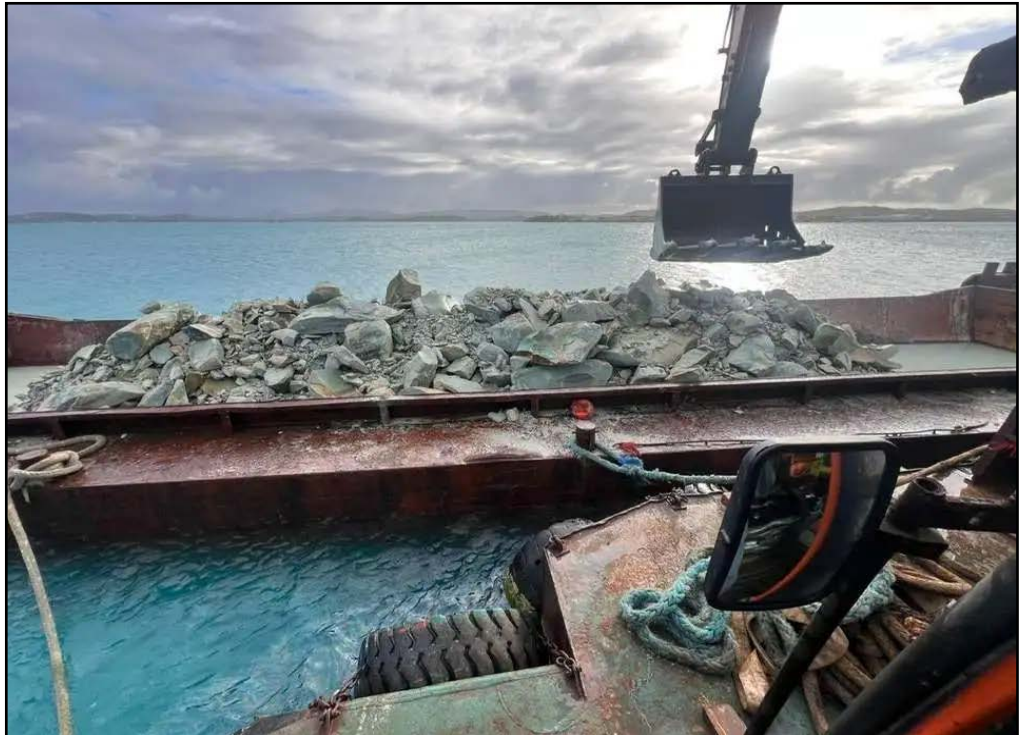
"Cabinet was informed that the dredging works at Crabb's Harbour have been completed, clearing the channel to facilitate the arrival of larger vessels, including ships transporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) for the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA)," Cabinet spokesman Director of Communications, Maurice Merchant announced.

The completion of the Crabb's dredging represents an important development for the country's energy security and port infrastructure. APUA's LNG-powered generation facility requires vessels with a deeper draught than could previously be accommodated at Crabbe's, making the deepening of the approach channel necessary. The Government had previously identified the need to dredge the channel to accommodate larger LNG and cement vessels.

Cabinet was advised that testing is now being conducted at Crabb's Harbour to verify and confirm the completeness of the dredging works.

The testing will provide the necessary assurance that the channel has achieved the required depth and specifications to safely facilitate the intended vessel traffic.

The successful completion of the Crabb's works follows challenges encountered during the project, including the presence of hard rock on the seabed that had previously affected the pace of dredging. The Government subsequently moved to strengthen Blue Ocean's capacity through investment in specialized dredging equipment.



With the major dredging works at Crabb's now completed, Cabinet was informed that Blue Ocean will mobilize its equipment and personnel to commence the next phase of its work at St. John's Harbour.

The St. John's Harbour dredging forms part of a wider effort to improve the harbour's capacity and accommodate larger vessels. Previous Government assessments identified approximately 20,000 cubic metres of rock and 120,000 cubic metres of maintenance dredging requiring removal at St. John's Harbour.

The dredging programme is particularly important to the continued modernization of the country's maritime infrastructure and the development of the Port of St. John's as a more efficient gateway for cruise, cargo and other commercial vessels.

Blue Ocean's expanded role reflects the Government's decision to build domestic capacity in marine engineering and dredging rather than relying exclusively on costly foreign contractors. Previous assessments found that international dredging options carried

substantially higher costs, while Blue Ocean's local operations offered a more cost-effective alternative.

Cabinet was also reminded that Blue Ocean had previously encountered significant challenges from hard-rock formations at both Crabbe's and St. John's Harbour. The Government subsequently supported the acquisition of specialized equipment to enable the company to undertake the demanding dredging works more effectively.

Cabinet welcomed the report and commended the progress achieved at Crabbe's Harbour. The Cabinet noted that the completion of the works represents an important milestone for Antigua and Barbuda's energy and maritime infrastructure and looks forward to the continuation of the St. John's Harbour dredging programme.

The Government will continue to monitor the performance of Blue Ocean as the company advances the St. John's Harbour works and contributes to the strengthening of Antigua and Barbuda's domestic dredging and marine engineering capacity.

Ministry of Creative Industries Commissions the Production of the 2026 Independence Commemorative Magazine

The Ministry of Creative Industries has commissioned the production of a high-quality magazine to commemorate Antigua and Barbuda's 45th anniversary of political Independence.

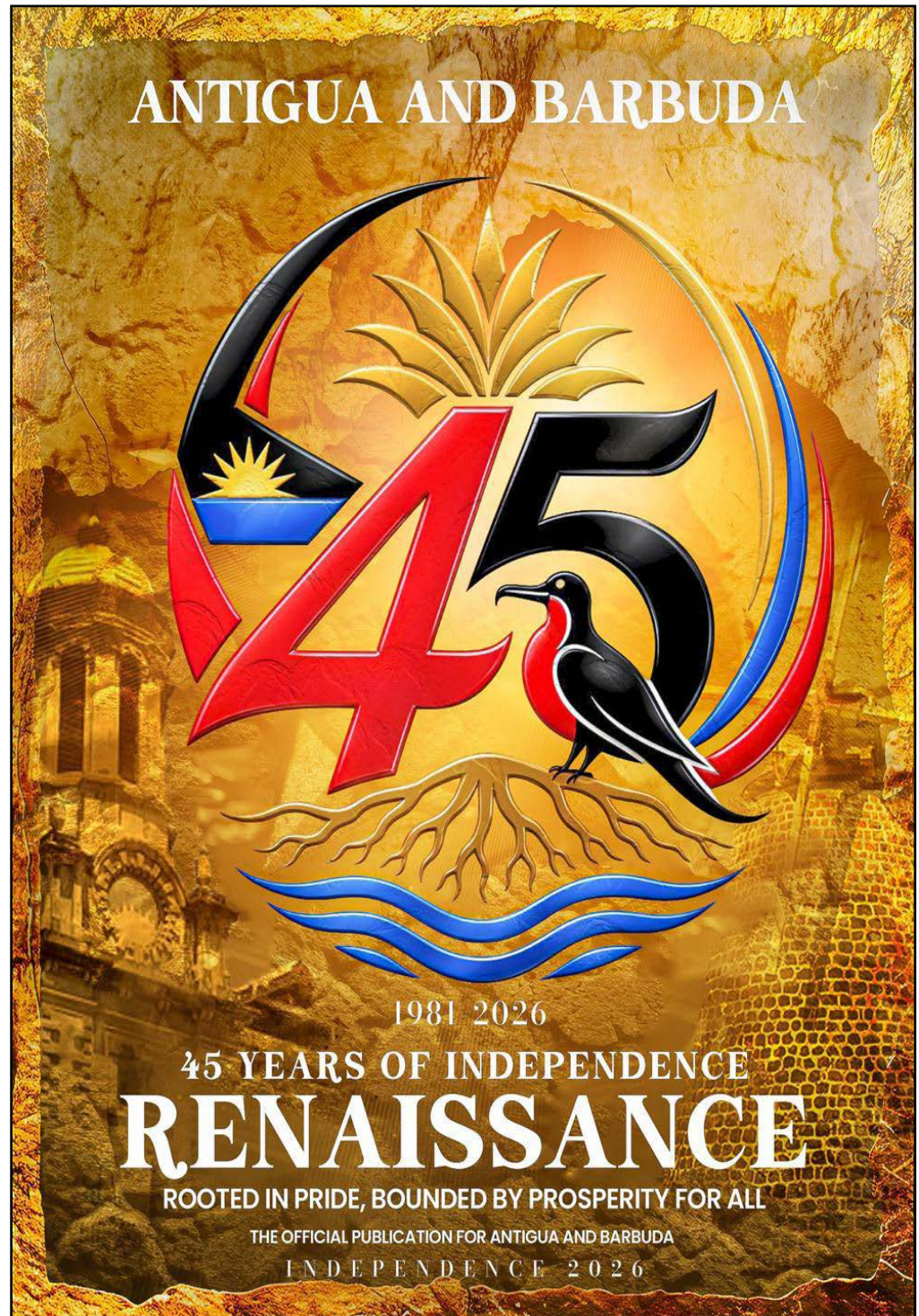
Director of the newly created National Events Department, Petley O'Keeffe has announced that Barnes Media Group (BMG) Ltd., a production company owned by veteran journalist, Everton Barnes and his family, has been engaged to produce the magazine.

"BMG produced the 40th anniversary magazine for Independence back in 2021 and we felt comfortable in working with them to produce the special commemorative magazine for 2026. As you are aware, this year the Independence celebrations take on added significance with the country set to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November.

"We plan to print 10-thousand copies with 5,000 earmarked to be placed directly in the souvenir bags which each delegate attending CHOGM will receive. The other 5,000 copies will be distributed locally. We are also publishing 300 special editions hardcopies which will be presented to our VVIP's attending CHOGM, senior government officials and sponsors," she announced.

Some of the top writers in the country have contributed articles to the magazine. These include Prof. C. Justin Robinson of the UWI FIC, President of the Senate, Alincia Williams-Grant, President of ABCAS, Dr. Jonah Greene, Environmentalist, Joshua-nette Francis, media consultant, Dr. Jacqui Quinn, Amb. Anthony Liverpool and journalist Colin James who writes on the historic Antigua Recreation Grounds.

Spokesman for BMG, Mali Barnes said the articles cover broad subject areas such as the economy, women in leadership, youth, the environment and education, but also highlights sev-



The front cover of the official 2026 Independence commemorative magazine

eral of the country's historic sites and places of interest not only in Antigua but in Barbuda and Redonda as well.

"We knew that delegates for CHOGM will take away the magazine as a keepsake but we wanted to ensure that in this one publication they will get a

rounded view of Antigua and Barbuda and its many historic sites and tourist attractions," he remarked.

BMG and the Ministry of Creative Industries are seeking the support of the business community to make the magazine project a success.

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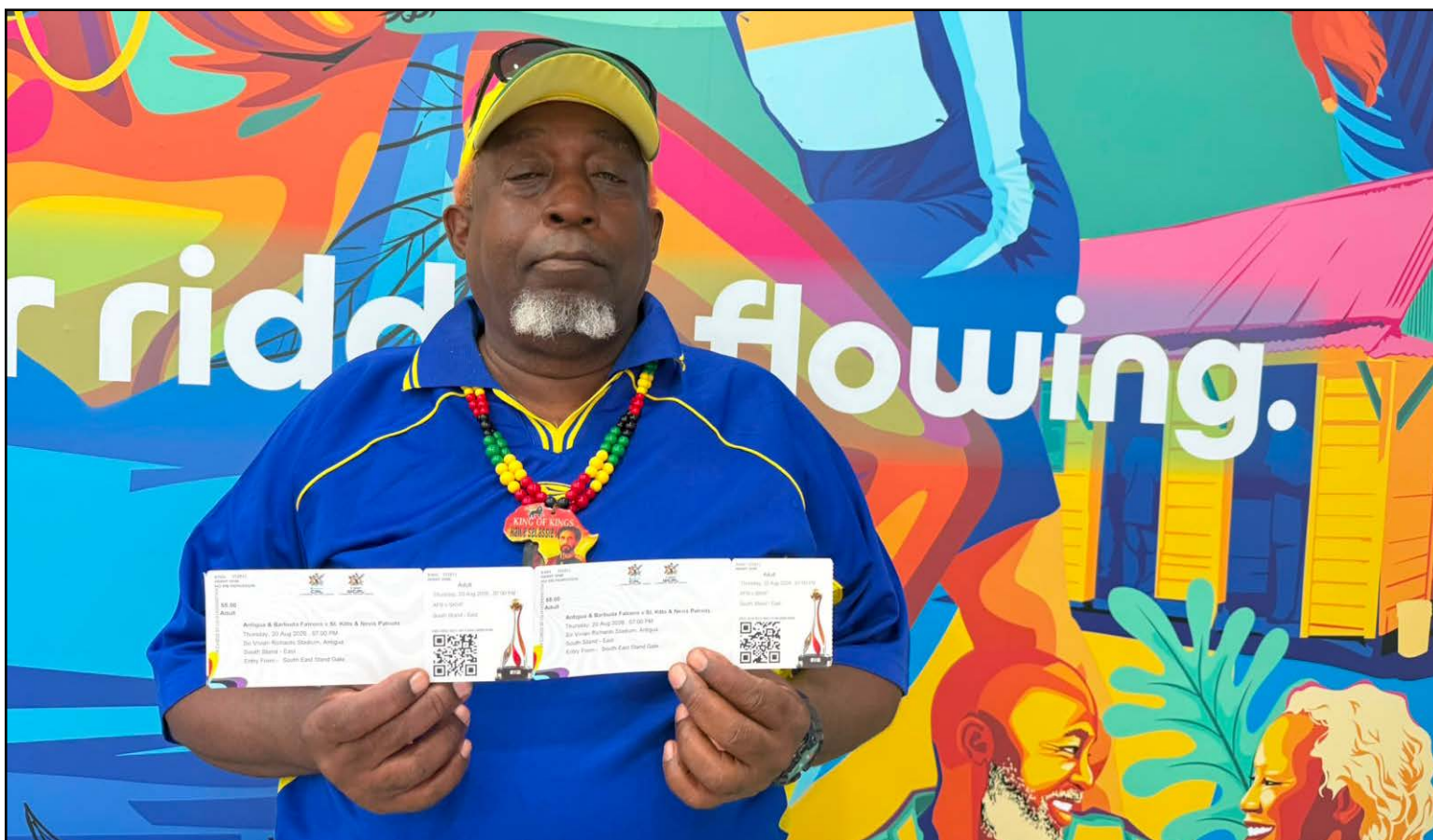


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Denise Harris-Potter celebrates her CPL ticket win through Flow's We Live For This Summer Campaign.



Mario Dorset shows off his CPL tickets and cooler after winning through Flow's We Live For This Summer Campaign.


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More than 630 Men Participated In the Annual Prostate Clinic at Lion's Den



The annual Prostate Clinic organised jointly by the Antigua Lion's Club and Dr. Dwayne Thwaites and Associates was held on Saturday and organisers are describing it as a success with some 632 men participating.

A Lion's Club statement said this year was the 18th Annual Prostate Screening with Bio Health Medical and Medical Benefits Scheme also serving as partners.

"Prevention and awareness are key, as prostate cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the fifth leading cause of cancer death

among men worldwide. This year, despite the weather, 632 men were screened, showing the value of the annual prostate screening. Registration opened at 7:00 a.m. and the weather did not deter the men from participating. The participants received a medical history intake, PSA blood tests, a doctor's examination, as well as blood pressure, sugar levels, and several other screenings. The Antigua Leos Club also held a breakfast fundraiser to support their service projects," the statement recalled.

Lion Jacintha Pringle, 1st Vice Pres-

ident and Health Chairperson of the Lions Club of Antigua, stated:

"This year's Screening would not be possible without the generous support of the medical professionals, sponsors, the community, and the encouragement from family and friends to get screened."

The Lions Club of Antigua wishes to thank the following sponsors for the generous financial support of Medical Benefits Scheme, Sagicor Insurance, Bel Lab Medical Services, Do Blue Foundation, Falmouth Marina, Community First Cooperative Credit

Local News



Union, and APUA. This assistance allowed the Club to keep the registration fee at an affordable rate and provide a wealth of other screenings and services to the community. Other partners played a major part in the success of the event including the American University of Antigua, the Government Printery, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Port Authori-

ty, Wadadli Event Services, S.O. Ltd, Office Express, Hutchinson Antigua Ltd, Judahs Lion Lighting and Sound, APUA Inet, Special Security Services, CIBC, Airport Services, Grant Thornton, Caribbean Alliance Insurance, Hadeed Motors, Social Security Scheme, Billy's Food Mart, Christo's Supermarket, JCI Antigua, Occasional Party Rentals, Island Sanitation Ltd.

and, Hikers Brokerage Services.

Early detection saves lives, and the Lions Club of Antigua is proud of the role they play in bringing awareness to the importance of prostate screenings. "Let's continue to join the fight against Prostate Cancer! Looking forward to serving more men next year!," the statement concluded.

Midweek Deals

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\$19.99

-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink
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Police Intensify Crime-Fighting Efforts Under 'Operation Restore Confidence'

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has intensified its crime-fighting efforts across the country with the launch of a series of coordinated operations dubbed "Operation Restore Confidence."

During the exercise, several intelligence-led operations were conducted in various communities and known crime hotspots. These operations involved the execution of search warrants, mobile patrols, vehicle checkpoints (VCP'S), and stop-and-search exercises targeting illegal firearms, ammunition, drugs, stolen property, and persons of interest in ongoing criminal investigations.

In one of the major operations conducted during the early hours of Sunday, the police seized one Astra CUB .25 calibre pistol, along with several rounds of matching ammunition.

Three persons who were present at the premises were arrested on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition and taken into custody.

The Police also seized suspected stolen licence plates and other items of interest, while several persons were detained for questioning in connection with ongoing investigations.

Operation Restore Confidence involves personnel from several departments and specialist units of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, including the Criminal In-



vestigations Department Task Force, K-9 Unit, Narcotics Department, Special Services Unit, A and B Divisions, Proceeds of Crime Unit, Forensic Evidence Recovery Unit, and Traffic Department.

The Police Administration wishes to reassure the public that Operation Restore Confidence is not a one-off exercise. Similar intelligence-led and targeted operations will continue across Antigua and Barbuda as the police seek to disrupt criminal networks, remove illegal firearms and ammunition from the streets, apprehend persons involved in criminal activity, and im-

prove the overall safety and security of communities.

Members of the public are also encouraged to support the efforts of the police by sharing information concerning illegal firearms and ammunition, stolen property, or other criminal activity.

All information received will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

Anyone with information that may assist the police is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).



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Local News

ANUCON 2026 Draws Hundreds for Biggest Fandom Celebration Yet



Hundreds of anime lovers, cosplayers, gamers, comic enthusiasts, creatives and families converged on the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre on Saturday for ANUCON 2026, in what organizers have described as one of the convention's biggest and most successful outings to date.

Now in its fifth year, the annual convention attracted hundreds of patrons, with children under 13 admitted free.

This year's event was powered by platinum sponsor TechShop and featured a packed programme of competitions, panel discussions, gaming, cosplay, art, food and activities.

The convention opened with a series of panel discussions aimed at developing Antigua and Barbuda's creative community. Published authors Joanne C. Hillhouse, Brenda Lee Browne and Kimoisa Mings shared their experiences and advice on writing, editing

and publishing, while artist Sonali Andrews discussed developing artistic talent and pursuing opportunities within the creative field.

International guest and professional cosplayer Danica Hammond, known as "@TropicFox" on social media, also shared her journey into professional cosplay, offering advice to aspiring cosplayers on developing their craft and navigating the industry.



Throughout the day, attendees moved between indoor and outdoor entertainment spaces featuring video and tabletop gaming, art, food, merchandise and a diverse collection of local vendors and creators.

Competition that day, was also fierce.

Nalley Teague emerged victorious in the Ichiraku Ramen Eating Competition, while Laurence Richards conquered the Fire Nation Spicy Ramen Eating Competition, with Daniel Anthony of Brothers in Armz placing second.

One of the most anticipated events was the Cosplay Masquerade Competition, judged by a three-member panel which included TropicFox.

The coveted ANUCon championship belt went to Tariq Roberts, who

transformed into Loki from the anime One Piece, while Jamal Miller and Omari Laurent were also among the top performers.

The quality of cosplay was particularly notable this year, with several participants showcasing costumes that were handmade or incorporated handcrafted elements, reflecting the growing creativity and technical skill within Antigua and Barbuda's cosplay community.

During the prize-giving ceremony, Javelle Wint was also recognized as winner of the Art Competition for her anime-inspired artwork.

For organizers, however, the success of ANUCon extended well beyond the competitions.

Scores of first-time attendees ex-

pressed surprise at the size, diversity and atmosphere of the convention, with many indicating that they intend to return. The event remained family-friendly and welcoming throughout the day, with patrons continuing to socialize and participate in activities well into the evening.

ANUCon Chairman Dwayne Riley said the turnout exceeded expectations and demonstrated the continued growth of the local fandom community. "Year after year, we pledge to get better and bigger, but the turnout this year definitely exceeded our expectations," Riley said. "I am truly happy that ANUCon continues to provide a space for so many fandoms and individuals to come together and enjoy themselves."

Halo announces third year of free eye tests and glasses

The Halo Foundation has announced the continuation of its *Future Bright with the Gift of Sight Eye Care Initiative*, a programme delivered in partnership with Progressive Vision and made possible through the generous support of the Embassy of Switzerland in Antigua and Barbuda.

Now entering its third year, the initiative remains committed to ensuring that every person, despite financial restrictions be afforded access to good eye care. Through this programme, the Halo Foundation has been able to assist over three hundred children, elderly and the most vulnerable of the society with free comprehensive eye examinations and prescription eye-glasses.

Her Excellency Lady Williams, Founder and President of the Halo Foundation expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the Embassy of Switzerland for recognizing the importance of the initiative and investing in the wellbeing of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Halo Foundation also extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Salem Zrebi and the team at Progressive Vision for their continued partnership and professional expertise. Their commitment to delivering high-quality eye care has been instrumental in the programme success and has ensured that everyone received compassionate



and dedicated service.

For this year, the Foundation aims to reach even more individuals and families who require eye care. If you know of anyone in need, or for more information about the Future Bright

Vision Care Initiative, or to learn how you can support the Halo Foundation's programmes, please contact the Halo Foundation at 1-268-562-9153, or via e-mail at thefoundationhalo@gmail.com



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SEPTEMBER

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WEDNESDAY

09

SEPTEMBER

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Police Head Quarters



10am



FRIDAY

11

SEPTEMBER

CULTURAL FOOD FAIR



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10 am Until



SATURDAY

12

SEPTEMBER

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Gunsmoke, Justice and the Living Law



By Ambassador
Dr. Clarence E Pilgrim

As one of the many trained firearms licence holders, I carry that responsibility for personal protection, but I have never regarded a firearm as something I would wish to use. I sincerely hope the only occasions on which I ever handle mine remain controlled practice sessions. Yet there is an uncomfortable contrast in our society: while law-abiding citizens undergo training, licensing and regulation to possess firearms legally, there is continuing evidence of illegal firearms in circulation, often in the hands of persons operating outside that system of accountability. Across Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean, crime and gun violence can sometimes feel like the old television series *Gunsmoke* — justice as spectacle: swift, simplified and dramatic. But unlike television, where a smoking gun appears on cue, real justice depends on evidence, due process and restraint.

Gun violence is serious, but it is only one manifestation of broader criminality. Crime today also includes homicide, robbery, burglary, violence,

trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, fraud, cybercrime, organised criminal activity and other unlawful acts. The Caribbean therefore faces a broader crime challenge.

The real contest is not between being “tough” or “soft” on crime. It is between a justice system that merely reacts and one intelligent enough to learn, adapt and prevent repetition.

People understandably ask: Where is the law? Where is justice? Who protects the law-abiding citizen? Those are legitimate questions. But the answer cannot be vigilante justice — punishment outside the safeguards of due process.

A firearm in responsible hands is an instrument of last resort, not authority. The same principle applies to the State: crime must be confronted firmly, lawfully and with respect for constitutional rights.

Crime is changing

Criminal methods, technology and organised networks evolve. Cybercrime, fraud and trafficking can cross borders with speed and sophistication. Our laws and institutions must therefore evolve as well.

Antigua and Barbuda provides an instructive snapshot. From January 1 to August 31, 2025, 2,163 offences were recorded, including 40 aggravated robberies and 12 attempted robberies. These figures should be read not merely as totals, but as indicators of the nature and seriousness of criminal activity.

Statistics should identify which crimes demand attention, how many offenders return to crime and which interventions work. Without reliable evidence, justice becomes reactive rather than strategic.

The living law

This brings me to what I call the liv-

ing law.

Law cannot merely exist in statute books. A living law is law visibly functioning: police responding professionally; investigators gathering evidence competently; prosecutors presenting properly prepared cases; judges independently applying the law; and correctional institutions protecting society while pursuing rehabilitation.

A living law must also be current. Legal definitions, evidential requirements, sentencing ranges and enforcement mechanisms should be periodically reviewed against changing criminal behaviour.

The law must live in the same century as the crime it seeks to control.

But adaptation must never mean improvisation. The living law changes through evidence, lawful process and institutional discipline — not pressure, passion or expediency.

The criminal justice system must be proactive and informed by reliable evidence on crime trends and recidivism. Statistics should never determine guilt or dictate sentences. Judicial independence is indispensable, and every case must turn on its own facts and evidence.

Sentencing must remain proportionate and individualised within the law and applicable sentencing guidelines, while Parliament and policymakers examine whether the statutory framework remains responsive to contemporary crime.

Sentencing must serve punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation and protection of the public, while remaining proportionate, consistent and faithful to law.

The question is not simply: Was someone punished? It is also: Was justice done, was society protected, and was the likelihood of another victim reduced?

From discussion to action

Recent national discussion concerning sentencing, serious crime and repeat offending deserves calm, respectful and evidence-based consideration.

Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Gaston Browne should be supported and credited for moving that discussion from public concern to formal written action by proposing an independent, evidence-based examination of sentencing, repeat offending and the wider effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

This is a responsible and necessary initiative.

The Prime Minister's proposal recognises that public safety cannot be reduced to sentencing alone. It extends to investigations, prosecutions, prison administration, rehabilitation, criminal histories, bail and remand, repeat offending and institutional coordination, while expressly recognising judicial independence and the separation of powers.

That combination — firm concern for public safety, respect for constitutional boundaries and willingness to subject the system to independent examination — merits clear support.

A mature society should be willing to examine whether its institutions are producing the outcomes intended. Supporting such a review does not diminish the Judiciary or prejudice its findings. On the contrary, an independent examination grounded in evidence can strengthen public confidence across the entire justice system.

Such discussion should never become a contest between institutions. Parliament legislates; the Executive administers policy; police investigate; prosecutors present cases; the Judiciary applies the law independently; correctional institutions execute sentences and pursue rehabilitation.

No single institution can carry the burden of crime reduction alone.

The better approach is institutional cooperation without institutional encroachment.

Where evidence reveals gaps between intended outcomes and actual results, institutions should review, refine and reform. That is not institutional weakness. It is institutional maturity.

Recidivism, rehabilitation and public safety

A justice system cannot measure success merely by convictions or imprisonment. If offenders repeatedly return before the courts, we should understand why.

Rehabilitation must remain a genuine objective, because an offender released without education, employable skills, supervision or a realistic path back into lawful society may return to crime. But persistent serious offending must equally be recognised for the danger it poses.

Justice must therefore be capable both of restoring those who can be restored and lawfully restraining those who remain a threat.

A society cannot imprison its way out of every crime problem. Families, schools, employment, mentorship and community institutions matter.

Prevention is not softness. Prevention is intelligent security policy.

Yet compassion must never become an excuse for lawlessness. Those who repeatedly commit serious crimes, exploit vulnerable persons or demonstrate persistent dangerousness must face consequences proportionate to their conduct and the law.

Society has rights too: the shopkeeper to trade without robbery; the pensioner to keep a lifetime of savings; a woman to live free from violence; a child to grow up without abuse or recruitment into crime; and every family to sleep without fear.

Beyond vigilante justice

Vigilante justice remains dangerous. Television makes justice simple; real life does not. Evidence may be incomplete, witnesses mistaken and innocent people accused.

The strength of justice is not measured merely by severity. It is mea-

sured by our ability to identify the guilty accurately, protect the innocent, punish proportionately, rehabilitate where possible, restrain those who remain dangerous and prevent the next crime.

A living law is neither soft nor severe by instinct.

It is intelligent.

For those of us legally entrusted with firearms, responsible ownership requires training, secure storage, restraint, knowledge of the law and respect for human life. I sincerely hope my firearm continues to spend its existence between secure storage and the practice range.

That would not represent weakness. It would represent success.

Peace is not merely the absence of gunfire. It is also freedom from fear — and confidence that institutions can protect us.

The objective is to strengthen the entire architecture of justice so that liberty, security, accountability and human dignity reinforce rather than compete with each other.

As we shape our response to crime, four questions should guide us: What are we seeking to protect? Who ultimately benefits? What unintended harm might our decisions create? And what kind of society will those decisions leave for generations yet to come?

We do not need vigilante justice.

We need intelligent justice — swift where possible, firm where necessary, evidence-led, proportionate, independent, contemporary and humane.

That is the essence of the living law.

And when that law truly lives — in our legislation, our policing, our borders, our courts, our correctional institutions, our communities and our consciences — justice becomes more than punishment after the fact. It becomes the disciplined work of building a safer society before the next crime occurs.

Regional News

Haitian PM reiterates elections will take place this year

Haitian Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé says the “the elections will take place this year, no matter what” as the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) has announced the publication of the final list of approved political groups.

The CEP has scheduled the first round of long-awaited presidential and legislative elections, alongside a constitutional referendum, for December 13, this year, marking the first time Haitians will be casting ballots since 2016 when President Jovenel Moise was elected. Moise was later assassinated on July 7, 2021.

The preliminary results are expected to be published December 19, with final results for the first round scheduled for January 9, 2027. A second round of presidential and legislative elections, along with local elections, is scheduled for February 21, 2027 with final results for the second round of presidential and legislative elections scheduled for March 7, with final local election results expected March 12.

The electoral campaign for the first round is scheduled to begin October 5 and run through December 12. The campaign for the second round is scheduled for January 10 through February 20, 2027.

The council said that 17 out of the 18 political groups, representing 228 political parties have received approval to contest the polls.

The CEP is reminding the public that the registration period for political groups closes this Friday at 5.00 pm (local time) in accordance with the current electoral calendar.

The council also announced that 36 new registration centers have been added to the list of 29 other centers already operational in the West Department in its efforts to bring registration services closer to the population to facilitate their participation in the electoral process.

A CEP delegation is due to visit several countries with large Haitian



populations next week, including the United States, Canada, France, Chile, and Brazil. The objective is to assess the situation regarding the Haitian diaspora's participation in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, as he toured the south of the island, Prime Minister Didier Fils-Aimé said “the elections will take place this year, no matter what,” and he urged eligible citizens to register to vote in order to participate in the upcoming election.

Minister of Youth, Sports and Civic Action, Pythagore Dumas, who travelled to the Horatius Laventure High School in Delmas 75 to register to vote, is also encouraging people, particularly the youth, to do the same in anticipation of the elections.

He reminded them that voting is not

only a right but also a duty for all those who aspire to build a more just and democratic country.

During his visit to the South Department, Prime Minister Fils-Aimé met with Cardinal Chibly Langlois, Bishop of Les Cayes with the meeting providing an opportunity to discuss several issues of national interest, particularly the essential role played by the Catholic Church, alongside other religious denominations, in social life and in the search for lasting solutions to the challenges facing the country.

Through this initiative, Prime Minister Fils-Aimé said he intends to reaffirm the importance of dialogue with religious leaders and the various stakeholders as he issued a call for unity, responsibility, and collective commitment. (CMC)

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Guyana Gov't to evaluate bids for MV Barima salvage

The Guyana Government has moved to the next stage in efforts to salvage the MV Barima, with Expressions of Interest from specialised marine salvage contractors to be evaluated before a contractor is selected.

The country's Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips said the government will assess the proposals before determining which contractor will be invited to negotiate a contract.

"Today's the day bids come in. Then, they have to go through the bids. They have to do evaluation and then determine who will get the contract. Then we negotiate the contract," Phillips said at a press conference on Friday.

The salvage process was initiated by the Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation through the Maritime Administration Department (MARAD), which invited qualified marine salvage contractors to submit expressions of interest for the vessel's recovery.

The MV Barima capsized and sank on July 18 off Guyana's north-west coast and is lying in approximately 13 to 15 metres of water. Some 72 people have been confirmed dead and the ill-fated vessel is estimated to have been carrying 179 people at the time of the disaster.

The operation is expected to present significant technical challenges, with prospective contractors required to demonstrate relevant marine salvage experience, technical capability, equipment, personnel and safety, and environmental systems.

Proposals must also address the preservation and documentation of evidence for the Commission of Inquiry into the disaster. The successful contractor must additionally demonstrate the capacity to recover the vessel and keep it upright on a barge for several weeks following the salvage operation. (CMC)





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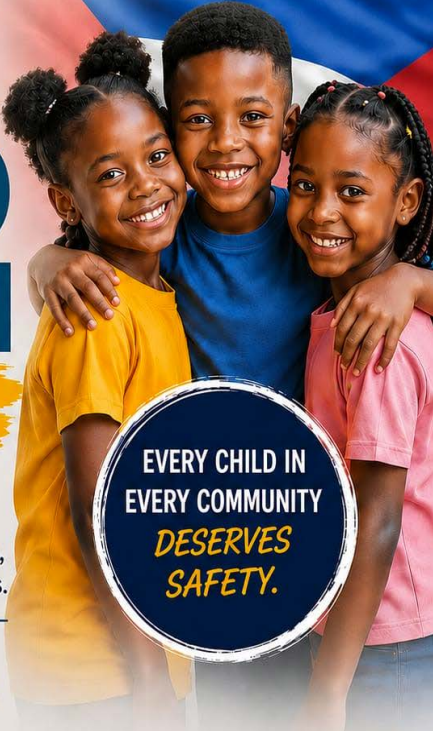
NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION

TOWN HALL MEETING

A national conversation to **protect our children,**
strengthen families and build safer communities.

TUESDAY
25TH AUGUST 2026
6:30 PM

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EVERY COMMUNITY
**DESERVES
SAFETY.**

Regional News

CCJ president rejects 'panel fixing' claims - Anderson pushes back amid emails controversy plaguing court

Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) President Justice Winston Anderson has rejected allegations that judges at the region's highest court have been subjected to improper influence or that judicial panels have been manipulated to secure particular outcomes.

In a lengthy statement issued against the backdrop of reports of tensions among judges, Anderson said allegations of "panel fixing" and attempts to influence judgments were "wholly untrue", while acknowledging that some of his own decisions could have been handled differently.

The controversy follows reports in the Sunday Express concerning alleged internal correspondence at the CCJ which reportedly raised concerns about relationships among judges, the Court's administration and what one communication described as an increasingly "toxic" environment.

Anderson said the reports had caused "concern, anxiety and profound sadness, both within the institution and across the region".

"This has been particularly distressing because the Caribbean Court of Justice is far more than a judicial institution. It is the product of decades of blood, sweat and tears, by Caribbean people who believed that our Region was capable of establishing and sustaining its own final court," he said.

Anderson was also accused in the report of operating the Court in an authoritarian and dictatorial manner.

However, in his statement, he pointed to what he described as an open and engaging approach to the administration of the Court, including regular meetings with judges and staff and several committees established to advise on matters affecting the institution.



He said he had convened meetings of judges regularly, including most recently on July 30, while the Executive Strategic Planning and Advisory Committee (ESPAC), comprising senior judges and administrative officials, met on July 15 and July 28.

Anderson, who became CCJ president in July 2025, opened his statement by condemning what he described as the unauthorised disclosure and publication of confidential material relating to the Court's internal deliberations and correspondence.

He said such disclosures undermine judicial collegiality and public confidence in the judiciary.

"Such disclosures and their publication are wholly unacceptable," Anderson said, arguing that they erode trust in the sanctity of judicial deliberations and damage confidence in the third branch of government.

Describing the allegation of panel fixing as a "most serious wound", Anderson said, "Such an allegation strikes at the very heart of judicial independence and public confidence in the administration of justice."

Anderson rejected the suggestion

that panels of the Court had been constituted or altered to secure a particular outcome in a case.

He said the constitution of panels has historically formed part of the president's administrative responsibilities and that the responsibility has been exercised to ensure the orderly and impartial administration of justice.

He insisted that it had never been used to influence the outcome of proceedings.

Anderson said the D'Almada panel change was motivated solely by a dispute over judicial attire.

"Once a panel has been constituted, it is highly irregular for a judge simply to assume participation in proceedings without having been assigned to that panel. The orderly administration of the Court requires certainty as to the constitution of its benches before proceedings commence.

"Second, where a judge considers that circumstances exist giving rise to an actual or perceived conflict of interest, the question of recusal must be considered carefully by the judge concerned and, where appropriate, by the Court," he said.

In an apparent move to address concerns surrounding panel composition, Anderson announced that, going forward, every CCJ judge would be required to sit on every panel unless the judge had a legitimate reason to opt out and was excused.

A central issue addressed by Anderson was the removal of a fellow judge from an interlocutory panel.

Anderson explained that the decision was taken because the judge had declined to follow what he described as the CCJ's established practice concerning judicial attire.

The disagreement arose after the

Regional News

judge appeared in court in his national dress rather than the judicial attire Anderson said had traditionally been worn by CCJ judges when exercising their judicial functions.

According to Anderson, he discussed the issue privately with the judge on June 10, 2026, but was unable to persuade him to follow the established practice and subsequently removed the judge from the panel.

Anderson stressed that the decision had nothing to do with the judge's views on the case.

He said the judge was later assigned to the Full Bench for the substantive hearing.

The president also disclosed that a draft judicial dress code was subsequently prepared and considered by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (RJLSC).

He acknowledged, however, that in retrospect he could have dealt with the matter differently.

"I understand and appreciate the view that I may have approached the matter of the handling of the issue of dress code too strongly," Anderson said.

However, he maintained that he viewed the matter as an institutional question concerning the appearance and consistency of the Court rather than an issue directed at an individual judge.

"The idea of individual judges adopting their own interpretation of national or traditional dress would seem to be at odds with the very concept of a Caribbean Court.

At the same time, he said that if it is the view of the region that national dress is appropriate for judges to wear on the bench, that decision must be determined by the people of the region.

Consequently, he said he proposes to engage all national courts in consul-

tation on the issue.

He said the substantive matter in D'Almada was subsequently directed to be heard by the Full Bench.

Anderson also rejected suggestions that he had sought to influence the outcome of judgments.

He referred specifically to *Nazar Mohamed and Azruddin Mohamed v Minister of Home Affairs, Oneidge Walrond, Attorney General of Guyana and Magistrate Judy Latchman*, saying that disagreements among judges during the preparation of judgments were normal in an appellate court.

Judges, he said, routinely engage in "spirited discussion" and consider competing legal analyses before settling their decisions.

In the Mohamed case, Anderson said, all seven judges were unanimous on the disposition of the appeal.

He argued that differences during deliberations should not be interpreted as evidence of institutional dysfunction.

"Such exchanges are not evidence of disagreement within the institution; they are evidence of judges conscientiously performing their judicial functions," he said.

Anderson also addressed criticism surrounding his engagement with Guyana's political leadership over the long-running absence of substantive appointments to the offices of Chancellor and Chief Justice.

Guyana has operated for more than two decades without permanent holders of those two senior judicial positions.

Anderson said his concern was the protection of judicial independence and the constitutional requirement for substantively appointed judicial office holders.

He acknowledged, however, that his decision to engage directly with Guy-

ana's president and Opposition leader may not have been the best course.

"Looking back, I recognise that another course would have been much better," he said.

Anderson suggested that he might instead have confined himself to public commentary on the constitutional importance of substantive judicial appointments, as previous CCJ presidents had done.

He nevertheless maintained that his intervention was not politically motivated.

The controversy comes at a sensitive time for the CCJ, particularly as Jamaica and several other CARICOM states continue to retain the United Kingdom-based Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as their final appellate court.

The CCJ, inaugurated in Port of Spain in 2005, exercises both an Original Jurisdiction under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and an Appellate Jurisdiction for states that have adopted it as their final court.

Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana and St Lucia currently use the CCJ in its Appellate Jurisdiction.

Against that background, public confidence in the Court has significance beyond the institution itself, particularly for advocates of replacing the Privy Council with a Caribbean final court.

Anderson sought to place the current controversy within that broader institutional context, arguing that the CCJ represents decades of Caribbean effort to establish an independent regional judicial institution.

"The Court will continue to hear and determine the cases that come before us," Anderson said, pledging that it would discharge its responsibilities with "independence, fairness and integrity deserving of the trust and confidence of the Caribbean people." (Jamaica Gleaner)

Twelve killed as Polish bus veers off Hungarian motorway



Twelve people were killed and dozens more injured when a bus carrying Polish pilgrims veered off a Hungarian motorway and into a ditch.

Police said the bus overturned after coming off the M3 motorway, which connects Hungary's capital Budapest with the north-eastern city of Nyíregyháza, at around 01:00 local time on Sunday (23:00 GMT on Saturday).

Officers believe the driver fell asleep at the wheel. He has been taken into custody.

Thirty-five out of the 57 passengers and two drivers onboard have been rescued by firefighters so far,

state media reports.

Emergency services had been attempting to lift the rear axle of the 24-tonne bus to remove the people trapped underneath before cranes arrived to lift the whole vehicle, according to Hungarian news agency MTI.

Hungary's ambulance service said it had treated one person with life-threatening injuries, nine people with serious injuries and a further 37 people with minor injuries.

The country's Prime Minister Péter Magyar offered his "sincere condolences" to the families of the victims and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk echoed his sentiments, adding he had decided to send a "special" Polish aircraft with foreign ministry officials and medical services.

"We are together in this difficult moment," he added.

The bus had been returning from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had been carrying pilgrims from Poland's southernmost region of Podkarpacie, according to Polish news agency PAP.

Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski said his Hungarian counterpart had told him police had already begun questioning the bus driver. (BBC)

Five years under Taliban

As Afghanistan's Taliban rulers mark five years since sweeping back to power, some Kabul residents say they feel safer after decades of conflict and upheaval but stress the leaders should now focus on creating jobs and expanding access to schools in the country where girls above the age of 12 are banned from education.

The Taliban regained control of Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, after it launched an offensive as the US and other NATO troops withdrew from the country after two decades of war. The withdrawal led to chaotic scenes at and around Kabul's airport with thousands wanting to leave.

"Thank God, the past five years have passed in safety," said Mohammad Qasim, 30, reflecting on the anniversary that comes against a backdrop of economic hardship in a conflict-stricken country. "Our wish and hope from the government is to create job opportunities for the youth."

"We, along with the entire nation, call upon the government to create employment opportunities for the youth and to encourage them to pursue education," he added.

Before the takeover, the Taliban stated that, upon assuming power, it would allow women access to education, employment and public participation, albeit in accordance with its interpretation of Islamic principles.

Soon after it seized power, the Taliban imposed an indefinite ban on girls' education beyond the sixth grade and, a few months later, also banned higher education for women until "further notice".

Women also were banned from entering gyms, parks and public baths, from taking part in sports and traveling to distant locations without a "mahram," or male guardian.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has repeatedly said the administration is working to establish condi-



tions under which girls and women can attend classrooms or university campuses in line with Islamic Sharia laws. The restrictions, nevertheless, remain in force.

While the United Nations has acknowledged that the country has become more stable since the takeover, it has warned that lasting stability cannot be possible unless the Taliban rulers – who remain isolated internationally – lift restrictions on women and girls, protect basic rights and address terrorism concerns.

"A reduction in conflict has brought tangible benefits for many Afghans and created opportunities to focus on recovery, development and regional economic cooperation," the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA, said in a statement ahead of the anniversary. It added, however, that the restrictions on women and girls impede Afghanistan's recovery and its reintegration with the international community.

In a statement last week, the UN's agency on women's rights said Afghan women and girls are living under the world's most severe restrictions, which not only violate their rights but

also threaten the country's social and economic future.

"Half a decade after the Taliban takeover in August 2021, Afghanistan has systematically dismantled the rights of half its population, making it a global outlier with no parallel in the modern world," UN Women said.

"In the past year alone, this exclusion of women and girls from education, employment, public life, justice systems and healthcare has only intensified, entrenching what remains the world's most severe women's rights crisis," it said.

Fazila Soroush, a 39-year-old Kabul-based entrepreneur and an advocate for women's rights, said the government had "demonstrated its worth to the people through its actions in every area."

"We consider it essential that the officials of the Islamic Emirate who had announced the closure of schools and universities until further notice, now make a clear and practical decision regarding this matter," she said.

In the streets of Kabul, preparations for the anniversary celebrations were underway. Vendors sold the Taliban's white with black scripted flags while

International

AROUND THE WORLD


 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
 POINTE EXPRESS
 TRAVEL NEWS AND RECREATION

painters were busy writing slogans in praise of Islamic laws on walls, including: “The Islamic system has been achieved at the cost of the martyrs’ blood” and “Our commitment stands firm: Consolidation and implementation of Islamic Sharia.”

Molvi Hayatullah Mahajar Farahi, deputy minister in the Taliban government for broadcasting at the Ministry of Information and Culture, said in the five years the administration has delivered security, stabilized the currency, improved infrastructure and formed industrial parks that have created jobs.

“Naturally, challenges and difficulties exist, yet we can highlight several accomplishments,” Farahi told The Associated Press.

Farahi, when asked, did not address the issue of the education of girls and women but said “the level of investment made in universities surpasses anything seen in the past.

“The Emirate continues its efforts to further organise and improve services for our citizens in the fields of education and other sectors,” he stated.

The deputy minister rejected a UN report that documented terrorist networks in Afghanistan, saying “these are merely enemy propaganda, spread to portray the country as unstable.”

Asked to comment about its international isolation, Farahi insisted the Taliban government was engaged with some 40 countries. The Taliban government currently is only formally recognised by Russia.

“The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has fulfilled all the requirements necessary for official recognition. It is now up to the international community and others to step forward and take the appropriate action,” he said.

The bans have left an estimated 2.4 million girls excluded from secondary education, UNESCO, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said last week – a 200,000 increase from last year. The restrictions

have reversed two decades of progress that Afghanistan had made in education, the agency said.

Pointing at a broader educational crisis, the agency said 53 per cent of primary school-aged children are out of school. Schools lack basic infrastructure such as water, sanitation or heating, while natural disasters have also

led to hundreds of school closures.

Meanwhile, the UN World Food Program said child malnutrition has reached critical levels in a third of Afghanistan’s provinces and is expected to worsen as funding shortfalls force cuts in food distributions and other support. (AP)



Four 'extraordinary' Renaissance paintings stolen from Italian museum

Four Renaissance paintings of "extraordinary value" have been stolen from a museum in Sicily, Italy's culture minister has said.

Alessandro Giuli confirmed that three panels of the Polyptych of San Gregorio and a double-sided panel of the Madonna with Child and Christ in Pietà, all attributed to Antonello da Messina, were taken Regional Interdisciplinary Museum of Messina on Saturday night.

Police are now probing how the thieves were able to enter the museum without triggering its alarms and who may have been responsible.

The incident is the latest in a string of museum heists across Europe that have led to a growing number of priceless works disappearing from public view.

Investigators are working on the initial suspicion that the paintings were stolen to order by black market art thieves, according to Italian news agency Ansa.

It reported that the Madonna and Christ in Pietà was removed directly from inside a secure display case, while all the paintings taken were on wooden panels, preventing them from easily being rolled up.

The museum's director Marisa Mercurio said the theft was thought to have occurred around 21:50 local time (19:50 GMT) on Saturday.

"We are shocked by what happened," she told Ansa, describing it as "a great loss for the museum, for the city, the community and the art world".

Antonello da Messina was a 15th Century painter born and raised on Sicily, who would go on to become one of the early Renaissance period's master painters.

His San Gregorio Polyptych, painted in 1473, depicts the Virgin Mary hold-



ing an infant Jesus Christ, flanked by St Gregory and St Benedict as well as several angels.

The artwork, of which five panels survive, was commissioned for the monastery of Santa Maria.

Meanwhile, his double-panel showing an infant Christ blessing a follower while being held by the Virgin Mary on one side and an adult Christ in death on the other was painted around the same time, though exactly when is unclear.

Its small size suggests it was originally used for private worship.

Federico Basile, the mayor of Messina, said he was "deeply outraged" by the "heinous criminal act".

"A heritage belonging to all the people of Messina has been violated," he said. "Messina will not let its history

be stolen."

The theft comes just days after Italy's specialist art crime unit announced it had recovered three artworks stolen from a museum near Parma earlier this year.

The paintings by Cézanne, Renoir and Matisse had a combined worth of €9m (£7.8m) and were taken by a gang in a matter of minutes, with the museum's alarm system preventing them from taking more.

The security of priceless artworks and artefacts in European museums was thrown into question late last year when a gang of thieves broke into the Louvre in Paris in broad daylight, making off with €88m worth of historic jewellery. (BBC)

Thousands displaced by deadly Indonesia earthquake as rescue efforts continue

Around 5,000 people have been displaced by a powerful earthquake in Indonesia that has caused at least 53 fatalities.

Rescuers continue to search for survivors of the shallow magnitude 7.7 quake, which struck the island of Flores shortly before 05:00 local time on Saturday (22:00 GMT on Friday).

Preliminary reports indicate more than 900 homes and hundreds of other buildings have been severely damaged by the tremor and 341 subsequent aftershocks, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said.

The full scale of the disaster is still being uncovered, with news of a second magnitude 6.9 earthquake elsewhere in Indonesia serving as a reminder of why this region is called the ring of fire.

The initial earthquake, which occurred just 15km below the surface, was the south-east Asian nation's deadliest since 2022, when hundreds of people were killed in West Java.

Tremors were reportedly felt by residents as far west as Bima, the BNPB said, but the Manggarai province was among the most affected.

Abdul Muhari, deputy for the BNPB, confirmed 25 deaths had been recorded there, as well as 20 fatalities in East Manggarai province, four in Sikka province, two in Ende and at least one person in both the Nagekeo and West Manggarai provinces.

A total of 3,356 people had been displaced in Sikka, with a further 2,078 evacuated in Manggarai, the agency said.

Thirty-six people were seriously injured in East Nusa Tenggara province, while 77 suffered minor injuries, Deputy Health Minister Benjamin Paulus Octavianus said.

It will take time to assess the full extent of the destruction in the region, which is remote and mountainous.

However, early reports indicate that,



in addition to damaged homes, dozens of schools, healthcare facilities and government offices had also been severely damaged.

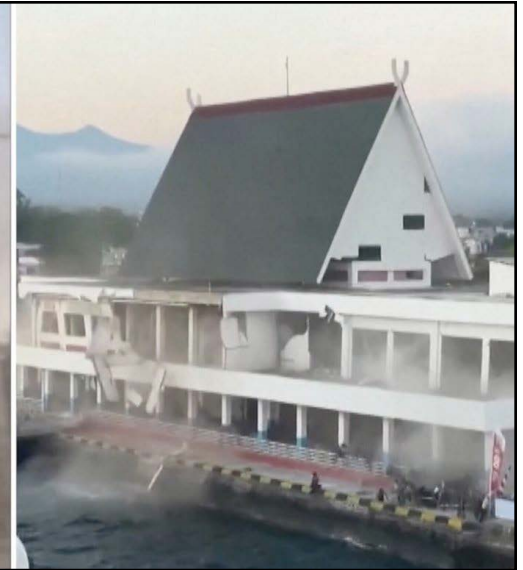
Ruteng Regional Hospital in Manggarai was among them. Images show operating theatre and clinic ceilings caved in, requiring patients to be treated in tents.

"We heard that medical assistance would be provided, but nothing has arrived yet," hospital spokesperson Rista Mari told BBC Indonesian. "We hope that assistance will arrive soon."

The BNPB said "meeting basic needs and providing logistics for evacuees has become one of the top priorities of the emergency response", adding it had dispatched tonnes of emergency supplies to Manggarai.

Video taken at the port in Maumere - the largest town in Flores - showed large chunks of concrete breaking off the terminal building onto passengers waiting to board an inter-island ferry. Some were thrown into the sea when the gangway to a ship collapsed.

Emanuel Melkiades Laka Lena, governor of East Nusa Tenggara province, told a news conference that several of the victims had been killed in their sleep by collapsing rubble.



Others, like Arnold Welianto, who lives in Talibura, a village near the coastline in Sikka, East Nusa Tenggara, were shaken out of their beds.

"I was startled awake and immediately went to my child's room," he said.

He also told the BBC that many people had already fled into the hills because the sea had also receded.

While a tsunami warning was initially issued - leading some 2,000 people to self-evacuate - it was lifted around three hours after the initial jolt, when no significant sea level rise was detected.

Landslides, however, did block access to some villages but the experienced rescue teams worked tirelessly through the day to free those trapped under the rubble.

In Ruteng, a temporary medical tent was also assembled outside of a hospital to treat earthquake victims.

The ongoing advice from BNPB is for people to remain calm and to stay away from coastal areas and structures showing signs of damage.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity, lying along the meeting point of three major tectonic plates. (BBC)




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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 45TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER	National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 8:30 AM	WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER	Schools' Independence Programs Schools Across the State
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER	National Food Fair Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 7:30 AM Independence Church Service Church TBC 4:00 PM National Schools' Panorama Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 6:00 PM	THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER	Golden Age Gala – Celebrating Life Various Communities in Antigua and Barbuda Schools' Mural Reveal Antigua Recreation Grounds – South Wall 9:30 AM Barbuda Day Activities Evening of Drama Multipurpose Cultural Centre 7:00 PM Independence Calypso Competition Green Lounge – Cedar Valley 8:00 PM National Dress and Flag Day
MONDAY 26 OCTOBER	National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony Heroes Park – Sir Sydney Walling Highway 10:00 AM National Honours Award and Reception Governor General Gardens 6:00 PM National Independence Business Decor Competition Starts: October 26 Ends: October 29	FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER	Distinctly Antigua and Barbudan Festival Botanical Gardens 12:00 PM
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER	Festival of Choirs St. Anthony's Secondary School 8:00 PM	SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER	Independence Flag Ceremony Barbuda 7:00 AM Independence Ceremonial Parade Sir Vivian Richards Stadium 5:45 PM
WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER			

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2026 MATCH SCHEDULE

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

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WCPL FIXTURES

BARBADOS 2026

SAT 5 SEP	BT		V		TKR	3:00 PM
SUN 6 SEP	JE		V		GAW	2:00 PM
THU 10 SEP	TKR		V		JE	10:00 AM
SAT 12 SEP	TKR		V		GAW	10:00 AM
SAT 12 SEP	BT		V		JE	3:00 PM
SUN 13 SEP	GAW		V		BT	2:00 PM
WED 16 SEP	PLAYOFF		2ND	V	3RD	10:00 AM
THU 17 SEP	FINAL					2:00 PM



WCPL



Antiguan women advance to final at ECVA senior championships

The Antigua and Barbuda women's national team continued their successful campaign by advancing to the final at the 2026 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Senior Championships in Tortola, British Virgin Islands (BVI), on Saturday.

The Antigua and Barbuda women maintained their unbeaten run by overpowering defending champions St. Lucia 3-1 (25-22, 16-25, 25-23, 25-23) in the semi-finals at the Multipurpose Complex in Road Town, Tortola.

The Antiguan advanced to the semi-finals after recording their second win to top the three-team Pool A standings with a 3-0 victory against host nation BVI.

After dispatching Grenada 3-0 in their opening encounter, Antigua and Barbuda produced another dominant performance, defeating the BVI 25-4, 25-21, and 25-19.

Antigua and Barbuda was slated to meet unbeaten Bermuda in the women's final on Sunday. Bermuda prevailed 3-1 (25-18, 25-27, 30-28, 25-20) against the BVI in the other women's semi-final encounter.

Bermuda advanced to the semi-finals after winning their last two round-robin matches to finish at the top of the four-team Pool B standings.

The Bermudans crushed Anguilla 3-0 (25-14, 25-14, 25-13) and also prevailed 3-0 (25-22, 25-22, 31-29) against Dominica in a nail-biting battle.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda have relinquished their title as champions of the ECVA Senior



Players of Antigua and Barbuda (black and gold) and St. Lucia compete in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Senior Men's Volleyball Championships in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, on Saturday, August 15, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ECVA)

Men's Volleyball Championship.

A new champion will be crowned after defending back-to-back winners Antigua and Barbuda failed to make it out of the round-robin group phase by advancing to the semi-finals.

After losing their first two matches to St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Antiguan snatched a 3-2 victory over Grenada in their last round-robin match to finish third in the four-team Pool A.

The Antiguan prevailed 21-25, 25-23, 21-25, 25-19, and 15-9 in the keenly contested affair.

Antigua and Barbuda set up a rematch with Grenada in the playoff for fifth place after surging to a 3-0 (25-10, 25-20, 25-19) over Anguilla in a classification match.

Grenada also recorded a 3-0 (25-

16, 25-19, 25-19) victory over the BVI in their classification match to book their spot in the playoff for fifth-place against the Antiguan.

Former champions St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines advanced to the final of the ECVA Senior Men Volleyball Championship after securing victories in the semi-finals on Saturday.

St. Lucia's men edged out Dominica in a five-set thriller, 3-2 (25-16, 28-26, 33-35, 23-25, 18-20), pulling off a big upset. Unbeaten St. Vincent and the Grenadines defeated Bermuda 3-0 (25-18, 25-22, 25-20) to advance to the gold medal match.

Dominica and Bermuda were slated to battle for the bronze medals in a playoff for third place on Sunday, the final day of the simultaneous men's and women's ECVA senior championships in the BVI.



Second wins for Scorpions and Tigers in Parham Super League

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

Both teams notched up their second win in as many matches at the Parham playing field on Saturday evening.

After launching their campaign in Group 1 of the 10-team round-robin competition with a 4-0 drubbing of newcomers Blackburn Palace in their opening game, the Freemans Village Scorpions crushed East Furlong 5-0 in their second encounter.

Kyle Grayman had a double conversion with strikes in the 40th and 45th minutes. The other goals were scored by Brandon Stachell, who converted a penalty kick in the 30th minute, and Mekai Lewis in the 55th minute and Tristan Benjamin in the 58th minute.

The Potters Tigers, who kicked off their campaign in Group 2

by recording a commanding 3-0 victory against newcomers Point West Ham in their opening match, snatched a one-nil victory over Parham in their second encounter.

Joshua Roach snatched the winner by scoring the only goal of the match in the 60th minute.

Meanwhile, reigning champion Garden Stars failed to win their opening match in defense of their title in the Parham Super League.

The Garden Stars were held to a 1-1 draw by Swetes FC in their opening encounter in Group 1.

Ralique Browne snatched an equalizer with a strike in the 55th minute to salvage the draw for Swetes after Nadre Thomas gave Garden Stars a one-nil halftime lead via a 12th-minute conversion.

The Garden Stars also finished the match with 10 men after Gerique George picked up a red card and was sent off in the 61st minute.

But former back-to-back champions Pigotts Bullets made a winning start to their campaign in the PSL.

The Pigotts Bullets, who won the PSL in the first two years of the competition in 2023 and 2024, launched their campaign in Group 2 by surging to a 5-2 victory over newcomers Glanvilles FC.

Troy Jules struck a hat trick for Pigotts Bullets with conversions in the third, 57th, and 62nd minutes. The other goals for the Pigotts Bullets were scored by Jaiden Wray in the 50th minute and Kemoi Walsh in the 70th minute.

The two goals for Glanvilles FC were scored by Kashorn Simon in the eighth minute and Jayquanie Nanton in the 35th minute.

Similar to the 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.

Falcons lose again to Kings in Caribbean Premier League

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons lost for the second time to the St. Lucia Kings in their third outing in the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) on Friday night.

The Kings snatched a three-wicket victory via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) Method over the Falcons in a T20 contest that was affected by rain at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia.

The Falcons were restricted to 98 for nine off 19 overs, which was disrupted by rain, after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Chasing a target, which was revised twice due to rain interruptions, the Kings were able to complete victory by scoring 54 for seven with two balls to spare.

The Kings' initial target of 84 in 15 overs was further adjusted to 52 from eight overs due to the rain interruptions.

The Falcons endured a difficult start after being sent in to bat. Matthew Forde removed Evin Lewis (0) and Tim Robinson (1) from consecutive deliveries before dismissing Rahkeem Cornwall during the power play.

Cornwall nevertheless provided early momentum, leading the Falcons' scoring with a brisk 26 off 17 balls, striking two fours and two sixes.

The Falcons reached 43 for three at the end of the power play but lost three further wickets within the next seven deliveries.

Tajinder Dhillon was dismissed for 16 from 15 balls before Moeen Ali (2) fell to an outstanding catch by Charith Asalanka, and captain Fabian Allen was then run out without scoring.

Amir Jangoo attempted to rebuild the innings, contributing 23 from 22 deliveries, including one four and one six. Alzarri Joseph added an unbeat-



St. Lucia Kings' Joshau Bishop, left, and Shadley van Schalkwyk celebrate after their victory over the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in their CPL match at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, on Friday, August 14, 2026. (CPLT20)

en 16 from 17 balls during the closing overs.

Forde finished with four wickets for 29 runs, leading a disciplined Kings bowling effort. Skipper Roston Chase bagged two wickets for seven runs, and left-arm spinner Joshua Bishop picked up two for 16.

Following a delay of approximately one hour, the ground staff worked quickly to prepare the playing surface and allow the contest to continue.

Faced with defending a small total and little margin for error, the Falcons responded with intensity. Jayden Seales provided the first breakthrough by dismissing Kings captain Roston Chase for one.

Alzarri Joseph then removed Andries Gous (7) as the Falcons began to tighten their grip on the shortened contest.

Shamar Springer dismissed Ackeeem Auguste (6) and Jewel Andrew (1), while Joshua James also made an immediate impact, removing Charith

Asalanka (2) and Darron Nedd (0) with consecutive deliveries.

The home crowd fell silent as they saw the Kings slump to 21 for six. Matthew Forde chipped in with an important 11 before Shadley van Schalkwyk (8 not out) hit a six in the penultimate over to put the Kings back in the driver's seat.

Joshua Bishop, who hit 12 not out, secured victory for the Kings by getting the required eight runs needed from the last over. Bishop's powerful drive through the covers eased the pressure slightly before he latched onto a length ball and struck it for six to seal the win with two balls remaining.

Springer finished with three for 13, and James captured two for 13 for the Falcons, who will turn their attention to four matches at home at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will face the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at home on Thursday, August 20.

ABFA congratulates Jarvis upon completion of coaches' workshop

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) has recognized under-14 boys national team head coach Auchland "Pin Up" Jarvis on the successful completion of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU)/FIFA Talent Development Scheme Elite Youth Coaches' Workshop, which was held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from August 11 to 13.

The three-day workshop focused on key areas of elite youth national team coaching, including the role of the youth national team coach, phys-

ical readiness for tournament football, tournament coaching, staff roles and responsibilities, coaching between matches, match analysis, and continued development as a coach.

The programme also provided coaches with access to FIFA experts for individual and group coaching clinics, analysis support, and goalkeeping support, creating further opportunities for learning and professional development.

Coach Jarvis' participation and suc-

cessful completion of the workshop come as he leads the Antigua and Barbuda Under-14 boys national team, further strengthening his knowledge and preparation as he continues to work with Antigua and Barbuda's next generation of players.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association expressed its congratulations to coach Jarvis on this achievement and pledged its commitment to support the continued development of its coaches at every level.



Auchland 'Pin Up' Jarvis

Winning start for Antigua in CFU Boys Under-14 Challenge Series



Coach Auchland 'Pin Up' Jarvis, center, leads the Antigua and Barbuda national team ahead of their opening match against the Cayman Islands in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on Sunday, August 16, 2026. (Photo courtesy CFU)

Antigua and Barbuda made a winning start to their campaign at the 2026 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Boys Challenge Series in the Dominican Republic on Sunday.

The young Antiguan Benna Boys launched their campaign in Tier II Group B of the tournament by pulling off a 3-1 victory over the Cayman Islands on the opening day of the tournament, which is being staged in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from August 16 to 23.

Dominica snatched a one-nil victory over the Turks and Caicos Islands in their opening-round match in Tier II Group B.

In other opening day results, Grenada prevailed 3-2 against St. Lucia, and

Suriname beat the US Virgin Islands 8-0 in Tier II Group D, while Guyana hammered Montserrat 8-1 and the Bahamas beat Anguilla 3-0 in Tier II Group C.

The Antigua and Barbuda Under-14 national football team will play three preliminary-round matches in Tier II, Group B.

Antigua and Barbuda 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.

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 & Nevis.

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

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

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

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.