

Prime Minister's Vision Program nears Phase Two of the Life Changing Initiative

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**Holberton Hospital Complex to add Relief to
Sir Lester Bird Medical Center**

Prime Minister's Vision Program nears Phase Two of the Life Changing Initiative

The prime minister's vision program will be entering its second phase according to health minister Michael Joseph.

The prime minister's vision initiative since its commencement in late July has proven to be a welcome aid to hundreds of Antiguan and Barbudans living with impaired vision. Thus far the initiative has provided approximately 1900 reading glasses for citizens in Antigua with more screenings and subsequent distributions expected to take place toward the end of the year within the later phases of the initiative.

The Government through The Prime Minister's Vision Initiative in partnership with the global nonprofits RestoringVision, Cure Blindness Project, and VisionSpring was given access to 25,000 reading glasses for this effort, with an agreement for access to another 25,000 if necessary.

The initial distribution marks only the first phase of a broader effort on the part of the government to reduce preventable blindness in Antigua and Barbuda, with phase two expected as early as next month.

Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Affairs, the Hon. Michael Joseph, speaking with Senator Colin O'niel Browne, addressed plans for the coming phases. The minister highlighted an ongoing partnership with the Trinidad Eye Hospital to provide free screening for all school aged children in September.

"They're going to be here for two



Minister of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Affairs, the Hon. Michael Joseph, months," Joseph said, "and they are bringing a team of around 10 individuals. The Government is covering all costs. They are going to screen 15,000 of our school children; so all of our school children will be screened over that two month period."

He explained that after the screenings, any school child that requires prescription glasses, will be given a pair at no cost to their guardians.

Additionally the minister spoke to the relationship the Health Ministry has established with the People's Republic of China in order to develop centers across the twin island state to bolster the eye care sector in Antigua and Barbuda. The proposed centers will also aid in the tracking of progression or

regression of individual eye health cases through the implementation of the confidential database controlled by the ministry of health.

"We've also developed an agreement that will allow for us to set up five clinics strategically throughout Antigua and Barbuda," the minister recalled, "people will be able to use these clinics, have their eyes tested, and all this data goes into a database that the ministry of health will manage."

Phase three of the Prime Minister's Vision Program, involves the building and establishing of two dedicated centers for eye examinations. The centers will be equipped with state of the art technology as well as highly trained optometrists and local professionals to provide a thorough examination. This phase of the initiative is dedicated to adults.

"The idea is for adults to have a thorough eye exam done. And if the exam determines that that individual is in need of prescription glasses the government will provide them, however this one is not going to be free, it will be at a nominal cost; approximately one hundred dollars."

The minister maintains that all efforts under this initiative is motivated by a sincere desire to reduce preventable blindness in the country. Joseph explained that should Antigua and Barbuda reach this goal, it will be the first Country to reduce blindness to a comparatively insignificant amount.



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205 Repeat Offenders Among 369 Charged So Far This Year



Assistant Commissioner of Police Lisborn Michael

Repeat offenders account for more than half of the individuals arrested and charged by the police during the first seven months of the year, according to Assistant Commissioner of Police Lisborn Michael, head of the Criminal Investigations Department.

Speaking on state television on Monday, Michael said police records show that 369 individuals were arrested and charged between January and the end of July, with 205 identified as repeat offenders.

The figures were disclosed as the police continue Operation Restore Public Confidence, a crime-fighting initiative launched on 15th August and scheduled to conclude on 29th August.

ACP Michael said the operation has already recorded a number of successes, with 22 people arrested and charged since its launch.

The individuals face a range of charges, including firearm-related and other serious offences.

Of particular concern to the police, however, is that approximately half of those charged during the operation had previously been arrested and charged multiple times during the year.

The head of the CID stressed that the police can continue to arrest and charge individuals, but lasting results will require stronger support from other parts of the criminal justice system.

“If we’re not getting enough support from the criminal justice system, we’ll be kept going around in circles,” he said.

The senior law enforcement officer called for all stakeholders to play a greater role in addressing crime, including churches, non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Lisborn Michael emphasised that crime prevention cannot be treated solely as a police responsibility.

“It’s not just a police business alone,”

he said, urging communities and organisations to exercise their civic responsibility and partner with law enforcement.

He also raised concerns about individuals accused of serious crimes being released on bail and subsequently returning to communities, revealing that police have arrested and charged people accused of murder who were granted bail and are now back in society.

Michael also pointed to individuals repeatedly arrested and charged for robbery, saying police have continued to take such cases before the courts.

The issue, he suggested, highlights the challenges faced by law enforcement when repeat offenders cycle re-

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Local News



peatedly through arrest, court proceedings and release.

ACP Michael also discussed concerns surrounding the amount of time some convicted offenders actually spend behind bars.

He explained that, under the previous system, individuals appearing before the Magistrates' Court could plead guilty to offences carrying a maximum sentence of three years. A one-third reduction could then be applied, while further remission could be available once the individual entered prison.

As a result, Michael said, an offender facing an eight-month custodial period could potentially serve significantly less time in prison.

He argued that the short periods some offenders spend incarcerated can undermine the deterrent effect of imprisonment and contribute to a cycle of repeat offending.

The senior police recalled an incident involving a young man arrested and charged for robbery in Cashew Hill who, he said, openly told law enforcement officers how much time he expected to spend in prison before being released.

Lisborn Michael also revealed that 10 prisoners were released at the end of July, ahead of the Carnival season, five of whom he described as seasoned criminals who had been involved in serious firearm offences.

The police are concerned about the potential impact of those releases, par-

ticularly given the number of major public events taking place during the period.

Rather than raising public alarm, Michael said the police opted to closely monitor the individuals to help prevent any potential breaches. He said the police routinely reassess their crime strategy ahead of major national events and adjust their operations according to emerging risks.

He maintained that one of the most effective approaches to crime is preventing offences before they occur.

Mr. Michael identified public engagement and community partnerships as important components of the police

strategy.

"Every time there is a major activity coming up, we normally review our crime strategy," he said, explaining that the objective is to assess existing threats and identify ways to prevent criminal activity.

Michael also renewed his call for citizens and other stakeholders to work alongside the police.

He reiterated that community involvement is essential to building a safer country and urged churches, NGOs, community groups and citizens to partner with law enforcement in the fight against crime.



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EYE MOBILE
VISION CARE

Holberton Hospital Complex to add Relief to Sir Lester Bird Medical Center: Health Minister Outlines Efforts to Strengthen and Decentralise Healthcare Sector

Minister of Health, Wellness, the Environment and Civil Affairs, the Hon. Michael Joseph, has provided a comprehensive overview of efforts towards the expansion and decentralisation of the country's healthcare sector.

The minister acknowledged that the sector needs to be supported by a strong workforce, which is why human resources remains such an important part of the conversation. To this end, Joseph said the ministry is making several efforts to recruit specialised professionals and skilled personnel to strengthen the healthcare sector.

On the topic of physical infrastructure, the minister stressed that the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, in its current position, has outgrown its existing space. He explained that the demand on the hospital today has proven to be unsustainable, which is why he has advocated for greater decentralisation of care within the sector to ease the demand on the main hospital.

The minister announced existing plans to utilise the Holberton Hospital Complex for this purpose.

"We need to start building those non-essential services that are being done at the hospital and take them off-site. So, what we are doing is working on a master plan for the Holberton Complex," the minister said. "We are getting Holberton surveyed, getting the landscape completely cleared, so we can start mapping out where the different services will be placed."



He affirmed that the country must assess the needs of the people and provide appropriate services accordingly.

Another effort towards strengthening the healthcare sector is the development of dedicated facilities to reduce the number of patients being sent overseas for care. The practice, Minister Joseph said, has proven to be a burden on the health budget. The potential for these services to also become economic drivers is a very real possibility, which the ministry has explored.

"The government is spending a lot of money sending patients away. The overall cost for treatment [abroad] versus treatment in Antigua is significantly higher on the government's budget. Since I have been Minister of Health, I have signed off on about €300,000

worth of expenditure for individuals we've had to support for stenting and ballooning."

In response, the minister said the government has already made efforts to develop a dedicated chest pain centre that will provide ballooning and stenting, reducing expenditure on persons requiring care abroad. He further noted that the centre presents a financial opportunity, as it can provide care to patients from across the region as well.

Every effort outlined by the minister is intended to decentralise care from the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, creating more efficient service provision and improving emergency response. The Ministry of Health remains committed to that end.



ANTIGUA

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Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation Prepares to an Important National Child Protection Townhall

The National Child Protection Town Hall Meeting will be held at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre from 6:30 Tuesday evening.

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Rawdon Turner will be among the panelists, alongside professionals with expertise in psychology, social work, policing, education, healthcare and the justice system.

The discussion will focus on child protection, strengthening families and creating safer communities.

Minister of State Kiz Johnson is encouraging parents, guardians and other members of the public to attend, saying the protection and well being of children is a shared responsibility.

The minister says the town hall will provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and public participation, with attendees encouraged to raise questions, share experiences and contribute their voices to the national conversation.

“The protection and well being of our children is a responsibility we all share,” the minister stated. “This townhall is an opportunity for us to come together as a nation; to listen, to have meaningful conversations and identify the ways we can strengthen families and create safer communities for our children.”



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION TOWN HALL MEETING

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



MEET THE PANEL

						
FEONA CHARLES-RICHARDS MSc Clinical Psychology Director of family and Social Services	KOREN NORTON Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), (CEAP)	LISBORN MICHAEL Assistant Commissioner of Police Head, Criminal Investigations Department (CID)	HON. RAWDON TURNER Minister of Social and Urban Transformation	FORSTER ROBERTS The Principal Ottos Comprehensive School	DR. SEQUOYIAH SURVIA, Ed.D., LCSW Social Services Manager Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC)	MAUREEN PAYNE-HYMAN Prominent Attorney at Law Former Chief Magistrate


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Pork Ban from Dominican Republic Remains in Force



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS, FISHERIES, & THE BLUE ECONOMY

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

RESTRICTION ON THE IMPORTATION OF PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & the Blue Economy wishes to remind the general public that the restriction on the importation of all pork and pork products from the Dominican Republic remains in effect.

This restriction was implemented in response to the presence of **African Swine Fever (ASF)**, a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease affecting pigs. The restriction has been in place since 2021 and remains ongoing.

The Veterinary and Livestock Division is appealing to the public for its continued cooperation in helping to prevent the introduction and spread of this deadly disease into Antigua and Barbuda.

Members of the public are therefore urged to refrain from **importing, purchasing, selling, distributing, or consuming** prohibited pork and pork products originating from the Dominican Republic.

THE RESTRICTION APPLIES TO ALL PERSONS AND BUSINESSES, INCLUDING:

- WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS
- SHOP AND SUPERMARKET OWNERS
- RESTAURANT AND COOKSHOP OPERATORS
- CONSUMERS

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE THEREFORE URGED TO REFRAIN FROM **IMPORTING, PURCHASING, SELLING, DISTRIBUTING, OR CONSUMING** PROHIBITED PORK AND PORK PRODUCTS ORIGINATING FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

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268-562-7469 | communications.agri@ab.gov.ag | www.agriculture.gov.ag | Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries & the Blue Economy

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy is reminding the public that the restriction on the importation of all pork and pork products from the Dominican Republic remains firmly in effect, as authorities continue efforts to protect Antigua and Barbuda's livestock industry from African Swine Fever.

The restriction was introduced in 2021 following

the discovery of the presence of African Swine Fever in the Dominican Republic. The disease is highly contagious among pigs and can be fatal, posing a significant threat to domestic and commercial pig populations.

Despite the passage of several years since the restriction was first implemented, the Ministry said the measure remains ongoing and members of the public must continue

to comply with the prohibition.

The restriction is not limited to commercial importers. It applies broadly to all persons and businesses involved in the purchase, distribution, sale or consumption of pork and pork products originating from the Dominican Republic. This includes wholesale distributors, shop and supermarket owners, restaurant and cookshop operators and also individual

consumers.

The Veterinary and Livestock Division is urging all affected parties to ensure that prohibited pork products are not brought into the country or placed on the local market.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy is also cautioning members of the public against purchasing or accepting prohibited pork products through informal channels, as such activity could undermine the country's biosecurity measures.

The continued restriction forms part of the country's broader efforts to prevent the introduction of animal diseases that could threaten local livestock production.

African Swine Fever is particularly concerning because of its ability to spread rapidly among pigs. While the disease does not infect humans, outbreaks can result in serious losses for pig farmers and can disrupt the livestock industry and food supply.

An outbreak in Antigua and Barbuda could therefore have consequences extending beyond individual farms, potentially affecting local pork production, farmers' livelihoods and national food security.

FLOW

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flow Celebrates CPL Fans with Fan of the Match Promotion

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua and Barbuda – As excitement builds around the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), Flow is putting fans at the centre of the action through its Fan of the Match promotion, celebrating the passion, creativity and team spirit they bring to the tournament.

At each CPL match hosted in Antigua, one standout supporter is selected from the crowd and awarded a US\$500 cash prize. From colourful costumes and flags to chants and creative displays of support, fans have embraced the opportunity to stand out and add their own flavour to the CPL experience.

“CPL is one of those experiences that brings people together, and we wanted our activation to recognise the fans who are such an important part of it,” said Shand Merchant, Marketing Manager at Flow Antigua and Barbuda. “Fan of the Match gives us an opportunity to reward our customers and supporters while adding something special to their experience at the game.”

The promotion forms part of Flow's CPL sponsorship activation and its wider “We Live For This” summer campaign, focused on creating memorable experiences and connections for customers and communities across Antigua and Barbuda.

With one CPL match remaining in Antigua, there is still one more US\$500 cash prize up for grabs. Flow is encouraging fans to show up in their team colours, bring the energy and get creative for one final opportunity to be crowned Flow Fan of the Match.

Through its CPL partnership, Flow continues to connect customers with the moments and experiences they love, while celebrating the fans who make Caribbean cricket special.

[ENDS]

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FLOW



PREMIER PARTNER

Love Link Promoting Antigua and Barbuda as a Premier Romance Destination in the Caribbean



Love Link, which viewers were introduced to following the success of its pilot season, *The Mixer*, released on YouTube last year, is preparing for its official premiere this Friday at Weatherills Hotel.

The concept draws inspiration from popular shows in the genre, including *Love Island*, while adding its own Antiguan spin to the dating and relationship format.

Beyond the highly anticipated premiere, Love Link Executive Producer Jamila Watkins, during an appearance on the Morning Pointe Show, said the production serves a greater purpose: highlighting Antigua and Barbuda's offerings as a tourism destination and

showcasing the country as a potential film and television location.

"One of our missions was to make Antigua and Barbuda proud; proud in the way we used Antigua and Barbuda as the backdrop for the show, proud in the way our representatives on the show performed. This has never been done before. Here you have an interregional show where you hear our accents and see our culture while people are actively seeking love," Watkins said.

She explained that the ultimate goal is to use the show as a vehicle for film tourism, attracting productions and audiences to Antigua and Barbuda while showcasing the country's potential as a filming destination.

"This has never been done and executed on screen. And so we're breaking into that market, and our mission is to use this show as a vehicle for film tourism. I feel that we have successfully completed that mission," she said.

With the premiere now just days away, anticipation is building among viewers who followed *The Mixer* and are eager to see how Love Link expands on the original concept. Producers hope the series will not only entertain audiences but also help position Antigua and Barbuda on the regional and international film and television landscape.

The official premiere will be held at Weatherills Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 28.

NOTICE TO MARINE STAKEHOLDERS

Scheduled Channel Sweeping Activities – English Harbour



The National Parks Authority (NPA) wishes to advise all marine stakeholders that channel sweeping activities will be undertaken to maintain the navigable depth of the main channel into English Harbour.

Works are expected to commence in early August 2026 and, subject to weather conditions, may continue through October 2026. These activities are being scheduled ahead of the peak of the hurricane season and prior to the start of the 2026/2027 yachting season.

Before the commencement of works, the NPA completed extensive ecological and heritage surveys of the project area. Sensitive non-motile marine organisms, including corals located within the sweeping area, have been identified and will be relocated to the NPA Coral Nursery where appropriate. Environmental monitoring will be conducted throughout the project by the NPA's Environmental Unit, with support from the Fisheries Division and the Department of Environment.

During these activities, marine users will experience temporary disruptions in harbour access. The NPA kindly asks for your patience



and cooperation as we carry out these important maintenance activities.

The National Parks Authority

thanks all stakeholders for their understanding and continued support. Please feel free to reach out to the NPA at 481-5021/



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A vibrant poster for the Antigua Carnival 70th Anniversary. The background features three carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, colorful feathered headdresses. The central logo is a stylized bird or fan shape in green, blue, red, and yellow, with a small flag to its right. Below the logo, the text 'ANTIGUA' is in bold black, 'Carnival' is in a large pink script, and 'THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL' is in smaller black. Further down, 'Legendary' is in pink script and '70' is in large, blue, diamond-encrusted numerals. At the bottom, a white box contains the dates 'JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027' in pink. Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are at the very bottom.

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Legendary **70**

JULY 20TH - AUGUST 3RD 2027

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Regional News

Cuba says US sanctions blocking efforts to open economy

The United States has demanded that Cuba open up to private investment, and Cuba has passed sweeping reforms to encourage just that. So, Cuba's UN ambassador says he wants to know why Washington keeps piling on sanctions that stymie the very economic opening it has sought for decades.

Ambassador Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, in an interview this week with The Associated Press, directed his question to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the main architect of the Trump administration's Cuba policy.

"What are you afraid of? If you are so convinced that the Cuban government is an incompetent government, why do you need to implement almost every two weeks new sanctions?"

The US State Department responded to a request for comment with a quote from Rubio, saying new sanctions will continue to be announced every couple of weeks to close off "escape valves that they're trying to create in every mechanism".

Then last Thursday, the US imposed more economic penalties on Cuban industries, targeting state-owned mining, metal and construction companies.

Cuba has been pushed to the brink by an oil blockade imposed by the United States in January on top of a decades-old embargo, coupled with the escalating sanctions. The moves by US President Donald Trump's administration, meant to put pressure on the government by depriving it of funding, have worsened already debilitating blackouts, cut workers off from public transport, crippled infrastructure and deepened shortages in medicine and food in the Caribbean



island nation.

Guzmán said the sanctions are the main obstacle to Cuba opening up its economy. He said the impact of the US measures – specifically the shortage of electricity and lack of fuel to run a business or travel – has turned off investors and tourists, a major source of Cuba's income.

Some companies have pulled out of Cuba, which relied on tourist revenue and cited "significant operational, legal, economic and financial difficulties" in explaining its decision to leave.

"Literally, the United States has done everything imaginable to try to prevent foreign investors," said William LeoGrande, a professor at American University and a leading expert on US-Cuba relations. "When they say, 'Well, we want to see Cuba open up to foreign investment', they're being disingenuous. ... It's not possible for them to succeed without some kind of sanctions relief."

The goal of Trump's Republican administration, he said, is "not just to open up Cuba economically but to overthrow the Cuban government – to change the nature of the Cuban political system".

John Kavulich, president of the US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, said Cuba had to make changes when it lost its economic lifeline with the U.S. ouster in January of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro.

"The result is the Cuban government in the last eight months made more commercial, economic and financial changes to the country than they have as a group since the revolution," he said.

Nonetheless, the Trump administration keeps ratcheting up sanctions, putting more pressure on Cuba, which is responding by making more changes, Kavulich said.

"But from our standpoint, there are two parts missing: One is Cuba implementing by regulation everything that it's announced, and secondly, the

Regional News

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Trump administration allowing US companies to have more access to the Cuban marketplace while these changes are under way,” he said.

The changes announced by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel in June aim to significantly shift Cuba’s economy and industry, which have been strictly controlled by the socialist government since the 1959 revolution.

They include more space for private businesses, imports and exports without the state as an intermediary, free hiring of personnel, authorization for private banks, investment by Cubans abroad and opportunities for fast-food chains to establish themselves on the island.

Guzmán said there are opportunities for investments in real estate, solar farms and energy to help ease the country’s electricity shortage, as well as in marinas and the tourism industry.

Christopher Hernandez-Roy, acting director of the Americas programme at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, recalled that the last economic opening under President Barack Obama’s Democratic administration “was later throttled by the Cubans themselves, who feared that the opening went too far and appeared to threaten political control”.

Today, he said, it appears the Cubans really do want economic reforms and outside investment. Díaz-Canel’s economic reforms are not impossible, but US sanctions “significantly constrain their prospects for success,” Hernandez-Roy said.

He noted the irony that US pressure “is helping push the Cubans toward greater economic liberalisation out of necessity, while simultaneously limiting the resources and access necessary for those reforms to actually improve the economy”. (AP)



Regional News

Trinidad police launch investigation after newborn found abandoned in box

Trinidad and Tobago police have launched an investigation after a newborn girl was found in a cardboard box at the side of a roadway in South Oropouche on Thursday.

Police said that about 12:15 pm, a 23-year-old Spanish national of St Mary's Village, South Oropouche, was walking along St Mary's Road, near the South Oropouche Government Primary School, when she noticed a cardboard box at the side of the roadway and heard a baby crying.

Upon checking the box, she found the newborn inside a black plastic bag, wrapped in a blanket, with the umbilical cord still attached.

Police said the woman immediately took possession of the infant and went to the home of a 47-year-old man from the same area. They subsequently took the baby to the Oropouche Police Station at about 12:30 pm.

The infant was later taken to a medical institution for assessment and treatment.

Police said the mother of the infant has since been identified and an investigation has been launched into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The Children's Authority has also been contacted and is assisting with the matter. (CMC)



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Regional News

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SVG Govt Mum On CSEC/CXC Official Results

The Ministry of Education continues to withhold the official release of CSEC/CXC examination results, leaving the nation in a state of anxious uncertainty.

It has now been a week since the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) held its official results ceremony. While neighboring countries have been celebrating their top performers and sharing comprehensive result analyses, St. Vincent remains conspicuously silent.

This is not an isolated incident. For families awaiting these outcomes, the prolonged delay is a source of growing distress. Frustrated parents are becoming increasingly vocal about the ministry's silence, noting that these delays represent more than simple administrative hiccups.

"These delays are more than admin-

istrative hiccups—they're disrupting students' future planning," explained one concerned parent, who wished to remain anonymous.

Efforts to obtain clarification or any

timeline for the release have proven unsuccessful. Calls to the Ministry for information have been futile, leaving the public with no answers as the silence continues. (St Vincent Times)




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Nearly three million Teslas recalled in China over hidden door handles



Minimalistic door handles became a signature feature of electric vehicles (EVs), but the controversial designs are now at the centre of China's biggest car recall, affecting more than 4 million vehicles.

The recall, which includes 2.98 million Chinese-made Teslas, follows safety concerns that the hidden door handles are difficult to locate and open in emergency situations.

Other brands affected by the recall include Chinese carmakers XPeng, Xiaomi and Geely.

The recalled vehicles will have a warning label stuck on the interior door and receive a software update to automatically lower the windows in a crash.

The designs have come under scrutiny after two fatal crashes in China involving Xiaomi EVs, in which power failures were suspected to have prevented doors from being opened.

Tesla said in a statement on Friday that it was recalling some of its Model

3, Y, S and X vehicles due to door handles that are "difficult to identify and operate because their colour is similar to the interior trim".

"In extreme situations such as a severe collision causing the vehicle's low-voltage system to fail, this could hinder occupants from quickly opening the doors to escape and impede rescue efforts by those outside the vehicle, posing a safety hazard," it said.

Tesla said it would place warning labels on the recalled vehicles and issue a software update to automatically lower a vehicle's windows after a collision.

It is not clear if the affected firms plan to make a similar recall for the rest of the world.

The BBC has contacted Tesla, XPeng, Xiaomi and Geely for comment.

The use of hidden handle designs has "snowballed" after Chinese brands were quick to copy the "sleek" look of Tesla's Model S sedan since 2014, said Tu Le, the founder of consultancy

Sino Auto Insights.

The use of warning labels and a software update is more of a "band-aid" than a lasting solution for the issue, he added.

In February, Chinese authorities announced a ban on hidden door handles.

Under new rules due to take effect on 1 January 2027, cars will only be allowed to be sold in China if they have a mechanical release on both the inside and outside of their doors.

Tesla's door handles were also involved in a probe by US safety regulators after reports that they suddenly stopped working, leaving children trapped in the cars.

In July, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggested creating a new formal safety standard for all carmakers.

The BBC has contacted the agency for comment. (BBC)

Iran warns of a harsh response to anticipated US sanctions and other Middle East news

Iran warned that U.S. sanctions set to be announced Monday would not bring peace to the region. Meanwhile, Israeli and Syrian officials met less than a week after Israeli strikes in Syria. And Israel said it killed a Hamas commander in Gaza.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson warned that Tehran would respond harshly to expanded U.S. sanctions, including measures against countries it sees as cooperating with Washington.

"Any escalation of this situation will undoubtedly bring about consequences," Esmail Baghaei said. "Our hands are not tied." The new head of Iran's top security body warned Sunday that Tehran will see any country's support for the sanctions as an "act of war."

The expanded sanctions come after weeks of impasse. The United States has not dislodged Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil passed before the war started nearly six months ago.

Iran's demands for reopening the strait include lifting the U.S. naval blockade, withdrawing U.S. forces from the region and reparations for damages sustained in the war. It has held separate talks with Oman, on the other side of the strait, on jointly managing the waterway regardless of whether a new deal is brokered with the U.S.

Sanctions have historically raised prices of basic goods in Iran, but after decades of withstanding them, Iran's economy has adapted through finding new trading partners and building domestic industries.

Ahead of the expected U.S. announcement, the country's currency

hit a record low on Monday.

Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani met over the weekend with a high-level Israeli delegation in Jordan to try to defuse tensions after Israel last week struck an air base in northern Syria, Syrian state news agency SANA reported.

The U.S.-mediated discussions on Sunday focused on restarting negotiations for a future security agreement, SANA said.

Israel struck the Abu Duhur air base in Idlib province, saying it aimed to stop Turkey — which has supported the new Syrian government's efforts to rebuild its armed forces after 14 years of civil war — from establishing a presence there.

Syrian officials during the talks asserted the right to develop an army and freely forge alliances with any country, SANA said.

They also called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from a buffer zone in southern Syria they have occupied since December 2024, and reiterated Syria's stance that the Golan Heights — which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed — is Syrian territory.

Israeli officials didn't immediately comment on the meeting.

Israel's military said it killed a militant affiliated with Hamas' special forces unit in an overnight airstrike, the latest targeted killing announced since U.S. officials met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week hoping to push last year's ceasefire deal forward.

Israel says it targets and kills Palestinian militants it says participated in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that sparked the war.

Israel has announced targeted strikes on six of the seven days since U.S. negotiator Jared Kushner's meeting with Netanyahu.

At least 1,288 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire took effect last October, according to Gaza's health ministry, part of the Hamas-run government. Its numbers are generally considered reliable by the international community.

The Palestinian American homeowner whose residence was besieged this month by Israeli settlers said he remained unable to move freely in the village of Qusra in the occupied West Bank. Loui Ridi traveled from Ohio to join his relatives defending his home a week ago.

The Israeli military declared the area a closed zone to restore order in Qusra. Ridi said settlers returned throughout the week to the hill above his house.

Since Israeli settlers surrounded the house more than two weeks ago, preventing occupants from leaving, Israeli soldiers have encouraged them to leave but Israel's police have not announced arrests.

The siege and Israel's response have sparked condemnation from Israeli rights groups and foreign officials, including U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, who called the violence terrorism.

Palestinians consider the West Bank, home to some 3 million Palestinians and 560,000 Israeli settlers, the heart of any future state and have condemned Israel's expansion there. This year has seen a dramatic spike in violence carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. (AP)

Ebola cases in DRC hit 5,515 as Pope Leo urges global action to save lives

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has reached 5,515 confirmed cases of infection and killed 2,642 people, with 51 new cases detected in Ituri and North Kivu provinces, according to the latest government figures.

The update on Sunday came as Pope Leo called for international action to help contain the epidemic, which is now the deadliest Ebola outbreak in the DRC's history.

Declared in mid-May, it is the DRC's 17th Ebola epidemic and was designated a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO), its highest alert level, also covering neighbouring Uganda.

The outbreak is now on track to surpass the deadliest Ebola epidemic on record, which was the 2014–2016 outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people.

According to government figures, the case fatality rate in the DRC has climbed from about 20 percent in early June to nearly 48 percent now, meaning almost one in two people infected are dying.

Contact tracing, however, has improved sharply, from 30 percent in June to more than 85 percent.

The disease has also proved deadly for those fighting it. About 160 health workers have been infected, and about 45 have died, according to the WHO.

Efforts to contain the outbreak, however, have been hampered by armed conflict in the affected provinces, displacement, attacks on medical personnel and facilities, a mobile working population and a lack of critical infrastructure.

There is no approved vaccine or treatment for this particular strain of Ebola, known as Bundibugyo, which



is rarer than the virus type behind most past outbreaks.

The WHO has pledged 70,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine, which is licensed for Ebola and has been effective in past outbreaks. According to the global body, early data from animal trials suggest it may offer some protection against Bundibugyo.

Some 16,250 doses of the vaccine arrived in the DRC on Friday.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and other officials said the response in the DRC needs to be scaled up two to threefold to contain the outbreak and reach every affected area.

They also called for more support and protection for front-line health workers, including protective equipment, timely payment, and access to rapid diagnosis and high-quality supportive care if they fall ill.

Abdulsalami Nasidi, a public health consultant who helped establish the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, told Al Jazeera that the outbreak was “getting out of hand”.

He blamed weak infection control measures and a lack of trust between

authorities and affected communities for the continued transmission.

“This is no longer just a national or regional issue; it is a global issue. If it spreads to neighbouring places with lower immunity, it will be a disaster,” Nasidi added.

The WHO currently rates the risk to the global public as low, but warns that the danger inside the DRC remains very high.

Despite the surging cases, Uganda and several health zones in DRC's Ituri and South Kivu have interrupted transmission, which the WHO said is evidence that rapid detection, decisive leadership, and community cooperation can break the chain of transmission.

At the Vatican on Sunday, Pope Leo offered prayers for the DRC, “in light of the spread of the Ebola epidemic, which is sadly claiming many lives”.

The pontiff also called for global action to help save lives.

“I urge the international community to respond in a way that also involves local communities in prevention efforts to save as many lives as possible,” he said. (Al Jazeera)

'Half my business will be gone' - firms in Canada and US fear trade war



Cindy Baldassi relies on American buyers to keep her stone-and-glass jewellery company going.

Some 75% of sales of pieces including amethyst, sea glass and agates from her business, CindyLou-Who2, based in Calgary, Alberta, come from Americans.

But after trade talks between the US and Canada collapsed over the weekend and leaders of both countries pledged to slap 50% tariffs on each other's products, business owners on both sides of the border are bracing for the fallout.

With a majority of the items she sells falling under US President Donald Trump's newly imposed tariffs, Baldassi says she will need to add 50% to the price of most of her products to stay afloat.

"It's quite likely that it will wipe out most of my US sales," Baldassi told the BBC. "I expect that at least half of my business will be gone."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has pledged levies starting on 8 September on US steel, dairy, appliances and electronics. Trump tariffs went into effect on Saturday,

hitting Canadian wine, dairy, cement, clothing and hockey equipment.

In Canada, it is not clear how much more severe the impacts will be, since the country has grown somewhat used to the on-again-off-again trade war.

Lind Furniture has been in business for almost 60 years in the Canadian province of Ontario, selling leather furniture to big store clients like Sears and Costco over the years.

Sales dropped when Trump took office in 2025. "As soon as there were tariffs in the air, people put purchases on hold," Michael Saifer, general manager of Lind Furniture, told the BBC.

"Everyone wants to sell to the Americans - they can buy from whoever they want," he said. "I don't know that we're going to win a war with them; we may get killed."

The US tariffs that took effect after talks broke off on Friday apply to about \$20bn (£15bn; C\$28bn) worth of Canadian exports to the US - about 5% of what Canada ships to the US annually. The levies add to

US tariffs already in place on Canadian steel, aluminium, automobiles and lumber.

Canada would be very exposed if the import taxes multiply on both sides because 70% of its exports are to the US.

Navigating what comes next as both sides are dug in is proving a delicate balance for some business owners.

Like many retailers, Matteo Sgaramella, founder of Toronto-based menswear brand Outclass, told the BBC that his company collects orders from clothing designers months before they are due to arrive in stores.

Products that US stores ordered in January will arrive in September but now with a new tariff.

"If I contact them now and tell them, hey, you know, you may get an extra 50% bill from UPS on top of what you need to pay me for this shipment, they're all going to say, 'no way, don't ship it,'" Sgaramella said.

He still has to figure out where that additional cost will go.

"There's going to be a lot of people that go out of business because of this," Sgaramella said, but noted that only 20% of his wholesale sales and 20% of his e-commerce come from the US.

"Big business can, you know, always find a way... but small businesses are going to get smashed by this."

The impacts are not only being felt north of the US-Canada border. Carney promised his tariffs hitting US products in September will match

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Trump's "dollar-for-dollar". Details of the countermeasures will be released in the coming days, he said.

For Mike Roach and Kim Osgood, owners of Paloma Clothing, a clothing store in Portland, Oregon, that means preparing for one of their best-selling items to potentially increase sizably in price.

Osgood creates designs that she has a Montreal-based company transfer onto pillows the couple sells in their store.

Those pillows are their best-selling gift item, retailing at \$59. With the newly imposed tariffs, a normal markup would bring the price of that pillow to somewhere between \$86 and \$90, Osgood told the BBC.

"Gift items are really price-point sensitive; people have in their mind what they're going to pay for a gift, and they're not going to pay more than that," Roach said.

The couple, whose shop has been operating for 51 years, say they will likely hold the original price and hope the "tariff problem," as Roach calls it, gets worked out.

"It would be one thing if we had three months' notice; that would be something you could plan around, do some work with the vendors, but when it happens literally overnight you're really stuck," he said.

While the tariffs could mean changes for the Paloma Clothing company, other American companies are facing the same battle they have faced since Trump returned to office and began imposing his levies.

Bill Easton, owner of Terre Rouge Wines in Plymouth, California, has been unable to ship his wine north to Canada for the past year and a half due to a boycott of US alcohol.

He is currently paying \$2,400 a month to store that wine in a warehouse in the hope that he will one

day be able to ship it to the Canadian markets he sells to.

"The wine has just gotten better in the warehouse, but I can't expect my customer in Canada to pay that extra cost that I've assumed over the last year and a half as part of the price, if I was able to sell it tomorrow," Easton told the BBC.

And then there are the American businesses impacted by proximity to the Canadian border.

The number of Canadian customers travelling across the border to shop at Heather Seevers' craft shop, Northwest Yarns and Mercantile in Bellingham, Washington, has gone down some 20% since the tariff war began over a year ago. What has further irked Canadians has been Trump musing on Canada becoming a 51st US state.

The shop sits 25 minutes from the

US-Canada border and since the "war" ensued Seevers said her business received emails from Canadian customers saying they could not patronise her business "due to anti-Canadian rhetoric".

"We completely understood that," she said.

But the combined impact of fewer customers and higher prices has left the shop asking for help from the community recently via a fundraising initiative to stay afloat.

And then, over the weekend, when the new tariffs struck, Seevers saw another hurdle appear.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," she said. "It's going to take years and years and years to get a relationship back with Canada, and I think these new tariffs are digging us deeper into a hole." (BBC)

MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL AND URBAN
TRANSFORMATION

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

JOHN E. ST. LUCE
FINANCE & CONFERENCE CENTRE

EVERY CHILD IN
EVERY COMMUNITY
**DESERVES
SAFETY.**



ROYAL POLICE FORCE OF
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POLICE WEEK OF **ACTIVITIES**

"United in Duty, with Technology to Serve our Community"

SEPTEMBER 2026



SUNDAY

06

SEPTEMBER

CHURCH SERVICE



Spring Garden Moravian
St. John's Street



8am



WEDNESDAY

09

SEPTEMBER

SICK AND SHUT IN



Police Head Quarters



10am



FRIDAY

11

SEPTEMBER

CULTURAL FOOD FAIR



Rising Sun



10 am Until



SATURDAY

12

SEPTEMBER

COMMUNITY DAY



Most Villages



10am



*One Force. One Community.
Stronger Together.*

Losing start for Bullets in defense of IBSC Tape Ball Classic title

Cup-holders Bryson's Bullets have made a losing start in defense of their title in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

The Bullets crashed to a 71-run defeat to TG Welding and Fabrication Underdogs during the opening round of matches in the annual T20 competition at the Powells playing field on Sunday.

Underdogs won the toss and batted, scoring 175 all out in 18.5 overs. Rondell Winter smashed 60, including six sixes and four fours, and Malique Jacobs chipped in with 34. Kimani George claimed two for 15, and Andra Samuel captured two for 50.

In reply, Bryson's Bullets tumbled to 104 all out in 11.1 overs. Shaquan Reifer got 28, and George Elvin made 23. Tyree Moore grabbed three for 19, and Hughon Tonge bagged two for 16, while Dario Hodge and Vishal Gobin each picked up two for 26.

Grill Box pulled off a seven-wicket win over Jakes Invincibles in a match that was reduced to 10 overs per side because of a late start due to a wet pitch.

Jakes Invincibles made 58 all out in 8.1 overs after being sent in to bat. Tron Payne struck 22, and Zavear Otto snapped up four for 19.

Grill Box completed victory by scoring 61 for three in 7.3 overs, with Denley Thomas hitting 25.

Hanse on Security claimed a 33-run victory over Easy Pickings Mix-Up Stars in a match that was reduced to 12 overs per side.

Player of the Week Jamal Smith smashed an unbeaten century as Hanse on Security scored 155 for two off their 12 overs after being sent in to bat.

Smith slammed 101 not out off 41



Jamal Smith of Hanse on Security struck a century against Easy Pickings Mix Up Stars to claim Player of the Week Award during the opening round of matches in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

balls, including 10 sixes and seven fours, and Kerique Mentore struck an unbeaten 25.

In reply, Easy Pickings Mix-Up Stars were restricted to 122 for six off their 12 overs. Kirk Douglas cracked 40, and Bryan Bailey scored 29. Tazio

Watson captured three for 34.

PMS also made a winning start to the competition after being awarded victory via default over Dredgers, who failed to show up for their opening encounter.



Potters Tigers extend unbeaten run in Parham Super League

The Potters Tigers have continued their perfect run in the fourth edition of the Parham Super League, which is organized by Eastboy Promotions.

The Potters Tigers finished the preliminary stage at the top of Group 2 by maintaining their unbeaten run, securing their fourth consecutive win with an 8-0 drubbing of Glanvilles in their last round-robin encounter at the Parham playing field on Sunday evening.

Keon Greene, Caseam Dennis, and Defrante Braithwaite all scored twice for the Tigers. Greene had conversions in the seventh and 13th minutes, Dennis scored in the 52nd and 63rd minutes, and Braithwaite found the back of the net in the 60th and 70th minutes.

Zahir Ambrose converted a penalty kick in the 30th minute, and the other goal for the Potters Tigers was scored by Javon Benjamin in the 24th minute.

It was the third loss in as many matches for Glanvilles FC.

The Freemans Village Scorpions wrapped up their campaign in Group 1 by claiming their third win in four matches with a 5-0 drubbing of Swetes FC.

Brandon Stachel and Ricardo Phillip each converted twice. Stachel scored in the 22nd and 46th minutes, while Phillip had conversions in the 56th and 70th minutes.

Junior Lee scored the other goal for the Scorpions with a strike in the 34th minute. It was the first loss in three matches for Swetes FC.

Meanwhile, Parham and East Furlong have claimed their first win in the Parham Super League.

After losing their first two matches in Group 2, Parham rebounded to pull off

a 4-0 victory over Point West Ham in their third encounter.

The goals were scored by Jahvante Harriette in the 10th minute, Trev-aughn Harriette in the 20th, Denie Henry in the 35th, and Andy Daniel in the 64th minute. It was the second loss in three matches for Point West Ham.

Similarly, East Furlong suffered heavy losses in their previous two matches in Group 1 but recovered to claim their first win after being awarded a 3-0 victory over Blackburn Palace, who forfeited the match. It was the second loss in three matches for Blackburn Palace.

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 EC\$1,000 going to the runners-up.



Mile High Travel launches charter flights for CPL fans



Mile High Travels has launched a series of special charter flights connecting cricket fans across the region to the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) matches, with services linking Antigua, St. Kitts, Trinidad, Guyana, and Barbados throughout the tournament.

The flight programme runs from August 24 through to September 12, offering fans the opportunity to follow the tournament's biggest matches in person as CPL moves between host territories.

Multiple flights are scheduled each week across the network, giving supporters flexibility to

plan their CPL journey around the fixtures that matter most to them.

While these flights are available for fans coming to CPL games, they are also a convenient way to move around the region at affordable prices.

Passengers travelling with Mile High Travels may also find themselves sharing a cabin with the players and franchises they support, as teams move between territories on the same charter network throughout the group stage.

The initiative reflects CPL's growing global appeal and its commitment to making the tour-

namment, often billed as the "Biggest Party in Sport," as accessible as possible to fans across the Caribbean and beyond.

Regional travel has long been part of the CPL experience, with supporters following their teams from island to island for an atmosphere unmatched in franchise cricket.

Seats on Mile High Travels' CPL charter flights are available now and are expected to move quickly given the tournament's growing following. Fans are encouraged to book early to guarantee their place on board.

Famous cricketers renew appeal for medical treatment of Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Famous cricketers from around the world have renewed their appeal for the medical treatment of former star player turned politician Imran Khan in a letter to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

A group of 22 former international cricket captains, including Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev of India and Australian greats Greg Chappell and Ian Chappell, signed a second such letter to the Pakistan prime minister within six months.

The latest appeal comes days after Khan was taken to a government hospital in the capital for a medical examination. The examination was conducted in the presence of one of his sisters, and Khan was then returned to Adiala prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Doctors declared him 100% medically fit.

However, the group of cricket greats questioned the procedure of Khan's medical checkup.

"Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered that Imran Khan be transferred to hospital for examination by a medical board that was to include his own personal physicians and his sister, Dr. Uzma Khan," the cricketers said in a letter.

"Concerningly, Mr. Khan's hospital stay lasted only a few hours. He was examined by a state-appointed team rather than the board the court had directed, declared 'medically fit,' and returned to Adiala jail before that board could complete its work."

Khan, 73, led Pakistan to the 1992 Cricket World Cup title and later served as prime minister from 2018 until his ouster in 2022.

The 22 former national team captains said they don't seek to adjudicate on Pakistan's domestic legal process and had written to the prime minister "not as politicians, but as former colleagues and rivals (of Khan) who share a bond



Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Khan address the media during a press conference in Lahore, Pakistan, on May 18, 2023. (AP)

forged on the cricket field."

In February, 14 former international cricketers expressed their concern over Khan's health after his family said he had lost about 85% of the vision in his right eye, a claim disputed by the government. Authorities later said his condition was improving following treatment.

Khan's lawyers and family have also accused the government of defying a court order that required him to be examined at the private Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad.

Pakistan's government rejected the allegations over the weekend, saying Khan was examined by doctors from the private hospital and that he could not be taken to Shifa International for security reasons.

The government said Khan's supporters had begun gathering outside the private hospital in violation of the court order, which required them to stay away from the medical facility to avoid inconveniencing other patients.

The government has also rejected al-

legations from Khan's family that he was being subjected to "cruelty, mental torture, punitive solitary confinement and medical neglect."

Khan is not being held under a government order but as a "convicted prisoner" serving sentences imposed by courts following judicial proceedings, the Ministry of Information said in a written response to The Associated Press last Friday.

The ministry also rejected allegations that Khan was being held in solitary confinement or denied meaningful contact with his family. It said Khan had received more than 900 visits from family members, lawyers, doctors, political representatives, and other approved visitors since his imprisonment in 2023.

He has also been allowed weekly meetings with his wife, as well as telephone and WhatsApp contact with relatives in Pakistan and abroad, the ministry said. It said his sisters had met with him as recently as August 18 and 19.

Falcons lose to Amazon Warriors in Caribbean Premier League

The Antigua & Barbuda Falcons suffered their third loss in six matches in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL), plummeting to a seven-wicket defeat against former champions Guyana Amazon Warriors at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday night.

The Amazon Warriors made a statement to the rest of the tournament, winning their third match in as many games by powering to victory at 121 for three in 9.1 overs after dismissing the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons for a paltry 116 in 17 overs in the T20 contest.

The Falcons, who lost the toss and were sent in to bat, were unable to cope with the Amazon Warriors bowling attack, which was led by an electric spell from speedster Shamar Joseph, who finished with three for 22.

Shimron Hetmyer slammed 49, and Shai Hope, who struck an unbeaten 47, then combined to complete an emphatic victory in the Falcons' own backyard in front of a packed Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Captain and leg-spinner Imran Tahir grabbed two for 15, and left-arm spinner Khary Pierre also played a key role with the ball by taking two for 19.

Pierre, opening the bowling, found his way past Rahkeem Cornwall (9) and Karima Gore (8) in the two overs he sent down, leaving the Falcons at 49 for two after the powerplay.

But it got worse for the Falcons very quickly after that. By the 12th over, Tahir had sent back Hasan Nawaz for



Amir Jangoo, right, top-scored for Antigua and Barbuda Falcons in their CPL match against Guyana Amazon Warriors at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday, August 23, 2026. (CPLT20)

20, and Amir Jangoo, who top-scored with 37 in 29 balls, had become Glenn Phillips' victim.

Kusal Perera was run out for 16 after a moment of panic, and then the Warriors' quicks took over. Shamar Joseph first dismissed Joshua James for 10 and then wrapped up the lower order, while Romario Shepherd dismissed Falcons' captain Moeen Ali for four.

The target of 117 was unlikely to test the defending champions, and it didn't, even though the Amazon Warriors slipped to 16 for two in the third over, with the dismissal of their opening pair of Matthew Nandu for one and Glen Phillips for 11.

But a 99-run third-wicket stand off 42 balls between Hetmyer and Hope took the Amazon Warriors to within two runs of their victory target.

Hetmyer faced just 19 balls, hitting six sixes and a four before becoming the third man to be dismissed. Quentin Sampson walked out, whacked the first ball he faced, off Shamar Springer, for six straight down the ground, to complete the win.

Hope remained unbeaten, having faced 26 balls, hitting four sixes and two fours.

Their third win allows the Amazon Warriors to jump to top of the points table, while the Antigua Falcons, despite the battering in this game, slipped to third place. The St. Lucia Kings are between them in second place.

The Falcons will play their final home game against unbeaten Barbados Tridents at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Tuesday at 7 pm.