

Warning To Illegals: Regularise Your Status Or Face Deportation!

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Local News



Warning To Illegals: Regularise Your Status Or Face Deportation!

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has issued a stern warning to anyone who is residing in the country illegally; get you status regularized or you will be deported.

Speaking Saturday on the Browne and Browne show, PM Browne said the government had gone the extra mile to accommodate non-nationals who are living in the country illegally by offering another period of amnesty, which runs until the end of September.

However, he said when the amnesty period ends and there are illegals who have not made use of the opportunity to bring their immigration status in line with the requirements of the law will be sent back 'to whence they came'.

According to the prime minister, this move also has national security implications as the government must know who are the persons who are residing in the country. He revealed that it is a known fact that within the non-immigrant communities there are known criminals operating.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Assistant Commissioner of Police Lisburn Michael revealed that the police have apprehended persons here in Antigua and Barbuda who are wanted for murder and other serious crimes in other jurisdiction and they have been arrested and sent back to their respective countries.

It was at this point that the prime minister issued his warning to those who

are in the country illegally.

"That is why we say that every single immigrant in this country must bring his/her status up-to-date. We have to step up now, we have to know who is in the country and if you are here illegally and you are not making contribution to nation-building, you go back to whence you came," he declared.

PM Browne explained that this position is not one against immigrants as his administration had been quite generous in its dealings with the immigrant communities.

However, he noted that the government must now draw the line as there are criminal elements who are using the immigrant communities as a shield for their illegal operations.

"I'm told there is a particular nationality that controls much of the drugs on the island and I understand that criminals from other Caribbean territories are hiding here, but we are going to have to weed them out," He emphasized.



THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

RPFAB Renews Commitment To Strengthen Relations Ith International Partners

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is renewing its commitment to work with regional and international partners as part of its mandate to stamp out crime in Antigua and Barbuda.

The commitment comes as the RPFAB joins law enforcement agencies around the world in observing the United Nations International Day of Police Cooperation, (September 7) highlighting the importance of international collaboration in protecting communities, supporting victims and strengthening public safety.

This year's observance was held under the theme, "Protecting against Vulnerability, Building Trust and Legitimacy in Policing." The theme places particular emphasis on protecting persons who are most vulnerable to crime, while strengthening the trust, accountability and legitimacy that are fundamental to effective policing.

For Antigua and Barbuda, international police cooperation continues to play an important role in addressing crimes that extend beyond our national borders. Through collaboration with INTERPOL, regional security agencies, and other international law enforcement partners, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is better positioned to share intelligence, locate wanted persons, investigate transnational criminal activity, combat cyber-enabled crime, trace illicit firearms and drugs, and support investigations across jurisdictions.



Such cooperation also provides access to specialized expertise, training, technology, databases and investigative resources that enhance the Force's ability to prevent, detect and investigate crime.

The impact of these partnerships extends far beyond law enforcement operations. They contribute directly to the protection of victims, the disruption of organized criminal networks, the recovery of stolen property, the ap-

prehension of fugitives, and the overall safety and security of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Commissioner of Police, Everton Jeffers, underscored the importance of maintaining strong relationships with regional and international policing partners. He said, "Crime recognizes no geographical boundary, and neither can our determination to confront it. International police cooperation gives us the ability to combine our intelli-



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gence, expertise and resources with those of trusted partners around the world to protect our people and bring offenders to justice.

“At the same time, our effectiveness as a police organization must always be grounded in the trust and confidence of the people we serve. We will therefore continue to strengthen our partnerships at home, across the region and internationally, while policing with integrity, professionalism, fairness and respect for all.”

Commissioner Jeffers further acknowledged the dedication of police officers and other law enforcement professionals who work daily with international partners to exchange information, coordinate investigations and support operations aimed at making communities safer. International police cooperation remains a vital component of modern policing.

INTERPOL currently connects law enforcement across 196 member countries, allowing information shared in one jurisdiction to assist investigations and operational activities elsewhere.

As policing organizations worldwide commemorate the 2026 International Day of Police Cooperation, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda reaffirms its commitment to strengthening relationships with INTERPOL and other regional and international law enforcement partners.

The Force also recommits itself to protecting the vulnerable, building public trust, upholding the rule of law, and working collaboratively with local communities and international partners to confront emerging security threats and build a safer and more secure Antigua and Barbuda.

The observance recognizes the essential contribution of international law enforcement cooperation to global peace, security and justice. The International Day of Police Cooperation is observed annually on September 7 and was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2022.

Midweek Deals

TUESDAY / WEDNESDAYS

**-Leg and Thigh
-Biscuit
-Medium Drink**

\$17.99



\$19.99

**-Burger
-Medium Drink**



Six Charged With Firearms-Related Offences

The police have arrested and charged six persons with multiple firearm, ammunition, and drug-related offences following a police operation at Green Bay Hill on Friday, September 4.

30-year-old Tyricke John, 28-year-old Kameco Elvin, and 23-year-old Kevorn Pennyfeather, all of Green Bay Hill, were jointly charged with Unlawful Possession of a Smith & Wesson .38 Special revolver and five rounds of .38 Special ammunition.

In a separate incident, the police jointly charged 33-year-old Geovanie Francis, Tyricke John, Kameco Elvin, and Kevorn Pennyfeather with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and two counts of Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

These charges relate to the seizure of a Diamondback DB9 9mm pistol and a total of 14 rounds of 9mm ammunition.

Meanwhile, 32-year-old Shane Francis of Green Bay and 43-year-old Ariel Carr of Potters were jointly charged with Unlawful Possession of 317 grams of Cannabis and Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Supply.

The accused are all expected before the court this week to answer to the charges.

The police administration remains committed to these ongoing crime-fighting initiatives and continues to appeal for the cooperation and support of the public.

Anyone with information concerning illegal firearms, ammunition, drugs, or other criminal activities is encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or 462-3914, Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477), or the nearest police station.



**FIREARMS, AMMUNITION AND DRUGS
DURING RESTORE CONFIDENCE OPERATIONS**

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
 Magistrate's Court
 High Street
 St. John's
 Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. John's
 Antigua

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENSE FOR
 BUSINESS
 REGISTERED AS
 "SDE SIP/N/DIP FLOATING BAR"**

I, Colin Stevenson, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor License Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua, on Monday, 5th October, 2026, next ensuing, for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "SDE SIP/NDIP FLOATING BAR" situated at Deep Bay in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 7th September, 2026

**Colin Stevenson
 268-773-2359**

Sir Ronald Sanders to deliver St. Paul's 190th Anniversary Lecture in New York

Sir Ronald Sanders has been invited to deliver the lecture commemorating the 190th anniversary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the Village of Flatbush, Brooklyn, New York, on Saturday, 12 September 2026.

Titled **"Faith That Repairs: Reparations, Responsibility and the Work of Hope,"** the lecture will confront the racism created to justify African enslavement and colonial exploitation, its continuing consequences, and the case for reparations.

The setting gives the lecture special significance. St. Paul's was founded in 1836 in a Flatbush community where slavery had been deeply entrenched and where the remains of enslaved and formerly enslaved Africans lie in the historic African Burial Ground.

Sir Ronald will argue that slavery was not simply a cruel practice of the past. It was an organised economic and racial system, protected by states, enforced by law and financed by banks, merchants and insurers. Although legal ownership of human beings ended, the racial inequalities and institutional advantages produced by that system did not disappear with emancipation.

The lecture will make clear that reparations is neither revenge nor charity, and that present generations are not being accused of personal guilt. It is about the responsibility of states and institutions that inherited wealth, property, authority and advantage from slavery and colonialism to help repair their continuing consequences.

"Reparations is the point at which remembrance accepts responsibility, and responsibility becomes repair," the lecture declares.

Drawing upon Caribbean and American history, Christian teaching and recent United Nations action, Sir Ronald will examine the responsibility of governments, churches, universities, banks, insurers and other institutions. He will call for practical reparations through education, health, development finance, debt relief, cultural restoration and the

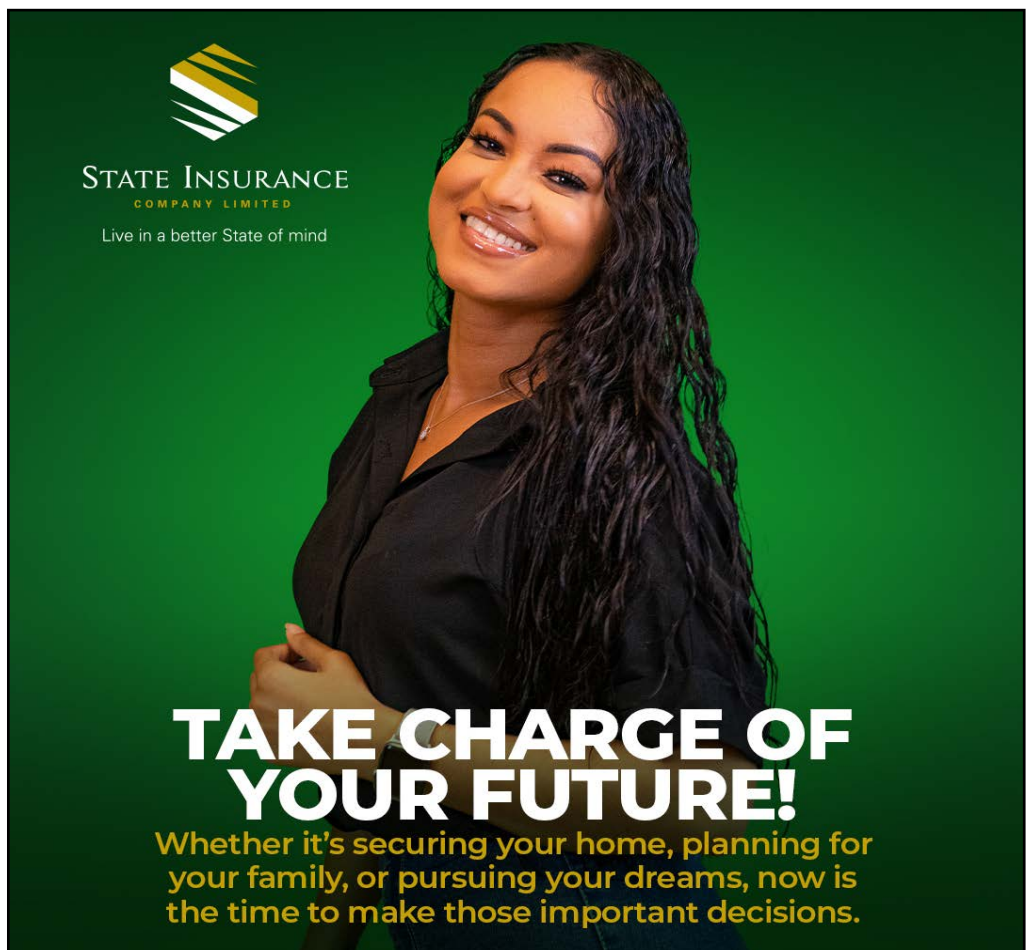


opening of historical records.

The lecture's message is direct: racism created lasting injury; remembrance alone cannot repair it; and hope has meaning only when it is converted into action.

Sir Ronald is Antigua and Barbuda's

Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States, Chancellor of the University of Guyana, a writer and a longstanding advocate of reparations for slavery and colonial exploitation.



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PM Browne Fires Back at Regional Women Judges Over Sentencing Row



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has intensified his criticism of the regional judiciary, accusing judges of imposing inadequate sentences on repeat offenders and insisting that judicial independence cannot place the courts beyond public scrutiny.

Mr. Browne's latest remarks came in response to a joint statement issued last week by five regional associations of women judges, which expressed grave concern over comments he made last month regarding what he described as lenient sentences for serious criminal offences.

The associations — the Caribbean Association of Women Judges, Commonwealth of The Bahamas Association of Women Judges, Eastern Caribbean Association of Women Judges, Guyana Association of Women Judges and Trinidad and Tobago Association

of Women Judges — defended judicial independence and the rule of law.

In their statement, the organisations said they considered it necessary to collectively defend principles they described as foundational to constitutional democracy throughout the Caribbean.

They specifically objected to Prime Minister Browne's reported suggestion that a judge, who sits on the bench in Saint John's and who fails to impose sufficiently severe sentences should leave the country or face deportation and designation as persona non grata.

The associations argued that such remarks could not simply be characterised as robust criticism of sentencing policy.

"On the independence of the Judiciary, there can be no ambiguity," they said. "An independent Judiciary is not an obstacle to public safety. It is one of the guarantees of a free, safe and democratic society."

Rather than retreating from his position, the head of government has doubled down. Taking to social media Monday, the Prime Minister argued that the courts must take greater account of the impact that repeat offending has on communities.

"Give proportional sentences instead of your inadequate, weak-kneed sentences that have resulted in an unmanageable increase in the repeat offend-

ers population," Browne said.

He accused repeat offenders of destabilising Caribbean communities, terrorising citizens and undermining development.

The Prime Minister maintained that judicial independence does not shield judges from criticism or accountability.

"Your 'independence' doesn't put you beyond reproach and make you unaccountable to the people you serve."

He further argued that judges have an obligation to support the broader fight against crime and violence through what he considers proportionate sentencing.

"Your weak sentencing is undermining public safety; that is the salient issue at hand, that you, members of the judiciary have conveniently failed to address," he said.

Prime Minister Browne rejected any suggestion that his comments amount to interference in individual cases, stressing that his concern is with what he described as systemic weaknesses in the justice system.

"The judiciary is fully aware that I am not seeking to influence any individual case," Browne said. "What I am challenging is a broken judicial system that needs urgent realignment to become relevant in addressing the prevailing challenges of crime and violence involving repeat offenders."



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Local News



He argued that Parliament and the public have expressed a desire for tougher and more proportional sentences, particularly for repeat offenders convicted of serious sexual and firearms-related crimes.

“I respect the separation of powers,” he said. “However, where your weak sentencing is trespassing on the domain of the parliament and by extension the people’s desire to see more proportional sentencing of repeat offenders involved in heinous sex and firearms crimes — I have every right to ‘blaze’ members of the judiciary.”

Mr. Browne pointed to several types of cases to illustrate his concerns, including the sexual assault of a five-year-old child, aggravated robbery involving firearms and repeat narcotics and firearms offences.

He questioned whether judges would view such sentences differently if they or their own families were victims.

“How would you feel if your young five-year-old daughter was raped and contracted herpes from a 50-year criminal and the judge gave a three-year sentence for a guilty plea?” Browne asked.

He also questioned sentences involving armed robbery, asking what would happen if an offender were released after a short prison term only to return to society and commit similar offences.

On narcotics trafficking, Browne argued that repeat offenders must face longer sentences to disrupt what he described as ongoing criminal enterprises.

The Prime Minister also rejected the associations’ criticism of his previous comments concerning a Rastafarian figure known as “Gassy Dread,” saying their condemnation was of no consequence to him.

He warned that he would continue speaking out on sentencing until he believes public concerns about serious and repeat offending are adequately addressed.

“As far as I am concerned, it’s inappropriate for the judiciary to be moving in the opposite direction of the

parliament, with their liberal, lenient sentencing,” he said.

He went further by warning that judges who engage in misconduct could face consequences if credible evidence emerges.

“And to the corrupt ones among you — take my threat seriously. You cross the line and credible evidence emerges about your acts of un integrity — appropriate action will be taken against them,” he said.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne appealed to members of the judiciary to show greater empathy toward victims of serious crimes and to recognise what he described as the need for reform of the justice system.

“My advice: climb down from your secured ivory towers, show some empathy for the victims of these heinous crimes by ensuring justice is served on the criminals, without fail.”

He maintained that public safety must take priority, while insisting that the justice system needs to be realigned with the wishes and expectations of the people.

“The safety of our respective countries and our peoples is paramount and takes priority over your so-called ‘independence,’” he said.



DAILY PROGRAMMING




EARLY VIBRATIONS	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
THE RUSH HOUR SHOW	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	6AM-9AM SATURDAYS
TOUCHLINE	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I.	& 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
JAH WADADLI	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

3 schools 300 supplies

Some three hundred students who attend primary schools located on the eastern section of Antigua were the recipients of back to school supplies courtesy of two benevolent citizens.

The presentation to students of the Freetown Primary, Newfield Primary and Willikies Primary was made through an initiative made possible by Daran Joseph and Adrian Richardson.

Daran Joseph the founder of Daran's Dumpster Rentals says that he started business at age 18 and is proud to give back to the Wilikies Primary School for making him the person he is for today.

Adrian Richardson, entrepreneur and community activist encourages more young entrepreneur to invest in this very nation that has shaped each of us.

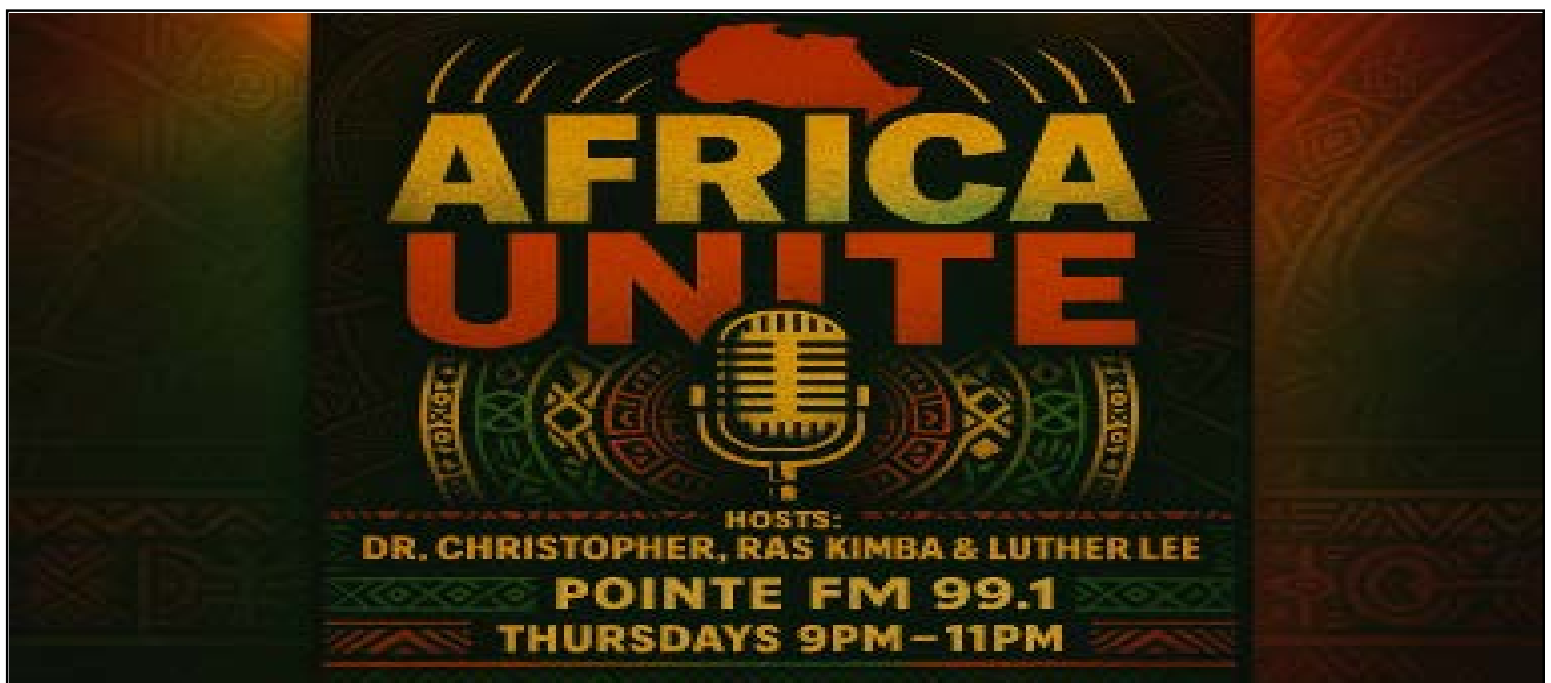
Both Richardson and Joseph pledges annual commitment to help build a better nation.

Meanwhile, in separate presentation exercise, Principle of the St. Joseph's Academy, Rudolf Davis accepted a donation on behalf of the school. Shae Francis, Cody Nedd, Junior Reid, Cordell Croal and Adrian Richardson made presentation on behalf of



fifty-four (54) past students of the St. Joseph Academy.

Principal Rudolf Davis says the donation will go towards the installation of A/C units for the school.



Antigua and Barbuda Represented at 6th World Nomad Games in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



Antigua and Barbuda was represented at the 6th edition of the World Nomad Games, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from August 30th to September 7th, 2026.

After three grueling days of travel, the national team comprising athletes Terrance ‘Kambui’ Charles and Denise Francis, and coach Trevor Simon, participated in the Parade of Nations on August 31st, 2026. The opening ceremony brought together 104 countries to celebrate nomadic heritage and sport.

The World Nomad Games were created to highlight and protect traditional games and sports worldwide.

The 6th edition featured competitions in Archery, Horseback Riding, Wrestling, Judo, and the intellectual board games of Oware, Togyz Kumalak, and Mangala. These three strategy games are played professionally and competitively across Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa.

Beyond competition, the Games serve to bring people together, share

culture, generate friendship, and create economic opportunities between nations. The cross-cultural benefits extend across borders, with participants ranging from students to professionals in various disciplines.

The 6th edition featured competitions in Archery, Horseback Riding, Wrestling, Judo, and the intellectual board games of Oware, Togyz Kumalak, and Mangala. These three strategy games are played professionally and competitively across Europe, Asia, South America, and Africa.

Antigua and Barbuda’s participation marks another step in showcasing the nation’s commitment to cultural exchange and the preservation of global heritage.




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MP Michael Freeland Calls for Mental-Health Reform Following Death of St George Inmate

Member of Parliament for St George, Michael Freeland, has expressed profound sorrow following the reported death of Treon “Chucky” George, a resident of New Winthorpes, after a fire at His Majesty’s Prison.

Freeland extended condolences to George’s family, loved ones and members of the New Winthorpes community, describing the incident as an extraordinarily painful loss.

“My heart is deeply troubled by the reported death of Treon ‘Chucky’ George, a son of the New Winthorpes community,” Freeland said.

Although authorities have not yet released a complete account of the incident, Freeland said George’s death raises urgent questions about the treatment of people living with mental-health conditions within the prison and wider criminal-justice systems.

George reportedly experienced serious mental-health challenges and had several encounters with the law. Freeland stressed, however, that a person’s struggles or mistakes must never be allowed to erase his humanity.

“Behind every prison number is a human being. Behind every troubled individual is a life story, often filled with trauma, hardship and suffering that the wider society may never fully understand,” Freeland said.

“Treon was not only an inmate. He was someone’s son, relative, neighbour and friend. He was a member of our community, and his life had value.”

The St George MP said the tragedy should prompt a serious national examination of how people with mental-health conditions are identified, treated and supported when they enter the criminal-justice system.

He questioned whether prisons are adequately equipped to care for inmates experiencing severe psycho-



logical distress and whether officers have sufficient training and resources to recognise individuals who may be at risk of harming themselves.

“Mental illness is not a moral failure, and prison must never become our default mental-health institution,” Freeland declared.

He also cautioned against associating mental illness automatically with criminality or violence, noting that most people living with mental-health conditions do not commit crimes.

However, untreated mental illness can have devastating consequences, particularly when combined with childhood trauma, poverty, substance misuse, homelessness, isolation and inadequate access to professional care.

Freeland said Antigua and Barbuda must place greater emphasis on early intervention rather than waiting until

vulnerable people reach a crisis or repeatedly come into conflict with the law.

He called for stronger community-based mental-health services, increased access to counselling and psychiatric treatment, better coordination among social workers, health-care professionals, police and prison authorities, and specialised facilities for individuals whose psychiatric needs cannot be safely managed in an ordinary prison environment.

“Accountability and compassion can exist together. Public safety is essential, but so are treatment, rehabilitation and human dignity,” Freeland said.

The MP is also calling for a thorough and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the prison fire and George’s death.

Free University Education Takes Effect as New School Year Begins



Eligible first-time students at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus are now benefiting from tuition-free education as the government's latest education initiative takes effect with the start of the new academic year.

Minister of Education, Science and Technology Daryll Matthew said the measure forms part of the government's broader effort to expand access to education by removing financial barriers for Antiguan and Barbudan students.

Speaking at the commencement of the new school year, Matthew said the tuition-free programme applies to Antiguan and Barbudan citizens pursuing their first degree at UWI Five Islands and who meet the eligibility requirements.

He clarified that the policy does not apply retroactively to students who were already enrolled at the univer-

sity before its introduction.

However, he stressed that existing students will continue receiving the government scholarships they already benefit from through the Board of Education or the Prime Minister's Scholarship programme, ensuring they are not disadvantaged by the new initiative.

"The intent is not to have anyone be forced to pay tuition fees to UWI when others are benefiting from a government policy initiative going forward," he said.

Matthew also highlighted another major education reform already in place—the government's decision to eliminate CSEC and CAPE examination fees for eligible students taking up to 10 subjects.

He said the initiative brings relief to parents.

"Parents will not have to choose between paying the rent, buying food,

or registering their children for the examinations," he said.

The minister said the government has made expanding educational access its central priority, with the latest initiatives designed to ensure that financial circumstances do not prevent students from progressing through secondary school or pursuing higher education.

According to Minister Daryll Matthew, almost every Antiguan and Barbudan student attending UWI Five Islands already receives some form of financial assistance through government scholarship programmes, while the university also offers its own scholarship opportunities.

He said the new tuition-free policy builds on those existing programmes and represents another step in making higher education more accessible to citizens pursuing their first degree.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**



The poster features a vibrant background image of three Antigua Carnival dancers in elaborate costumes with large, colorful feathered headdresses. The dancers are smiling and holding microphones, suggesting a performance. The background is a mix of bright colors like green, yellow, and purple, with a geometric, crystalline pattern at the bottom.

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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.*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



The Honourable E.P. Chet Greene
 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration

September 7, 2026

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE COMMEMORATION OF AFRICA-CARICOM DAY 2026

Distinguished Colleagues, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and our Beloved Brothers and Sisters across the African Continent and the Caribbean Community.

It is with profound honour and a deep sense of shared destiny that I address you on this solemn occasion of Africa-CARICOM Day 2026. This day, September 7th, stands as a monumental testament to our resilience, our an-

cestry and our unshakeable commitment to a future forged in unity.

We commemorate the historic vision of our own Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Gaston Browne, who in 2021 first proposed this day as a beacon of cooperation. Our connection is not merely diplomatic; it is visceral. It flows from the blood of our ancestors, from the shared tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, rightly recognized by the United Nations as the “gravest crime against humanity” and from the indomitable spirit that has seen our peoples rise from the ashes of history. We do not inherit guilt from the past, instead, we inherit the profound responsibility to build a future of justice

and equity for our descendants.

Today, as the world navigates profound geopolitical shifts, economic volatility and existential threats like climate change, the imperative for unity has never been more urgent. As a nation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and a proud member of the Global South, Antigua and Barbuda recognizes that our collective strength lies in our numbers and our shared voice. The recent visa waiver agreements signed with our brothers in Ghana, Kenya and Benin are not mere administrative formalities; they are the dismantling of barriers, the building of bridges and a tangible manifestation of our commitment to “One People. Shared History. Common Purpose.”

Looking to the horizon, we must now chart a course of transformative action:

The potential for trade and investment is undeniable with projections identifying agricultural trade potential of up to \$15 billion between our regions. We must aggressively operationalize this, targeting the ambitious \$1.8 billion trade volume goal by 2028. We must empower our private sectors, streamline logistics and ensure that our SMEs, particularly those led by our vibrant youth, have access to the capital and markets they need to thrive. Our partnerships must facilitate mutual growth in sectors from agriculture and renewable energy to the blue



POINTE ON DE STREETZ
 HOSTED BY
 VERNON A. SPRINGER

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unity in multilateral forums is our greatest bargaining chip in reshaping the global order to be more just and inclusive.

The bonds between Antigua and Barbuda and the continent of Africa are unbreakable. Let us ensure that this partnership moves from aspiration to measurable action, transforming our shared history into a prosperous and connected future.

On this Africa-CARICOM Day, I implore us to reaffirm our pledge to rise together and to ensure that the next generation inherits a world where the ties between Africa and the Caribbean are stronger than ever.

Long live Africa-CARICOM solidarity. Long live the enduring bonds between our peoples.

The Honourable E.P. Chet Greene
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration

economy and financial services.

Our greatest resource is our people. The visa waivers are a start but we must now invest in direct air links to make travel seamless. We must foster cultural and educational exchanges that allow our youth to explore their heritage and build networks of innovation. Let us also revitalize our sports diplomacy, using the unifying power of cricket, athletics and football to deepen the bonds of camaraderie and shared identity between our villages and cities.

We must continue to press for reparatory justice not as an end point but as a means to addressing the persistent inequities that plague our nations. The upcoming CARICOM Reparations Commission, 3rd Regional Conference on Reparations, themed “Reparatory Justice as the Coming Enlightenment”, scheduled for 17 – 19 September 2026 in Barbados, will serve to further consolidate the regions advocacy efforts globally.

We must stand united in our call for climate justice, debt relief and the restitution of our cultural heritage. Our



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Commentary



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

BY THE HONORABLE DARYLL MATTHEW

*Minister of Education, Science and Technology
On the Opening of the 2026/2027 Academic Year*

My fellow Antiguan and Barbudans,

There is a particular sound to the first morning of a school year in this country. Uniforms that are still stiff. Shoes that have not yet been broken in. A queue of traffic on the road because every parent in Antigua and Barbuda is trying to do the same thing at the same time.

I want to begin simply by wishing every one of our students a good year. And I want to say to the parents who got them there this morning, often after a summer of stretching a budget further than it was meant to go, that this Government sees you, and that some of the weight you have carried in past Septembers you no longer have to carry.

Let me say plainly what has changed.

If your child sits CSEC (CXC) or CAPE this year, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda pays those examination fees. Your child will choose subjects based on ambition and aptitude, and nothing else.

If your child, or you yourself, wishes to pursue a degree at the University of the West Indies, tuition is covered. If the path is the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies, new Antiguan and Barbudan students enter tuition-free. If the path is a trade, a technical certification or a skill learned at the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education, tuition is waived there as well.

I want us to understand what that actually means, because we have said it so often that we risk taking it for granted.

It means that in Antigua and Barbuda, in 2026, the question of whether a child is educated to the very limit of their ability is no longer a question about that family's bank balance. It is a question about that child's effort and that child's will.

That is not a small thing. In much of the world it remains an aspiration. Here it is policy, it is funded, and it is happening this term.

Commentary

This Government took the view that a country of our size cannot afford to waste a single capable person, and that every child we fail to develop is a doctor we will later import, a business that will never be started, a problem that will go unsolved.

So we removed the price tag. Not as generosity, but as national strategy.

To our teachers and school leaders: I am aware that policy arrives on your desk as extra work. New students, new expectations, new numbers coming through your gates because the fees no longer stop them. I do not take that for granted, and I will not pretend the resources have ever been as plentiful as your effort has been. You have my respect, you have my thanks, and you have my commitment that this Ministry will keep working to give you the tools, the training and the conditions your profession deserves.

To our parents and guardians: the State can open every door in this country and it will still not be enough without you. Education is a partnership, and your half of it cannot be legislated. Ask about the homework. Go to the meeting. Know the teacher. Praise the effort, not only the grade. Your attention is worth more than anything in our budget.

To our students: this year belongs to you.

You will be told, at some point this term, that something is beyond you. Some of you will be told it by other people, and some of you will tell it to yourselves at two in the morning before an examination. I would like you to remember that a country of ninety-odd thousand people has decided, deliberately, to spend its money on the belief that you are capable. We did not do that casually. We did it because we have seen what Antiguan and Barbudans do when the door is finally opened.

Work hard. Be curious past the point of the syllabus. Look after the classmate who is struggling. And aim higher than you think is reasonable, because reasonable is not what built this nation.

To the class beginning today, and to every teacher, parent and worker who will carry them through the year: let us make this one count.

May God bless our students, may God bless our educators, and may God bless the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

Thank you.

The Honorable Daryll Matthew

Minister of Education, Science and Technology
 Government of Antigua and Barbuda



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Regional News

Jamaica takes its case for reparations for Britain's role in slavery to King Charles III



Jamaica is taking its campaign for Britain to pay reparations for the ravages of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to King Charles III.

Using legal traditions that stretch back to the early days of the British Empire, Jamaica petitioned the king on Monday to refer a series of questions about slavery, and the U.K.'s responsibility to pay damages, to a committee of the Privy Council, which serves as the highest court for former colonies that retain ties to the British legal system.

While the petition is formally addressed to the king, Charles has no personal say on whether it will be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and he will act on the advice of the government.

The filing was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the day in 1781 when the Liverpool-registered ship *Zong* set sail from West Africa with 442 enslaved Africans on board. When water supplies ran low on the way to Jamaica, the crew decided to throw 132 men, women and children overboard, calculating that it would be more profitable to file an insurance claim for the lost "property" than to

sell their weakened and dehydrated captives for a reduced price.

Publicity about the *Zong* massacre helped fuel the campaign to end slavery in the British Empire. Britain abolished the slave trade in 1807, but it wasn't until Aug. 1, 1834, that the enslavement of human beings was outlawed.

"In relation to the wrongs that were done, we want answers," Jamaican Culture Minister Olivia Grange told The Associated Press on Sunday before a church service in south London, the first in a series of events scheduled around the filing.

"Once we get those answers, then our attorneys, our lawyers, will determine what the next move is," she added.

Jamaica is a leader of the effort to get Britain and other European nations to apologize for their role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade and pay reparations, both for the enslavement of individuals and for the continuing impact on their descendants around the world. Jamaica said the Caribbean Community, which includes 23 states from the Bahamas to Guyana, endorsed the petition.

Although he has stopped short of endorsing reparations, the king has repeatedly expressed his personal commitment to addressing the historic wrongs of slavery. In a 2024 speech to leaders of the Commonwealth, the voluntary association of countries that succeeded the British Empire, Charles said that the "most painful aspects of our past continue to resonate."

"None of us can change the past," he added. "But we can commit, with all our hearts, to learning its lessons and to finding creative ways to right inequalities that endure."

Buckingham Palace said Monday that it has been working closely with the governor-general of Jamaica, the king's representative on the island who is appointed on the advice of the Jamaican government, to ensure the petition is "properly lodged."

While acknowledging that slavery was "abhorrent," the British government has so far rejected demands for either an apology or reparations.

When the United Nations General Assembly in March passed a resolution endorsing reparations as a "concrete step" toward addressing the wrongs of slavery, the U.K. abstained. That was partly because the U.K. believes in the internationally recognized legal concept that the law governing any event is the law of the relevant time, British representative James Kariuki told the U.N.

"There is equally no duty to provide reparation for historical acts that were not, at the time those acts were committed, violations of international law," he said.

Jamaica's petition is an effort to expand the political campaign for reparations into the legal realm, Grange said.

The petition asks the Judicial Committee to rule on three questions:

— Was the forced transport of African people to Jamaica and their sub-

Regional News

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sequent enslavement illegal because it was contrary to English common law?

— Were the forced transport and enslavement of African people crimes against humanity for which the U.K. bears responsibility?

— Does the U.K. have an obligation to “provide a remedy” to the people of Jamaica for the forced transport and enslavement of their ancestors?

Craig Prescott, an expert on constitutional law and the monarchy at Royal Holloway, University of London, said the move was “quite clever” because it seeks to use an obscure constitutional procedure to address one of the biggest issues in Jamaican society.

The right of British people to petition the crown with grievances about the administration of justice stretches back to the Norman conquest of England in 1066, when the king was considered the “fountain of justice throughout his

Dominions,” the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council says on its website.

Jamaica’s petition is based on an 1833 law that made the committee the highest court for civil and criminal appeals in the British Empire. When the Empire became the Commonwealth of independent nations after World War II, the committee retained that role for the countries that maintain their legal ties to the U.K.

Prescott expects the petition to be referred to the Judicial Committee, where a panel of U.K. Supreme Court justices will review it and make a ruling.

But, he said, the justices are usually very cautious about granting such petitions because they sidestep standard legal procedures.

“I think, at the very least, the board will look at this with a skeptical eye, not because of questions of whether slavery is wrong or right or otherwise, but just this is a very peculiar legal procedure that is sort of just one on the statute books that rears its head from time to time.”

But rejection of the petition could still be a win for Jamaica.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced plans to sever ties with the British crown and transform his country into a republic.

“It does raise the question of why have a head of state who really does not share the positions that are widely held in Jamaica,” Prescott said. “If those residual links (to Britain) don’t deliver an answer that is what they’re looking for in Jamaica, then you might be looking at severing those links.” (AP)

US visa crackdown derails Labor Day gigs for some Caribbean artistes

Caribbean artistes scheduled to perform at Labor Day festivities this weekend are running into major hurdles as US officials tighten enforcement of B1 and B2 visa rules.

Although the visas are generally used for business and tourism, artistes had routinely used them to travel and perform at events.

However, the US has now taken the position that artistes must first go through the required process to obtain proper authorisation to work.

The shift has come as a shock to many, and St. Lucia Times has learnt that at least three Saint Lucian artistes have had their visas revoked, disrupting plans to participate in this weekend’s festivities.

Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre did not shy away from the issue when addressing reporters earlier this week, making it clear that the situation extends beyond Saint Lucia.

“Artistes who performed in the US before on B-1 [and] B-2 visas are being sanctioned, artistes from all over,”



Pierre said.

He said entertainers hoping to perform in the US will now have to ensure they follow the stipulated process before taking up engagements there.

“The process is, you have to get an agent, and you have to get a work permit,” the Prime Minister explained.

Across the region, several artistes, including members of well-known bands, have found themselves navigating the same visa issue. For some, the change has meant being unable to perform at scheduled events altogether. (St Lucia Times)

Regional News

FBI to visit SVG to bolster govt's crime strategy



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security St. Clair Leacock has announced that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will soon arrive in St. Vincent and the Grenadines to assist local law enforcement in a sweeping, intelligence-led crackdown on gun violence and organized crime.

The announcement was made during a parliamentary session on August 27th, 2026, in response to questions posed by Opposition Senator James regarding the government's national crime-reduction strategy and the institutional resources deployed to curb homicides.

"The FBI would be here just now to assist us," Leacock declared, highlighting that this partnership is a critical pillar of the state's plan to disrupt illegal firearms trafficking and strengthen local law enforcement capabilities. Interpol has also dispatched representatives to St. Vincent to evaluate and examine local units.

The collaboration with the FBI is in-

tended to support local authorities in targeted operations, intelligence gathering, investigations, and searches, which Leacock emphasized would be conducted "always within the framework of the law" to respect citizens' rights.

Leacock emphasized that the government has already significantly invested in local capacity, sponsoring 88 training courses and conferences so far in 2026. These programs have trained over 160 personnel across the police, Coast Guard, prison services,

and immigration—not including the 120 recruits currently in training. The government has spent over \$98,000 to fund participation in these regional and international courses.

Leacock revealed that his preparation for the national security portfolio included high-level security training and diplomatic engagements in Barbados, where he met with representatives from Interpol and visited the U.S. Embassy to engage with FBI officials. (St Vincent Times)

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Caribbean teachers rally behind embattled GTU...condemns Govt. over dues suspension, judicial non-compliance

The Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT) has launched a joint regional and international campaign in support of the Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU), publicly condemning the Government of Guyana for its "ongoing, unjustified action" in unilaterally halting union dues deductions and disregarding judicial orders.

In an official statement issued by CUT President Sharon Kelsick, the regional body announced that it is taking immediate action to confront the government's decision to suspend the check-off dues system.

The dispute centers on the executive branch's refusal to remit union dues, alongside its failure to adhere to decisions from both the high court and the Court of Appeal of Guyana ordering the process to be reinstated.

The CUT warned that the government's refusal to collect and remit union dues threatens the stability of union representation in Guyana.

Describing the standard check-off system as a "standard, legally recognised, and long-established mechanism that facilitates workers' fundamental right to freedom of association," the union declared that the unilateral suspension is an "overt attempt to undermine the financial stability, independence, and operational capacity of the GTU." The statement further noted that such measures constitute a "direct violation of international labour standards, fundamental human rights, and the princi-



ples of fair industrial relations."

Beyond the immediate financial impact on educators, the union expressed deep concern over the broader legal precedent set by the administration's inaction following judicial oversight. "The continued failure of the executive to respect and execute these judicial decisions threatens the rule of law, undermines democratic institutions, and sets a dangerous precedent for industrial relations across the entire Caribbean region," the CUT stated.

Founded in 1935 under the motto "Each for All – All for Each," the CUT represents educators across the region under an executive body including President Sharon Kelsick of Antigua, First Vice President Fiona Charles-Williams of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Second Vice President Elena Smith of Belize, Third Vice President Julian Pierre of Barba-

dos, General Secretary/Treasurer Vern Charles of St. Lucia, Deputy General Secretary Shana Eudovique of St. Lucia, and Trustees Rudy Lovell of Barbados and Mark Smith of Jamaica. As an autonomous regional body affiliated with Education International, led globally by President Mugwena Maluleke and General Secretary David Edwards, the CUT is leveraging its international network to apply external pressure.

In its regional mandate, the CUT urged all member organisations, trade union affiliates, and civil society partners to "rally in support of the GTU and Guyanese educators." The organisation specified two primary avenues for action: to "highlight this violation of workers' rights and judicial non-compliance across local, regional, and international media platforms," and to "demonstrate active solidarity" by issuing formal statements demanding full compliance with court directives.

Concluding its declaration, the CUT called directly on the executive branch in Georgetown to reverse course and uphold constitutional norms. "We urgently call on the Government of Guyana to act responsibly, honor the rule of law, respect the decisions of its own judiciary, and immediately reinstate the check-off dues process," the statement read, adding that "respect for workers' rights and the judiciary is non-negotiable in any democratic society." (Kaiteur News)



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Probe begins into why cargo plane overran Miami runway

Officials are investigating what caused an Amazon cargo plane to overshoot the runway after landing at Miami International Airport in a deadly incident on Sunday.

Five people were killed and five others seriously injured when the plane, which was operated by 21 Air, crashed just before 14:00 (18:00 GMT). None of the group have yet been identified.

The plane, a Boeing 767-300, crossed a road beyond the runway and hit several vehicles on the ground. It is not yet clear whether those who died were in the aircraft, on the ground, or both.

21 Air, a charter company based in North Carolina, said it was “devastated by the accident involving one of our aircraft in Miami”.

Both 21 Air and Amazon said they were co-operating with the investigation.

“At least five people have lost their lives, and five others are injured,” Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said at a news conference on Sunday evening.

She added that rescue crews arrived at the scene within “seconds” of the crash.

Three of the five people injured were in critical condition, Miami Fire Chief Raied Jadallah said.

Several of the injured were trapped inside or under vehicles on the ground, and needed to be extricated by fire and rescue crews, Jadallah added.

Over 200 firefighters responded after the plane burst into flames.

Officials say it is too early to know the cause of the crash, which is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The federal agency, which investigates all air crashes in the US, plans to hold a news conference of its own on Monday.

Experts who spoke to the Associ-



ated Press news agency said video footage of the plane’s landing would present investigators with the question of whether or not the aircraft touched down within its designated zone on the runway - and if so, what happened.

All flights at the airport were temporarily grounded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The incident came over Labor Day weekend, one of the busiest travel times of the year.

Locals have described the aftermath of the incident. One woman, Beth Tilman, told the New York Times she had seen a black cloud where the plane had crashed, and had smelled an acrid stench.

“It wasn’t trees burning. It wasn’t mangroves burning. It was some other odour that I, honestly, had never smelled before,” she said.

A student pilot, Rohan Ellis, told the same newspaper he had witnessed sirens and helicopters overhead when he arrived at the scene of the crash. Describing what had happened to the vehicles that the plane had hit, he said: “They were mangled.”

A map shows how the plane came in diagonally on the runway, and continued past the ending. It shows the initial

landing zone, and the site where the plane came to rest

Flight data from tracking site FlightRadar24 shows that the Amazon cargo flight was travelling at 112 knots (129mph, 207km/h) as it exited the “useable runway”.

In a blog post, the site said the plane came to rest near a car park that serves an Amazon warehouse and other businesses.

There were light thunderstorms and gusting winds in Miami at the time of the incident, the site says.

Kelly Nantel, Amazon’s Director of Corporate Global Media Relations, said: “We’re heartbroken to learn that five people lost their lives in today’s incident at Miami International Airport.

“Our deepest sympathies go out to the families, loved ones, and all those affected by this devastating loss.

“The airplane, which was operated by 21 Air, was attempting to land when this incident occurred. We’re working closely with local authorities and officials to learn more and will co-operate fully with any investigation.”

The statement from 21 Air’s CEO Keith Winters said: “Our deepest condolences are with the families and loved ones of those who lost their

lives.

“Our immediate priorities are supporting those affected, assisting the authorities, and ensuring that accurate information is communicated as it becomes available.”

The plane had earlier departed Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The crash comes during one of the busiest travel weekends of the year in the US.

Passengers at the airport told the BBC they were frustrated by the lack of information coming from officials, with many flights cancelled or delayed as a result of the incident.

There were long queues at airline counters as people tried to reschedule travel plans, with some saying they would be forced to stay in Miami an extra night.

“The earliest I could find to fly to San Francisco was Tuesday morning,” said one traveller named Faroush. “I’ll probably have to find a hotel and spend more time in Miami.”

The Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) said there would be 17 million travellers passing through US airports in the week leading up to Monday’s Labor Day holiday.

The TSA, which screens passengers flying in the US, predicted that 2.3 million people would fly on Sunday alone.

Miami International Airport (MIA) is located near downtown Miami, and is one of the busiest airports in the country.

“Founded in 1928, MIA is America’s busiest airport for international freight and second busiest for international passengers, offers more flights to Latin America and the Caribbean than any other US airport,” according to its website.

About 60% of all international visitors to Florida arrive at this airport, it says. (BBC)



Nepal observes national day of mourning for victims of flash flood disaster



Nepalis observed a national day of mourning for the victims of the flash flood on Monday, lighting candles to mark the last day of the traditional 13-day Hindu mourning period.

While flags were flown at half mast, commemorations were scaled back as rescue teams continue to search for survivors. Candlelight vigils were planned for Monday evening.

At least 1,287 people are known to have died after a flash flood, believed to have been triggered by a glacial collapse, swept through villages in a Himalayan valley along the border between Nepal and Tibet.

Almost two weeks later, more than 5,000 people are still missing.

Phanindra Paudel of the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) told the Reuters news agency that there would be “no government programmes organised as the rescue and search operation is still going on in the flood-hit areas.”

Nepal’s president, Ram Chandra Paudel, toured areas devastated by the

floods on Monday, an aide told Reuters.

The home ministry said that government offices, as well as missions abroad, would fly the national flag at half mast to mark the final day of the mourning period.

Army spokesperson Raja Ram Basnet told Agence France-Presse that rescue efforts were continuing “with the same tempo we had on day one”.

“Our focus is on search and rescue at three levels - on ground, by air, and in the tunnels,” he said.

“We are making sure that no one is still stranded.”

Among the few places where rescuers still see a chance of finding survivors is in tunnels that form part of the region’s hydropower stations, with hundreds of workers among the missing.

Australian tunnel rescue expert Arnold Dix, who is advising Nepali teams, said in an update on X that the operation meant facing “multiple potential rescues, unfolding at the same time, in different places, each with its

own dangers, uncertainties and lives that may still be saved.”

Four people have been rescued in recent days, three at hydropower stations or tunnels.

On Saturday, a 64-year-old Nepali woman was pulled from her buried house on Saturday, more than 10 days after a wall of ice, rock and mud partially buried her house in the Nuwakot district.

She was discovered alive on the fourth floor of the building by Nepal’s Armed Police Force and airlifted to a hospital in Kathmandu for treatment.

On Sunday rescue workers in China recovered twelve bodies in the Nepal-Tibet border, using excavators, shovels and ground penetrating radar at the site.

At least 5,083 people are still missing in Nepal. On the Tibetan side, the death toll reported by Chinese media on Friday was 31, with 531 people unaccounted for. (BBC)

First female administrator in the Panama Canal's history takes the helm

Naval engineer Ilya Espino de Marotta takes the helm Monday as the first woman to lead the Panama Canal administration, stepping into the role at a challenging time for the vital maritime route.

Buoyed by her leadership of the multi-billion-dollar expansion project last decade, Espino moves up from deputy administrator to take full command of the canal. Only three other Panamanians have held the position since the United States handed over the interoceanic waterway in late 1999.

Her appointment to the canal's top post is already seen as a symbol of women's capability for executive leadership roles in the industry. The canal serves as the engine of the Panamanian economy and handles nearly 3% of global maritime trade.

Shortly before taking office, Espino told The Associated Press that her priority would be advancing the project to build a reservoir on the Indio River within the canal's watershed. The \$1.5 billion project aims to secure drinking water for 50% of the Central American nation's 4 million people and to support the future operation of the canal, opened by the U.S. in 1914.

The canal's Board of Directors had previously appointed her to lead this \$1.5 billion plan, which encompasses community resettlement and environmental considerations. It is the largest project since the waterway's expansion, which opened in June 2016 at a cost exceeding \$5.25 billion. Officials expect the reservoir to be completed by late 2031 or 2032.

For Espino, the goal is to guaran-



tee future water supplies without compromising reliability in the eyes of the shipping industry. If customers perceive that the canal is not seeking a long-term water solution, they could shift their cargo to other routes

That project, which has sparked protests from certain communities, is taking on greater significance as the canal faces another period of low rainfall caused by the El Niño phenomenon, which recently led waterway authorities to restrict the number of ships making the daily crossing between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

As the second-highest-ranking official at the canal serving under outgoing administrator Ricaurte Vásquez, she experienced the tension caused by complaints and warnings regarding the waterway voiced by U.S. President Donald

Trump both before and after he assumed office.

Trump threatened to retake control of the canal, citing Chinese influence over the waterway and claiming that U.S. shipping companies were being treated unfairly.

The country's judiciary ruled unconstitutional the port concessions at both entrances held by a Hong Kong consortium. That ruling followed the announcement of a planned acquisition of those and other ports by a U.S. investment fund, a deal that has since stalled.

Espino told the AP that her responsibility over the next seven years at the helm of the canal will be to maintain operations that are "efficient, neutral, and transparent." She said that diplomatic matters are the responsibility of the Panamanian state. (AP)

India teams search for survivors after Delhi building collapse kills six



A multistorey building in the Indian capital, New Delhi, has collapsed, killing at least six people and trapping dozens of others.

Rescue teams are searching the rubble of the collapsed building, which housed mostly students, near a Delhi University campus in Satya Niketan on Sunday.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said it treated several victims after the incident.

“Out of the 10 patients, five were brought dead, while one patient who was in critical condition later succumbed to his injuries,” AIIMS said in a statement.

Crews from India’s disaster response agency, police and firefighters cleared debris with earthmovers and used detection dogs to search

for those trapped inside. A nearby building was evacuated over concerns that it could also collapse.

Up to 40 people remain trapped under the rubble, according to fire officer Abhilash Malik. The number of survivors and the cause of the accident were not immediately clear.

A video filmed by a man trapped under the rubble as onlookers called for rescuers to help him has circulated online. Additional footage showed residents attempting to rescue survivors before disaster response teams arrived.

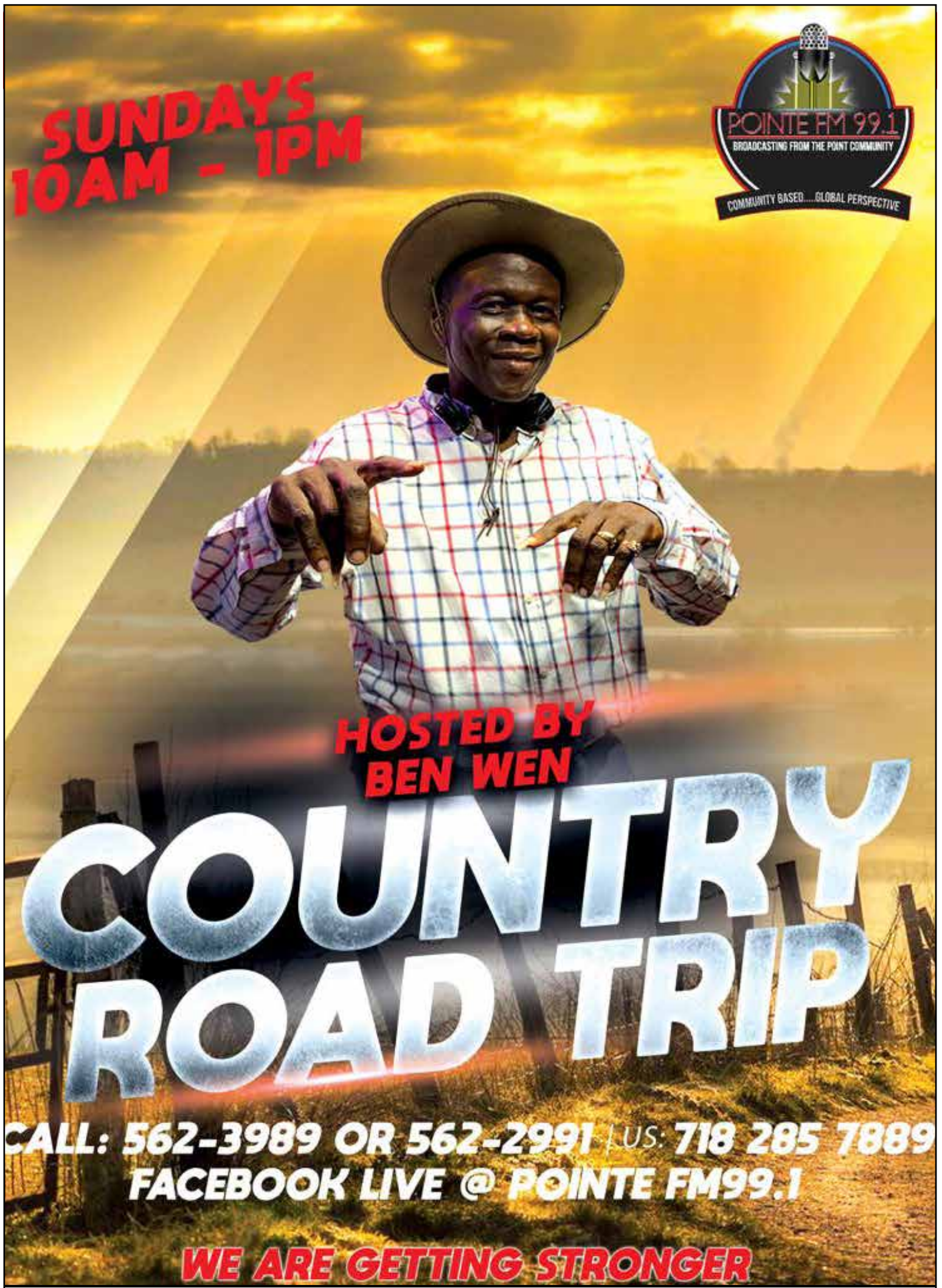
“The most important thing for us is to save the lives of these students. Rescue operations will carry on,” Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta told local news outlets.

“I assure you we won’t spare the guilty,” she said.

“Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. Authorities are working at the site and assisting those affected in the mishap,” Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s office said on X.

Building collapses are frequent in parts of India during the rainy season from June to September. A similar incident occurred on Saturday after a three-storey building collapsed in northern India following heavy rain. No casualties were reported.

In 2025, at least 11 people were killed after a residential building collapsed in the northeastern district of New Delhi. (Al Jazeera)



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Winning start for APUA Telecoms in defense of business league title



APUA Telecoms team celebrate with their trophies after winning the JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday, December 6, 2025. (File Photo)

APUA Telecoms made a winning start in defense of their title in the 2026 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship over the weekend.

APUA Telecoms launch their title defense with a 3-1 victory against AUA FC in their opening Group 2 clash at the Fort Road playing field.

The Galley Bay Ballers prevailed 3-1 against the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) Oilers in their opening Group 2 affair at Jennings.

But the other opening Group 2 match between Sandals and Sir Vivian Richards Stadium was not played and will be rescheduled.

The 2024 champions, Hermitage Bay Strikers, which finished third last year, also made a successful start to this year's campaign.

The Hermitage Bay Strikers surged to a 6-0 victory over Royalton Chic Hotel in their opening Group 4 encounter at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

There were wins for Jack Idle and Central Marketing Corporation (CMC)

in the other two opening-round matches in Group 4.

Jack Idle snatched a 2-1 victory over Cocos Hotel at Fort Road, while the Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) also claimed a 2-1 victory against the Public Works Department FC at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park.

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) and the Department of Immigration recorded wins in their opening game in Group 3 at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Woosberson Thomas achieved a hat trick to propel the ABAA to a 3-0 victory over Public Works Asphalt. Thomas had conversions in the 11th, 22nd, and 24th minutes.

Rhezal Gomes scored twice to allow the Department of Immigration to come from behind and claimed a 3-1 victory over His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United.

Gomes converted a penalty kick in the 32nd minute and also scored in the 47th minute. Teammate Akeem Smith scored the other goal for the Department of Immigration with a strike in

the 35th minute.

Jermaine Thomas scored the opening goal of the match with a 23rd-minute conversion to give HMP United a one-nil lead.

But the other Group 3 opening-round match between newcomers National Housing Development (NHD) Full Experience and Jolly Harbour Stingers was postponed and will be rescheduled.

The Blue Waters Hotel and Keyonna Beach Hotel got off to winning starts in Group 1.

The Blue Waters Hotel prevailed 3-2 against the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at Fort Road, while Keyonna Beach Hotel snatched a 2-1 victory against the University of the West Indies (UWI) Frigate Bird FC at Jennings.

The National Housing Development (NHD) Demolition Squad and Jumby Bay Resort fought to a goalless draw in their opening Group 1 affair at Jennings.

Antigua Falcons and Amazon Warriors book playoff spots in CPL

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons and the Guyana Amazon Warriors advanced to the playoffs of the 2026 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) after the latest round of matches on Sunday.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors remained unbeaten and climbed to the top of the standings and into the playoffs with a commanding seven-wicket victory over the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana.

The result propelled the Warriors to the top of the seven-team standings with 12 points and four matches remaining in the round-robin preliminary stage.

It also confirmed a playoff spot for the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, who are currently in second place with 11 points and one match remaining in the round-robin preliminary stage.

It also means the Barbados Tridents, who are currently in seventh place with six points, are the only other team that can gain more than 11 points.

But to achieve that feat and ensure their place in the playoffs, the Barbados Tridents must win all three of their remaining round-robin matches.

All the other teams remain in contention to claim the other two spots in the playoffs after the Barbados Tridents returned to winning form, pulling off their third victory in the CPL with an eight-wicket triumph over the St. Lucia Kings at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown.

At Providence, Mohammad Nabi led the charge with the ball, claiming four for 17, while Romario Shepherd grabbed three for 16 as the Amazon Warriors bowled out the Patriots for 128 in 19.2 overs under sunny skies.

Alick Athanaze hit a topscore of 52 off 39 balls, opener Kyle Mayers and Dasun Shanaka each made 20, and



Players of the Guyana Amazon Warriors celebrate with Romario Shepherd, center, following a dismissal against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots in their CPL match at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Sunday, September 6, 2026. (CPLT20)

Johnson Charles got 13 as the only batsmen for the Patriots to reach double figures after winning the toss and deciding to bat.

Fast bowler Shamar Joseph supported Nabi and Shepherd by capturing two for 22.

In reply, the Guyana Amazon Warriors achieved victory by scoring 132 for three with nine balls to spare.

Afghan international Rahmanullah Gurbaz got the chase off to a flying start with a blistering 39 from 25 balls. Shai Hope hit an unbeaten 38 off 44 balls, and Nabi struck 25 not out off 21 balls.

Leg-spinner Navin Bidaisee captured two for 20 for the Patriots, who remain in fifth place on seven points with one match remaining.

In Bridgetown, the Barbados Tridents claimed their second win against the Kings this season and snapped a four-game losing streak.

A number of Tridents bowlers combined to restrict the Kings to 138 for six off their 20 overs. Opener Kamil

Pooran slammed 37 off 24 balls, captain Roston Chase struck 34 off 28 balls, and John Campbell scored 24 off 27 balls for the Kings.

Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman bagged three for 22, and medium pacer Daniel Sams claimed two for 20.

Quinton de Kock hit an unbeaten 47 off 31 balls, and Rivaldo Clarke struck 36 not out off 34 balls to guide the Barbados Tridents to victory at 139 for two with 13 balls to spare.

Zachary Carter hammered 32 off 22 balls and shared a 41-run opening stand with Brandon King, who scored 22 off 20 balls.

The Tridents will continue their homestand against the Patriots at the Kensington Ovals on Thursday. The Kings will play their final group stage match against the Guyana Amazon Warriors at Providence on Wednesday.

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will take on the Guyana Amazon Warriors in their final group stage encounter at the same venue on Tuesday night.

CPL launches next gen cricket clinic in Barbados



Cricket fans at a CPL game

The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) will launch CPL Next Gen, a new grassroots cricket initiative in Barbados, delivering six clinic sessions across three days before a televised T10 showcase match at the iconic Kensington Oval on September 11.

Running from Tuesday, September 8, to Thursday, September 10, at the Franklyn Stephenson Cricket Academy, the clinics will welcome 100 young cricketers aged 11 to 14, nominated by schools from across the island.

Each session combines fielding technique and decision-making under pressure, catching and throwing practice, rotational batting stations, and live net sessions offering match-realistic batting and bowling repetitions.

Coaches will also work with participants on discipline and conduct, reinforcing professional standards alongside cricket skills.

Academy coaches will assess tech-

nique and potential throughout the three days, with the 22 standout performers selected to progress to the CPL Next Gen Showcase Match.

That fixture will be played at Kensington Oval on September 11 and broadcast as part of Republic Bank CPL programming and across the league's social channels.

Beyond the clinic, participating players will be signposted into Barbados Cricket Association affiliated clubs, continuing their development along a pathway that leads through CPL's regional Breakout League toward the men's and women's Republic Bank CPL tournaments.

CPL Next Gen forms part of Republic Bank CPL's ongoing commitment to grassroots development across the Caribbean, widening the base of young talent and building a clear route from school cricket to the professional game.

The programme reflects the league's focus on community outreach, encour-

aging greater participation in the sport while strengthening its presence at grassroots level across the region.

Michael Hall, Tournament Operations Director, said, "CPL Next Gen is about clearing a genuine pathway for the most talented and committed generation of new cricketers coming through right here in Barbados.

"Every young player who walks onto the field at Franklyn Stephenson Cricket Academy this September has a real route ahead of them, into BCA clubs, into regional cricket, and ultimately into the Republic Bank CPL itself. We can't wait to see what this generation does with that opportunity."

As the Republic Bank CPL continues to grow and expand its footprint across the Caribbean, initiatives such as CPL Next Gen underline the tournament's growing global appeal and its standing as one of the region's premier T20 leagues, while offering young Barbadian cricketers a genuine pathway toward the professional stage.

PCB initiates inquiry after recalling players from England tour



Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan, left, stands with batting partner Saud Shakeel as they await third umpire's decision on Rizwan's wicket on day four of the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026. (AP)

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is conducting an internal “disciplinary” inquiry against unnamed players after recalling seven cricketers and two coaches midway through the tour of England.

“The PCB has initiated an internal disciplinary inquiry following media reports concerning discipline and conduct, which are currently being reviewed internally,” its media director Amir Mir said on X Monday.

“The PCB handles such matters in accordance with its standard procedures. The process is being conducted under PCB regulations, ensuring that all concerned individuals are given due consideration.”

There was speculation in local media that the PCB had obtained data from the mobile phones of Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Rizwan before both players flew back to Pakistan.

According to Geo News, the phones of both players were taken into pos-

session by the team's security officer after Pakistan lost the second Test by 194 runs at Lord's. The news channel said phones were handed back to the players hours before they left UK.

“At this stage, any speculative reports or unverified claims circulating on certain platforms, particularly those originating from hostile external sources, should not be regarded as credible,” Mir said. “The Board advises stakeholders and the public to rely on official PCB communications.”

Pakistan made sweeping changes in a knee-jerk reaction to its two brutal defeats at Lord's and Headingley in the first two tests of the three-match series.

The PCB not only summoned back seven players, it also replaced test coach Sarfaraz Ahmed with Mike Hesson and brought in bowling coach Ashley Noffke to take over from Umar Gul.

Noffke was unaware of any disci-

plinary inquiry as Pakistan prepared for the third and final Test, starting in Birmingham from Wednesday.

“I sit outside of that decision-making model,” Noffke told reporters after the team's practice session at Edgbaston.

“There's one thing that I've learnt about being in Pakistan and coaching for a period of time -- nearly 15 months now with the white ball team — is there's always something going on in the background.

“And whether or not it's in or out of our control, most of the time it's out of the player's control, they need to focus on the cricket that they have in front of them because there's some really great opportunities here for young cricketers that are highly skilled.”

One of the four selectors Aaqib Javed and PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi have defended the changes midway through the series, which have drawn criticism from the likes of former Pakistan cricketers Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Malik.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rizwan, opening batter Imam and Salman Ali Agha, who captained the team in the first test, were among the first batch of the seven players who left the team before Hesson had joined the squad in the UK.

Fast bowler Khurram Shahzad and left-arm spinner Ali Usman both played in the first two tests before being released while all-rounder Aamir Jamal and Mohammad Awaiz were sent home without getting a chance at either Lord's or Headingley.

Another loss for Bullets in defense of IBSC Tape Ball Classic title

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

After crashing to a 71-run defeat to TG Welding and Fabrication Underdogs in their opening encounter, the Bullet suffered their second loss in a two-wicket defeat to Hanse on Security when the annual T20 competition resumed at the Powells playing field on Sunday.

Bullets won the toss and batted, making 142 for all out in 17.5 overs. Tassilo Allen hit 39, Delron Frederick struck 26 not out, and Jaquan Alleyne got 21. Kerrique Mentore grabbed four for 21, and Derek Mourillon claimed two for 23.

In reply, Hanse on Security secured their second win in as many games by scoring 147 for eight in 20 overs. Kadeem Phillip hammered 53, and Derek Mourillon scored 23. Michael Harrilall took two for 28, and Tassilo Allen captured two for 30.

VIP launched their cam-



Kerrique Mentore of Hanse on Security grabbed four wicket and scored 15 runs against Bryson's Bullets to claim the Player of the Week Award during the second round of matches in the LL Supply IBSC Tape Ball Classic.

paign by surging to a commanding 10-wicket victory over PMS, who suffered their first loss in two matches.

PMS won the toss and batted, crashing to 82 all

out in 13 overs. Jullian Charles struck 22. Kofi James and Kadeem Josiah each picked up two wickets for three runs, and Akeem Blackman claimed two wickets for

five runs.

VIP wrapped up the match by achieving the required victory target of 83 runs without losing any wickets in just six overs. Elroy Francis Jr. hit an unbeaten 48, and Michael Marcellin struck 27 not out.

But two other matches were abandoned after rain came and caused the pitch and outfield to become too wet for the games to take place.

One of the affected matches involved Grill Box and TG Welding & Fabrication Underdogs, with both teams sharing the points.

But only the Dredgers received points in the other affected game that also involved Jake Invincibles, who were penalized for failing to have the required number of players for the match.

The Grill Box beat Jakes Invincibles by seven wickets in their opening encounter, while the Dredgers picked up their first point after losing by default to PMS in their first match of the T20 competition.