

Bajans pick their favourites to win

THE STAGE IS SET for tomorrow's **Courtesy Pic O De Crop Finals**, which are set to feature performances from 18 artistes vying for the title.

As Barbadians across the island counted down the hours until the competition, the **DAILY NATION** took to the streets of Bridgetown to ask people who they think will win.

• **CARLISLE RICHARDS:** AI by Teri is a very creative

song, and she ain't speaking no lie. She is my **Pic O De Crop** monarch. The song is just different and it caught my attention from the first time I heard it.

• **KATHY HOLDER:** **De Announcer** and **Queen Kareen** are my top two. You cannot rule out the women this year. They are coming out with some strong hits.

• **RICARDO LICORISH:** Classic

and Adrian Clarke are my top picks for the monarch, but you cannot rule out **De Announcer**. He may be a dark horse that could come out and make an impact since his song is quite popular.

• **CECIL "O'SHAKA" RILEY:** The competition is tight this year, but I will say my top picks are **iWeb**, **Mr Blood**, **Queen Kareen** and **Sir Ruel**. They all have very good songs this year.

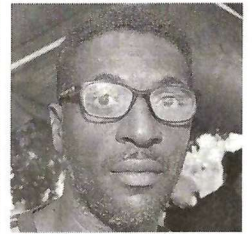


CECIL O'SHAKA RILEY

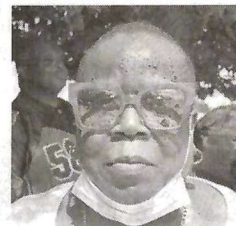
• **GRANTLEY LAYNE:** Classic, Adrian Clarke and **Mr Blood** are my top three for the Finals.



GRANTLEY LAYNE
(Pictures by Jameel Springer.)



CARLISLE RICHARDS



KATHY HOLDER



RICARDO LICORISH

Pic O De Crop finals showdown

JUDGEMENT DAY IS HERE for the 18 finalists who will be competing to become Barbados' calypso monarch.

They will face off during the **Courtesy Pic O De Crop** competition at the **Richard Stoute Amphitheatre** at the **National Botanical Gardens**, Waterford, St Michael.

In this year's competition are both former monarchs and young calypsonians who have one shot to win the crown.

Reigning monarch **Adrian AC Clarke** will be hoping to reclaim the title and add a fourth under his belt. **iWeb** will be looking to capture his fifth title while **Classic** is pushing for a third title. **Mr Blood** and **Quon** will both be aiming for a second crown.

The line-up also includes **Sir Ruel**, who will be hoping to go all the way. Father and son **Billboard** and **Dynamo** are also part of the line-up.

De Announcer, **Biggie Irie**, **Chrystal**, **Donella** and **Colin Spencer**, who have been to the **Finals** before, are also competing.

Raanan, **Teri**, **Doyenne**, **Queen Kareen** and **Jamal Slocombe** are also vying for the crown.

While speaking on **CBC TV 8**, which will televise the competition live, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Senator **Dr Shantal Munro-Knight** encouraged the public to support the event.

She dismissed the notion that calypso is dying. "People always say that the calypso art form, listening to social commentary, is dying, and I think this year we at the National Cultural Foundation have invested a lot working with our Junior Monarchs as well and giving assistance to the tents and the calypsonians, so I think this year can be a defining one," she said.

Yesterday, when a **DAILY NATION** team visited the **Botanical Gardens**, all hands were on deck as preparations for the competition continued. The stage crew was seen lifting tables and chairs. Musicians from the band were preparing to rehearse and several other officials were working assiduously to ensure the area was ready.

A 2025 Nissan X-Trail e-Power is the grand prize for this year's winner. (TG)

Cop: Make wise decisions when parking

THE BARBADOS POLICE SERVICE'S crime prevention officer **Roger Babb** is urging motorists to make wise decisions when parking, so as to avoid theft of or from their vehicles.

"Utilise designated parking areas and park in safe, well-lit areas where possible," Inspector Babb said.

Some of the tips he shared with motorists are:

- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Do not leave the key in your vehicle; secure it.
- Never leave your vehicle engine turned on and the vehicle unattended.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from the

outside.

- Utilise steering wheel locks and other locking devices if you have them.
- Consider installing a security alarm system or tracking device in your vehicle. If your vehicle is stolen, immediately call the police at 211. Provide the year, make, colour, registration, engine, and chassis numbers, and inform your insurance company within 24 hours.

Additionally, Babb urged the public to protect themselves and their personal property to minimise the risk of being robbed. The safety tips he shared are:


- Know your surroundings.
- Pay attention to the people around you and

watch for any suspicious behaviour.

- Go to a busy area if you suspect you are being followed.
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- Stay with the crowd – there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewellery, as that action will draw attention to you.
- Do not display a lot of money when purchasing items.
- Have your car keys in hand when walking to your vehicle, and immediately lock the doors on entering it.
- If confronted by an assailant carrying a weapon, do not resist. If attacked, stay calm, evaluate options, and keep assessing the

situation as it unfolds. Observe the attacker carefully for future identification purposes. Call 211 and report the incident to the police. (BGIS)

Sathya Sai Baba
Says



HERO

"All are beggars at the gate of God. The hero is he who does not beg or cringe or flatter or fawn. He knows that the Lord knows best."

www.sathyasai.org

Avoid driving on drain covers, says MTW

THE MINISTRY of Transport and Works (MTW) is advising motorists to avoid driving or parking on temporary drain covers installed along **Princess Alice Highway** and **Harbour Road** in Bridgetown.

The drains have been temporarily covered with plywood sheets as a safety measure to prevent injury to revellers who will be participating in the **Foreday Morning Jam** and **Flow Grand Kadooment** events.

The plywood sheets are unable to support vehicle loads and may break or become damaged due to the weight. This poses a risk to pedestrians and drivers. To ensure that safety is a priority, people should not drive or park on the plywood drain covers.

People are also reminded that parking on sidewalks is prohibited under the **Road Traffic Act Cap. 295** and may result in the Barbados Police Service issuing tickets to offenders.

MTW encourages everyone to enjoy the festivities, but to prioritise safety first while on the roads during the last lap of **Crop Over**. (PR)

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