



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 6 ISSUE 39 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

March 14 is Nomination Day for the Barbuda Council Elections

Story on Page 2



Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Hon Rawdon Turner (left) and GG Sir Rodney Williams (right) participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre

Story on Page 4

Local News



March 14 is Nomination Day for the Barbuda Council Elections



v has been set for March 14, 2025. The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams had earlier signed the Proclamation for Council elections to take place on March 26.

The Antigua and Barbuda Election Commission has announced that the nomination will take place between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm on that day.

Five seats on the Council will become vacant as the persons holding those seats must vacate them according to the provisions of the Barbuda Local Government Act. The five retiring members are however eligible to contest the elections for another four-year term.

Additionally, the Commission is advising that persons wishing to cast absentee ballots must submit an application to the Returning Officer by March 22, 2025.

The Returning Officer for the Council elections has

been identified as Lorna-

may Benjamin-Hughes.

Meanwhile, ABEC has announced that special provisions are being made for electors in the constituency, who have not replaced their expired Voters' ID Cards.

Effective Saturday March 1, 2025 until Election Day, the operating hours at the Registration Unit in Barbuda will be extended.

The Unit will be opened from Mondays to Fridays 8:30 am – 6:00 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian S Hughes urges electors to use this time adequately to collect Voters' ID Cards, replace EXPIRED cards, replace lost but VALID ID cards (cost \$100.00) and any other services that are required at the Unit.

Persons are being reminded that for FIRST TIME or NEW registrants, only those persons who registered up until January 31, 2025, will be eligible to vote in the upcoming council elections.

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

YOU'RE ALWAYS SECURED WITH STATE.

HOME MOTOR LIFE & MEDICAL

ANTIGUA (268) 481-7800/04 BARBUDA (268) 727-7422 info@siclfinancial.com www.siclfinancial.com

PM Browne: Food security is everybody's business



Prime Minister Gaston Browne has underscored the vital importance of food security to Antigua and Barbuda by declaring that ‘food security is everybody’s business’, even more so than tourism.

The prime minister made the remark at a Build Resilience Roadmap Presentation with team members of the various United Nations agencies that have satellite offices in Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne noted that decades ago Antigua and Barbuda was much more self-sufficient in food than it is now when there was a much more extensive agricultural production, including the provision of local meats and fish.

According to the prime minister the situation now makes the country particularly vulnerable

to external shocks that could disrupt the food supply chain and that these may be conditions over which the country has no control.

“We are one of the most food insecure country in the world with eighty percent of the food imported primarily from the United States. The issue of food security is therefore extremely important because we are so vulnerable that if the food boats don’t come here for two to three weeks many of us would starve in this country and I don’t think many give serious consideration to that vulnerability,” he remarked.

He added that this can be observed whenever the food boats from Miami are late for several days and the impact on the shelves in the supermarket where the shortages are evidenced.

“Just imagine some instability or some policy decision by the US to stop exporting food; imagine what would happen to us?” he queried.

The prime minister revealed that this was one of the factors that led him to get involved in agriculture; it was his way of leading from the front; to help de-stigmatise agricultural production among members of the society and to encourage larger investments into agriculture so that the country can increase its food output. In the process it would become a more food secure nation.

PM Browne renewed his call for a national mobilization around the issue of food security as he encouraged all in society to join hands in meeting this challenge; to utilize their backyards to grow fruits and vegetables.

The Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre opens



The rebranded Denis Bowers Rehabilitation Centre, formerly the Boys' Training School, formally opened its doors on Monday with a renewed focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment for young men who found themselves at variance with the law.

Both Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, under

whose stewardship much of the work was done, and newly appointed Minister of Social and Urban Transformation, Rawdon Turner have emphasized this departure in focus from punishment to one where the boys will be exposed to new, more productive paths in their lives' journey.

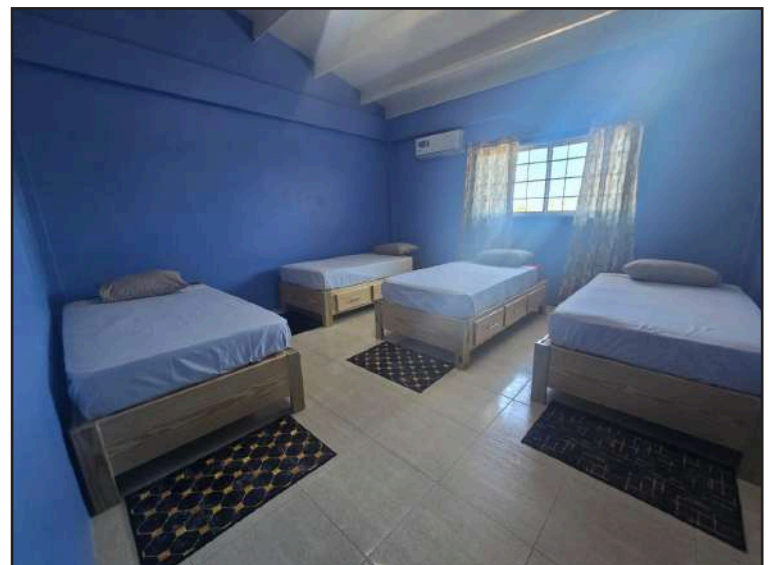
"This is a facility that

represents a significant step forward in how we care for and rehabilitate our young men. This is more than just a refurbished building; it is a beacon of hope, a place where boys who may have made mistakes are given the opportunity to correct their course, learn valuable skills, and ultimately become productive members of society," he observed.

The Health minister also addressed the length of time it took for the

facility to be ready for occupation by the boys and to go into full operation. "When we first set out to revamp this facility, we knew that the process would take time. Some may have questioned why the project took longer than expected, and I understand that concern. But I want to assure you that the delay was not due to neglect or lack of commitment. Quite the opposite—we wanted to ensure that ev-

con't on pg 5





con't from pg 4
 ery detail was taken into account, that the facility met the highest possible standards. and that

when these young men moved in, they would be entering an environment that fosters real growth and transformation.” Sir

Molwyn stated.

In his first major address since his appointment in January, Minister Turner noted that the institution represents not just a second chance, but a new beginning for many young men in the society.

“For years, this facility has played a vital role in guiding boys who have found themselves at risk with the law, and the few who have suffered neglect from our community, by providing structure, education, and the skills needed to reshape their futures. Today, with its reopening, we reaffirm our commitment to rehabilitation over punishment, mentorship over neglect, and oppor-

tunity over despair,” he emphasised.

Minister Turner said every young man who walks through the doors deserves the chance to turn his life around with the right guidance, discipline, and support, it is believed they can grow into responsible productive members of our society.

“This is not just about changing individual lives. It is about strengthening families, uplifting communities, and building a better, safer society for all,” he remarked.

The DBRC will be managed by Bernard Dupleses with the assistance of Janet Alexis.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

A Special Invitation to ALL National Honourees of Antigua and Barbuda

All Members of the Orders of Honours and Decorations of Antigua and Barbuda are cordially invited to the 2025 Commonwealth Day Service of Thanksgiving which is scheduled to take place on Sunday March 9, 2025 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church, St. John's Street at 8:00 am.

Kindly take note that medals and decorations may be worn to the Service

The theme for Commonwealth Day 2025 is “Together We Thrive”.

This theme celebrates the Commonwealth's spirit of unity, peace, and equality. It also highlights the importance of strong communities that support their members.

Paula Frederick-Hunte (Mrs.)

Permanent Secretary

Office of the Governor General

Chairperson, Commonwealth Day Planning Committee

The Caribbean cannot afford to be left behind regarding AI, says UWI Professor

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Curtis Charles, is warning the Caribbean that it cannot afford to be left behind as the world rushes forward with the development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Dr. Charles' remarks came as he chaired a Public Advocacy Forum on the topic: "AI for the Economic Development of Emerging Economies", organized by the UWI FIC and which brought together policy makers, technicians and others from both the public and private sectors to discuss the issue.

"AI is not just coming, its here, and the hard truth is we cannot afford to sit on the sidelines. So why does this moment matter? Far too long, emerging economies have been told that they have to catch up, but today, we don't just catch up, we step forward. AI has the power to level the playing field; to create opportunities where they were non-existent; to break barriers which once seemed impossible to overcome; it can help us fight climate change, revolutionise education, transform trade but only if we take control of it," he declared.

He noted that UWI FIC was not just talking about AI, it is at the forefront of shaping AI's role in the



Hon E.P. Chet Green, Joy Marie King and Dr. Curtis Charles

Caribbean, Latin America and African, in short, the developing and emerging economies.

Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene, who was a member of the panel, described AI as the 'new revolution' stating that Caribbean cannot afford to be left out of what is happening. As a first step, Minister Greene suggested that the region needs to take a more in-depth look at the legislative architecture that now governs AI.

"Countries in the region are not yet up-to-date with the realities of AI and its arrival, so we have to at our laws to deal with the issue of AI effective implementation. We must deal with the issue of AI and the ethical and social considerations because unless we do these things at the front-end of the engagement with AI as a developmental tool, we can find ourselves doing it the wrong way," he stated.

AI legal advisor at Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Legal Affairs, Andrea Jacobs, noted that the United Nations recently convened a special international scientific panel on AI and the global dialogue on AI governance. She said the Caribbean needs to have a 'seat at the table' noting that individually, Caribbean countries do not have 'loud enough' voice. "We need to amplify our voices, we need to join together to let them know that whilst we are not big players in field, we can contribute to this movement and that we have quite a bit of vulnerability in our region," she remarked.

Director of International Trade in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joy-Marie King, who oversees the country's move towards implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, noted that AI can help Caribbean countries

in meeting the 2030 deadline for implementing the SDG's.

"2030 will soon be upon us, the deadline for achieving the UN SDGs. Unfortunately, we as a global community due to several challenges including geopolitical tensions and conflicts and the impact of COVID 19 on all spheres of our development agenda find ourselves lagging. The time for accelerated implementation of the goals is now and AI provides that unique opportunity to foster this required acceleration," she suggested.

Founder of the China AI for Developing Countries Forum (AIFOD), Tianze Zhang presented case studies on AI's impact on sectors like agriculture, finance and education.

The presentations were followed by a healthy discussion on AI and its role in development.

A new cardiologist has been appointed at SLBMC

People caring...

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr. Lixaidys Springer-Toledo
Cardiologist

"I am excited to join the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre team and to contribute to the well-being of the people of Antigua & Barbuda. Heart health is vital, and my goal is to provide personalized care to help each patient maintain a healthy heart for a long, vibrant life."

Dr. Springer-Toledo is currently seeing patients by referral. For more information call: 484-2727

f @slbmedical

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre continues to recruit top quality candidates to fill its complement of specialists within the nation's primary health care facility.

SLBMC has announced that Dr. Lixaidys Springer-Toledo has officially joined the team at the hospital as its new cardiologist.

"With her extensive experience in diagnosing and treating a wide range of heart conditions, Dr.

Springer-Toledo is here to provide comprehensive cardiovascular care to the people of Antigua and Barbuda," an SLBMC statement.

In welcoming Dr. Springer-Toledo to its team, SLBMC is also asking members of the public if they wish to schedule an appointment to see the new doctor or to learn more about the services she offers, please feel free to contact its Outpatient Clinic: 484-2727.

Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025 LAUNCH

Itz A ViBe

TIME 5:30 PM THURSDAY FEB 27 2025 VENUE: WEATHERILL'S ESTATE

f Antigua Carnival @antiguafestivalsofficial X Antigua Carnival 268 727 9201

Quay Studios – A New Hub for Artistic Expression in Antigua and Barbuda opens in Redcliffe Quay



Quay Studios, described as a hub for artistic expression in Antigua and Barbuda, officially opened its doors in Redcliffe Quay on Saturday with the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams participating.

The establishment of Quay Studios marks a significant milestone for the cultural and creative sector in Antigua and Barbuda, providing a dedicated space for artists to collaborate, exhibit, and inspire the next generation of creatives.

The event was well attended, with notable guests including, British Resident Commissioner, John Hamilton, and Chinese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Zhang Yanling. The strong turnout underscored the importance of this new initiative in fostering artistic growth and international engagement.

During his remarks, Sir Rodney commended the vision behind Quay Studios, emphasizing the role it will play in mentoring young artists, offering exhibition opportunities, and strengthening the country's artistic identity. He highlighted the importance of art in shaping contemporary narratives, saying, *"Art in all its forms holds a special place in society, reflecting our historical experiences while inspiring dialogue and encouraging us to see beauty in the everyday."*

Attendees were given an official tour of the gallery, led by local artist Dilan Philips, showcasing the talent and diversity of the collective's members. Additional remarks were delivered by member artists Stephen Murphy, Maku Williams and Heather Doram, both of whom

expressed their enthusiasm for the role Quay Studios will play in the development of the local arts community.

Since its founding in November 2024, Quay Studios has garnered strong interest, with membership already reaching double digits and growing. With a vision of supporting both emerging and established artists, the studio provides a welcoming space for creative expression and cultural exchange. The organization invites all artists to become a part of the experience and take advantage of the various membership benefits available.

Quay Studios is now officially open and stands as a pillar of inspiration, collaboration, and artistic excellence in Antigua and Barbuda.

Several Persons in Police Custody For Questioning

Several persons were taken into police custody for questioning concerning ongoing investigations into reports of robbery, larceny, and unlawful possession of cannabis.

Over the weekend, the police executed more than a dozen search warrants at various properties across the island and seized portions of cannabis, several pieces of camouflage clothing, mobile phones, solar panel batteries, vehicle license plates, and other items suspected of being stolen.

A 28-year-old man from Grays Farm was charged with unlawful possession of 214 grams of cannabis and possession of cannabis with intent to transfer.

He was found with the substance on Parliament Street on Friday, and was arrested.

AGRICULTURAL CAREER FAIR & EXPO

This career fair & expo introduces secondary school students to career opportunities in the agricultural sector, connecting them with industry professionals and showcasing pathways for future growth and development.



Thursday

February 27th 2025



Time

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Multipurpose Cultural Center

JOIN US



1 (268)-785-9958



agriculture.gov.ag



Antigua Sailing Week 2025: Exciting fleets, high-profile competitors, and new courses

The 56th Antigua Sailing Week is shaping up to be another stellar edition. The regatta, renowned for attracting some of the biggest names in yacht racing, continues to welcome everyone, including international and local sailors, long-term cruisers, and bareboat charterers, across a broad range of monohull and multihull classes.

A strong [lineup of competitors](#) includes notable large performance monohulls and multihulls. Roy Disney is skippering and leading the *Pyewacket* team in a family tradition that goes back a generation when his dad, the late Roy E. Disney, built the first of many successful offshore racing boats named after a black cat in one of his favourite movies. Although the Volvo 70 *Pyewacket70* hails from California, it has spent the last few years campaigning in Europe and the east coast of the USA with a top-notch international crew. Roy is racing in the Caribbean 600 and will stay on for ASW. A boat of the same name, but skippered by his late father, lifted the regatta's prestigious Lord Nelson Trophy in 2002.

Disney will be joined on the racecourse by Philip Rann, who has switched from his Swan 80 to the higher-



tane VOR 65 *Sailing Poland*. Meanwhile, Lennart Davidsson's 79ft S&S Maxi *Kialoa III* is currently the largest yacht entered. They will race on

new longer courses, along with the fastest multihulls, as Race Manager Jaime Torres explains: "We created these 20 to 50 mile courses specifically

for the high-performance monohulls and multihulls to stretch their legs on very fast reaching angles, along with tactically challenging upwind and downwind sections."

This season Adrian Lee has moved from a Swan 60 to a high-powered HH66 catamaran named *Lee Overlay Partners 3*. He is fully committed to supporting the regatta and development of the new courses, saying: "Antigua is a perfect location for multihull sailing, and the team at ASW has designed some great courses in addition to the Peters and May Round Antigua Race, which happens the day before the ASW officially starts. "After 40 years of monohull sailing, multihulls are new for me," adds Lee. "It feels a bit like moving from a propeller plane to a jet and I'm inviting other performance multihulls to come out and race with me on these great new courses."

Australian sailor Guy Chester, who won this class in 2023, will be another strong competitor in his Crowther 46 trimaran *Ocean's Tribute*. Chester is also founder of the [W Indies Multihull Trophy](#), a new initiative this season in which the Peters and May Round Antigua Race and Sailing Week form the final two events of the

con't on pg 11

con't from pg 10

series that runs throughout the Caribbean, with the five best results to count.

“Oceans Tribute is flat out trying to win the inaugural Windies Multihull Trophy,” Chester said. “We have raced in the Caribbean Multihull Challenge, the Antigua 360 and next up is the Caribbean 600. However, the multis that sailed in Barbados and Grenada are ahead of us on points.”

Nevertheless, the core of the regatta remains the mid-size monohulls in the CSA-rated classes. The J/122 charter yacht *El Ocaso* has been a dominant force in this category for the past few editions of Antigua Sailing Week, winning last year's **Lord Nelson Trophy** – the event's biggest prize.

«This is a lovely place to come sailing,» said charter skipper Tony Mac. «I have been to world championships, but I have never been to a prize giving like this! The message to anybody is: if you can come and race out here, do it! Antigua Sailing Week is great fun.» There is an exclusive club of two boats so far who have won the Lord Nelson Trophy three times: Larry Ellison's Maxi *Sayonara* and Sir Peter Harrison's Farr 115 *Sojana*. Although *El Ocaso* has also won three times, only two of them have been with the J/122. A win in 2025 would secure a place in ASW history.

This year, *El Ocaso* will



be raced by Steve Rigby, whose last raceboat was a Swan 45. We can be sure his top-notch crew will be doing their utmost to lift the trophy for a third time. However, they will be up against plenty of talented teams, including scratch local boat Jim Voss's RP37 Warthog, which won the RORC Nelson's Cup series in February. This carbon racer had a complete refit ahead of this season and has the potential to be an exceptional performer.

So, what lies behind the magic of Antigua Sailing Week? “Antigua is a world-class destination, and Sailing Week benefits from top-level race man-

agement, but off the water we have incredible venues, both intimate and large, to ensure every party is a lot of fun,” says ASW President Alison Sly-Adams. “This is what makes ASW so attractive, especially to other Caribbean Island teams. The French islands contingent from Martinique, Guadeloupe and St Barths has been growing for years. Their hard-core sailors come in with a contagious sail-hard and party-harder attitude! The Bajans have been racing here for a long time and will make another strong showing in 2025.”

If one-design racing is your thing, a fleet of Petticrow Dragons is available for

charter from the Antigua Yacht Club marina. A lot of racing is planned for them and the RS Elite fleet, with a maximum of 15 races over five days. “You can fly in, get on a race-ready boat right at the epicenter of the action, and go rock this regatta” says Jaime Torres. “The plan is for racing to take place outside Falmouth Harbor, with the option for tracks to be set inside Falmouth Harbor if the weather gets too extreme. The courses will be mostly windward/leeward designed to test skill, strategy, and endurance.”

For the die-hard cruisers, the Club class will have just one race per day and competes without spinnakers. “We offer a simplified, self-declared rating system that is inexpensive and easy to get,” adds Sly-Adams. “The idea is to provide good racing with lots of fun afloat and ashore while aggressively minimizing any barriers to entry.”

There's still time to charter a boat for this year's event, whether a large Grand Prix raceboat, a mid-size CSA-rated yacht, a bareboat, or a one-design keelboat. Find out more here: www.sailingweek.com/charteroptions. No matter how you choose to participate, the welcome and party atmosphere at Antigua Yacht Club, which hosts the daily socials, prize giving, will be equally exciting.

Residents, PNP officials stage protest against making Portmore a parish

Scores of residents took to the streets this morning to protest the government's decision to make Portmore Jamaica's 15th parish.

The demonstration, led by key members of the Opposition People's National Party (PNP), caused a traffic snarl along Dawkins Drive, disrupting access to the toll road.

Among the protest leaders were Portmore Mayor Leon Thomas, Spanish Town Mayor Norman Scott, PNP spokesman on Portmore affairs Fitz Jackson, and several councillors from both municipalities.

Protesters, armed with placards, chanted slogans such as "No consultation, no parish," voicing their



frustration over what they say is a lack of public engagement in the decision-making process.

On February 11, the government, leveraging its parliamentary majority, passed a bill to amend the Counties and Parishes Act of 1867 to establish Portmore as Jamaica's newest parish. The bill

now moves to the Senate for approval before becoming law.

This marks the first time in 150 years that a new parish has been created in Jamaica, a move that has sparked heated debate among residents and local officials. While the government argues that parish status will provide greater autonomy

and resources for Portmore, critics insist the decision should have involved more public consultation.

As tensions rise, all eyes are on the Senate's next move and whether continued opposition from residents and PNP leaders will influence the final outcome. (Jamaica Gleaner)

Anguilla: Bank warns customers of remote access phishing scam

A new phishing scam targeting bank customers has prompted the National Commercial Bank of Anguilla to issue urgent security warnings.

The bank said in a press statement that fraudsters impersonating bank employees are attempting to gain unauthorized remote access to custom-

ers' computers, laptops, and mobile devices.

"Please be advised that the Bank will never contact you online or by telephone to request remote access to your computer, laptop devices or mobile phones or to request your card pin or other personal banking details,"

they stated.

Customers who receive such suspicious requests are urged to immediately report the incidents to both the Royal Anguilla Police Force and their bank's service department at service@ncbal.com. (Loop Caribbean)

2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season names announced

The National Hurricane Centre has released the list of names for the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season. Notable this year is the inclusion of “Dexter,” which replaces “Dorian” following its retirement after the devastating 2019 hurricane season.

The complete list of names for 2025, with their pronunciations, is:

1. Andrea (AN-dree-uh)
2. Barry (BAIR-ree)
3. Chantal (shahn-TAHL)
4. Dexter (DEHK-ster)
5. Erin (AIR-rin)
6. Fernand (fair-NAHN)
7. Gabrielle (ga-bree-ELL)
8. Humberto (oom-BAIR-toh)
9. Imelda (ee-MEHL-dah)
10. Jerry (JEHR-ee)
11. Karen (KAIR-ren)
12. Lorenzo (loh-REN-zoh)
13. Melissa (meh-LIH-suh)
14. Nestor (NES-tor)
15. Olga (OAL-guh)
16. Pablo (PAHB-lo)
17. Rebekah (reh-BEH-kuh)
18. Sebastien (sus-BASH-chuhn)
19. Tanya (TAHN-yuh)
20. Van (van)
21. Wendy (WEN-dee)

The announcement comes following what has been reported as the ninth

consecutive above-average hurricane season in



2024, which saw 18 named storms, 11 hurricanes, and five major hurricanes affecting the Atlantic and Caribbean regions.

This significantly exceeded the typical average of

14 named storms, seven hurricanes, and three major hurricanes per season.

Hurricane Beryl made his-

tory in 2024 as the earliest Category 5 hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin.

The July storm caused widespread devastation, particularly affecting Carriacou and Petite Martinique (the northern dependencies of Grenada) and the southern islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (including Union Island, Canouan, and Mayreau).

While the storm resulted in extensive damage to homes and infrastructure, the impact on human life was reportedly minimized thanks to advances in early warning systems. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Manna
TRADING LTD



New
Cement
Stock Has
Arrived!



Shop
Now

Factory Road,
St. Johns, Antigua
268-562-9139
mannatradingltd@gmail.com



Regional News



Katzenjammers secures Panorama hat-trick

Katzenjammers Steel Orchestra has been crowned the Medium Conventional champions for the third consecutive year.

The band secured its hat-trick victory with a score of 281 points for its rendition of "Lying Excuses" last night at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago.

Katzenjammers now has five titles in all.

Pan Elders, the most successful Medium Band with six consecutive wins, finished second with 279 points for their performance of "Mih Lover."

NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra, playing "Cut The Bush", and Pamberi Steel Orchestra, per-



forming "Too Own Way", tied for third place with 275 points each.

Pamberi Steel Orchestra also received the Andre Franco Trophy for Best Dressed Steelband at the

National Medium Conventional Steelband competition. *(Trinidad Express)*

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2 DAYS WAYS SAVE



\$16.99

- *2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink



\$19.99

- Zinger / CCB
- Drink

limitations apply



KEEP ANTI-BURGER CLEAN

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: KFC, Uber Eats, Deliveroo, Just Eat Takeaway.com

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL IS CALLING!



Application Open!

Requirements:

Citizen of Antigua & Barbuda
Female, 18-26 years
Minimum 5 CSEC, including English A
Never married & no children
No criminal record

Forms can be collected at:

The Ministry of Creative Industries,
Old Parham Road, upstairs KFC
Mon-Thurs: 10am - 2pm
Fri: 10am - 1pm
Call: 562-9605/06

Deadline March 14th 2025

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Ukraine marks invasion's 3rd anniversary with support mired in uncertainty

Leaders from the European Union and Canada have gathered in Ukraine in a show of unity as Kyiv marks the third anniversary of Russia's invasion.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday hailed the "heroism" of his country as he welcomed European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau among other senior officials. However, there was no representative from the United States, amid growing uncertainty over Washington's support.

"Three years of resistance. Three years of gratitude. Three years of absolute



heroism of Ukrainians," said Zelenskyy. "I thank everyone who defends and supports it."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reiterated the EU's support for Ukraine.

"In this fight for survival,

it is not only the destiny of Ukraine that is at stake. It's Europe's destiny," she wrote in a social media post.

Amid the threatened vacuum in US military support, the 27-member bloc's leaders are scheduled to meet

on March 6 for a special summit "to take decisions" on Ukraine and European defence.

On Monday, a meeting of EU foreign ministers reportedly approved a 16th package of sanctions against Russia.

However, Hungary, whose leader Viktor Orbán has remained close to Russian President Vladimir Putin and has persistently complicated EU efforts to support Ukraine, said it will not back further sanctions.

Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto also said his country will not agree to a boost in EU military aid. *(Al Jazeera English)*

PLATINUM Fm
We Entertain You **97.9**

DAILY PROGRAMMING



EARLY VIBRATIONS 6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA

THE RUSH HOUR SHOW 5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE 6AM-9AM SATURDAYS

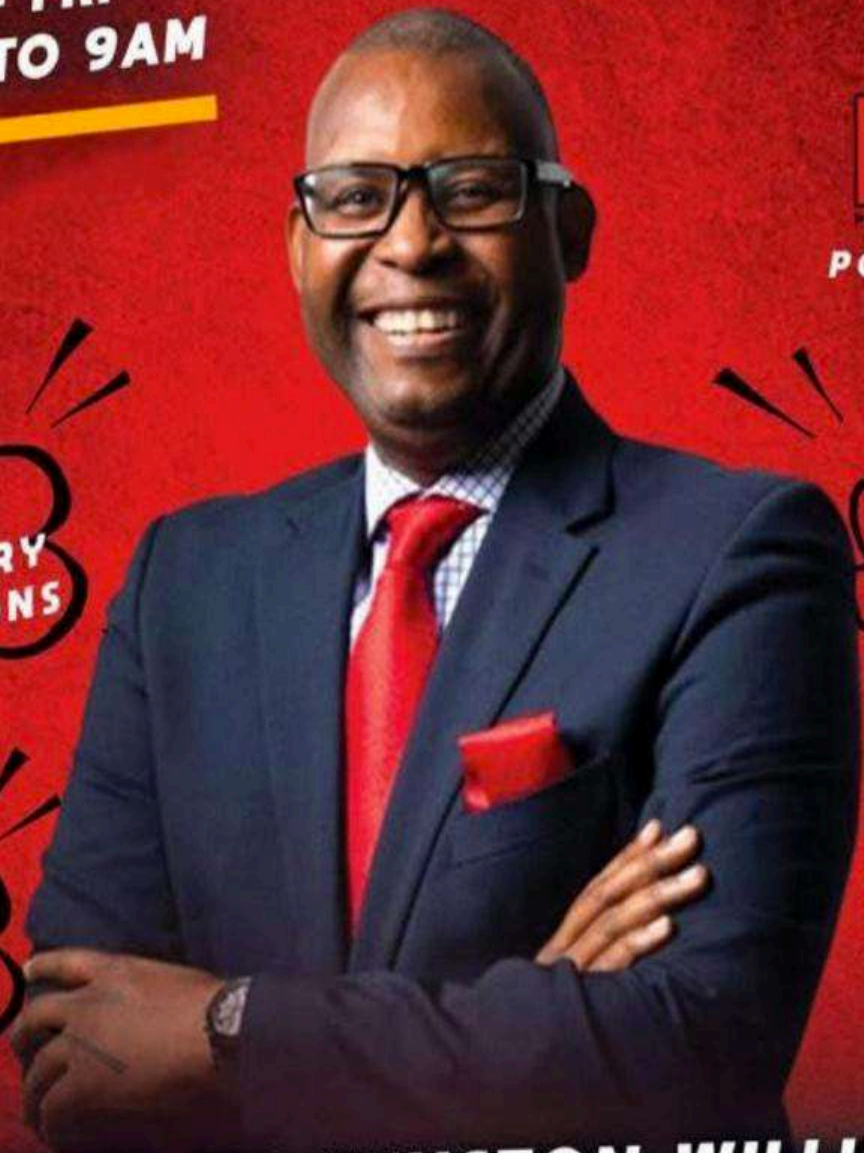
TOUCHLINE 7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS

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

**MON - FRI
6:30AM TO 9AM**



**BIRTHDAY /
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS**

INTERVIEWS

**COMMUNITY
UPDATES**

POLITICS

HOSTED BY WINSTON WILLIAMS

MORNING POINTE

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Apple announces \$500 billion U.S. investment amid Trump tariff threat

Apple on Monday reaffirmed a commitment to invest hundreds of billions of dollars in the U.S. over the coming years amid pressure from President Donald Trump and the growing threat of his tariffs.

The tech giant said it planned to spend \$500 billion over the next five years in the United States, with intentions to hire 20,000 new workers and produce AI servers.

The plans include a server factory in Houston slated to open in 2026 and a manufacturing academy in Detroit. The company also said data centers in Arizona, California, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington would see expansions from the investment plans.

Monday's move is Apple's latest splashy announcement about investing in the United States, making it an acceleration of existing plans.

The company announced in 2021 that it was planning to invest \$430 billion domestically over the next five years. In 2018, during Trump's first term, Apple said it would make a \$350 billion "contribution" to the American economy over a stretch of five years, including the creation of 20,000 jobs.

Apple also confirmed



Monday that an Arizona-based Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. facility, which began development under the Biden administration, had started producing chips for it there — news that media had previously reported.

Trump sought to take credit for the latest announcement — and seemed to tip it last week shortly after meeting with Apple CEO Tim Cook and implied the trade duties he has threatened on a host of imports played a role.

"They don't want to be in the tariffs," Trump said last week, adding that Cook had halted plans to build two facilities in Mexico, an assertion Apple has not confirmed.

In a Truth Social post Monday, Trump cited "faith in what we are

doing" as the reason for Apple's announcement.

Apple's playbook for avoiding tariffs appears to track closely with its strategy during the first Trump administration, when it allowed the president to take credit for a plant that had been making Mac computers in Texas for at least three years before he took office. Like other products Apple makes in the United States or says it intends to, the Mac made in Texas is not one of its mainstream models. Apple's key revenue-generating products like the iPhone are all still manufactured outside of the country.

Apple and Cook have also gone a step further in Trump's second term, both donating to Trump's inauguration fund. Cook attended Trump's swearing-in ceremony on Capi-

itol Hill.

Apple said the new jobs it plans to hire for will be primarily related to research and development, engineering and AI. It also said it plans to expand investment in an existing advanced manufacturing fund.

"We are bullish on the future of American innovation, and we're proud to build on our long-standing U.S. investments with this \$500 billion commitment to our country's future," Cook said in a statement. "And we'll keep working with people and companies across this country to help write an extraordinary new chapter in the history of American innovation."

Apple shares were effectively flat in pre-market trading Monday. (*NBC News*)



CALYPSO GRAND FINALS

Watch Party

PRESENTED BY

DOMINICA ANTIGUA CONNECTION

Enjoy some sweet kaiso music by Dominica's top calypsonians
Who will dethrone the ten times Calypso Monarch King Dice?
A well stocked **BUSH RUM** Bar awaits you.

Saturday, 1 March, 2025 | **Starting at 7:30pm**
Show time 8:30pm

ENTRANCE
FEE:
\$20

JULEES

Cross & Tanner Street, St. John's Antigua



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Nutritional shakes recalled after listeria infections killed 11 and hospitalized dozens dating back to 2018

A range of milkshakes have been recalled after they were linked to 11 deaths and dozens of serious illnesses, many of them in long-term care homes and hospitals, the FDA confirmed on Friday.

Food service company Lyons Magnus said in a statement Saturday it was voluntarily recalling all 4 oz. packs of Lyons ReadyCare and Sysco Imperial Frozen Supplemental Shakes, in response to a recall from manufacturer Prairie Farms, based in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

As of Friday, 38 people have been infected across 21 states. Of these, 27 were hospitalized and 11 died — although the FDA did not say when these deaths took place and said the outbreak can be traced back seven years.

Some 34 victims were either residents in long-term care facilities or had already been hospitalized. Records from the facilities involved showed that the shakes were available to residents and patients, the FDA said.

The FDA said it was first notified of an outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* linked to the product on Nov. 25 last year “with many ill people residing in long-term care facilities (LTCF) prior to illness onset.”

“As soon as Lyons Magnus

learned of the issue, it took impacted products were



immediate action to halt the purchase of all products from the affected Prairie Farms facility, notify customers, and ensure that

removed from distribution nationally,” the company said in its statement.

The FDA said the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention found that this outbreak can be traced back to 2018, although it was not clear exactly how, when or where the infections were reported.

Symptoms of Listeriosis, a listeria infection, typically start two weeks after eating contaminated food but can start up to 10 weeks later. These may include fever, muscle aches and nausea and in serious cases confusion, stiff neck and convulsions. Pregnant women, people over the age of 65 and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk.

An infant died and 10 adults were sickened amid a four-state listeria outbreak connected to ready-to-eat meat products last year. (NBC News)

CELEBRATING 6 YEARS OF AMAZING SERVICE!!

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS. Cassada Paints & Supplies Inc
 8 Utility Drive Cassada Gardens
 (268) 562-9450

15% OFF STOREWIDE
MARCH 10TH - MARCH 15TH

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



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

TALKING POINT

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1
WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

Sports News



Thomas among winners in Hurricane Power warm-up race



Kemar Thomas

Kemar Thomas was among the winners in the

first of a series of keep-fit one-mile warm-up races,

which are being hosted by the Hurricane Power Athletic Club.

Thomas, who is the 2024 10k champion, won the open male category in the opening warm-up race on Saturday.

Thomas completed the one-mile race in five minutes and six seconds. Adrian Perez took second place in six minutes and three seconds, while Evrick Williams claimed third place in six minutes and 43 seconds.

Anika James, who is the 2024 female 10k champion, won the open women's category in six minutes and 45 seconds.

James was one of two women to compete in Saturday's race. Her other competitor, however, did not finish the race.

There was success as well for Shamani Abram, who won the race in the Un-

der-13 male division.

Abram was first to cross the finish line in eight minutes and 47 seconds. Wayne Richardson clinched second place with a time of nine minutes.

The second warm-up event will be held on March 16, when the organizers will also conduct a time check on the route for the 2k, 5k, and 10k races.

Corporate citizens Cool & Smooth and Joma Caribbean are giving support, coming on board as sponsors of the events.

The Hurricane Power Athletic Club plans to stage four one-mile warm-up races in the lead-up to its main event in May.

On May 4, the club will stage a run/walk 2k for under 13s and a 5k and 10k open, which is open to individuals of all ages and groups.

POINTE ON DE STREETZ
 HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER

PBN
 POINTS BROADCASTING NETWORK
TUE - FRI
2PM - 3PM
 CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991
 f **POINT FM99.1**

New Zealand beat Bangladesh to advance to Champions Trophy semis

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (Reuters) - New Zealand moved into the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy taking India along with them after a five-wicket win over Group A opponents Bangladesh on Monday.

Chasing 237 for victory, New Zealand shrugged off the loss of two early wickets and rode Rachin Ravindra's classy 112 and Tom Latham's 55 to get home in 46.1 overs.

Bangladesh earlier squandered a good start and made 236 for nine off their 50 overs, thanks to Najmul Hossain Shanto's 77 and Jaker Ali's 45 but paid a heavy price for 178 dot balls in their innings. Black Caps spinner Michael Bracewell picked up four for 26.

The result meant that defending champions Pakistan joined Bangladesh in being knocked out of the tournament after losing their opening two matches against New Zealand and India.

"Yeah, that's nice (to go through). We knew Bangladesh were a tough challenge on this wicket," New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said.

"The way we were able to pull it back in the middle with the ball was pleasing. It's probably the hardest thing to do in one-day cricket, take wickets in the



Rachin Ravindra embraces Tom Latham (#48) after beating Bangladesh in their match in the Champions Trophy in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on Monday, February 24, 2025. (ICC/Getty Images)

middle and I think Bracewell was outstanding."

Ravindra, who came into the side in place of the ill Daryl Mitchell, was nearly run out while on 25, but settled his nerves with delightful boundaries on the off side and brought up his half century with a driven four behind the bowler.

After Devon Conway was bowled by Mustafizur Rahman for 30, Ravindra continued to grind and made the most of being dropped on 93 by Mehidy Hasan Miraz before scoring

his fourth One-Day International (ODI) century.

The left-hander, who forged a 129-run partnership with the in-form Latham, was handed another lifeline after being dropped by Mahmudullah on 105 before finally departing with the job all but done.

Glenn Phillips made an unbeaten 21 and Bracewell scored 11 not out to take their team home.

Earlier, Bangladesh made a solid start after being asked to bat first

but poor shot selection by their middle order batsmen meant they ended up with a modest total.

The introduction of spinner Bracewell in the ninth over gave New Zealand the breakthrough, as opener Tanzid Hasan departed for a run-a-ball 24, before seamer Will O'Rourke had Miraz caught for 13 to leave Bangladesh at 64 for two.

Shanto looked to steady the ship but New Zealand's bowlers applied the squeeze, and Bracewell provided the cutting edge by getting rid of Towhid Hridoy for seven, Mushfiqur Rahim for two, and Mahmudullah for four.

Bracewell then pulled off a fine running catch to dismiss Shanto in the 38th over bowled by O'Rourke, leaving Bangladesh desperate for a strong finish to add some respectability to their total.

Ali laid the platform with his rearguard effort but he was run out by wicketkeeper Tom Latham in the penultimate over, as Bangladesh limped to a below-par score.

"It was a pretty good wicket to bat on. We needed two big partnerships but the way we batted was really disappointing," said Shanto.

"The batting unit needs to improve a lot."

Benna Girls aim to salvage lost pride in final CONCACAF U-20 Qualifiers



The starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls during their second match against Guyana in Group A of the 2025 CONCACAF Under-20 Women's Qualifiers at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, February 23, 2025. (ABFA Media)

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Girls will seek to salvage some lost pride in their final match in the 2025 CONCACAF Under-20 Women's Qualifiers, which is taking place across six four-team groups in four host countries from February 21 to 25.

Hosts Antigua and Barbuda will tackle Belize in the last match during the third and final Group A double-header at the ABFA Technical Center in Paynters on Tuesday (today).

Antigua and Barbuda will face Belize at 3 pm, after Group A leaders Haiti take on Guyana at

10 am.

Antigua and Barbuda will be aiming to redeem some pride after losing their first two games in the four-team round-robin play in Group A.

After suffering a 3-1 loss in their opener against Haiti, Se-Hanna Mars struck a hat trick as the young Benna Girls crashed to a humiliating 5-0 defeat against Guyana in their second encounter on Sunday.

Mars opened the scoring for Guyana by converting a penalty kick in the 21st minute.

Mars kept pushing and earned a second goal

for Guyana in the 63rd minute with a shot from outside the area. Mars achieved her hat trick by scoring her third in the 68th minute to give Guyana a 3-0 lead.

The young Benna Girls were reduced to 10 men in the 70th minute when midfielder Zoya Simon received a red card after she committed serious foul play against Guyana's goalkeeper Nya-Grace Young.

Liyah Menilek capitalized on a loose ball in the box to score her team's fourth goal in the 78th minute, and Antigua and Barbuda's defender Karmiellia Hughes con-

verted an own goal in the 85th minute to wrap up Guyana's first win in two matches.

Haiti continues to lead Group A after recording their second win in as many games with a 4-0 victory against Belize in Sunday's opening game.

Brianna Crevecoeur got the opening goal for Haiti in the 22nd minute. Nehemie Sainvilus doubled the lead for Haiti by scoring her first of two goals in the 25th minute.

Pierreline Nazon extended the advantage with a 57th-minute conversion, and Sainvilus got her second when she scored the fourth and final goal for Haiti in the 59th minute.

After round-robin play between February 20 and 25, the six group winners will join the two pre-seeded top-ranked nations, the United States and Mexico, in the 2025 CONCACAF Under-20 Women's Championship.

The 2025 Under-20 Women's Championship will determine the four CONCACAF representatives for the FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup, which will take place in Poland in August 2026.

Success for Spanish Heat and Da Project in ABBA's Div-1 League



Spanish Heat and Da Project recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

The Spanish Heat claimed their fourth win in six games by pulling

off a 78-71 victory against the Northside Stingerz in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Daniel Perez converted 23 points and claimed five rebounds; Danny Perez produced 16 points, eight rebounds, and five assists; Stephen Matthew sank 15

points; and Coy Quinland chipped in with 12 points and six rebounds for Spanish Heat.

Ammiel Williams sank 23 points and claimed seven rebounds, Te-Ran Zachariah converted 17 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, and Jaheem James scored 16 points and snatched 11 rebounds for the Northside Stingerz, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

After losing their first three matches, newly promoted Da Project recorded their third successive win with an 81-67 drubbing of Kennedy's Club Ottos Full Throttle in the opening game of Sunday's double-header.

T'shawn Lewis shot a game-high 25 points and grabbed 21 rebounds; Donte Trimmingham sank 15 points and claimed

five rebounds; Dominick Anthony scored nine points; and Sean Nicholas had eight points and 12 rebounds for Da Project.

Akeem Davis produced 20 points, seven rebounds, and six steals; Marlon Davis had 15 points, six rebounds, and six assists; and Warren Bogle scored 14 points and claimed eight rebounds for the Ottos Full Throttle, which lost for the seventh time in as many games.

The ABBA's Second Division League will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday (today).

Michael Joseph Phoenix will face Christos United at 6:45 pm, and Cuties Ovals Ojays 2 will meet the Navigators at 8:30 pm

con't from pg 26

West Indies batsman Jewel Andrew got 34.

Alzarri Joseph bagged four for 26 to claim the man of the match award, and Justin Robinson picked up four for 54. Set 84 to win, opener Demetri Lucas hit 32 as the Pythons achieved victory at 87 for three in 17.1 overs.

The other two fourth-round two-day matches ended in draws. The Bo-

lans Blasters claimed first innings honours in their drawn affair with WES Rising Sun Spartans at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

Scores: Bolans Blasters 323 for nine declared off 60.2 overs (Orlando Peters 151 not out, Taiem Tonge 75, Gershun Phillip 34; Kerique Mentor three for 73) and 90 for one declared off 20.5 overs (Shemar Wallace 42 not out); Rising

Sun Spartans 199 for nine declared off 52.4 overs (Malique Jacobs 67, Hilroy Andrew 35; Derek Mourillon three for 25) and 114 for five off 24 overs.

The Empire Nation also claimed first innings honours in their drawn encounter with the New Winthropes Lions at the Factory Grounds.

Scores: New Winthropes Lions 119 off 45.2 overs (Bartlette Henry 51; Jus-

tin Athanaze three for 15, and Damian Lowenfield three for 39) and 209 off 51 overs (Bartlette Henry 101, Demari Benta 38; Micah McKenzie six for 62, and Justin Athanaze three for 54); Empire Nation 178 off 50.5 overs (Tanez Francis 38; Demari Benta five for 39, and Ishmael Peters three for 49) and 52 for three off 7.5 overs.

Sports

TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2025

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Blackhawks stay perfect in ABCA two-day contest

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks maintained their perfect run with their fourth victory in as many games in defense of their Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

The Blackhawks trounced Tertiary Institutions and Schools by an innings and 29 runs at Ball Beef in Liberta. Tertiary Institutions and Schools crashed to 38 all out in 23 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Left-arm spinner Kadeem Phillip grabbed three wickets without conceding a run in two overs.

In reply, the Blackhawks declared their first innings at 215 for eight off 39.4 overs. Amahl Nathaniel hit 48, Michael Greaves cracked 40, and Kadeem Phillip struck 38. Kaivalya Mishra captured five for 77. Facing a deficit of 177 runs, Tertiary Institutions and Schools were dismissed in their second innings for 148 in 45 overs. Kadeem Phillip bagged four for 33 to claim the man of the match award.

The Jennings Tigers and All Saints Pythons both recorded their second wins in four matches. The Jennings Tigers crushed Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethes-



Kadeem Phillip

da Golden Eagles by an innings and 76 runs at the Bethesda playing field.

The Golden Eagles were dismissed for 96 off 40.3 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Zavier Freeland snapped up four for 23, and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams took three for 28.

Dahri Francis slammed a century as the Jennings Tigers made 251 in 43.2 overs. Francis hammered 130 off 88 balls, including 11 fours and nine sixes. Pacer Mekali Tonge captured four for 81.



Glenton Williams

Facing a deficit of 155 runs, the Golden Eagles crashed to 79 all out in 28.2 overs in their second innings. Glenton Williams grabbed three wickets for five runs to claim the man of the match award.

The All Saints Pythons prevailed by seven wickets against the Pigotts Crushers at the Pigotts playing field. The Crushers made 124 in 39.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Michael Marcellin picked up four for 38, while captain and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph took



Dahri Francis

three for 12. In reply, All Saints Pythons made 186 off 38 overs.

Opener Sean Joseph Jr. scored 52, Alzarri Joseph smashed 42 off 26 balls, including five sixes and a four, and Kadeem Josiah struck 32. Tyree Moore snatched four wickets for eight runs, and Emroy Lee claimed three for 35.

Facing a deficit of 62 runs, the Crushers were dismissed in their second innings for 145 in 48.3 overs. Brandon Jno Baptiste struck 38 and young

con't on pg 25