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PM Browne repeats call for nationals to engage in retirement planning

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The Barbuda team that participated in the annual inter school athletics competition held last weekend at YASCO

PM Browne repeats call for nationals to engage in retirement planning

Prime Minister Gaston Browne took time out on his Saturday radio programme to address an issue over which he has voiced concern in the past; the need for nationals to begin the serious planning for life after retirement.

PM Browne, a former banker and someone with a wealth of experience in investing, said this is important as too many people are relying on their pension to take care of their living expenses after they retire from work. However, according to the prime minister in today's era of high inflation and other challenges, relying on the pension is not enough.

“Pensions were not designed to take care of all of a person's living expenses in retirement; if you rely exclusively on pension you would not be able to maintain the living standards he/she is accused to,” PM Browne emphasized.

He stated that he has



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

come across many instances where elders/retirees who may have contributed much to the country in their productive years, are ‘falling through the cracks’ as they find themselves in situations where they are not able to maintain themselves.

“Too many persons are not taking advantage of the ‘strong incomes’ they earn during their productive years. They often spend as they earn or spend based on income rather than save or invest for their later years.

Retirement planning is something our people are not focused on and many end up being very vulnerable,” he observed.

He expanded on this point further by noting that there are many seniors who have approached the issue on the notion that their children will take care of them in their retirement, but according to the prime minister this too, is unrealistic.

“They must understand the world in which we are living in is becoming more and more competitive as children today

have their own set of challenges. For example, based on lifestyle, the children may have to pay for mortgage or a car and even to educate their own children with little room for taking care of their parents,” PM Browne stated.

He recommends strongly that as the people age, they should seek out investments opportunities that would give a return that they could be used to supplement their pension. He is also suggesting that these investments should give returns that exceed the rate of inflation.

The prime minister pointed to the lands at Pensioners where the government has earmarked for locals to get a foothold into the tourism industry. Regrettably, he noted, not too many persons from the ‘middle class’ are not coming forward to invest.

PM Browne is again appealing for a more robust response from what he termed ‘ordinary Antiguans and Barbudans’.

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Parliamentary select committee to meet to review three legislative measures



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

The parliamentary select committee set up to review three legislative measures before the House of Representatives will convene a public session on Thursday.

Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin wants members of the public to attend the session at the parliament chambers and to participate in the discussion.

The three pieces of legislation are; the Fire and Rescue Bill, 2025, the Police Bill, 2025 and the Antigua and Barbuda Forensic Services Bill, 2025.

According to the Attorney General, the three bills have been posted on the government website at laws@ab.gov.ag.

Sir Steadroy is inviting members of the public to peruse the three legislative measures and to attend the committee meeting and to share their ideas as this will inform

any proposed changes to the bills before they are adopted.

The committee meeting will start at 10:30 am on Thursday.

A quick insight into the three pieces of legislation shows that the Police Bill, 2025, seeks to repeal and replace the existing Police Act (Cap. 330) to modernize the legal framework governing the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. The Bill introduces enhanced governance structures, streamlines the roles and responsibilities of police officers, and incorporates contemporary policing methodologies while ensuring accountability, effi-

ciency, and public trust in law enforcement.

On the other hand, the Antigua and Barbuda Forensic Services (ABFS) Bill will establish a legislative framework for the establishment of the Antigua and Barbuda Forensic Services to assist law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences.

It will see the appointment and functions of the Forensic Director and Deputy Director, as well as the duties and obligations of staff and protection from personal liability.

This as the Fire and Res-

cue Service Bill which will see the Fire Department renamed as the Fire and Rescue Service (replacing the Fire Brigades Act).

In addition, the new Act once passed through the House will result in the Police Act and the accompanying regulations not being applicable to the Fire and Rescue Service.

This means that there will be a formal separation of the Fire Department from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, a move that has been recommended by the top rank of the department for many years.



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High-Level Workshop on Competition Policy and Law Enforcement enters Day Two



The Ministries of Legal Affairs and Trade are combining resources to mount a two-day high-level workshop on competition policy and enforcement law.

Organised by the OECS Commission and the CARICOM Competition Commission (CCC), under the 11th EDF-Right Project, the 10-11 March workshop is being held at the Villa Polytechnic Clinic and it brings together government officials, statutory bodies, private sector, regional institutions.

One of the main outcomes of the workshop is the sensitisation of key principles of competition law and institutional elements required for its enforcement.

In his address to the opening ceremony, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene noted that the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas mandates that CARICOM member states enact national competition laws and establish competition authorities. This, he noted, is not merely a legal obligation but a moral and

socioeconomic imperative to ensure that the benefits of economic integration are not eroded by anti-competitive practices.

“Lest we forget that competition law and policy are foundational to a successful market economy. They establish rules that unleash the potential of producers, service providers, and investors, ensuring optimal market function, encouraging innovation, and protecting consumers from monop-

olistic and other undesirable business practices. Moreover, these laws and policies foster a level playing field where businesses, regardless of size, can compete fairly, and the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed,” he stated.

Also addressing the opening was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim who underscored the important role of competition to the success of business enterprises. “A robust competition regime directly impacts trade performance. When businesses operate under transparent and competitive conditions, they become more efficient, innovative, and capable of seizing export opportunities. Conversely, anti-competitive practices drive up costs, dampen productivity, and diminish our ability to compete globally,” he noted.

For Antigua and Barbuda, he emphasized that establishing administrative mechanisms to support competition law, policy, and enforcement is critical. “This includes developing regulatory frameworks that address both traditional markets and emerging digital economies, ensuring they are agile enough to adapt to technological advancements,” he explained.

On Day Two of the workshop, participants will explore the institutional and legislative framework for competition law enforcement, focusing on key design considerations, enforcement mechanisms, and the relationship between competition law and consumer protection. The day will conclude with a discussion on actionable steps for implementing competition law and policy in Antigua and Barbuda

The death is announced of

Carolie Francis

Sunday night, February 23, 2025 Carolie Francis, wife of the late Arnold Francis, took her last breath. She died peacefully in her sleep. Throughout her 85 years, she made valuable contributions to her Ottos New Town Community in the capacity of providing needed assistance to the elderly such as cooking, running errands and checking up on them. In her church community, the St. John's SDA Church she gave over 45 years of dedicated service to children Sabbath School and Children Ministries. She left behind her five children and 16 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. She will be remembered for her bright and warm smile and her spiritually filled uplifting words.

She will be laid to rest on Thursday, March 20 at 10:00 AM at the Tindale SDA Church.

Antigua and Barbuda secures second season with Condor at ITB Berlin



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism delegation during meetings at ITB Berlin (Photos courtesy The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), with full support from its key partners: Tamarind Hills Resort and Villas, Caribbean Beach Cottages (Hawksbill, Cocos & Keyonna), Royalton Resorts, and Elite Island Resorts, proudly confirmed the continuation of Condor Airlines' seasonal service at the , the largest travel trade show in Europe.

The return of Condor Airlines marks another milestone in Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to expand its presence in the German-speaking (DACH) market. Following the airline's resumption of service last year, the destination experienced a 26% increase in arrivals from

the DACH market in the first two months. Year-to-date growth from German-speaking travellers continues to trend positively with a 46% increase in January 2025 compared to the same period last year, with strong forward bookings leading into Antigua Sailing Week.

Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, reinforced the significance of the Condor partnership, stating, "Antigua and Barbuda has maintained a long-standing relationship with the German-speaking markets. Condor's return for a second season is a strong testament to the route's success, particularly in attracting high-end travelers. The demand

from this market continues to drive growth in the luxury sector, aligning with our strategy to increase and sustain airlift from Europe."

Key European tour operators have welcomed the announcement, expressing confidence in selling Antigua and Barbuda as a premier destination for the next winter season. The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority notes that the four and five-star market is performing the strongest with one of the major volume operators reporting almost a 300% increase vs 2024.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's Director of Tourism for the UK and Europe, Cherrie Osborne, highlighted the

positive reception from industry partners, stating, "This year, the feedback from the trade has been extremely positive. Through a series of strategic initiatives, including trade visits, media collaborations, and an extensive cooperative campaign with the airline, we are seeing notable growth from the German-speaking market and broader continental Europe. Our hotel partners are fully supportive of diversifying their target market and recognize the potential in this region."

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority remains committed to expanding air connectivity and strengthening its position as a sought-after destination for European travellers.



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One Chorus, One Purpose: 2000 people participate IWD walk 2025

“Overwhelming” is how organisers of the Men and Women United 2025: Stop Gender-Based Violence 5k Walk described the support for this year’s installment of what is to be an annual awareness-raising and advocacy event now in its second year. The organisers, the Integrated Health Outreach Gender-Based Violence Coalition (IHO-GBV) in partnership with the Directorate of Gender Affairs (DoGA), estimate that more than 2000 residents of Antigua and Barbuda participated in the walk on Saturday, commemorating International Women’s Day (IWD) 2025.

Participants spoke candidly about their reasons for coming out. One woman in her forties said, “We are here to march against violence. It was important to me to come out, so I invited my co-worker and we are both here today,” while another participant, a man in his twenties, said, “Violence happens to everyone but more specifically to women because they’re often seen as less than. It’s important that people who are not directly affected by problems show their support so that those who are affected don’t feel alone.”

A woman who was proudly displaying a placard



with the words “Protect our mothers sisters and daughters” offered this when asked why she chose to participate: “Too many women are being raped in Antigua, too many women and too many young girls, and I am here to support them.”

All ages were represented, and there were even babies and toddlers being pushed in strollers taking part in the GBV awareness walk. Organisers say that around 35% of registrants indicated when signing up that they were joining as part of an organisation. Some of the largest groups included the Girls Guides with nearly 200 registrants, the Villa Primary School with a cohort of more than 90, and the Ottos Comprehensive School with more than 100. Additionally, more than 50

soldiers and cadets from the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) joined the walk as well.

The local sponsors and supporters of the event included Chestertons Antigua, Island Living Investment Services (ILIS), and Moongate Hotel & Spa, as well as Flow, the Ahkimo Group, Caribbean Alliance Insurance, Papparazzi Pizza, the University of the West Indies Five Island Campus ((UWI FIC), the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Sagicor, Twist Wholesale, Beyond Limits Fitness, the Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy, the First Choice Supermarket, and the Source Clothing Store.

Representing three sponsors, Chestertons Antigua,

Island Living Investment Services and Moongate Hotel & Spa, Gaye Hechme, said: “We believe in equality and in respect. That is the policy that we uphold in our workplace and we believe that in supporting this event, we are supporting the same for all spaces throughout Antigua and Barbuda. As a nation, we must adopt a zero tolerance approach when it comes to gender-based violence. That is why we are here today.”

The Men & Women United 2025: Stop Gender Based Violence Walk is a project implemented by IHO in partnership with the DoGA and supported by the Equality Fund and Global Affairs Canada. The IGO-GBV Coalition is an arm of IHO.

Message to Young People: How to Build a Successful Career; The Critical Success Factors



by **Garfield Joseph, MBA***

In today's rapidly changing world, young people face a myriad of career choices. A successful career isn't confined to traditional roles like doctors, bankers, or lawyers. It can span various fields such as technology, arts, or entrepreneurship. Success is about finding something you love, achieving your goals, and making a positive impact on society.

Navigating Career Paths

Many young people struggle to navigate their career paths. They often face uncertainty about their passions, lack guidance, and feel pressure to conform to societal expectations. This can lead to frustration and a lack of fulfilment in their professional lives. The journey to a successful career may seem daunting, but with the right approach, it is entirely achievable.

Building a Successful Career

So, how can young people build a successful career that aligns with their passions and contributes positively to society? Here are some recommendations to get started, regardless of your chosen field:

1. Pursue Your Dreams: Identify what excites you. Whether it's being a carpenter, a tech entrepreneur, or a chef, your passion will drive your success. Dream big and take steps to turn those dreams into reality. For instance, if you love cooking, start by trying new recipes at home, enrol in cooking classes, and seek internships at local restaurants. Your passion is the fuel for your success.

2. Be Open-Minded Until You Find Your Passion: Explore different options and embrace new experiences. This will help you discover what you truly love. For example, you might start with a part-time job in retail, try an internship in marketing, and later realise you love graphic design. Every experience teaches you something valuable.

3. Master the Fundamentals: Focus on developing strong reading, writing, and reasoning skills. Be polite and respectful to others. These basics form the foundation of a successful career. For an aspiring software developer, focusing on coding languages and logical problem-solving builds a strong foundation.

4. Be Teachable and Coachable: Seek mentors and coaches who can guide you. Listen to their advice and apply it to your career. Being coachable fosters growth. Think of a sports team: players who take their coach's feedback seriously often improve the most. Remember, a university degree doesn't mean you know everything.

5. Find a Good Mentor: No one is an island. A mentor can make a significant difference. Look for someone successful in your field who is willing to share their knowledge. For example, if you're interested in entrepreneurship, a mentor who has started their own business can offer valuable insights.

6. Stick with It: Building a successful career requires time and perseverance. Stay committed to your goals and keep pushing forward. Persistence is key to overcoming challenges. Consider J.K. Rowling, who faced numerous rejections before "Harry Potter" was published. Her perseverance led to phenomenal success.

7. Bring Your Best Self to Work Every Day: Attitude determines altitude. People prefer working with those who are optimistic, positive, and collaborative over those who drain energy and morale. A positive attitude, coupled with strong job skills, will make you a valuable team member and open doors to career growth.

8. Learn How to Communicate Effectively: Strong written and verbal communication skills are more essential than ever. Clear communication saves time and prevents misunderstandings. It enhances team dynamics, earns respect, and builds credibility. Communication is a skill that can be learned and mastered with effort.

9. Practice Empathy and Integrity: Treat everyone with respect. The golden rule, "Do unto others

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as you would have them do unto you,” is a good starting point. Have the courage to stand by your principles, even when faced with illegal, immoral, or unethical decisions. This strengthens your credibility and accelerates your career.

10. Do Not Let Doubters Hold You Back: Never allow doubters to limit your ambitions, regardless of your station in life. Believe in yourself and your abilities. With God’s guidance, you can achieve anything. Many successful people have faced cynicism but persevered to realise their dreams.

Personal Reflections

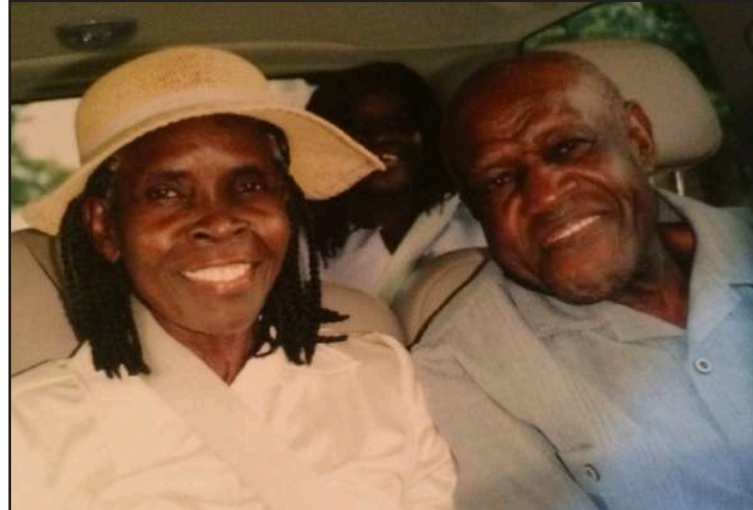
Throughout my career, I’ve had the support of outstanding business and spiritual leaders of different colour and race. Mentors, teammates in sports, elders in the church, and sages in the community provided invaluable guidance. Their support helped me navigate difficult times and stay focused on my goals. I’m deeply grateful for the lessons they taught me.

Conclusion

Building a successful career is a journey shaped by passion, perseverance, and continuous learning.

It’s not just about achieving personal goals but also about making a meaningful impact on the world. Your dreams are within reach, but they require action. Start today—take that first step, whether it’s researching a new skill, reaching out to a mentor, or drafting a clear plan for your future. The path may not always be easy, but with dedication, integrity, and the courage to pursue your vision, you hold the power to create the career and life you deserve. Believe in yourself and begin now—because your success story starts with the choices you make today.

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out her 85 years, she made valuable contributions to her Ottos New Town Community in the capacity of providing needed assistance to the elderly such as cooking, running errands and checking up on them. In her church community, the St. John's SDA Church she gave over 45 years in dedicated service to children Sabbath School and Children Ministries. She left behind five children, 16 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. She will be remembered for her warm smile and her spiritually filled uplifting words. She will be funeralize on Thursday, March 20 at 10:00 AM at the Tindale SDA Church.



Cuba Sends Doctors, the US Sends Sanctions



BY HELEN YAFFE

THE UNITED STATES CALLS CUBA'S MEDICAL INTERNATIONALISM "HUMAN TRAFFICKING" — BUT IT'S REALLY AN INTERNATIONALIST LIFELINE FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

On February 25, US secretary of state Marco Rubio announced restrictions on visas for both government officials in Cuba and any others worldwide who are “complicit” with the island nation’s overseas medical-assistance programs. A US State Department statement clarified that the sanction extends to “current and former” officials and the “immediate family of such persons.” This action, the seventh measure targeting Cuba in one month, has international consequences; for decades tens of thousands of Cuban medical professionals have been posted in around sixty countries, far more than the World Health Organization’s (WHO) workforce, mostly working in under-served populations in the Global South. By threatening to withhold visas from foreign officials, the US

government means to sabotage these Cuban medical missions overseas. If it works, millions will suffer.

Rubio built his career around taking a hard line on Cuban socialism, even alleging that his parents fled Fidel Castro’s Cuba until the *Washington Post* revealed that they migrated to Miami in 1956 during the Fulgenzio Batista dictatorship. As Trump’s secretary of state, Rubio is in prime position to ramp up the belligerent US-Cuba policy first laid out in April 1960 by deputy assistant secretary of state Lester Mallory: to use economic warfare against revolutionary Cuba to bring about “hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

Cuba stands accused by the US government of human trafficking, even equating overseas Cuban medical personnel to slaves. Rubio’s tweet parroted this pretext. The real objective is to undermine both Cuba’s international prestige and the revenue it receives from exporting medical services. Since 2004, earnings from Cuban medical and professional services exports have been the island’s greatest source of income. Cuba’s ability to conduct “normal” international

trade is currently obstructed by the long US blockade, but the socialist state has succeeded in converting its investments in education and health care into national earnings, while also maintaining free medical assistance to the Global South based on its internationalist principles.

Cuban Medical Internationalism: A Core Feature of Cuban Foreign Policy

The four approaches of Cuban medical internationalism were initiated early in the 1960s, all despite the post-1959 departure of half of the physicians in Cuba.

1. *Emergency response medical brigades.* In May 1960, Chile was struck by the most powerful earthquake on record, with thousands killed. The new Cuban government sent an emergency medical brigade with six rural field hospitals. This established a modus operandi under which Cuban medics mobilize rapid responses to “disaster and disease” emergencies throughout the Global South — since 2005 these brigades have been organized under the name “Henry Reeve International Contingents.” By 2017, when the WHO praised the Henry Reeve brigades with a public health prize, they had helped 3.5 million people in twenty-one countries. The best-known examples include brigades in West Africa to combat Ebola in 2014 and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Within one year, Henry Reeve brigades treated 1.26 million coronavirus patients in forty countries, including in Western Europe.
2. *Establishment of public health care apparatuses abroad.* Starting in 1963, Cuban medics helped

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establish a public health care system in newly independent Algeria. By the 1970s, they had set up and staffed Comprehensive Health Programs all throughout Africa. By 2014, 76,000 Cuban medical personnel had worked in thirty-nine African countries. In 1998, a Cuban cooperation agreement with Haiti committed to send 300 to 500 Cuban medical professionals there all while training Haitian doctors back in Cuba. By December 2021, more than 6,000 Cubans medical professionals had saved 429,000 lives in the poorest country in the western hemisphere, conducting 36 million consultations. And for two decades now, Cuba has maintained over 20,000 medics in Venezuela, peaking at 29,000. In 2013, the Pan American Health Organization contracted 11,400 Cuban doctors to work in under and unserved regions of Brazil. By 2015, Cuban Integral Health-care Programs were operating in forty-three countries.

3. Treating foreign patients in

Cuba. In 1961, children and wounded fighters from Algeria's war for independence from France went to Cuba for treatment. Thousands followed from around the world. Two programs were developed to treat foreign patients en masse: The first is the "Children of Chernobyl" program which began in 1990 and lasted for twenty-one years, during which 26,000 people affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster received free medical treatment and rehabilitation on the island — nearly 22,000 of them children. The Cubans covered the cost, despite the program coinciding with Cuba's severe economic crisis, known as the Special Period, following the collapse of the socialist bloc. The second program to treat foreign patients en masse was Operation Miracle, set up in 2004 for Venezuelans with reversible blindness to get free eye operations in Cuba to restore their sight. It subsequently expanded regionally. By 2017, Cuba was running sixty-nine ophthalmology clinics in fifteen coun-

tries under Operation Miracle, and by early 2019 over four million people in thirty-four countries had benefited.

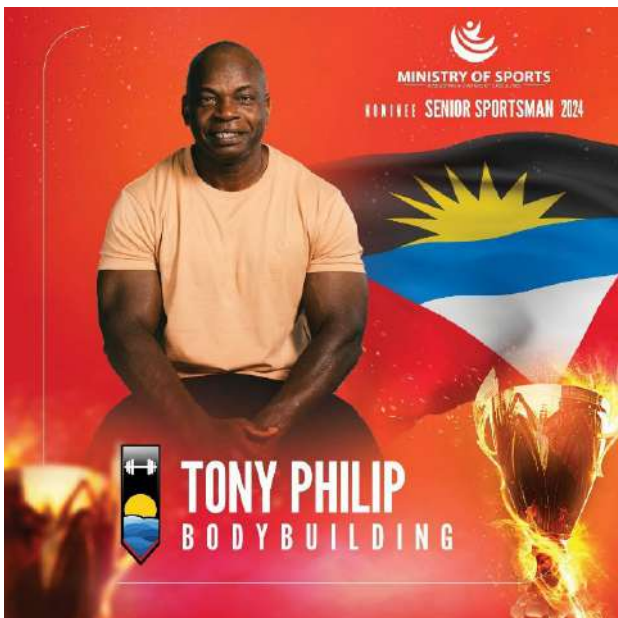
4. *Medical training for foreigners, both in Cuba and overseas.* It's important to note that the Cuban state never sought to foster dependence. In the 1960s, it began training foreigners in their own countries when suitable facilities were available, or in Cuba when they were not. By 2016, 73,848 foreign students from eighty-five countries had graduated in Cuba while that nation was running twelve medical schools overseas, mostly in Africa, where over 54,000 students were enrolled. In 1999, the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM), the world's largest medical school, was established in Havana. By 2019, ELAM had graduated 29,000 doctors from 105 countries (including the United States) representing 100 ethnic groups. Half were women, and 75 percent from worker or campesino families.

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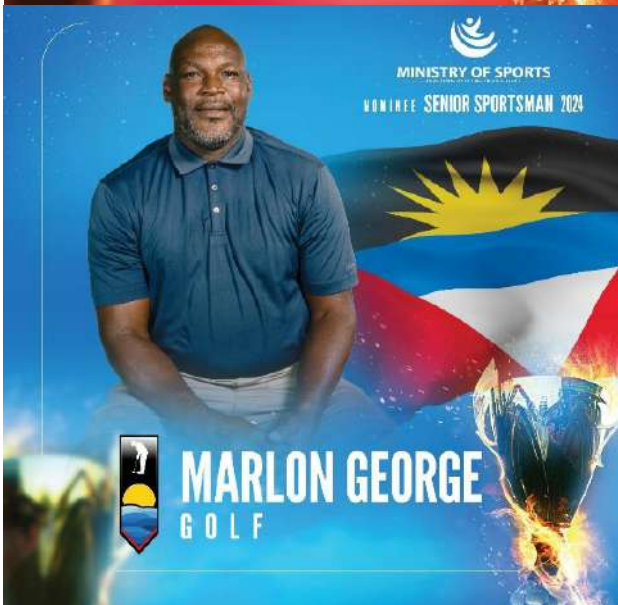
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Antigua Barbuda Senior Sportsman Nominees



Tony Philip affectionately known as “Mouse” and “Mr. Showman,” has dedicated 26 years to Antigua and Barbuda’s sports scene, excelling in bodybuilding, fitness, and other disciplines. Known for his vibrant performances, he inspires audiences at national bodybuilding championships while serving as a strict yet committed fitness instructor at the Ministry of Health. Tony’s versatility shines through his past representation of Antigua in football and basketball, as well as his ventures into drag racing and mechanical pursuits. His resilience, passion, and unwavering dedication to sports and fitness make him an outstanding candidate for the Sportsman of the Year award.



Marlon George has solidified his position as Antigua and Barbuda’s premier golfer with an outstanding year in 2024. Winning 5 of 12 monthly mugs, he demonstrated remarkable consistency and skill. At the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship, he placed second individually and contributed significantly to the championship-winning team. Marlon’s dominance was further highlighted at the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Open, where he led from start to finish, showcasing total control and outclassing the competition. Notably, he recorded a 67-3 on the final day of the Eastern Caribbean Championship and replicated the score on the first day of the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Open, exemplifying his excellence on the course.



Yashid Auguiste is a versatile and gifted athlete who has excelled in volleyball since being introduced to the sport in 2011. Initially mentored by senior national player Mr. Matthew, Yashid’s talent quickly propelled him from club-level competitions with Regulators to representing Antigua and Barbuda at regional tournaments as a Junior National Team member. By 2016, he earned a place on the Senior National Volleyball Team, competing in both indoor and beach volleyball. In October 2024, at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Championship, he played a key role in Antigua and Barbuda’s gold medal victory, earning accolades as Best Digger and Best Libero.

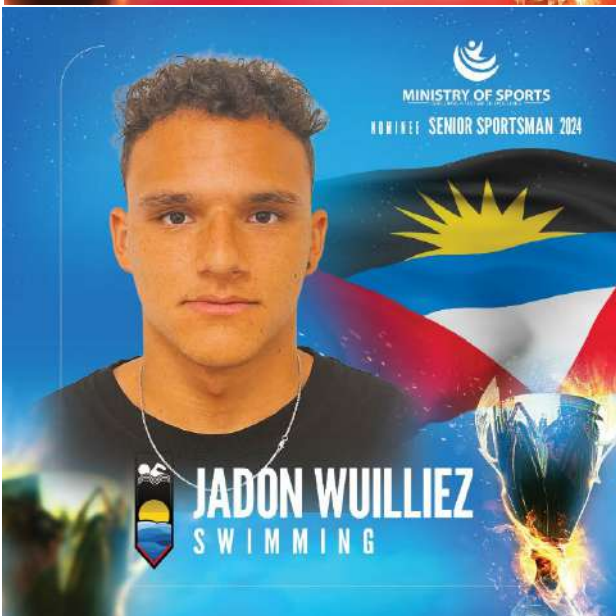
Antigua Barbuda Senior Sportsman Nominees



Alzarri Joseph is a deserving nominee for the 2024 Sportsman of the Year award due to his exceptional performances across all formats in cricket. In Test cricket, his pivotal role included a standout 4 for 84 against Australia. In the ICC T20 World Cup, he delivered a brilliant 4-wicket performance against New Zealand. His remarkable showing in the 2024 Caribbean Premier League, where he played a crucial role in the St. Lucia Kings' title win, solidified his place among the best. Joseph also broke records, becoming the fastest West Indian to reach 100 ODI wickets and 50 T20I wickets.



Xavier Meade a veteran standout for Flyers Basketball, proved to be the key player in leading his team to back-to-back playoff titles and a league championship in the 2024 season. Averaging 19.3 points, 7.7 rebounds, 2.7 assists, and 2.7 steals per game during the playoffs, Meade was instrumental in Flyers' 3-1 finals victory over Northside Stingerz and a 2-0 sweep of Spanish Heat in the semifinals. He was named the Noel Nyah Roberts Playoffs MVP and ranked highly across various statistical categories. The ABBA proudly nominates him for Senior Sportsman of the Year for his exceptional performance.

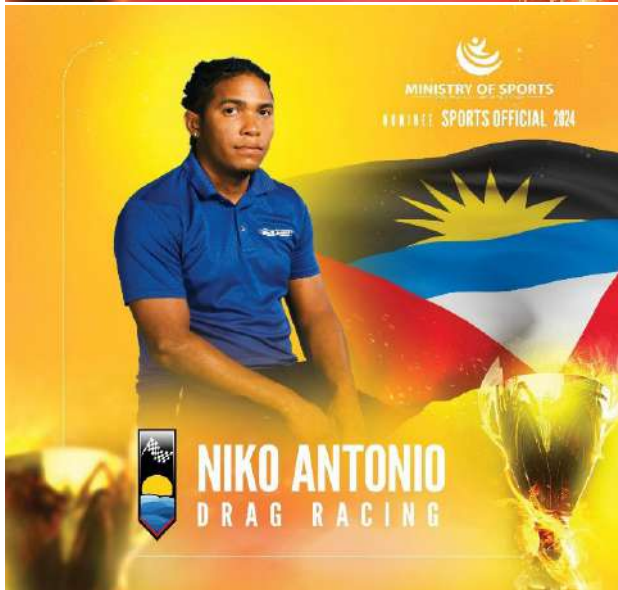


Jadon Wuilliez is a standout athlete and student at Texas Christian University (TCU), where he is on track to complete a mechanical engineering degree. Balancing rigorous academics with athletic pursuits, he holds multiple TCU swim records, including in the 100m breaststroke (51.70), 50 freestyle (19.83), and both freestyle relay events. Additionally, Jadon is the national record holder for Antigua in the 100m (58.73) and 50m breaststroke (26.98). Beyond the pool, he volunteers with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), contributing to impactful engineering projects. His dedication to both academics and athletics exemplifies excellence.

Antigua Barbuda Senior Sportsman Nominees



Rocco Falcone has had an outstanding year in 2024, cementing his place as a rising star in competitive sailing. After joining the prestigious Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli sailing team, Rocco showcased his exceptional talent, leadership, and technical prowess. His most notable achievement was triumphing in the Uncredit Youth Americas Cup in Barcelona, where he led his team to victory against some of the best young sailors in the world. This win demonstrated not only his sailing expertise but also his ability to thrive under pressure in high-stakes situations. Rocco's success in 2024 reflects his dedication, sportsmanship, and unwavering pursuit of excellence.



Niko Antonio has proven himself as a formidable figure in the drag racing scene, following in his father's footsteps in racing and car repairs. In 2024, Nico earned recognition both locally and internationally, achieving podium finishes in St. Lucia and Nevis. His skills were further showcased when he sent his car to St. Croix to compete against seasoned racers, solidifying his reputation. Nico also plays a key leadership role within his team, Mike Speed Performance, inspiring others to join the sport. His dedication to the sport, strong team leadership, and consistent performances make him a worthy nominee for Sportsman of the Year.

Deran Benta has proven himself a dominant force in softball cricket in 2024, earning recognition as the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricketer of the Year. His exceptional achievements include being named MVP in the 30-over and T/20 tournaments and leading Bryson's Bullets Cricket Team to three championships. Benta's remarkable batting skills, including the highest individual score of 116 runs and 425 total runs in 7 innings, paired with his impressive bowling performance (18 wickets in 31 overs), have made him a standout player. His dedication to sport, leadership, and consistency inspires others and solidify his legacy in local cricket.

Noah St. Clair made an extraordinary impact in the sport of shooting, especially in 2024. In only his second regional competition, the annual West Indies Full Bore Shooting Championship, he achieved what no other Antiguan shooter has done in seventeen years winning the prestigious Wogarth Cup. This victory, held in Guyana from October 28 to November 2, 2024, marked a significant milestone for Antigua and Barbuda in the competition. St. Clair also performed admirably in individual events, winning multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals. His promotion to the 'X' class after this performance reflects his exceptional skill and dedication, making him a deserving nominee for Sportsman of the Year.

Antigua Barbuda Senior Sportsman Nominees

Cejhae Green season showcased his exceptional talent and determination. He started by securing bronze at the PURE Athletics Invitational (10.09), followed by silver at the PURE Athletics Sprint Elite Meet (10.00), making him the first from the OECS to qualify for the Paris Olympics. He continued his dominance with a fifth National 100m title and impressive finishes internationally, including silver medals in Ireland (10.20) and Switzerland (10.07). At the Paris Olympics, he placed 30th in the 100m (10.17). Ranked #36 worldwide, Cejhae’s achievements make him a standout candidate for Sportsman of the Year.

Dante Browne has made significant strides in fencing over the past two and a half years, demonstrating unwavering dedication to improving his skills. Despite balancing a demanding schedule, Dante has committed to consistent training, including participating in a three-day workshop hosted by U.S.-based Coach Nestor Rosario in February 2024. His hard work earned him selection for the 2024 Cadets and Juniors World Fencing Championships held in Riyadh, Egypt, preceded by a one-week training camp. Although he did not advance to the final round, Dante’s performance showcased remarkable improvement compared to the previous year. Coach Rosario commended his potential, predicting a bright future for this determined young fencer.

Raheem Deterville has proven himself a standout in Antiguan football through exceptional performances in the 2023/2024 Antigua Premier League season and on the international stage. Leading the league in goal-scoring, he dominated offensively while excelling as a dynamic midfielder with unmatched vision, precision, and control. His speed, agility, and ability to create key moments electrified fans, solidifying his status as one of the most exciting players in the league. Representing Antigua in the CONCACAF Championship and FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, his leadership and determination elevated the national team. Decherville’s achievements make him a strong contender for the award.

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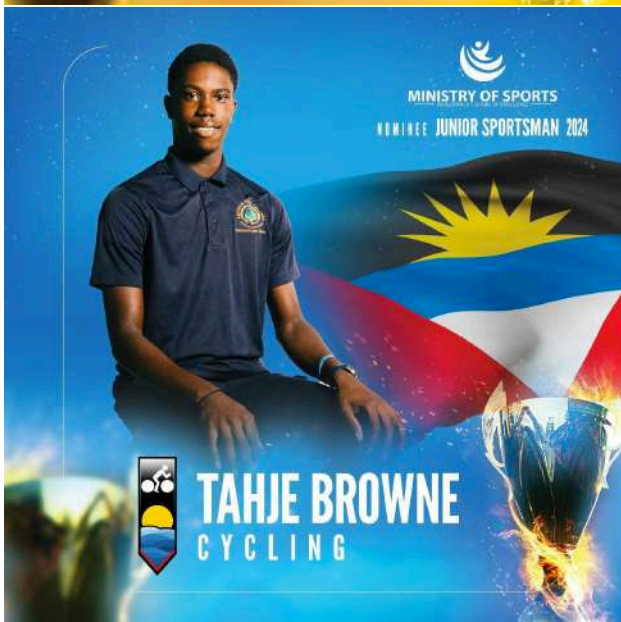
Antigua Barbuda Junior Sportsman Nominees



Elite Thomas is an exceptional young athlete who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and performance in multiple sports in 2024. At just 12 years old, he has shown a remarkable commitment to triathlon, participating in key cycling and swimming races to improve his overall performance. Elite secured several top finishes, including 1st place at the ABWU Invitational and Marlin Open Water Swim, and 6th place in the John T. Memorial Race in Anguilla. He also competed at the Carifta Triathlon in Barbados, placing 25th in the Aquathlon. His drive and success in diverse events make him a deserving nominee for the 2024 Junior Sportsman of the Year.

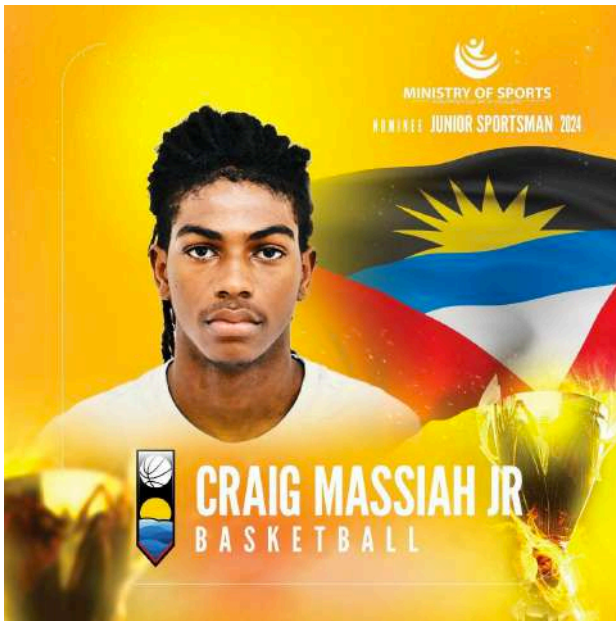


Shanoy Malone is a deserving nominee for 2024 Sportsman of the Year, exemplifying excellence, dedication, and leadership in sailing. At just 16, Shanoy has consistently achieved outstanding results, including top finishes at regional and international regattas. His impressive performances, such as 1st place at the Caribbean Dinghy Championship and 2nd overall in the Ida Lewis Distance Race, highlight his skill and determination. Beyond his on-the-water success, Shanoy serves as a mentor to younger athletes, demonstrating exceptional leadership and sportsmanship. His commitment to improving sailing in the community, along with his maturity and character, makes him an ideal candidate for this prestigious award.



Tahje Browne, a 17-year-old cyclist, delivered an extraordinary 2024 season, dominating both national and regional competitions. He remained unbeaten in Antigua, winning 7 of 8 races, including the Junior National Championships in both the Individual Time Trial and Road Race categories. Making history, he became the youngest-ever winner of the Open Elite National Time Trial at just 16, setting a record speed of 25.4 mph. Internationally, Tahje secured first place in the Junior categories in Aruba and Trinidad, while also excelling in the Elite divisions. His unwavering dedication and record-breaking performances solidify his status as a deserving nominee for top honors.

Antigua Barbuda Junior Sportsman Nominees



Craig Massiah Jr. had an extraordinary 2024, leading Princess Margaret School to the Junior Boys League and Playoff titles in the Cool & Smooth Interschool Basketball League, earning MVP honors with impressive averages of 25 points, 10 rebounds, 4 assists, and 5 steals per game. He also secured a third-place finish in the Senior Boys division, averaging 22 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists, and 4 steals. At the club level, Craig played a vital role in EZ Fit Flyers' ABBA Division One League and Playoff championships. His remarkable skill, leadership, and dedication make him an outstanding Junior Sportsman of the Year nominee.



Tivon Benjamin is a standout athlete whose achievements in 2024 exemplify excellence in swimming and beyond. As a freshman at Rider University, Tivon has shattered multiple national records, including in the 100 Butterfly and 200 IM. At the 2024 PanAm Aquatics Swimming Championships, he earned multiple gold and silver medals while setting national and age group records. Tivon is ranked #1 in the 100 Butterfly at his university, demonstrating unmatched talent and dedication. His academic success, coupled with his philanthropic efforts, makes him an exceptional role model. Tivon's exceptional athletic and academic accomplishments make him a deserving nominee for 2024 Sportsman of the Year.



Mekhai Simmons has shown remarkable dedication to table tennis in 2024, proving his potential despite limited local competitions. While no National Championships were held during this period, he competed in the 2023 OECS Table Tennis Championships in Dominica (December 18-21, 2023), participating in the Men's Singles, Doubles, and Team categories. In 2024, Mekhai further advanced his skills at the China Summer Course (August 28-September 26), training with elite young players. His commitment to improving both technique and mental strength underscores his promise as a rising talent, deserving recognition as a national table tennis ambassador.

Antigua Barbuda Junior Sportsman Nominees

Maliek Francis has had a stellar 2024, dominating the javelin throw. He set a new Carifta Games record with a gold medal-winning throw of 68.87m, breaking a 12m margin between himself and the second-place finisher. Maliek also earned gold at the Sir Reginald Samuel Classic, Carifta Trials, and the Cool & Smooth Interschool Championships. His national record of 68.84m for U18 and his undefeated streak, including victories at the NACAC U18 Championships, showcase his talent. Ranked #23 in the world for U18 and #4 for U17, Maliek's achievements make him a deserving nominee for 2024 Sportsman of the Year.

Joel Crawford, a senior fencer at Princess Margaret Secondary School, has excelled in the sport since he began in 2021. He plays a crucial role in the development of younger fencers, showing leadership and dedication to the sport. A member of D.H. Fencing Club, Joel has earned the respect of his coach, Mr. Garry Southwell, who praises his discipline and work ethic. His exceptional commitment to fencing and academics has set him apart. In November 2024, Joel was named Junior Male Fencing Champion at the National Fencing Championships, solidifying his place as a deserving nominee for Sportsman of the Year.

Marquise George at 15, made the national team for the second consecutive year at the 2024 Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship, competing against 87 golfers from 8 countries. His remarkable talent, with a handicap as low as 1, shone through as he played in the championship flight. On the final day, his strong performance helped secure the men's team victory, defeating teams from St. Kitts and Nevis and Barbados. Marquise was voted MVP by his teammates, solidifying his position as one of the brightest young golfers in the region and a deserving nominee for Sportsman of the Year.

Khaliq Joseph is a standout Junior Volleyball athlete in Antigua & Barbuda, known for his remarkable talent and determination. Despite his smaller stature, Khaliq's lightning reflexes on the court earned him the nickname "cricket" during a regional indoor tournament. His passion for volleyball is evident as he continually strives to elevate the sport and serves as a role model for younger players. Khaliq is committed to respecting the rules, playing fairly, and inspiring others to reach their potential. With a bright future ahead, Khaliq Joseph is a deserving nominee for Junior Volleyball Player of the Year.

Jewel Andrew at just 17, has had an exceptional 2024 in cricket. Representing the West Indies in the ICC U-19 World Cup, he was the top scorer, amassing 207 runs, including a high of 130, with a strike rate above 109. In the ABCA Super 40 Tournament, he scored 184 runs at an average of 61.33. His regional performance with the Leeward Islands included a solid 87 and 48 against Trinidad & Tobago. In the CPL, he made a mark with a half-century on debut. His achievements led to a call-up to the West Indies senior ODI squad.



Regional News



TUI expands in Jamaica with Royalton CHIC resort takeover in Runaway Bay

TUI Global Hospitality Fund has expanded its Caribbean portfolio with the acquisition of the former Jewel Paradise Cove in Runaway Bay, Jamaica.

The resort is expected to face a series of changes under the Royalton CHIC brand, TUI announced at the recently concluded ITB Berlin, one of the world's leading travel and tourism trade fairs.

TUI will complement the current 225-plus rooms at the resort by adding 120 new Diamond Club beach-front suites. When completed in late 2026, the hotel will join the Autograph Collection.

According to a TUI press statement, the expansion into Jamaica highlights the impact of Royalton Resorts on the all-inclusive industry.

Royalton currently operates two resorts in Negril and two in Trelawny.

Gregory Shervington, the Jamaica Tourist Board's regional director for Europe, welcomed the initiative, stating, "The TUI Global Hospitality Fund's investment, along with Royalton's expansion in Jamaica, clearly sends a strong signal of endorsement for the positive investment climate in this world-famous destination".

Meanwhile, Jurgen Stutz, senior vice president of sales, marketing, and revenue management at Blue Diamond Resorts, the parent company of Roy-




alton CHIC Resorts, has expressed enthusiasm about the planned hotel development.

"Bringing Royalton CHIC Resorts to Jamaica is an exciting milestone that reflects our brand's dynamic growth and the demand for elevated, experience-driven all-inclusive stays," he said.

The resort chain says its 345 suites will feature elevated luxury, including personalized butler services, premium room locations, exclusive areas, and high-end amenities.


TUI, as a shareholder in Royalton, is already a leading leisure provider in the Caribbean, noted Peter Krueger, TUI Group's chief strategy officer and CEO of Holiday Experiences. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*



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Guyana: Police arrest woman following viral child abuse video



In response to distressing

video footage circulating on social media depicting a woman abusing a child, the Guyana Police Force acted swiftly to address the situation.

At approximately 11:30am today, officers, accompanied by the Director of the Child Care and Protection Agency

(CCPA), visited West Bank Demerara. There, they arrested a 27-year-old self-employed woman seen in the video abusing her son.

The suspect was escorted to the Wales Police Station, where she was interviewed by both CCPA officials and police

personnel. Following the interviews, she was placed into custody.

The child, identified as her son, was subsequently handed over to his paternal grandmother.

Authorities are continuing their investigations into the incident. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Three women charged for Digicel employee's murder

Three women have been charged with the brutal murder of a man who worked with the telecommunications company Digicel.

According to police reports, the body of Kevin Walker, 42, was found in a barrel in the Corporate Area last month.

Those charged with his death are Anita Vanzie, 30, Shaday Bennett, 29 and Joanna Williams, 36.

The three have been charged with murder, conspiracy to murder, simple larceny, being a part of a criminal organisation, providing benefit to a criminal organisation, misprision (deliberate concealment) of felony, accessory before the fact, accessory after the fact, and preventing the lawful burial of a corpse.

The police allege that on Saturday, February 1, Walker was lured to Oxford Street, located in the Corporate Area by Vanzie, where he was accosted by four men and taken to a premises.

He was allegedly robbed of his credit and debit cards, after which Vanzie and Bennett reportedly withdrew cash from a nearby ATM and returned to share the stolen money among their accomplices.

Walker was then beaten and stabbed multiple times in the upper body before his lifeless body was stuffed into a blue barrel and dumped into a gully later that day.

A missing person report was filed for Walker on February 2, and an investigation was launched.

The police say the following day, on February 3, they responded to a report of a body found in a barrel on Industrial Terrace. The body was transported to the hospital, where Walker was officially pronounced dead.

Further investigations led to the arrest of the three women. On February 5, the

police say they conducted a targeted raid at a premises where Anita Vanzie was found in possession of Walker's credit card.

Days later, Bennett and Williams were also apprehended. The police say the three were charged and question-and-answer sessions held in the presence of their attorneys. Walker, who worked at Digicel, also operated a small car rental and loan company. (*Trinidad Express*)

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C'bean leaders speak out on US sanctions on Cuba's medical aid

Caribbean governments have begun receiving formal notifications from the United States regarding its intention to sanction states and government officials involved in facilitating Cuba's medical assistance program. This program has benefited many countries in the region.

Late last month, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a statement announcing the expansion of an existing Cuba-related visa restriction policy "that targets forced labor linked to the Cuban labor export program." The new measures specifically target Cuba's overseas medical missions. The Secretary of State is threatening to impose visa restrictions on nations benefiting from what he calls Cuba's forced, abusive, and coercive labor export programs.

Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Grenada confirmed that the formal notification from the U.S. State Department arrived on Thursday, and it is believed that other governments in the region have since received the official correspondence.

Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell is expected to craft an official response this week, but there appears to be some defiance from the administration. Grenada's posture is that the country is sovereign and will conduct its relations with other states with-



out bowing to such pressure.

Speaking with CaribUpdate he said, "We are clear that we have a legitimate partnership with the people and government of Cuba, who have, over several decades, provided support to Grenada in the medical field. We will continue to support and defend this partnership," the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines dismissed the US threats of sanctions, stating that his country is prepared to continue its long-standing arrangement with Havana.

"They got a free education," he said, referring to Cuban professionals. "If they are going overseas to make money from that education, then it's only reasonable for them to put back something."

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said that the issue needs to be clarified with the US government and believes that "common sense" will prevail.

"I do not believe that any current health system in the Caribbean can survive without the support of the medical personnel from Cuba," he said, expressing optimism that once the U.S. administration is engaged, the issue can be resolved.

Over the last six decades several Caribbean nations including Jamaica, Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada as well as countries in Latin America have benefitted from Cuba's overseas medical mission without US interference.

According to Rubio's statement the US had already imposed restrictions on several people, including some Venezuelans. *(Loop Caribbean)*



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Prince Frederik of Luxembourg dies at 22 from rare mitochondrial disease



Prince Frederik of Luxembourg died on Feb. 28 after years of being diagnosed with a rare mitochondrial disease, according to a statement issued over the weekend by his parents, Prince Robert and Princess Julie. He was 22.

Frederik was born with PolG disease, a genetic mitochondrial disorder that prevents the body's cells from producing adequate energy, which in turn can cause multiple organ dysfunctions and failures. He was diagnosed with PolG at 14 years old, when his symptoms began showing more clearly, Prince Robert and Princess Julie said in the Saturday statement.

His father remembered him as his "Superhero." "Frederik was born with a

special capacity for positivity, joy, and determination," Robert said. "When he was little, I would always say that if there is one child of ours that I would never need to worry about, it was him. He has social skills like no other, an amazing sense of humour, an emotional intelligence and compassion that were off the charts, a sense of justice, fairness and decency that knows no bounds."

Robert said his son's usual Italian Duolingo and exercise alarm went off on Feb. 28, which was also Rare Disease Day, but it wasn't like any other day. The 22-year-old had been unwell and was barely able to speak for several days.

"This would be his last in this world," Robert said, adding that Frederick

found the strength to bid farewell to each of his family members that day. Frederik had founded The PolG Foundation as a means to help others who suffered with mitochondrial diseases and find a cure, according to Prince Robert. The disease is estimated to affect one in every 500 people, and can be compared to "having a faulty battery that never fully recharges and is in a constant state of depletion," according to the foundation. PolG can also be difficult to diagnose and has no known cure.

Frederick participated in medical trials and donated his DNA to assist doctors with their research on the disease.

"This is the battle that Frederik fought, and this is the burden that he had

to carry throughout his life. He always did so with grace and with humour," Robert said.

Even after Frederick's passing, Robert said "his mission is not complete," adding that the young prince and his foundation will continue to work to find a cure for PolG.

"I cite him as being here in the present because I know that, though physically absent, he is still here, inspiring us and pushing us forward," Robert said.

Prince Robert recalled the final conversation he had with son.

"Frederik's last question to me, prior to his other remarks was: 'Papa, are you proud of me?' He had barely been able to speak for several days, so the clarity of these words was as surprising as the weight of the moment was profound," Robert wrote.

"The answer was very easy, and he had heard it oh so many times... but at this time, he needed reassurance that he had contributed all that he possibly could in his short and beautiful existence and that he could now finally move on," he said. (NBC News)

Israel says it is cutting off its electricity supply to Gaza

Israel says it is cutting off its electricity supply to Gaza. The full effects of that are not immediately clear, but the territory's desalination plants receive power for producing drinking water.

Sunday's announcement comes a week after Israel cut off all supplies of goods to the territory to over two million people. It has sought to press Hamas to accept an extension of the first phase of their ceasefire. That phase ended last weekend.

Israel wants Hamas to release half of the remaining hostages in return for a promise to negotiate a lasting truce.



Hamas has pressed to start negotiations on the ceasefire's more difficult second phase instead, which would see the release of remaining hostages from Gaza, the withdrawal of Israeli forces and a lasting peace. Hamas is believed to have 24 living hostages and the bodies of 35 others.

The militant group on Sunday said it wrapped up the latest round of ceasefire talks with Egyptian mediators without changes to its position, calling for an immediate start of the ceasefire's second phase.

The new letter from Israel's energy minister to the Israel Electric Corporation tells it to stop selling power to Gaza. Israel had warned when it stopped all supplies that water and electricity could be next.

Gaza has been largely devastated by the war, and generators and solar panels are used for some of the power supply.

The ceasefire has paused the deadliest

and most destructive fighting ever between Israel and Hamas, sparked by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. The first phase allowed the return of 25 living hostages and the remains of eight others in exchange for the release of nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Israeli forces have withdrawn to buffer zones inside Gaza, hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have returned to northern Gaza for the first time since early in the war and hundreds of trucks of aid entered per day until Israel suspended supplies.

The White House on Wednesday made the surprise confirmation of direct US talks with Hamas.

On Sunday, envoy Adam Boehler told CNN television news station that "I think you could see something like a long-term truce, where we forgive prisoners, where Hamas lays down their arms, where they agree they're not part of the political party going

forward. I think that's a reality. It's real close."

When asked by CNN if he would speak with the militant group again, Boehler replied, "You never know."

He added: "I think something could come together within weeks," and expressed hope for a deal that would see all hostages released, not only the American ones.

Hamas on Sunday reiterated its support for a proposal for the establishment of an independent committee of technocrats to run Gaza until Palestinians hold presidential and legislative elections.

That committee would work "under the umbrella" of the Palestinian Authority, based in the occupied West Bank. Israel has rejected the PA having any role in Gaza, but hasn't put forward an alternative for postwar rule. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Ex-central banker Mark Carney to replace Trudeau as Canada's prime minister



Former central banker Mark Carney will become Canada's next prime minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him its leader Sunday. The change comes as Canada deals with United States President Donald Trump's trade war and annexation threat.

Carney, 59, replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January but remains prime minister until his successor is sworn in in the coming days. Carney won in a landslide, winning 85.9 per cent of the vote.

Carney navigated crises when he was the head of

the Bank of Canada and when in 2013 he became the first noncitizen to run the Bank of England since it was founded in 1694. His appointment won bipartisan praise in the UK after Canada recovered from the 2008 financial crisis faster than many other countries.

The opposition Conservatives hoped to make the looming federal election about Trudeau, whose popularity declined as food and housing prices rose and immigration surged.

Trump's trade war and his talk of making Canada the 51st US state have infuriated Canadians, who

are booing the American anthem at NHL and NBA games. Some are canceling trips south of the border, and many are avoiding buying American goods when they can.

The surge in Canadian nationalism has bolstered the Liberal Party's chances in a parliamentary election expected within days or weeks, and Liberal showings have been improving steadily in opinion polls.

"We have made this the greatest country in the world and now our neighbors want to take us. No way," Carney said.

After decades of bilateral stability, the vote on Can-

ada's next leader now is expected to focus on who is best equipped to deal with the United States.

Carney has picked up one endorsement after another from Cabinet ministers and members of Parliament since declaring his candidacy in January. He is a highly educated economist with Wall Street experience who has long been interested in entering politics and becoming prime minister, but he lacks political experience.

The other top Liberal leadership candidate was former Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Trudeau told Freeland in December that he no longer wanted her as finance minister, but that she could remain deputy prime minister and the point person for US-Canada relations. Freeland resigned shortly after, releasing a scathing letter about the government that proved to be the last straw for Trudeau.

Carney is expected to trigger an election shortly afterward. Either the new Liberal party leader will call one, or the opposition parties in Parliament could force one with a no-confidence vote later this month. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

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Da Squad makes winnings start in women's volleyball league



Reigning three-peat champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad. (ABAVA)

Reigning three-peat champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad made a successful start to their campaign in defense of their female Division 1 title in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) over the weekend.

Da Squad launched their title defense with a straight-set 3-0 victory against Jets in the opening match of the 2025 club championships at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday.

Led by Jassania Joseph, Da Squad controlled the game from start to finish to overpower the Jets 25-13, 25-12, and 25-17.

Last year's third-place finishers, Storming Lions, also got off to a winning start in the Men's Division 1 competition. The Storming Lions prevailed 3-2 against High Flyerz in a five-set thriller in the opening encounter in the men's Division 1 contest.

After two hours and 19 minutes, the Storming Lions narrowly prevailed in the hard-fought encounter 27-25, 22-25, 25-19, 28-

30, and 18-16.

Action also commenced in the ABAVA's Division 2 Developmental League on Sunday. Royal Cruisers beat Dynasty Queen 2 in straight set in the opening affair in the female division. Royal Cruisers won 25-21, 26-24 in 42 minutes.

Starz 2 launched their female division campaign with a 2-0 victory against Dynasty Queen 1. Starz 2 dispatched Dynasty Queen 1 in 48 minutes, winning 25-17, 25-22.

Stoneville defeated

Sharks 2-0 in the opening match of the men's Division 2 competition. Stoneville overpowered the Sharks 25-5, 25-21 in 35 minutes.

The ABAVA local league will continue with a double header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday. Stoneville will take on Starz Seniors in a Female Division 1 affair at 6:45 pm, and defending champions Stoneville will begin the defense of their men's Division 1 league title against Phoenix Flyerz at 7:45 pm.

Blackhawks continue to lead ABCA two-day championship

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, who won the competition for the past three seasons, remain on course for a successful defense of their title after extending their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day contest over the weekend.

The Blackhawks maintained their lead in the 10-team round-robin competition, soaring to their fifth win in six matches with an 83-run victory over the Pigotts Crushers at the Pigotts playing field.

Brent Joseph hit 57 as the Blackhawks made 191 off 49.4 overs in their first innings after winning the toss and opting to bat. Ronniel Jeffery bagged five for 60.

The Pigotts Crushers declared their first innings at 205 for nine off 45.1 overs. Captain Uri Smith hit 88, and Tyree Moore got 32. Blackhawks skipper and off-spinner Elroy Francis Jr. claimed four for 59, and Chamiqueko Landerfort picked up three for 33.

Facing a deficit of 14 runs, Michael Greaves smashed an unbeaten century as the Blackhawks declared their second innings at 238 for six off 40.3 overs.

Greaves slammed 107 not out off 116 balls, including 11 fours and three sixes. Amahl Nathaniel struck 92 off 85 balls, including four sixes and nine fours. Essan Warner grabbed three for 10, and Moore took three for 39.

Set 225 to win, the Crushers tumbled to 141 all



Bartlette Henry out off 32.4 overs in their second innings. Smith hit 36, Moore scored 35, and Brandon Jno Baptiste made 30. Off-spinner Kofi James bagged five for 31, and Landerfort claimed four for 44.

The result allows the Liberta Blackhawks to remain at the top of the standings by advancing to 65 points from six matches, while the Pigotts Crushers are in sixth place with 22 points from the same number of outings.

The New Winthorpes Lion stayed in contention and in second place with 58 points after recording their fourth win in six games with a 160-run victory against the Bolans Blasters at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Skipper Bartlette Henry hit a century as the Lions made 243 all out off 50.2 overs in their first innings after being sent in to bat. Henry smashed 123 off 86 balls, including 10 sixes and nine fours, and opener Keeshan Daawuud made 41. Richie Thomas grabbed six for 48.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed in their first innings for 184



Michael Greaves in 52 overs. Shemar Wallace hit 38, fellow opener Gershum Phillip struck 32, and Orlando Peters got 30. Pacer Nino Henry took four for 57, and spinner Asher Murray Cornelius grabbed three wickets for six runs.

After gaining a lead of 59 runs, the Lions declared their second innings at 212 for eight off 34.2 overs. Ian Eusebe hit 59, Bartlette Henry cracked 48, Dravid Richardson struck 38, and Nino Henry got 33. Dwaine Fordyce claimed three for 59.

Set 272 to win, the Bolans Blasters crashed to 111 all out in 24 overs in their second innings. Phillip hit 36, while Ismael Peters grabbed five for 30, and Nino Henry took three for 20.

The Bolans Blasters remain third from the bottom of the standings with 12 points after tumbling to their fourth defeat in six matches.

The WES Rising Sun Spartans won for the first time in six matches after securing victory by forfeiture against Tertiary Institutions and Schools, who abandoned their encounter at the Rising Sun playing field on

the opening day.

Scores: Tertiary Institutions and Schools 266 all out off 55.5 overs (Kaivalya Mishra 71, Antwone Willock 34, JQuan Athanaze 33, Mavendra Dindyal 31, Hosea Roberts 30; Junior Henry 5 for 50, Kerry Mentore 3 for 57); Rising Sun Spartans 113 for 4 off 18.1 overs (Ryshon Williams 72 not out).

The match between All Saints Pythons and Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles ended in a draw at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Scores: All Saints Pythons 170 off 37.1 overs (Michael Dover 64, Sean Joseph Jr. 35; James Cornelius 8 for 41) and 61 for nine declared off 10.3 overs (Michael Dover 32; James Cornelius 5 for 2, Tehrique Mason 4 for 33); Bethesda Golden Eagles 85 off 35 overs (Shacoy Floyd 37; Justin Robinson 3 for 19, Andra Samuel 3 for 25).

Jennings Tigers and Empire Nation played to a draw at the Factory Grounds.

Scores: Jennings Tigers 194 all out off 42.3 overs (Dahri Francis 72, Paul Miller 42; Ajharie Joseph 3 for 44) and 136 all out off 31.5 overs (Matthew Miller 41, Dahri Francis 33; Micah McKenzie 5 for 39); Empire Nation 198 all out off 50 overs (Tyrone Williams Jr. 53, Zianni Da Silva 53, Damian Lowenfield 34; Zavier Freeland 4 for 49, Glenton Williams 4 for 51) and 62 for 2 off 10 overs.

Sports News



Narrow wins for Da Project and Warriors in Division 1 League



Da Project and the Lava Smoke Shop Warriors clinched wins by narrow margins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Sunday evening.

After losing their first three matches, newly promoted Da Project recorded their sixth successive win with a hard-fought 94-90 victory against the All Saints Slam in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Terry Dawkins produced 32 points, nine rebounds, six steals, and five assists; Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew converted 20 points; T'shawn Lewis sank 16 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; and Donte Trimmingham had 14 points, six assists, and five rebounds for Da Project, who have now won six of their nine matches.

Humroy Wright sank 25 points and claimed five rebounds; Iornie Joseph converted 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Shawn Thomas scored 14 points and snatched 23 rebounds; Wilkin Floyd produced 11 points, nine rebounds, seven assists, and five steals; and Kim Casey had 10 points and five assists for the All Saints Slam, who lost for the sixth

time in nine games.

The Warriors notched up their fourth win in nine matches by snatching an 89-84 victory against Spanish Heat in Sunday's opening game.

Kebo Orford sank 33 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Lincoln Weekes produced 20 points, seven assists, and five rebounds; Michael Barton snatched 24 rebounds and

converted 12 points; and Zuri Nesbitt contributed 10 points, seven rebounds, and seven assists for the Warriors.

Steven Matthew scored 33 points and claimed 11 rebounds; Bernard Andrew sank 17 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; and Yannick Samuel converted 10 points for the Spanish Heat, who lost for the fourth time in nine games.

ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Category	Date	Event Name	Location
PRE-EVENTS	THURS FEB 27	CARNIVAL LAUNCH	CARNIVAL CITY
	SUN JULY 13	AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S KIDDIES FETE	CARNIVAL CITY
	THURS JULY 17	CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI-FINALS	CARNIVAL CITY
	FRI JULY 18	PARTY MONARCH SEMI-FINALS	CARNIVAL CITY
	SAT JULY 19	WITNESS YA FITNESS	INDEPENDENCE AVENUE
	SAT JULY 19	MR AND MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT	CARNIVAL CITY
	FRI JULY 25	FACE OFF	CARNIVAL CITY
	SAT JULY 26	T-SHIRT MAS	ST. JOHN'S
	SUN JULY 27	GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE	COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND
	SUN JULY 27	JUNIOR CARNIVAL COMPETITIONS	PARADE, PRINCE AND PRINCESS ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY
OFFICIAL CARNIVAL EVENTS	MON JULY 28	JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW	CARNIVAL CITY
	TUES JULY 29	KARI SOCA INTERNATIONAL SOCA MONARCH	CARNIVAL CITY
	WED JULY 30	BURNING FLAMES 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION	CARNIVAL CITY
	THURS JULY 31	DRINK TILL YA WEAK	BOAT CRUISE
	THURS JULY 31	MELTING POT	CARNIVAL CITY
	THURS JULY 31	WATCH NIGHT	ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS
	SUN JULY 20	QUEEN OF CARNIVAL	CARNIVAL CITY
	MON JULY 21	INVASION BAND CLASH	CARNIVAL CITY
	TUES JULY 22	JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH	CARNIVAL CITY
	WED JULY 23	JUNIOR PARTY MONARCH	CARNIVAL CITY
FRI AUG 1	CALYPSO MONARCH	CARNIVAL CITY	
SAT AUG 2	RISE	SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS CRICKET STADIUM	
SAT AUG 2	CARNIVAL DREAMZ	HODGES BAY	
SAT AUG 2	PANORAMA	CARNIVAL CITY	
SUN AUG 3	D BREAKFAST FETE	SPLASH ANTIGUA	
SUN AUG 3	PARTY MONARCH	CARNIVAL CITY	
MON AUG 4	J'OUVERT	ST. JOHN'S	
MON AUG 4	MONDAY MAS PARADE	ST. JOHN'S	
TUES AUG 5	PARADE OF BANDS	CARNIVAL CITY	
TUES AUG 5	LAST LAP	ST. JOHN'S	

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PMS retains titles at Inter-Schools' Track and Field Championships

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) maintained its dominance by easily retaining both Girls and Boys Division titles at the 2025 Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools' Track and Field Championships at the Yasco Sports Complex over the weekend.

Princess Margaret School won the Girls Division title by amassing 340 points to finish ahead of St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) and Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) in joint second place with 128 points apiece.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) clinched fourth place with 96 points. They were followed by Pares Secondary with 94 points, Glanvilles Secondary with 64 points, and Clare Hall Secondary with 58 points.

Next was Ottos Comprehensive School with 46 points, All Saints Secondary and Christ the King High School with 42 points each, and Sir McChesney George Secondary with 37 points.

Jennings Secondary finished third from the bottom with 27 points, Irene B. Williams Secondary came second from the bottom with 24 points, and Antigua State College ended in the cellar with 14 points.

Princess Margaret School captured the Boys Division title by coasting to 346 points, leaving St. Joseph's Academy trailing in second place with 148 points and Antigua Grammar School in third place with 146 points.

Ottos Comprehensive School claimed fourth place with 137 points, followed by Clare Hall Secondary School with 112 points, St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) with 102 points, Sir Novelle Richards Academy with 76 points, and Antigua State

College with 74 points.

Next was the Glanvilles Secondary School with 31 points, Pares Secondary with 27 points, and All Saints Secondary with 22 points.

Irene B. Williams Secondary and Jennings Secondary finished second from the bottom with 18 points each, while Sir McChesney George Secondary ended in the cellar with eight points.

Among the outstanding performers was Kasiya Daley of Princess Margaret School. Daley completed the sprint double, winning the Under-20 Boys 100 and 200-meter titles.

Daley won the 100 meters in a time of 10.51 seconds. Conroy Wilson of PMS took second place in 10.83 seconds, and Judah Ashe of State College finished in third place in 10.86 seconds.

Daley clocked 21.22 seconds to win the 200-meter final ahead of Judah Ashe of Antigua State College in 21.89 seconds. Conroy Wilson of PMS came third.

Geolyna Dowdie of PMS also completed the sprint double, winning the 100 and 200-meter titles in the Under-20 Girls division. Dowdie won the 100-meter title with a time of 11.51 seconds. Shenika Bentick of PMS came in second in 12.40 seconds, and Arielle Henry of SASS came third in 12.72 seconds.

Dowdie won the 200-meter title in 23.97 seconds ahead of fellow schoolmate Shenika Bentick in 24.93 seconds. Arielle Henry of SASS came third.

Romario McDowell of St. Joseph's Academy won the Under-17 Boys 100-meter race in 11.01 seconds. Javon Simon of Ottos Comprehensive finished second in 11.12 seconds, and

Demar Adams of SNRA came third.

Javon Simon of Ottos Comprehensive School took the Under-17 Boys 200-meter crown with a time of 22.09 seconds. Romario McDowell of St. Joseph's Academy finished second, and Shaquan Garding of Antigua Grammar School came in third.

Tyra Fenton of SASS also captured a sprint double, winning the Under-17 Girls 100 and 200-meter titles. Fenton sped home in the 100 meters in a time of 11.68 seconds, ahead of Rolesha Humphreys of PMS in second place and Jendayi Higgins of SASS in third place.

Fenton won the 200-meter title, clocking 23.85 seconds. Rolesha Humphreys of PMS finished second, and Keyana Wilson of AGHS came in third.

Geron Henry of PMS also captured the Under-15 Boy sprint double, winning both 100 and 200 meter titles.

Henry clocked 11.74 seconds to win the 100-meter race ahead of Mickel Abraham of PMS and Chance DeGannes of SASS.

Henry claimed the 200-meter title with a time of 23.27 seconds. Chance DeGannes of SASS finished second, and Elisha McDonald of Ottos Comprehensive took third place.

Seraiah Shaw of PMS also won both sprints in the Under-15 Girls Division. Shaw took home the 100-meter title with a time of 12.79 seconds, beating Mariann White of Pares Secondary in second place and Shamarlie Henry of AGHS in third place.

Shaw captured the 200-meter title in 26 seconds. Mariann White of Pares Secondary took second place, and Le'ann Joseph of SASS finished in third place.

United wins second Premier Division League title

Defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United won back-to-back titles in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Sunday evening.

United retained the Premier League crown by snatching a 2-1 victory against Attacking Saints in the last game of Sunday's triple after the other title contenders Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades suffered a surprising 1-0 loss to Green City FC in the day's opening encounter at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

All the goals were scored in the first half of the All Saints derby in the Group 2 affair. Veteran striker Randolph "Etty" Burton put All Saints United ahead with a 17th-minute conversion.

Joshua Samuel scored the equalizer for the Attacking Saints in the 31st minute, and D'Andre Bishop snatched the winner for United with a strike in the 39th minute.

Attacking Saints dropped from ninth to 10th place with 16 points after suffering their ninth defeat in 17 matches. The result ensured All Saints United secured the title in their penultimate



Players of the All Saints United celebrate after retaining Premier League title match of their campaign.

Their 16th win in 18 matches carries All Saints United to an unassailable 49 points.

The Jennings Grenades title hopes were dashed when their unbeaten run was ended in a shocking 1-0 loss to Green City in their Group 1 affair.

Following a goalless first half, Kayeem Hughes broke the deadlock when he scored the only goal of the match in the 79th minute to snatch victory for Green City FC.

Their first loss in their penultimate match of the season means the Jennings Grenades will be unable to overhaul All Saints United's point tally.

The Grenades will remain in second place with 45 points after suffering their first defeat in 18 matches.

Green City leapfrogged the Attacking Saints from 10th to ninth place by advancing to 17 points after recording their fifth win in 17 matches.

Garden Stars leapfrogged Old Road from

fourth to third place after snatching a 1-0 victory against the bottom team, Parham, in their Group 1 affair in Sunday's second encounter.

Ngozie Harvey scored the winner and only goal of the match in the 21st minute to snatch victory for the Garden Stars, who will advance to 37 points after securing their 11th win in 17 matches.

Parham will remain in the cellar with 10 points after suffering their 13th loss in 17 matches.