

The 10 contestants for Labour Queen 2025 unveiled



Abigail Piper - St John's Rural North



Tia James - St. John's Rural East



Christine Powell - St John's City West



Amiaha James - St. Mary's South



Cycziqye Teague - St. Paul's



Aaliyah Tailor - St. John's Rural West



Danijah Simon - St. John's Rural South



Alishea Alie - St George's



Coshana Constant - St Phillip's North



Jamona Samuel - All Saints East and St Luke

PM repeats call to local contractors

The prime minister is again calling for local contractors to consider pooling their resources together and to submit bids for some of the major contracts into which the government will enter in the coming weeks and months.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, was referencing the recent signing of a US\$47 million contract with a Canadian firm to undertake major upgrades of the runway at the VC Bird International Airport.

“As I speak about that contract, I am hoping that local Antigua and Barbuda contractors can come together in the future and partner with other firms external to Antigua and Barbuda to pursue these contracts. We are spending US\$47 million on this project and if you assume that there is a 20 percent profit margin, then I would love to see a local firm retain about half of that in the country,” he noted.

The prime minister said he has observed that some local contractors



are “not scaling up”, or are trying to submit bids on their own, or, in other cases perhaps they don’t have the capacity and have decided not to bid.

“All the firms that submitted bids (for the airport contract) were primarily foreign firms, including CCECC, the Chinese company, had submitted a bid. My view is that if our local contractors were able to come together and pool their resources they could be for these large contracts rather than allowing them to go to a begging,” he remarked.

According to the prime minister there are a number of future contracts in the works and he sees these as opportunities for the local contractors to come together, noting that it is not too late.

“We have another three years to go in this term and I am sure that there will be lots more capital projects. In fact, I can think of one, an \$11 million contract for the construction of a headquarters building for the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS),” he announced.

PM Browne is encouraging local contractors to bid for this contract even suggesting that if a single contractor does not have all the capacity then it could combine with another firm to make a submission for the contract.

The prime minister noted that in some contracts because of the financing, the contracts are open to international firms, so local contractors have to come together to assemble the required resources and skills to compete with the external firms.

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House of Representatives resumes sitting today with packed agenda

The House of Representatives will resume its sitting in the parliament chamber this morning to continue its discussions on a wide range of legislative measures being introduced by the government.

Among them is the Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2025, through which the government is seeking to raise the licence fees that motor vehicle owners pay annually.

Transportation Minister, Charles Fernandez will introduce the amendment in the House during the sitting.

There has been much public discussion on the issue of the pending increase in licence fees and the government has responded to the concerns expressed by members of the public by adjusting the fee structure from what was initially announced.

According to Prime Minister Gaston Browne the measure going to parliament will propose an increase of \$100.00 across the board for motor cars (sedans/compacts), but Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV's), commercial vehicles and heavy-duty equipment will pay a 40 percent increase. PM Browne said there will be some carve-outs; for taxis and buses, hearses, ambulances and tractors.

When parliament met last Thursday, several individuals associated with the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) staged a picket in the area outside of the parliament building. The picket was to protest the planned increases in licence fees.

Despite this however, the prime minister observed that there has generally been an acceptance by members of the public of the need to increase the fees, particularly as the monies raised will be dedicated to a dire need in the country; the universal agreement that the country's road network is in need



Transportation Minister, Hon Charles Fernandez

of urgent upgrades.

“The people have been embracing the increase, recognizing that barring an

adjustment that was made for SUV's in 2005, there has no increase in licence fees in the country and that an increase has been long overdue even if we did not have a ‘noble purpose’. In this instance, we do have a noble purpose; to service the loan that we will secure to refurbish the nation's roads,” he stated.

PM Browne also reiterated that measures will be put in place both by the lending institutions (ACB Caribbean and the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank) and the Ministry of Works to ensure that the funds go towards the purpose for which they were intended.

“No one should worry about the issue of accountability as systems will be put in place to ensure that this happens,” he assured.



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In-Country Consultations on (CBI/CIP) Set to Commence

A series of in-country consultations is set to commence this week among all five Eastern Caribbean States which operate Citizenship By Investment (CBI/CIP) programmes.

The consultations are being organized by the Interim Regulatory Commission (IRC) to engage stakeholders on the establishment of a Regional Regulator for Citizenship by Investment Programmes (CBI/CIP). The consultations will commence on 4 March 2025 with Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis. The in-country consultations for Antigua and Barbuda are set for April 15-17.

The consultations will seek to engage a broad and inclusive set of stakeholders. Representatives from the Government, the CIP/CBI industry, the media and social partners will be invited to participate in a series

of discussions around the regional efforts to strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity of the CIP/CBI Programmes.

At the engagements, Legal Drafting Consultant, Lydia Elliott, will present her work towards the development of the enabling legislative framework for the establishment of the Regional Regulator. Participants would then have an opportunity to engage Elliott on this work. They would also be able to engage members of the IRC present, who will support Elliott on the consultations.

The IRC was appointed by the five CBI/CIP countries to oversee the establishment of the Regional Regulator. The eight-member IRC comprises the following appointees;

1. Antigua and Barbuda – Lieutenant

Colonel Edward Croft (Deputy Chair)

2. Commonwealth of Dominica – Ms. Francine Baron
3. Grenada – Ms. Julia Lawrence
4. Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis – Archdeacon Isaiah Phillip
5. Saint Lucia – Mr. Evaristus Jn Marie
6. CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)/Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) – Mr. Rufus Ferdinand
7. Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission – Mr. Henith Gabriel
8. Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) – Governor Timothy Antoine (Chair)

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The 10 contestants for Labour Queen 2025 unveiled



The anticipation for Labour Queen 2025 is building as ten young ladies have been officially selected as delegates following an exciting screening process on Saturday, February 22.

Fifteen prospective contestants gathered at The People's Place to vie for a chance to represent their respective constituencies in this year's prestigious pageant. The screening, which began at 4:00 PM, put the young women to the test in three key segments: Interview, Swimwear, and Talent.

An experienced panel of judges conducted the assessments, carefully evaluating each contestant's poise, confidence, and stage presence. Adding to the excitement, reigning Labour Queen Aliyah Wayne was present to inspire and support the hopefuls.

After an intense and competitive process, the following ten young ladies earned the opportunity to become official Labour Queen 2025 delegates:

Amiaha James - St. Mary's South

Aaliyah Tailor - St. John's Rural West

Abigail Piper - St John's Rural North

Tia James - St. John's Rural East

Christine Powell - St John's City West

Danijah Simon - St. John's Rural South

Alishea Alie - St. George's

Coshana Constant - St Phillip's North

Cyczique Teague - St. Paul's

Jamona Samuel - All Saints East and St. Luke

These talented young women will now embark on an exciting journey of preparation, personal development, and training as they work toward the coveted title of Labour Queen 2025.

Under the theme "Renaissance – The Rebirth," the Labour Queen 2025 Pageant is set to take place on Friday May 2, 2025, promising a night of elegance, talent, and empowerment.

Stay tuned as these incredible delegates get set to take the stage and inspire with their grace, intelligence, and passion!

The Labour Queen Pageant is a joint undertaking of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and it forms part of the annual Labour Week activities that culminate with the Labour Day rally on Labour Day, May 5.

Antigua and Barbuda's 'cultural ambassadors' are visiting neighbouring Guadeloupe



A delegation from Antigua and Barbuda dubbed 'cultural ambassadors' is now in Guadeloupe for an exciting seven-day exchange, further strengthening the creative and cultural bonds between this country and the French Department.

Jointly led by Director of National Festivals, Petley O'Keiffe and delegation Coordinator, Gilbert Laudat, included among the cultural ambassadors are the Point Iron Band, cultural dancers, soca artist, masqueraders, and cultural characters. Also accompanying the group are representatives from the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the National Festival Marketing Team, who are playing a crucial role in amplifying the reach of Antigua Carnival, the nation's premier summer festival. Their participation highlights the government's

dedication to promoting Antigua Carnival internationally, fostering cultural tourism, and strengthening regional partnerships.

This initiative is part of an ongoing cultural collaboration between Antigua and Barbuda and Guadeloupe,

reinforcing a shared commitment to annual exchanges during each country's Carnival celebrations. Last year, Guadeloupe sent a delegation of 98 performers to Antigua's Carnival, where they captivated audiences with traditional mas

performances through the streets of St. John's.

Director O'Keiffe underscored the importance of this exchange, stating, "Guadeloupe is known for its rich and authentic culture. However, following the recent launch of Antigua Carnival, we have boldly reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's status as a cultural powerhouse. Our goal here is to bring that same energy and passion to the Guadeloupean audience."

This cultural exchange promises an immersive experience of Antigua and Barbuda's mas, music, dance, and artistic expression, further deepening the unity and shared heritage between Antigua and Barbuda and the French Department.

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Details of Commonwealth Day 2025 Celebrations announced

Antigua and Barbuda will join the global family of nations in celebrating Commonwealth Day 2025 on Monday, March 10, 2025, under the theme “Together We Thrive”. This year’s observance will feature a Church Service, Commonwealth Day Youth FLOE (Future Leaders Opportunities Experience) engaging students across the nation, a grand street parade, a Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony, and the reading of a message from the Sovereign, all designed to highlight the Commonwealth’s enduring values of unity, collaboration, and shared prosperity.

This year’s theme, “Together We Thrive,” celebrates the spirit of the Commonwealth’s 56 independent member states, which are united by shared values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter. Rooted in the principles of family, unity, and peace, the theme underscores the significance of building strong and interconnected communities that empower their members and foster meaningful progress.

The celebrations will commence with a Commonwealth Day Church Service on Sunday, March 9, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at Spring Gardens Moravian Church, St. John’s Street. The service will bring together government officials, representatives from Commonwealth organizations, students, and members of civil society in an act of thanksgiving. Special invitations have been extended to National Honourees to attend the Church Service.

The morning’s activities will begin with Commonwealth Day Youth FLOE on the Go, taking place at intervals between 8:00 a.m. and 9:15

a.m. Representatives from youth-based and Commonwealth organizations will visit a total of twelve primary and secondary schools across Antigua and Barbuda to engage students in discussions on the Commonwealth’s mission, essential



skills for success and the value of participating in volunteer organizations.

In addition to distinguished local speakers from the British High Commission and civil society, the event will once again feature special guests, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Shilson from the United Kingdom. Shilson, a business consultant and senior member of the St John Ambulance, a humanitarian organization, previously served as an Assistant Private Secretary to Her Late Majesty The Queen.

Following the school engagements, the Commonwealth Day Parade, organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, will take place at 10:00 a.m. The parade will commence at the Telephone Exchange on Long Street and proceed to the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG).

□ The Ex-Servicemen’s Associa-

tion will lead the parade, proudly carrying the Commonwealth Day Banner.

- The parade will feature the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda Band, adding a musical and ceremonial flair to the event.
- Ten schools will each be represented by platoons of twelve students, while eight youth-based and civil society organizations will also participate with platoons of twelve.
- Upon arrival at the Antigua Recreation Grounds, a Commonwealth Flag Raising Ceremony will take place, followed by the reading of His Majesty The King’s Message by the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Commonwealth Day 2025 celebrations are being organized by the Commonwealth Day 2025 Planning Committee, which comprises a cross-section of organizations, government ministries, and other key stakeholders. The committee is chaired by Permanent Secretary, Office of the Governor General, Paula Frederick-Hunte.

Commonwealth Day serves as an annual reminder of the shared history, cultural ties, and opportunities for cooperation among the 56 member states of the Commonwealth. This year’s theme emphasizes the power of collaboration, resilience, and innovation in addressing challenges and driving progress.

All members of the public are invited to participate in these celebrations and embrace the values that unite the nations of the Commonwealth.

Local News

Governor General Swears in Latest Notary Public in Antigua and Barbuda

Nicole Dannielle Martin is the newest Notary Public for the State of Antigua and Barbuda. She was formally sworn into office on Friday by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams during a ceremony held at Government House.

Martin's appointment was made by Acting Chief Justice, His Lordship Mario Michel, in accordance with Section 2(1) of the Notaries Public Act, Cap 295 of the revised laws of Antigua and Barbuda (1992). Following the issuance of her instrument by the Chief Justice, the Governor General administered the oath, formally empowering her to execute the duties of a Notary Public.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Sir Rodney congratulated



Permanent Secretary, Office of the Governor General, Paula Frederick-Hunte (extreme left in the official photograph), Nicole Martin, newly sworn Notary Public (third from left), Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, (fourth from left) and other well-wishers who gathered to celebrate this significant milestone.

ed Martin and emphasized the significance of her new role. As a Notary Public, she will be responsible

for certifying documents, administering oaths, and serving as an impartial witness in legal transactions,

thereby reinforcing trust and credibility within the legal system.

Martin expressed gratitude for the appointment and pledged to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in carrying out her notarial duties.

The ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, family, and friends, including, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Governor General, Paula Frederick-Hunte (extreme left in the official photograph), Nicole Martin, newly sworn Notary Public (third from left), Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, (fourth from left) and other well-wishers who gathered to celebrate this significant milestone.



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Education in Barbuda



By Bonnietha John

Investing in quality education is one of the most effective ways to uplift communities and create lasting change. Ms. John, a candidate in the upcoming Barbuda Council Elections, is committed to enhancing the education system by increasing the number of teachers in primary and secondary schools.

By ensuring that classrooms have adequate staffing, students can receive more individualized attention, leading to better academic outcomes. Addressing teacher shortages will also help to reduce burnout among educators, allowing them to focus on delivering high-quality instruction.

In addition to hiring more teachers, Ms. John recognizes the importance of professional development

and training programs. Supporting ongoing teacher training ensures that educators stay up to date with modern teaching strategies, classroom management techniques, and subject matter expertise.

Investing in classroom resources, such as updated textbooks, technology, and interactive learning tools, will further improve the learning experience for students. By equipping teachers and students with the right tools, Ms. John aims to create an environment where education thrives.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. John envisions mentorship programs and scholarships to inspire the next generation of educators.

By providing guidance and financial assistance to students pursuing careers in education, she hopes to encourage more young people to enter the field. Partnering with local and international organizations will help to expand these initiatives, bringing in additional expertise and funding. Through these combined efforts, Ms. John seeks to build a strong, sustainable education system that benefits

both teachers and students for years to come.

Barbuda sporting complex

Barbuda's sporting infrastructure is in dire need of attention, with only two primary areas available for sports activities: the basketball complex and Coronation Park. The basketball complex is in need of significant renovation to make it safe and usable for the community, while Coronation Park, a key venue for cricket and football, lacks essential amenities like proper lighting, seating areas, and restroom facilities. These gaps in infrastructure hinder the development of sports in Barbuda, affecting not only local athletes but also the ability to host larger events that could boost community engagement and tourism.

The absence of lighting at both the basketball complex and Coronation Park restricts the use of these facilities to daylight hours, limiting the opportunities for evening practices or matches. This issue particularly impacts students and working adults who can only participate after school or work. Additionally,

the lack of bathrooms and seating at the cricket and football fields makes the venues uncomfortable for both players and spectators, discouraging community support and participation. These essential improvements would not only increase the usage of these facilities but also contribute to fostering a sense of pride and belonging within the community.

Addressing these challenges presents an excellent opportunity to invest in Barbuda's future, particularly in youth development. As part of a broader strategy, you could explore partnerships with local businesses, government agencies, and international organizations to raise funds for the renovation and development of these sports facilities. Offering sponsorships or organizing fundraising events could provide the necessary resources to make Barbuda's sports venues more accessible and functional. This investment would provide Barbuda's youth with the facilities they need to develop their skills and engage in healthy activities, ultimately benefiting the community as a whole.



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A CARIBBEAN PEOPLE'S MESSAGE TO THE USA



“LET OUR CUBAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS GO!”

The officers and members of the Caribbean Pan-African Network (CPAN) - a pan-Caribbean organization with membership in seventeen Caribbean countries - were pleased with and gratified by the 14th of January 2025 decision of the Joseph Biden administration of the United States of America (USA) to issue a certification of rescission of the Republic of Cuba's unjust and illegitimate designation by the US State Department as a State Sponsor of Terrorism.

The decision to remove Cuba from the US State Department's unilaterally composed list was considered by CPAN, and no doubt, by the overwhelming majority of Caribbean people, to be a victory for International Law and a demonstration of respect for the rights, interests and wellbeing of the nation and people of Cuba.

Indeed, the Caribbean's major indigenous multilateral organization - CARICOM - hailed the decision as “a step in the right direction” and urged the government of the USA to go further and remove the equally illegal and destructive financial, economic and trade em-

bargo that the USA has imposed on Cuba over the past 63 years.

However, to the dismay of the entire Caribbean region, less than one week later, the newly installed administration of President Donald Trump not only reinstated Cuba on the US State Department's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, but also revoked the suspension of the filing of law suits in US Courts under Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, and reinstated the USA's List of Restricted Cuban Entities with which entities or persons in the USA are prohibited from carrying out transactions.

And this was subsequently followed by Trump's Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, purporting to impose illegal punitive sanctions on any person involved in facilitating the work of Cuba's world famous and highly regarded Medical Brigades.

The sole purpose of the retrogressive reinstatement of these destructive measures within the context of the continuance of other components of the embargo is to intimidate foreign investors, close off possible sources of external income for Cuba, subvert the capacity of Cuban entities to produce goods and services, and to ravage the living standards and quality of life of the Cuban people.

CPAN believes that we legitimately speak for our entire Caribbean region when we say that the

people of the Caribbean consider that these actions and the ignoble purpose that they are designed to achieve do a disservice not only to the quality of inter-state relations within the hemisphere of the Americas, but also to the interests, image and reputation of the USA.

We, the people of the Caribbean, would like to remind the USA that on an annual basis over the past thirty years the leaders of an overwhelmingly large number of the nations of the world have voted at the United Nations General Assembly to condemn the US embargo against Cuba as a violation of International Law and to demand its immediate termination.

We therefore demand that the government of the USA respect the near unanimous will of the international community and adhere to its obligations under the United Nations charter.

We assert, without fear of any contradiction, that the government of the USA is under a clear legal obligation to terminate its financial, economic and trade embargo against Cuba and to also remove Cuba from the US State Department's List of State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Executive Committee
Caribbean Pan African Network-CPAN

FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT SAMUEL SHAFISHUNA DANIEL NUJOMA



A LIFE OF HONOUR, PURPOSE AND SERVICE by High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill

On Friday 28th February 2025, it was my immense honour to meet, albeit posthumously, another of Africa's leaders whose influence, legacy and sacrifice distinguished him as iconic. Last week, I met Samuel Shafishuna Daniel Nujoma, the Founding Father of Namibia. Coincidentally it was also in February 2003, that I first met Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu at the Centenary Cele-

brations of the Rhodes Scholarships in Cape Town, South Africa, which incidentally also signaled the launch of the Mandela-Rhodes Foundation linking the name of the imperialist to the great liberator.

President Nujoma was a man born to peasant parents with only a primary school level education yet whose life meant and means so much to Namibia, to Africa and to the African Diaspora. His death, on 8th February at age 95, signaled the end of an era as he was the last remaining giant of that legendary generation of African lead-

ers who fought against and dismantled colonial minority rule and with great determination and singleness of purpose, led their people to independence. He was the last of Africa's freedom fighters who included Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Samora Machel of Mozambique, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Amilcar Cabral of Guinea Bissau, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela of South Africa. He was our Sir Vere Cornwall Bird.

There were several moments that stood out in the various tributes that populated this moving service of remembrance and celebration. I summarised these as his work in Namibia, his work in Southern Africa and across Africa and his global impact.

For Namibians, President Nujoma was their Father. Namibia was ruled by Germany for 31 years until 1915 after which the apartheid Government of South Africa extended its rule to the country, brutally denying Namibians any dignity, voice or place in their own land. Under this system of segregated rule, education, healthcare and governance were determined by race with the majority black population being denied basic access to these rights.

It was this second-class treatment of his brothers and sisters which ignited a flame in Nujoma to resist the oppression of his people and to dedicate his life to Namibia's independence. In exile for nearly 30 years, away from his family and the comforts of home, he valiantly embraced guerilla tactics in a country whose vast and sparse terrain made this type of offensive challenging. In addition, with the help

con't on pg 13

con't from pg 12

of supporters around the world, he journeyed to the United Nations to petition for the independence of his country.

In 1973, the United Nations General Assembly recognized SWAPO, the South West Africa People's Organization, founded by Nujoma in 1966 and of which he was President, as the 'sole and authentic' representative of the people of Namibia. In 1978, through his advocacy, UN Security Council Resolution 435 was adopted, spelling out the terms for Namibia's independence. In 1990, he was elected the first President of an independent Namibia.

To the people in Namibia during those dark years, President Nujoma was their hope as they witnessed the large tanks of the colonial masters driving through their streets daily. He was their hope as they struggled under a regime that treated them as inferior. During the service on Friday, Namibians spontaneously burst into song, echoing the words often sung by their people throughout the struggle: "Sam Ouli Peni?" meaning "Sam, Where are you?"

President Nujoma's sacrifice laid the foundation for the Namibia of today where all people, male, female, black and white, live as equals. As a fierce champion of women's rights, it is fitting that Namibia's first female President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, will take office on 21st March 2025 the same day the country will celebrate its 35th anniversary of Independence.

In his words, "Namibia is our God-given country; we have no other one but Namibia, and we have to be there. Those who are trying to stand in our way to freedom; it's obvious we will smash them to pieces. Whether Botha/Reagan want it or not, Namibia shall be free. We will seize it from the hands of the Boers."

The second aspect of the service of thanksgiving and celebration that captured my mind was the impact President Nujoma had on southern Africa and indeed, the continent of Africa. He lived in Zambia and Tanzania and from there planned and executed much of the resistance. The post-Apartheid South African Government awarded him South Africa's Order of the Companions of O.R. Tambo in Gold, for his unwavering fight against the apartheid regime which included leading Namibian forces to fight alongside South African liberation fighters.

The understanding of the need for support from his brothers and sisters across Africa and also for him to lend support to these brothers and sisters in their struggle epitomised the depth of his maturity and understanding as a leader. In his words: "When the Founding Fathers were calling for African unity, they were calling for economic emancipation, cooperation and integration of the entire African continent because they fully understood that political freedom would remain insufficient and meaningless unless it was accompanied by genuine economic independence."

The impact of President Nujoma's life and work extended to the Caribbean. The Cuban Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Ismaa Vargas Walter, spoke of the support President Nujoma showed for the Cuban Revolution, an interest and support that remained throughout his life, receiving the José Marp Order, the highest recognition granted by the Cuban State.

It is important that all persons of the African Diaspora mark the life of President Nujoma with reflection and with purpose. Our reflections may centre on his commitment to advancing the freedom and prosperity of his people and country at great personal sacrifice. Our understanding of pur-

pose may centre on his actions after achieving that independence and right to self-determination he so valiantly wanted for his people. His approach was to champion the rights of women and children, to build bridges across Africa and the world and to embrace a principle of reconciliation within his own country bringing together all Namibians including white businessmen and politicians in a non-racial, non-sexist democracy.

I end these observations with the words of the anthem of the African Union which were sung at the beginning and end of the service. These words are also a call to action we here in Antigua and Barbuda and I daresay across the Caribbean can embrace. I think that the question we must ask ourselves as we reflect on a life well lived and indelibly etched in history as among the great leaders of all times is: are we honouring the legacy of our forefathers and mothers in our stewardship of their legacy to us achieved with blood, sweat and sacrifice? This ability to honour must begin with knowing our history, teaching it to our children and ensuring that its lessons are never forgotten and understood by our actions. In the words of the anthem:

Let us all unite and celebrate together
The victories won for our liberation.

Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together
To defend our liberty and unity.

O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of life.

Let us all unite and sing together
To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny.
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together
For lasting peace and justice on the earth.

Photo Essay

Photo Essay ROC 600 prize giving ceremony was held on Friday night at the Antigua Yacht Club...in attendance were the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, MP Hon E.P Chet Greene, Ambassador Clarence E Pilgrim, Commandant of AYC, Sir Hugh Bailey and Carlo Falcone, among a host of dignitaries.



Photo Essay

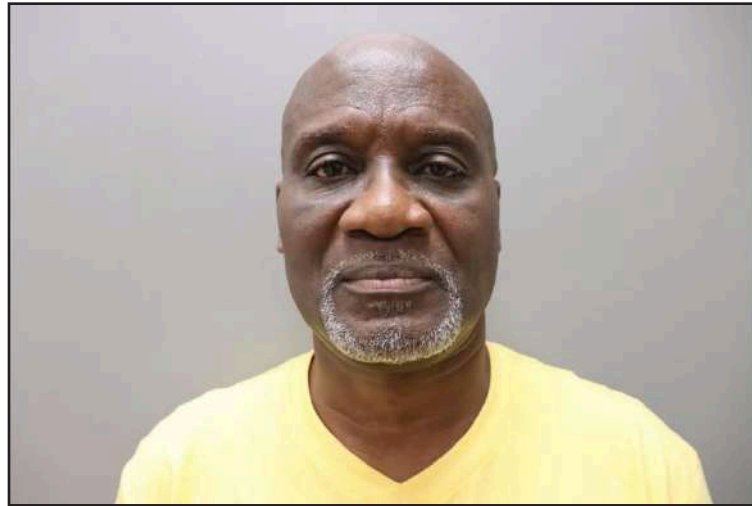


USVI: Pastor arrested for inappropriate contact with minor

A 63-year-old pastor has been arrested and charged with multiple offences related to inappropriate contact with a minor.

Lawrence Turnbull was taken into custody on Friday, February 28, by the department's Criminal Investigation Bureau. He faces charges of child abuse, unlawful sexual contact in the second degree, obscene internet contact with a minor, harassment, and disturbance of the peace.

According to the police,



"A minor reported to law enforcement that over the past six years, her pastor Mr. Turnbull, fostered a re-

lationship with her, presenting himself as a mentor and father figure; however Mr. Turnbull's intentions were

not genuine. He exploited her trust by engaging in inappropriate physical contact with her, despite her attempts to avoid him."

Investigators report that the minor provided evidence in which Turnbull allegedly acknowledged his involvement in unwelcome sexual contact and continued to pursue her even after she expressed disinterest.

Bail has been set at \$60,000. (Loop Caribbean)

Manchester mother charged with child trafficking

A 45-year-old Manchester mother who allegedly exploited her teen daughter to be sexually assaulted at a bar in exchange for payment for alcohol has been charged with child trafficking.

The woman was charged by investigators assigned to the Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Investigations Branch (C-TOC).

The police say the charge stems from an incident involving the exploitation and sexual assault of her 13-year-old child.

Reports are that in September 2020, the woman went to a bar with her child to get alcoholic beverages, however, she was unable to pay.

According to the police, in exchange for payment for the liquor, she orchestrated the sexual assault of her child by multiple men at the bar.

Following the incident, the child fled her home.

A report was made to the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), which brought the matter to the attention of the unit in 2024, which launched an investigation.

On Friday, February 21, 2025, the mother of the child was arrested and charged with the offence following an interview.

The men who allegedly assaulted the teen girl are still being sought by the police.

The head of the unit, Detective Inspector Kemisha Gordon, has reiterated the Jamaica Constabulary Force's pursuit of individuals who prey on the vulnerable.

"This is a serious matter, and we were unrelenting in our efforts to bring the accused into custody. Human trafficking is a violation of human rights that destroys lives and communities. No child should be subjected to exploitation, and no perpetrator should go unpunished," said Gordon.

"This arrest underscores our commitment to the safety of children and all citizens against human trafficking," he added.

According to the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression, and Punishment) Act, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

The possible maximum sentence for trafficking a child is 30 years' imprisonment.

The police say the incident remains under active investigation as detectives work to identify and apprehend the other individuals involved in the crime.

They are urging anyone with information to contact the Trafficking in Persons Unit at C-TOC at 876-967-1389, Crime Stop at 311, the National Intelligence Bureau at 811, or the police 119 emergency number. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)



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The beach is just the beginning...



ANTIGUA CARNIVAL 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRE-EVENTS

THURS FEB 27	CARNIVAL LAUNCH	SUN JULY 20	QUEEN OF CARNIVAL CARNIVAL CITY
SUN JULY 13	AUNTY CLAUDETTE'S KIDDIES FETE CARNIVAL CITY	MON JULY 21	INVASION BAND CLASH CARNIVAL CITY
THURS JULY 17	CALYPSO MONARCH SEMI-FINALS CARNIVAL CITY	TUES JULY 22	JUNIOR CALYPSO MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY
FRI JULY 18	PARTY MONARCH SEMI-FINALS CARNIVAL CITY	WED JULY 23	JUNIOR PARTY MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY
SAT JULY 19	WITNESS YA FITNESS INDEPENDENCE AVENUE		
	MR AND MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT CARNIVAL CITY		

OFFICIAL CARNIVAL EVENTS

FRI JULY 25	FACE OFF CARNIVAL CITY	FRI AUG 1	CALYPSO MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY
SAT JULY 26	T-SHIRT MAS ST. JOHN'S	SAT AUG 2	RISE SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS CRICKET STADIUM
SUN JULY 27	GOOD MORNING D'INCLUSIVE COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND		CARNIVAL DREAMZ HODGES BAY
	JUNIOR CARNIVAL COMPETITIONS PARADE, PRINCE AND PRINCESS ST. JOHN'S/CARNIVAL CITY		PANORAMA CARNIVAL CITY
MON JULY 28	JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW CARNIVAL CITY	SUN AUG 3	D BREAKFAST FETE SPLASH ANTIGUA
TUES JULY 29	KARI SOCA INTERNATIONAL SOCA MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY		PARTY MONARCH CARNIVAL CITY
WED JULY 30	BURNING FLAMES 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CARNIVAL CITY	MON AUG 4	J'OUVERT ST. JOHN'S
	DRINK TILL YA WEAK BOAT CRUISE		MONDAY MAS PARADE ST. JOHN'S
THURS JULY 31	MELTING POT CARNIVAL CITY	TUES AUG 5	PARADE OF BANDS CARNIVAL CITY
	WATCH NIGHT ARG / BOTANICAL GARDENS		LAST LAP ST. JOHN'S



H2A ViBe

Regional News



Joy is Dominica's 2025 Calypso Monarch

Calypsonian, Joy has been crowned the 2025 Calypso Monarch of Dominica after a stunning performance at the Calypso finals on Saturday night.

Joy, (Joy Stoute) known



for her powerful voice and captivating stage presence, claimed the prestigious title after delivering an outstanding performance at the Windsor Park stadium.

She is the second female

to be crowned Calypso Monarch on the island.

Ten-time Calypso King Dice came in the first runner-up position, second runner-up Shanice while Bobb came in 3rd place. (*Loop Caribbean*)

A meme leads Machel to Chutney Soca Kingdom

Machel Montano is the king of chutney soca.

It was the first time Montano had entered the competition, singing his song Pepper Vine, alongside Drupatie Ramgoonai and Lady Lava.

Neval Chatelal, a former winner, place second, while nine-time champion Rikki Jai took third place.

The Queen of Chutney title went to Reshma Ramlal, who collaborated with Lil





Bits.

The event took place at

Skinner Park, San Fernando, on Saturday night, with free admission to the public.

In an interview, following the results, Machel said it was a meme on social media that inspired him to enter the competition. "It was a meme I saw that said Machel next year you winning Chutney Monarch and I said maybe I should try out. I feel so happy, satisfied." (*Trinidad Express*)





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At least 37 people killed and 39 wounded as two buses collide in Bolivia

At least 37 people have been killed and dozens more injured in a crash involving two buses in the western Potosi region of Bolivia, police and local authorities have said.

The accident happened on Saturday at 7am local time (11:00 GMT) on the route between the cities of Uyuni and Colchani, when one of the vehicles swerved into the oncoming lane.

Uyuni is the gateway to the Salar de Uyuni, a major tourist attraction and the world's largest salt flat at more than 10,000sq km (3,900sq miles).

"As a result of this fatal accident we have 39 people injured in four hospitals in the town of Uyuni, and 37 people have lost their lives," a spokesperson for the Departmental Police Command of Potosi told reporters.

Police personnel are working to identify people who were killed and those who were injured and hospitalised, the spokesperson added.

One of the buses was heading to Oruro, where one of the most important carnival celebrations in Latin America



is currently taking place.

Police officers removed survivors from the steel wreckage, according to images shot by Radio Uyuni, which showed several bodies covered in blankets strewn across the high Andean flatlands.

A police spokesperson said one of

the two drivers, who both survived the crash, was spotted by passengers consuming alcohol.

Bolivia's mountainous, under-maintained and little-supervised roadways are some of the deadliest in the world, killing an average of 1,400 people every year. (*Al Jazeera English*)

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Pope Francis, stable in hospital, thanks well-wishers for support

Pope Francis, in a stable condition as he battles pneumonia in hospital for the 17th day, met two Vatican officials on Sunday and offered thanks to well-wishers for their prayers and support in a written message.

Francis, 88, was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14 with respiratory problems that degenerated into double pneumonia — a serious infection in both lungs that can inflame and scar them, making it difficult to breathe.

The Vatican said on Saturday evening that the pontiff's condition had stabilised, following an "isolated" breathing crisis a day earlier.

"I would like to thank you for the prayers," Francis said in a note released by the Vatican in place of his usual Sunday prayer with pilgrims, which the pope was not able to lead for the third week running.

"I feel all your affection and closeness and ... I feel as if I am 'carried' and

supported by all God's people," the message said.

Francis also met at the hospital on Sunday with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's number-two official, and Parolin's deputy, said Vatican spokesperson Matteo Bruni, without giving further details about the meeting.

The pope, who is known to work himself to exhaustion, has continued leading the Vatican during his hospital stay and last met Parolin and the deputy at the Ge-

melli on February 24.

Earlier on Sunday, the Vatican said in a one-line update that the pope had rested well overnight. A full medical update on his condition is expected on Sunday evening.

A Vatican official, who did not wish to be named because he was not authorised to discuss the pope's health, said on Sunday that Francis was eating normally, moving about his hospital room, and continuing his treatment. *(NBC News)*



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Lawyers sue to block Trump administration from sending 10 migrants to Guantanamo Bay



Civil rights attorneys sued the Trump administration Saturday to prevent it from transferring 10 migrants detained in the US to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, their second legal challenge in less than a month over plans for holding up to 30,000 immigrants there for deportation.

The latest federal lawsuit so far applies only to 10 men facing transfer to the naval base in Cuba. Like a lawsuit the same attorneys filed earlier this month for access to migrants already detained there, the latest case was filed in Washington and is backed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

At least 50 migrants have been transferred already to Guantanamo Bay, and the civil rights attorneys believe the number now may be about 200. They have said it is the first time in US history that the government has detained non-citizens on civil immigration charges there. For decades, the naval base was primarily used to detain foreigners associated with the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Trump has said Guantanamo Bay, also known as “Gitmo,” has space for up to 30,000 immigrants living in the US and that he plans to send “the worst” or high-risk “criminal aliens” there. The administration

has not released specific information on who is being transferred, so it is not clear what crimes they are accused of committing in the US and whether they have been convicted in court, or merely charged or arrested.

The 10 men involved in the lawsuit came to the US in 2023 or 2024. Seven are from Venezuela, and the lawsuit said two had been tortured by the Venezuelan government for their political views. A man from Afghanistan and one from Pakistan came to the US, the lawsuit said, because of threats from the Taliban. One man fled Bangladesh because he was threatened over his political party

membership, the lawsuit said.

“The purpose of this second Guantanamo lawsuit is to prevent more people from being illegally sent to this notorious prison, where the conditions have now been revealed to be inhumane,” said Lee Gelernt, an ACLU attorney and lead counsel on the case. “The lawsuit is not claiming they cannot be detained in US facilities, but only that they cannot be sent to Guantanamo.”

The White House and the Defense and Homeland Security departments did not immediately respond to emails Saturday seeking comment about the lawsuit. *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

**MON - FRI
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Sports News

Clare Hall and State College still unbeaten in Senior Boys Division

Clare Hall Secondary and Antigua State College have maintained their unbeaten run in the Senior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Ministry of Sports Inter-School Basketball League.

Clare Hall Secondary School won for the third time in as many games, pulling off a 76-66 victory against St. Anthony's Secondary School in the latest round of matches at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tajahron Davis shot a game-high 46 points for Clare Hall Secondary, while Cajhorn Jeffers sank 16 points for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Meanwhile, the Antigua State College also notched up their third win in as many games in the Senior Boys Division, romping to an emphatic 67-29 victory against St. Mary's Secondary School.

Aiden Christian sank 14 points, David Mensah converted 13 points, and Raheem Charles scored 12 points for Antigua State College, while Yohan Nicholas shot a game-high 22 points for St. Mary's Secondary School.



Players of the Antigua State College (orange uniform) defend against St. Mary's Secondary in their Senior Boys Division match in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday, February 27, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

Princess Margaret School also pulled off a 58-20 victory against Island Academy in another Senior Boys Division affair.

Tyrese White sank 21 points, and Noah Massiah and Gabriel De Suza each scored 10 points for Princess Margaret School.

There were also wins for the Antigua Grammar School and St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Giovanni Hodge converted 14 points to lead Antigua Grammar

School to a 21-13 victory against Island Academy in the Miniboys Secondary Division.

St. Anthony's Secondary School snatched a 36-34 victory against Princess Margaret School in the Junior Boys Division.

Aiden Carbon sank 11 points for St. Anthony's Secondary School, while Gabriel De Suza scored 13 points for Princess Margaret School.

Meanwhile, action also continued in the Ministry of Sports JOMA

Caribbean Inter-School Volleyball League at the YMCA Sports Complex.

There were wins for Christ the King High School and Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the female division.

Christ the King High School beat the second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-2) 25-14, 24-26, and 15-11, while Sir Novelle Richards Academy prevailed 20-25, 25-11, and 15-7 against the third team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS-3).

Spanish Heat and Flyers return to winning form in Div-2 league



After both teams suffered losses in their previous games, Spanish Heat 2 and the EZ Fit Flyers 2 returned to winning ways in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 2 League on Saturday evening.

Spanish Heat 2 claimed their fourth win in six encounters by snatching a hard-fought 82-79 victory against Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Jesus Emmanuel produced 26 points, 10 rebounds, and five steals; Wester Baptiste sank 23 points; Charlie Daniel converted 13 points and

grabbed 17 rebounds; and Erwin Rodriguez had 12 points, 13 rebounds, and six assists for Spanish Heat 2.

Takeem Martin converted 23 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Rafiki Harris contributed 22 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists, and five steals for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the second time in six games.

The EZ Fit Flyers notched up their third win in six encounters by snatching a narrow 58-55 victory against Michael Joseph Phoenix in the opening game of Saturday's double-header.

Hansel Piper sank 17 points and claimed nine rebounds, Amare

Browne converted 13 points, and David Mensah had nine points and five rebounds for the EZ Fit Flyers.

Daysher Samuel produced 23 points, six assists, and five rebounds, and Shalom Bloodman scored 14 points and grabbed seven rebounds for Michael Joseph Phoenix, who suffered their fourth loss in five games.

Meanwhile, Da Project and All Saints Slam recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Division 1 League.

After losing their first three matches, newly promoted Da Project recorded their fourth successive win by snatching a 57-52 victory against Spanish Heat.

T'shawn Lewis shot a game-high 29 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew sank 11 points and snatched 17 rebounds for Da Project.

Steven Matthew produced 21 points, eight rebounds, and five

assists, and Kelvyn Pimental had eight points, six rebounds, and five steals for Spanish Heat, who lost for the third time in seven games.

All Saints Slam notched up their third win in seven encounters with a 77-69 victory against the Northside Stingerz.

Keaddy Martin produced 21 points, eight rebounds, and five assists; Humroy Wright sank 15 points and claimed six rebounds; Andrew Venture had 14 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds; and Iornie Joseph converted 12 points and grabbed 19 rebounds for the All Saints Slam.

Jaheem James shot a game-high 26 points and snatched five steals; Te-Ran Zachariah produced 16 points, eight steals, seven assists, and five rebounds; Ammiel Williams sank 13 points and claimed seven rebounds; and Tristan Jacobs scored nine points and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Northside Stingerz, who lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Emrit eager to get T&T ready for regional T20 tournament



Rayad Emrit

Trinidad and Tobago Red Force head coach Rayad Emrit is eager to kickstart preparations for the upcoming Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional T20 tournament, as he expressed satisfaction with the squad drafted for the competition.

Emrit, who is currently guiding the Red Force in the West Indies Championship, is aiming to shift gears into T20 mode once the current regional four-day tournament concludes.

The regional T20 tournament, designed primarily for emerging players and those with fewer than 10 T20 international caps, presents a fresh challenge that Emrit is ready to tackle head-on.

Despite missing out on one player he had his eye on, Emrit believes the squad has the right mix of talent to

compete strongly.

“We missed one overseas player we were going for, but the players we have will do the job,” Emrit told the T&T Express newspaper.

“We were looking for a bit of experience, but I think we got exactly what we wanted. We have a very strong batting lineup and bowlers who can do the job,” he added.

The T&T squad, which was officially released on Friday, features young overseas fast bowlers McKenny Clarke and Johann Layne, who will bolster the pace attack alongside Shaaron Lewis, Joshua James, and Abdul Raheem-Toppin.

While still focused on the ongoing four-day competition, Emrit revealed that the T20 squad will get valuable match practice in the up-

coming Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB) T20 Festival, which will start this week.

“The TTCB will have the T20 Festival starting this week, so the guys will get some prep there,” he explained.

“When we get back from Barbados, we will have some practice sessions with the players. Once the four-day campaign is finished, we want to have some practice games to see what the guys can do before the tournament,” Emrit noted.

T&T Squad: Navin Bidaisee, McKenny Clarke, Cephass Cooper, Joshua Da Silva, Mikkel Govia, Jyd Goolie, Amir Jangoo, Joshua James, Damion Joachim, Johann Layne, Shaaron Lewis, Kamil Pooran, Abdul Raheem-Toppin, and Crystian Thurton.

Chakravarthy spins India to win against NZ

DUBAI (Reuters) - Spinner Varun Chakravarthy justified his selection with a five-wicket haul on Sunday and bowled India to a 44-run victory against New Zealand in a Group A clash between two sides, who had already made the last four of the Champions Trophy.

Electing to field, New Zealand restricted India to 249 for nine with Matt Henry (five for 42) leading their superb bowling display backed up by their characteristic sharp catching.

Shreyas Iyer (79), Axar Patel (42) and Hardik Pandya (45) scored valuable runs but India still settled for a below-par total. Chakravarthy (five for 42) helped India bundle out New Zealand for 205 despite Kane Williamson's classy 81 to maintain their unbeaten run in the tournament.

India, who topped Group A, will face Australia in the first semi-final in Dubai on Tuesday. New Zealand will take on Group B leaders South Africa in the second semi-final in Lahore on Wednesday.

"New Zealand are a good team, who are playing some good cricket," India captain Rohit Sharma said. "Very important to get a



India's Varun Chakravarthy, right, celebrate the wicket of New Zealand's Matt Henry during the ICC Champions Trophy cricket match between India and New Zealand at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, March 2, 2025. (AP)

good result, we played a perfect game."

India did not start well though and slumped to 30-3 in the seventh over following Henry's two-wicket burst in the powerplay.

The seamer removed Shubman Gill lbw and dismissed Virat Kohli when Glenn Phillips took a breathtaking catch at backward point leaving the batsman crestfallen.

In between those dismissals, Rohit, who often leads India's powerplay assault, mistimed his pull shot against Kyle Jamieson and

returned to pavilion.

Iyer and Axar forged a 98-run stand to steady India before both fell in quick succession. Pandya produced a run-a-ball cameo down the order but India still fell short of the 250-mark.

All-rounder Pandya returned to remove Rachin Ravindra for six in the fourth over of the New Zealand innings but Williamson kept them in the hunt.

India substituted pacer Harshit Rana with Chakravarthy and the spinner made an immediate impact

in his first match of the tournament that earned him player-of-the-match award.

India's spin quarter, who went on to claim nine of the 10 New Zealand wickets, put the squeeze on in the middle overs with Chakravarthy running through the middle and lower order.

"India controlled the middle phase better," New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said.

"It spun a bit more than we thought, and they squeezed us well with four quality spinners."

United gets another win to stay top of the Premier League

Defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United stayed on course for a successful defense of their title after extending their unbeaten run in the second round to remain at the top of the standings of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Saturday.

All Saints United maintained their lead at the top of the standings by recording their fourth consecutive win in as many games in Group 2 with a 2-1 victory against Old Road in the last game of Saturday's triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

A 42nd-minute conversion by Shackwon Simon gave Old Road a one-nil lead at halftime, but veteran striker Randolph "Ettý" Burton came off the bench to score two goals in the second half to snatch victory for All Saints United.

Burton struck the equalizer in the 68th minute and scored the late winner in the fifth minute

of added time.

The result ensures that All Saints United remains at the top of the overall



Players of the All Saints United football team

standings by advancing to 46 points after recording their 15th win in 17 matches.

Old Road remains in third place on goal difference with 34 points after slumping to their fifth defeat in 17 matches.

But the other games in Saturday's triple-header ended in draws. Obafemi Poyotte and Tyrese Gowe both struck hat tricks for either side as the Attacking Saints and Parham fought to a 3-3 draw in their Group 1 affair in the

second game on Saturday.

Poyotte propelled the Attacking Saints to a two-nil lead with goals in the

17th and 20th minutes. Gowe scored his first in the 38th minute to reduce the deficit for Parham at halftime.

But Poyotte restored his team's two-goal advantage by completing his hat trick with a 50th-minute conversion to give the Attacking Saints a 3-1 lead.

Gowe pulled back a goal for Parham by scoring his second in the 58th minute and achieved his hat trick by snatching the equalizer in the 66th

minute.

The result meant the Attacking Saints will stay in ninth place by advancing to 16 points after securing their fourth draw in 16 matches. Parham will remain second from the bottom of the standings by advancing to 10 points after achieving their first draw in 16 matches.

The Potters Tigers and Five Islands played to a 1-1 draw in another Group 1 encounter in Saturday's opening game.

Brandon Emmanuel scored in the eighth minute to give Five Islands a 1-0 lead at halftime, and Javorn Benjamin snatched the equalizer for Potters Tigers with a 77th-minute conversion.

The Potters Tigers remain in eighth place in the overall standings by advancing to 18 points after salvaging their third draw in 16 matches. Five Islands remain in 11th place on goal difference by advancing to 14 points after recording their second draw in 17 matches.