



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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LABOUR Day 2025



5 MAY

2025 3PM UNTIL

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BAND | SUPA D | DRASTIC | ZAMONI | YOUNG LYRICS | NI QKO
DJs: DJ Jime | Mad Ras | DJ Quest Host: Jesse Fyah

A new Sailing Regatta is coming in 2027

Story on Page 2



Senior officials of the Ministry of Health participate in the launch of Vaccination Week

Story on Page 10

A new Sailing Regatta is coming in 2027

With falling participation in the annual Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) over the last several years, the Ministry of Tourism is following industry advice by introducing a second sailing regatta in March, 2027.

Tourism Minister, Charles Max Fernandez, said the ministry brought in industry experts to undertake a study of the reasons behind the declining participation by the large maxi yachts in Antigua Sailing Week.

According to Fernandez, this trend became apparent since 2019, however, the government did not just sit on its laurels; it quickly took steps to not only understand the root causes of the lowering numbers, but what could be done to reverse it.

He disclosed that the study found that many of the large yachts leave the region in mid-April to travel to the Mediterranean to participate in a series of races in that part of the world.

“We have less of these vessels sticking around in the Caribbean by the time AWS comes around at the end of April as the vessels leave for Europe. Then, twenty years ago, Antigua and Barbuda was clearly the leader in regattas in the region. Now practically every island has a regatta of its own so there is much more competition for the remaining yachts,” he explained.

The minister noted that the new regatta will cater for the larger maxi yachts as they have a larger crew who are expected to spend significant sums in the country during the regatta.

Fernandez noted that ASW will continue as its original idea was to extend the tourist season. However,



Tourism Minister, Charles Max Fernandez

there are several suggestions on the table on how best to maximize the

benefits from this event that is now more than 50 years old and to re-brand it for the future.

Meanwhile, the tourism minister noted that while the number of yachts taking part in ASW has dropped to 56 this year, down from over 300 at the height of its popularity, there are now more yachts that are coming to the country than before. This is because of the several regattas such as the RORC races with which the government has signed a four-year deal this year.

Fernandez said the new regatta will take place in 2027 as the ministry and its partners will need the extra time to identify a major sponsor and to undertake a massive marketing campaign.



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CIU head calls for a rethink of attitudes towards CBI programmes

Against the backdrop of strengthening oversight of the Citizenship By Investment programmes, Chief Executive Officer of the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU), Charmaine Donovan, calls for a change in attitudes towards these programmes operated by Antigua and Barbuda and four other OECS territories.

Delivering the keynote address at the start of Day 2 of last week's Caribbean Investment Summit (CIS'25), Donovan is inviting members of the public to take a closer look at these programmes with the expectation that minds will be changed.

"While these programmes have often faced criticism — portrayed as mere passport sales schemes, facilitators of identity changes, or even avenues for illicit actors — a closer, more informed look reveals a very different story. For small island developing states, CBI revenues have been transformative, delivering tangible benefits in infrastructure, public health, education, agriculture, and economic support," she observed.

Donovan added that these



funds have enabled governments to make critical investments that directly improve the lives of their citizens.

The CEO wants the five CBI programmes, or investment migration programmes as they are now being referred to, to undertake strategic global positioning as a priority.

"It is time to move beyond the outdated and overly simplistic perception of Caribbean Citizenship by Investment programmes as merely transactional. Instead, we must present the Caribbean as a region anchored in stability, democratic governance, the rule of law, and forward-looking opportunity," she suggested.

According to Donovan... the OECS programmes offer more than alternative citizenship or enhanced global mobility—they represent an invitation to enter into a long-term, values-driven partnership with nations committed to sustainable development and shared prosperity.

"Through comprehensive reforms, strengthened due diligence practices, and greater transparency in how revenues are allocated, Caribbean countries are actively redefining the concept of global citizenship. The imminent regional regulatory framework, provides us with a unique opportunity to set the global benchmark for integrity, innovation, and 6 impact in the investment migration industry. The Caribbean is not just participating in this space—we are shaping its future."

Following the success of this year's CIS, the administrators of the programmes in the five states — St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda — will gather in St. Lucia next year for CIS'26.

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Sir Molwyn Joseph calls for immediate action to protect the environment for current and future generations



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Health and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has underscored the importance of preserving the environment in the OECS for future generations as he welcomed regional colleagues to a Ministerial Roundtable on the OECS 30x30 Transformation Program taking place here in St. John's.

In his remarks, Sir Molwyn emphasized the need for current leaders to take steps to protect and preserve the environment for the benefit of not only today's generations, but also for the generations in the future.

Sir Molwyn welcomed the proposal to establish a Regional Conservation Center within the OECS framework. However, he said the sub-region needs to do more than just setting up institutions

"Beyond institutions and programs, let us be clear: this is about our people, and about the generations who will inherit these islands after us. We have a profound obligation to ensure that future generations are not disadvantaged by the decisions—or indecisions—we make today.

"They must have confidence that the governments of this region are not only acting decisively but are including and empowering them as true partners in the work of conservation and sustainable management," he emphasized.

The Environment Minister also made the point that conservation is not a peripheral issue but central to protecting economies and lives. "It is central to protecting our economies, our resilience, and our identity as Caribbean peoples. It must be at the very heart of our efforts to defend and nurture the natural systems upon which all life in our region depends," he stated.

Sir Molwyn reminded his colleagues that they were no longer

in a position to debate whether nature-based solutions are worthwhile—they are indispensable. "Without healthy ecosystems, there can be no climate resilience. Without biodiversity, there can be no sustainable development.

"So let this roundtable mark a point of convergence—where we unify our efforts, clarify our priorities, and commit to concrete, measurable next steps," he declared.

The Ministerial Roundtable seeks to bring the OECS territories to commit to regional collaboration, solidarity, and institutional commitment in order to achieve the conservation of at least 30% of region's territorial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems by 2030.



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Renaissance "THE REBIRTH"



Abigail Piper
St. John's Rural North



Amiaha James
St. Mary's South



Danijha Simon
St. John's Rural South



Aaliyah Taylor
St. John's Rural West



Jamona Samuel
All Saints East & St. Luke



Coshana Constant
St. Phillip's North



Alisha Alie
St. George



Tia James
St. John's Rural East



Christine Powell
St. John's City West



Cyczique Teague
St. Pauls

OECS Environmental Sustainability Exhibition Opens at UWI Five Islands Campus

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus, officially launched the OECS Environmental Sustainability Exhibition Monday at the UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua.

The opening ceremony welcomed key stakeholders, students, and members of the public. Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph was in attendance and available to engage with exhibitors and visitors, highlighting the importance of environmental resilience and sustainability within the Eastern Caribbean.

The Exhibition, running from April 28 to April 30, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, showcases innovative technologies, interactive environmental education tools, and virtual reality experiences designed to raise awareness and promote environmental stewardship across the region.

The Exhibition is made possible through the collaboration of the OECS, the European Union's Global Gateway initiative, BioSPACE, and COMES12, bringing together a wide cross-section of organizations



Health and Environment Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph at OECS Environment Exhibition launch at UWI FIC



Chief Environment Officer, Ambassador Diane Black-Layne and Environment Ambassador, Ruletta Camacho-Thomas

dedicated to sustainable development.

Visitors are encouraged to take part in the Exhibition

to discover cutting-edge solutions for climate adaptation, conservation efforts, and environmental sustainability.

Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend and participate in shaping a greener, smarter Caribbean future.

Renaissance
"THE REBIRTH"



Danijha **SIMON**

Danijha Simon is an accomplished dancer, educator, and choreographer, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Education from The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica. Known for her technical excellence, innovative choreography, and creative teaching methods, she has performed and taught across renowned companies and festivals in Jamaica and Anguilla.

Her journey began at age three, dancing at preschool, which ignited a passion she pursued throughout her youth. By age seven, she became the dance captain of her school's group and later joined the renowned Shivas School of Dance, earning the Principal Dancer award in 2017. Beyond dance, she enjoys nature, sports, and spending time with loved ones and animals.

Danijha's dedication to youth development shines in her teaching, where she fosters technical growth and encourages students to develop their artistic voices. She aspires to inspire future generations and advance the arts in Antigua and Barbuda.



Currently, she also works as the Administrative Services Coordinator at the General Insurance Company Limited, showcasing her strong work ethic and customer service skills.

Guided by Normani Kordei's quote, "Dancing is more than just moving the body parts. It is a pathway of expressing your deepest inner thoughts," Danijha continues to embody the transformative power of movement in every aspect of her life.

Delegate 3
St. John's Rural South

Vaccination Week of the Americas 2025 officially opens



Launch of Vaccination Week

The Ministry of Health, officially launched Vaccination Week of the Americas 2025 at its headquarters in St. John's on Monday.

Minister of Health Molwyn Joseph was the featured speaker at the event. Also in attendance were the Minister of State, Senator Michael Joseph, Permanent Secretary with responsibility for Primary Healthcare, Stacey Gregg-Paige, Chief

Medical Officer, Dr. Kamaria De-Castro, Acting Principal Nursing Officer, Clarissa Christopher, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Manager, Soria Dupie, PAHO Country Specialist, Felicia Carter along with other senior technical officers, nurses, community health aides, and healthcare sector representatives.

This year's activities are being

held under the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) theme: *"Your Decision Makes a Difference."*

Throughout the week, several activities are planned to raise awareness and increase access to vaccinations:

- 29th–30th April: Education Seminar for Healthcare Workers
- 1st–2nd May: School Vaccination Days at various schools and clinics (8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- 3rd May: Hospitality Worker Vaccination Day

The Ministry encourages everyone to make the decision to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

Vaccines save lives — your decision truly makes a difference!

#VaccinationWeek2025 #Your-DecisionMakesTheDifference #GetVaccinated



Soria Dupie, Expanded Programme of Immunization Manager



Section of the audience during the launch exercise

Renaissance
"THE REBIRTH"



Aaliyah TAYLOR

Aaliyah Taylor is a dedicated and accomplished student, currently a senior at Florida International University, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Science with a minor in Dance. Upon completing her degree in Fall 2025, Aaliyah will become the second female Forensic Scientist in Antigua and Barbuda.

Driven by excellence and creativity, she continues to inspire others while pursuing her dreams and making an impact across every field she enters.

Her academic journey began at Antigua State College, where she earned an Associate's Degree in Science and Technology and was recognized as the region's top student in Performing Arts (Dance). While there, she was crowned Miss Antigua State College 2019, showcasing her intelligence and artistic talent.



Delegate 4
St. John's Rural West

Beyond academics, Aaliyah is a dynamic performer and entrepreneur. She is a member of the Prestige Majorette Squad, the Karizma Dance Squad, the Caribbean Student Union, and the Black Student Union at FIU. She shares her dance expertise as an assistant instructor at Elite Dancers Antigua and contributes to steelpan music as a stage-side member of Pandemonium and Panache Steel Orchestras.

As an entrepreneur, Aaliyah owns Fauxbae Glam Artistry, a beauty brand, and High Risers Cultural Performers, which celebrates Caribbean culture through dance and stilt walking. She is also an all-around athlete, playing volleyball with the Stars Volleyball Team. With a passion for cultural expression and youth empowerment, she aspires to establish her own Dance Academy and become a Certified Dance Instructor, furthering her studies in the arts at Edna Manley College in Jamaica.

Local News

Search for missing 21-yr old Trinidadian man continues



A Trinidad and Tobago national who arrived in Antigua and Barbuda two weeks ago and who went missing immediately after has not been located despite efforts by local volunteers and law enforcement to locate him.

The police have confirmed that Thomas ‘Tommy’ Vasquez arrived in Antigua on April 14 and was believed to have been staying with someone in Pares Village. He apparently went missing the next day, April 15, but no reports were made to the police until April 20, five days after.

The police say Vasquez was dropped off at a dwelling house in Pares and has not been heard from since. He was last seen in a black t-shirt, a pair of long black jeans and wearing a pair of white Nike Air Force sneakers. There has been

no known contact from Vasquez to anyone, as far as the police can determine. The police undertook a search for the missing man without success and by last

weekend, the volunteer group, Concerned Citizens, got involved and began mobilizing search efforts to locate him.

On Monday, the group with the assistance of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force carried out an extensive search beginning at the Willikies Police Station.

According to President Dr. Jacqui Quinn: “We have been in touch with Candy Jageshar Vasquez and we have put her in touch with Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers. She is distraught and desperate to find her son.”

“We have given her the assurance that all efforts will be combined with the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Bar-

buda and civilians to mount a comprehensive search using drone technology, the K9 unit, vehicular and foot searches.”

A 12-member team from the Antigua and Barbuda Force, Defence, including the drone unit joined civilians in the manhunt n Monday.

Quinn has suggested that there was a strong lead which the search team found but which required the assistance of the police. Five officers from Willikies Police station and one from Parham joined the search party and assisted with these leads.

The search continues on Wednesday at 9:00 am starting from the Willikies Police station.



ABDF officers and members of the Concerned Citizens group review tactics prior to launching search

Two men who pleaded guilty on separate firearms and ammunition charges are returning to Court on Wednesday

Two men who appeared before a magistrate on separate firearms and ammunition charges on Monday and who entered guilty pleas have been ordered to return to court on Wednesday for sentencing.

32-year-old Neil Guye of Clare Hall who was arrested and charged on Saturday with unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition following the discovery of one (1) 9mm Colt pistol and ninety-five (95) rounds of matching ammunition in his possession. The discovery was made after the police executed a search warrant of Guye's home.

He pleaded guilty when he appeared Monday before Senior Magistrate, Ngaio Emanuel. The magistrate ordered that he returns to court on Wednesday when she will announce her decision.

In a separate matter, the 33-year-old Ridge Turner of Parham was arrested by the police on Saturday when police who were on patrol in the Grays Farm area, saw him acting suspicious and conducted a search on his person where he was found with an illegal firearm and ammunition.

Meanwhile, in a separate but related incident, Turner was further charged, along with 34-year-old Tristan Armstrong of Golden Grove and 31-year-old Kasey Wendrick of Crosbys, for Unlawful Possession of one



(.32mm) round of ammunition. The charge stems from an investigation where officers found the ammunition inside a vehicle occupied

by the trio in Grays Farm on the same morning.

The trio appeared before Magistrate Emanuel on Monday where Turner

pleaded guilty while the charges were withdrawn from the other two. Turner is due back in court on Wednesday to learn his fate.



The Antigua Trades & Labour Union (AT&LU) in conjunction with the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) invites you to the 74th Labour Day Anniversary Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 4th May, 2025 at 9 AM at the Gracehill Moravian Church, Liberta Village, St. Paul's, Antigua.



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Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission 2025

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- Carnival Floats
- The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Junior Calypso Monarch
- Junior Party Monarch
- LIAT 2020 T-Shirt Mas Troupes
- Koscab Junior Carnival
- Calypso Monarch
- APUA INET Party Monarch
- Koscab J'ouvert Troupes
- Individual Mas
- Road March
- Monday Wear
- Mas Troupes
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WHERE TO COLLECT FORMS:

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Beyond the Plate: “What Eating Local Really Means in Antigua and Barbuda”



Xavier Louard

For decades, we’ve shouted it from rooftops, plastered it on market walls, stitched it into the fabric of our food festivals: “Eat Local.” It’s a cultural call-to-arms and every vendor balling fungee and ladling pepperpot at the Independence Food Fair, stands as a quiet warrior for it.

But after all these years—what’s actually changed?

Step into any Antiguan and Barbudan kitchen, school, hotel buffet line, or roadside cook shop, and you’ll see it plain as day: our plates are globalized, our supply chains stretched thin, and our food security hanging by a thread. Yes, we’ve made gains. Egg production is up, and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) are putting in the work. However, our grains, oils, dairy, and even salted fish still come stamped with foreign barcodes. Saltfish pollock from the North Atlantic, cornmeal and smoked herring from who knows where. Our youths’ lunch bags

are filled with imports. Our supermarkets read like a catalog of international brands while local and regional brands fight for space on the shelf.

“Eat Local” became a slogan. But not yet a strategy

It’s easy to celebrate local food in theory—much harder to build the systems that make it practical. Because this isn’t just about what’s on your plate for Sunday lunch. It’s about what’s served at the hotel buffet or tucked into a lunch box. It’s about what products carry the Antiguan and Barbudan name abroad. And it’s about ensuring those products exist in the first place. We have the soil. The sun. The talent. The stories. But those alone don’t feed a nation. In order for our local food economy to thrive, we need more than nostalgia—we need investment. Spaces where raw ingredients can be transformed into shelf-ready goods that actually reach the market. Look at our internationally acclaimed Suzie’s Hot Sauce. Once a staple in homes here and overseas, now barely seen. Not because the flavour disappeared—but because the systems around it failed to keep up. That’s what happens when passion isn’t matched with policy. Still, there’s fire in the coals. And right now, it’s burning brightest during May for Culinary Month in Antigua and Barbuda. It is more than just fancy restaurant menus and gourmet photo ops. Culinary Month is a love letter to our food culture.

Spanning steaming Ital soup served by the roadside to upscale kitchens reinventing tradition with flair. You’ll find barbecue smoke drafting from beach grills, and maybe even enjoy a postcard-perfect local amuse bouche on a breezy patio overlooking the sea. If you pay attention, you might find gems like a Caribbean-Asian fusion ducana offering that somehow works, teaching old roots new tricks. Meanwhile, your favorite cook shop still holds it down. Sometimes with no menu and no measuring cups, just

bold flavours and vibes. One day it’s pepperpot, the next, goat water which hits like a warm punch—rich, greasy, and unapologetic—leaving your lips slick and shining like you’d just kissed the face of the islands. A place where the food tastes different every week, but somehow it always hits. Cooking without recipes but in rhythm and feel. Culinary Month reminds us that local cuisine isn’t a relic. It’s evolving and breathing because in Antigua and Barbuda there’s no single definition of “local” here. There’s only what’s loved, cooked, and shared.

But it should also make us think, because “eating like a local” in 2025 shouldn’t just be an Instagram caption, it should be a blueprint. A living system that shapes what ends up in school lunches, on hotel plates, and on export lists. It means putting our money where our mouth is—literally.

As Chef Anika Samuel puts it, “We can’t just celebrate our cuisine during festivals; we need to integrate it into our daily lives and economies.”

She’s right. According to the World Bank, Antigua and Barbuda imported over US\$628 million in goods in 2022—much of that, food. So, while we praise the maw and rice pudding and post the grilled lobster, our shopping carts still tell a different story.

So maybe the slogan needs an upgrade. Not just “Eat Local.” But “Grow local. Process local. Value local. Eat local.” Not just because it tastes better but because it makes us stronger. And as other nations look inwardly, protecting their farmers, securing their economies—why shouldn’t we?

The writer Xavier Louard is a graduate of the Baptist Academy of Antigua and a Food Scientist with a Bachelor of Science degree (Hons) in Food Science with a specialisation in Food Product Development from Taylor’s University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

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



POINTE FM 99.1

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Feature

Aaliyah Taylor and Senator Michael Joseph Empower Through Hygiene Education and Compassion



Aaliyah and Ms Christian of Greenbay Primary



Senator Michael Joseph interacts with students

In a heartwarming return to their roots, Senator Michael Joseph and Labour Queen Pageant contestant #4 representing St. John's Rural West, Aaliyah Taylor visited the Grade 6 students of Five Islands Primary School, their alma mater, and the Green Bay Primary School to launch a meaningful community initiative focused on hygiene education and self-care.

With secondary school just around the corner for many of these students, the duo spoke candidly about the importance of personal hygiene during adolescence, emphasizing not just the physical benefits but also how it contributes to

self-confidence and mutual respect.

Aaliyah Taylor led an engaging session, breaking down the purpose of each item in a hygiene kit, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, wipes, travel-sized deodorant and lotion, as well as sanitary napkins for female students. She also delivered a heartfelt message on the importance of compassion, encouraging students to care for themselves and others with empathy and kindness.

Each student received a starter hygiene kit, thoughtfully curated to include essential items while allowing room for personalization. "We wanted to provide the

basics and empower them to make it their own," said Taylor.

The initiative was both educational and enjoyable, offering students practical tools and life lessons, while giving these past students the opportunity to give back to the school that helped shape their journey.

"This was more than just a donation—it was a full circle moment for us," Taylor shared. "It reminded us of the importance of investing in our youth and showing them that they are seen, supported, and capable."

Senator Michael Joseph, who also serves as the Junior Minister of Health,

expressed his pride in the initiative and the direction it's taking. "I'm incredibly grateful that Aaliyah chose a project that speaks directly to health, wellness, and holistic development," he stated. "As an advocate for the youth, I will always invest in their future. Initiatives like this sow seeds of knowledge and self-respect that can last a lifetime."

And this is just the beginning. They both plan to continue the initiative at upcoming youth camps and community gatherings, ensuring more young people have access to the tools and encouragement they need to thrive.



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Christine Powell: Representing PM Browne and SJCW, Champions Youth empowerment



Pm Browne and Christine at Villa Primary School

Christine Powell, a delegate in the Labour Queen 2025 Pageant representing the Honourable Gaston Browne and the constituency of St. John's City West, is already proving herself to be a delegate of purpose, passion, and profound impact.

Earlier, Powell embarked on a two-day community outreach initiative aimed at uplifting the youth of City West. Accompanied by Prime Minister Browne, she visited the Villa Primary School, where she distributed school backpacks to students, read engaging stories, and encouraged them to dream big.

"Children need more than supplies, they need to see people who believe in them," Powell shared. "Today I wasn't just a pageant delegate. I was a big sister, a motivator, and most of all, a believer in their dreams."

She also led an engaging, interactive motivational session at the Villa Polyclinic titled "You Can Be Anything!" Designed for Grade 6 students, the session featured printed images of everyday professionals, as Powell guided the students in visualizing their



Christine Powell at Villa PolyClinic

own future possibilities. The session concluded with students sharing their dream careers, which Powell affirmed with inspiring words tailored to each child.

Powell's message was clear: "There's no dream too big when you believe in yourself and put in the work."

The Honourable Gaston Browne praised Powell's initiative, stating:

"Christine is a shining example of what it means to give back with purpose. Her passion for uplifting others reflects the true spirit of the Labour Queen Pageant, service, sincerity, and strength. She reminds me so much of the giving spirit of the people of City West. Like me, Christine comes from humble beginnings, and it's clear that she's using her platform to empower the next generation, just as we were once empowered."

In addition to the outreach, Powell has previously participated in public consultations and continues to express a strong desire to support the development of the constituency and its people. Her campaign as a delegate is rooted in authentic service and a genuine desire to inspire.



Christine Powell With Student

The Labour Queen Pageant has long stood as a platform to highlight young women who are committed to national development, and Christine Powell is making it clear that her reign, should she earn the crown, will be marked by service, empathy, and impact.



Christine Powell With Student

Regional News



Dominica: One Dead, one injured in Roseau shooting

One man is dead and another injured following a shooting incident in Roseau on Sunday afternoon.

According to the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force (CDPF), the incident is being treated as a homi-

cide and attempted murder, and an active investigation is underway.

Police reports indicate that the shooting occurred around 6:30 p.m. in an area known as Washington Block. Two young men

were shot and transported to the Dominica China Friendship Hospital (DCFH), where they were treated for injuries to the upper torso.

One of the victims, identified as Kimmon Emmanuel, succumbed to his injuries at

approximately 9:06 p.m.

Authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward as investigations continue. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Haiti repatriates its nationals from neighbouring Dominican Republic



Haiti says it has conducted a voluntary repatriation operation for 720 of its nationals after the Dominican Republic government ordered the complete demolition of the houses in the illegal Haitian ghetto of Mata Mosquito, better known there as "Pequeño Haiti".

The Haitians, who had taken refuge in rugged terrain and ravines to escape harassment by Dominican immigration agents, were able to travel on buses for their voluntary return to the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

The operations had been supervised by Haitian Consul in Higüey, Wenceslas Lambert, who coordinated the details on the ground until the nine buses departed along Boulevard de l'Est, heading towards the official border crossings of Dajabón, Comendador, and Pedernales.

The operation benefited from the support of the Zilé Foundation through former ambassador Edwin Paraison and Dr Joseph Chérubin and his team from the Social Movement for Sociocultural and Environmental Work (Mostha).

Nearly 300 agents from the Directorate General of Migration (DGM) were deployed to "facilitate" the departure of the Haitians. A DGM unit also headed the bus convoy.

On Sunday, several Dominicans protested the presence of illegal Haitians in the country as they backed President Luis Abinader's decision to demand ID documents from those seeking hospital or maternity care.

Protesters carried signs reading "Expel them already," "The Dominican Republic is for Dominicans," and "We're fed up" at the demonstration near the presidential palace.

President Abinader has taken a tough line on migration from Haiti since coming to power in 2020. Earlier this month, he unveiled a new protocol requiring medical staff to ask foreigners for identification documents, a letter from an employer, proof of residence and payment for their care.

Last Monday, 87 women and 48 children were arrested in hospitals and maternity wards across the Dominican Republic, with more than half of those women pregnant, according to official figures.

The rest had recently given birth. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Guyana: Senior police officer dies in early morning car crash

Authorities in Regional Division 4'C' are investigating a fatal accident that claimed the life of a senior officer of the Guyana Police Force in the early hours of Sunday, April 27, 2025.

Deputy Superintendent Dexter Brown, 37, of Toucan Drive, South Ruimveldt Gardens, Georgetown, died following a car crash along the Montrose Public Road, East Coast Demerara, around 1:20am.

According to police reports, Brown was driving motorcar PAG 6458, which is owned by a 30-year-old businesswoman from Ann's Grove, E.C.D, when he lost control of the vehicle while reportedly speeding west-



ward on the roadway.

The vehicle collided with a concrete bridge, flipped,


and became submerged in a nearby trench.

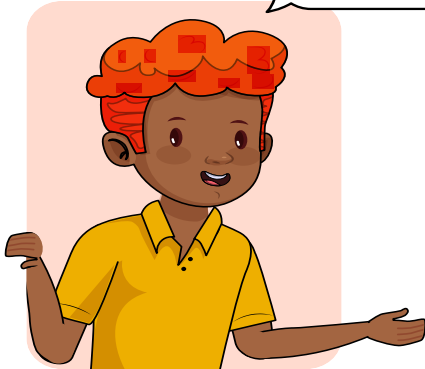
Members of the public and

the police worked together to retrieve Brown from the submerged car. He was found unconscious and rushed to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, where he was pronounced dead by a medical doctor.


The vehicle involved in the accident has been taken to the Sparendam Police Station for inspection by a licensing and certifying officer. Brown's body is currently at the Georgetown Public Hospital Mortuary awaiting a post-mortem examination.


Police say investigations into the circumstances surrounding the crash are ongoing. (*Loop Caribbean*)





Hi I'm Piper





And I'm Dewey

Water works wonders.

Every drop counts, preserve it!

Regional News



Killed by cops: Family in anguish



The family of Visham Ryan Lochan, who was fatally shot by police along with Shumba James last Friday, has called for an independent investigation into the incident.

Fazool Mohammed, a relative of the wife of Lochan, who said he considered Lochan “a brother”, would like the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) to investigate the shooting which claimed the two lives.

Mohammed told the Express yesterday that the Lochan family was in anguish over the death of Lochan, who was the father to a three-year-old boy. James, 40, and Visham Ryan Lochan, 34, were sitting in Lochan’s Nissa Tida near B’s Sports Bar in their village of St Mary’s, Moruga, when they were approached around 10 a.m. by Southern Division Task Force officers.

Assistant Commissioner of Police for the Southern and Southwestern Police Division Wayne Mystar said there was an exchange of gunfire and police recovered two pistols in the car.

James and Lochan were struck several times, placed in the police vehicle, and taken to the Princes Town District Health Facility where they were

pronounced dead.

James was the first person against whom a detention order was made during the recent state of emergency (SoE) and who police said was linked to several murders, extortion, and gun-running.

“We are looking for justice,” said Mohammed. “I want to reach the PCA on this. Whoever did the shooting and killed them, it wasn’t right.”

Mohammed said that hours after the fatal shootings, a team of police officers came to Lochan’s house.

“The police came in the afternoon and said they were going to search but they did not do it. Another jeep pulled up with more senior officers and told that first one to leave. They didn’t stay long. I don’t know what they are trying to cook up. My two brothers are gone. Somebody has to answer for that. I want justice for their deaths,” said Mohammed.

The relative said that Lochan’s son has been asking for his father, but other relatives are comforting him.

“His son does not know too much. He is asking for him but we are keeping him distracted as he has a lot of people around. He is not getting the feeling yet,” said Mohammed.

The post-mortems are expected to be done this week at the Forensic Science Centre in Federation Park.

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) in a media release last Friday said the three separate incidents in which four men were shot dead by officers on Friday will be fully and independently investigated.

James, 40, and Lochan, 34, were two of four people fatally shot by the police on Friday. Also shot dead were Ronnel Marcelle during a confrontation in Egypt, Bethel, Tobago, and Devon Sotio, 44, of Clifton Street, East Dry River, Port of Spain, in Longdenville, in unrelated incidents.

Police have killed 30 people for the year so far.

DCP Intelligence and Investigations Suzette Martin said that the TTPS acknowledged the public concern surrounding three fatal police-involved shootings that occurred on Friday, and extended condolences to the families affected.

“At the same time, the TTPS reaffirms our duty to maintain law and order, often in rapidly evolving and dangerous situations. We assure the public that each incident will be subject to a full, transparent and independent investigation to ensure accountability and to maintain trust in the police service,” the release stated.

The media statement gave information regarding the St Mary’s Village, Moruga, shooting, stating that officers of the Southern Division Task Force responded to information concerning two armed men in a vehicle at St Mary’s Village, Moruga.

“Upon approaching the vehicle, officers instructed the driver and passenger to turn the window glass down. The passenger allegedly exited the vehicle, pointed a firearm at the officers, and fired in their direction. Officers, seeing the immediate threat to their lives, discharged their service firearms, injuring the man. The driver subsequently exited the vehicle and also allegedly fired at the officers, resulting in officers returning fire. Both assailants were transported to the Princes Town Health Facility, where they were pronounced dead. One of the deceased was Shumba James, who was known to the police. The other man killed by police was Visham Ryan Lochan, the driver of the car James was in. Two firearms—a pistol and a revolver—were recovered at the scene,” the police statement said.

(*Trinidad Express*)

Spain, Portugal and southwestern France hit by massive power outage

Spain, Portugal and parts of southwestern France have been hit by a widespread power blackout that paralysed public transport, caused large traffic jams, delayed flights, and left residents unable to access cash from ATMs, as utility operators scrambled to restore the grid.

Investigations into the causes of the outage are ongoing and no cyberattack has been so far reported. The entity responsible for transmitting electricity in Portugal, REN, said a rare atmospheric phenomenon in Spain due to extreme temperature variations in the country's interior caused the power outages across the Iberian

Peninsula.

The Spanish and Portuguese governments convened emergency cabinet meetings after the outage on Monday, which also briefly affected a part of France bordering northeastern Spain.

The head of operations of Spain's grid operator REE, Eduardo Prieto, told a news conference that restoring power to the Spanish electric grid could take six to 10 hours.

The Spanish government urged residents to stay put to avoid traffic chaos. "The government is working to identify the origin of this incident and dedicating all possible resources to re-



solve it as quickly as possible," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's office said.

The European Commission said it was "in contact" with local authorities "to understand the underlying cause" of the blackout. "The commission will keep monitor-

ing the situation and make sure that there is smooth information exchange amongst all relevant parties," a spokesperson for the EU's executive arm said. *(Al Jazeera English)*





THE PDV HOUR

MONDAYS
11AM - 12NOON

MRS. JELLETTE RALPH
(JELLY BEANS)

Conclave to elect a new pope will start on May 7 as cardinals get to know one another



Catholic cardinals on Monday set May 7 as the start date for the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor, delaying the secret voting for two days so they can get to know one another better and find consensus on a candidate before they are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel. The cardinals set the date after arriving for the first day of informal meetings following Pope Francis' funeral Saturday. In a chaotic scene, journalists shouted questions about the mood inside and whether there was unity. A reporter for a satirical Italian television program asked whether an Italian cardinal who has been convicted by the Vatican criminal court on finance-related charges would be allowed to vote. The conclave could have opened as early as May 5, but the cardinals gave themselves extra time to speak in more informal sessions that include cardinals over age 80, who will not be allowed into the Sistine Chapel once the conclave begins. They will next meet on Tuesday morning.

"There is the hope of unity," said Argentine Cardinal Ángel Sixto Rossi, the 66-year-old archbishop of Cordoba who Francis made a cardinal in 2023. Many cardinals cited the desire to continue Francis' pastoral focus on people who are marginalized and against war. But conservatives may be more focused on forging unity and refocusing the church back on core doctrines emphasized by St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, rather than continuing Francis' social justice focus and outreach to women and gays. British Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the 79-year-old archbishop of Westminster, was adamant that the church must strive for unity, and he downplayed divisions. "The role of the pope is to essentially hold us together and that's the grace we've been given from God," Nichols said. Venezuelan Cardinal Baltazar Enrique Porras Cardozo expressed confidence that once the conclave begins, a decision would be quick, "between two and three

days."

The College of Cardinals that will elect a new pope includes members from far-flung corners of the globe whom Francis named over his 12-year papacy to bring in new points of view — often at the expense of traditional centers of Catholicism.

Many have spent little or no time in Rome getting to know colleagues, injecting some uncertainty into a process that requires two-thirds of the voting-age cardinals to coalesce behind a single candidate.

Nichols acknowledged that the 135 cardinal electors — 108 of whom were appointed by Francis — don't know each other very well. The last 20 were appointed in early December.

"We've got all week," Nichols said as he arrived.

Only cardinals under 80 are eligible to vote, and it is not clear how many of the 135 will participate. A Spanish cardinal has said he won't come to Rome for health reasons.

A big uncertainty is whether Cardinal Angelo Becciu, once one of the most powerful cardinals in the Vatican, will be allowed in the Sistine Chapel.

Francis in 2020 forced Becciu to resign as head of the Vatican's saint-making office and renounce his rights as a cardinal because of allegations of embezzlement and financial fraud. Becciu denied any wrongdoing but was put on trial in the Vatican criminal court and convicted of finance-related

charges in December, 2023. He is appealing the conviction and has participated in the pre-conclave meetings, but there is a lingering question about whether he is entitled to vote. The Vatican's official statistics list him as a "non-elect." When he was ousted in 2020, Becciu told a hastily arranged press conference that he wouldn't be voting in any future conclave, but recently he has insisted he is entitled to vote, and canon lawyers have been poring over the Vatican document regulating the conclave to determine if he's right.

The case was discussed Monday by cardinals but there was "no resolution," the Vatican said.

While Francis stacked the ranks with his cardinals, it is not necessarily the case that all of them will want to see the church continue in his image.

On Monday, any glimpse of a red cap appearing along St Peter's Square's stately colonnade set journalists running with cameras and voice recorders aloft to capture the mood inside.

Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, considered a contender to be the next pope, navigated the scrum of journalists with humour, joking that he was "holding his breath" as the microphones and cameras surrounded him all the way to the Vatican gate.

Nigerian Cardinal John Olorunfemi Okafor, the emeritus archbishop of Abuja, was asked if the African cardinals were co-

con't on pg25

Russia declares 72-hour unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine from May 8

Russia has declared a 72-hour unilateral ceasefire in Ukraine to coincide with its most sacrosanct national holiday marking the World War II defeat of Nazi Germany, Victory Day, calling on Kyiv to agree to the pause.

Ukraine was quick in its response, which came soon after the Russian proposal on Monday.

“If Russia truly wants peace, it must cease fire immediately,” Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said, according to his ministry. He reiterated that Ukraine is ready for a “lasting, reliable, and complete ceasefire” for at least 30 full days.

“Why wait for May 8? If we can cease fire now from any date and for 30 days – so that it is real, and not just for a parade,” he said, without confirming whether Kyiv would accept the truce proposal.

Earlier, President Vladimir Putin said Russian forces would halt fighting from midnight on May 7-8 to midnight on May 10-11. The announcement came amid



rising pressure from the United States to agree to a full ceasefire in the conflict.

Russia will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Great Patriotic War, the term it uses for its war with the Third Reich from 1942 to 1945, commonly known as World War II, on May 9.

“During this period, all hostilities will cease,” the Kremlin said in a

statement. Putin made the decision on “humanitarian grounds”, it added.

The Kremlin statement called on Kyiv to join the ceasefire, but pledged that in the event of any violations by the Ukrainians, Russia’s armed forces would give an “adequate and effective response”.

(Al Jazeera English)

con't from pg 24

alescing around a particular candidate.

African bishops had made a remarkably united stand last year against Francis’ outreach to LGBTQ+ people, refusing to implement his declaration allowing priests to offer blessings to same-sex couples. Given such a stand, there is some speculation that the 18 African cardinal electors could help block

a progressive candidate from emerging.

“We have not come here for a political rally. We have come to get a pope out,” said Onaiyekan, who at 81 is too old to vote but can have a role in influencing how younger electors might.

Indian Cardinal Anthony Poola, the 61-year-old archbishop of Hyderabad, said he had experienced a sense of unity among

his fellow cardinals but allowed that “anything could happen.” As a relatively young cardinal, Poola is one of four Indian electors who will participate in the conclave, three of whom, including Poola, were named by Francis.

“Anyone who is coming up must be the successor of St. Peter, and we all hope that he will be a good pope,” he said.

Rossi, the Argentine car-

dinal, said he hoped that Francis’ message of “mercy, closeness, charity, tenderness and faith,” would accompany them in finding a successor.

But he acknowledged the job was daunting. Asked how he felt about participating in his first conclave, he responded with a laugh: “Afraid.” *(Jamaica Gleaner)*

FIXTURES

27TH APRIL - 11 MAY 2025



PRELIMINARIES



PYTHONS VS TIGERS

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025
(4:00 PM)



LIONS VS CRUSHERS

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL 2025
(7:00 PM)



NATION VS PYTHONS

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025
(4:00 PM)



BLACKHAWKS VS TIGERS

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025
(7:00 PM)



LIONS VS TIGERS

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025
(4:00 PM)



PYTHONS VS CRUSHERS

THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025
(7:00 PM)



CRUSHERS VS BLACKHAWKS

SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025
(3:00 PM)



NATION VS TIGERS

SATURDAY, 3 MAY 2025
(6:00 PM)



CRUSHERS VS NATION

SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025
(3:00 PM)



BLACKHAWKS VS LIONS

SUNDAY, 4 MAY 2025
(6:00 PM)



NATION VS LIONS

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025
(4:00 PM)



TIGERS VS CRUSHERS

TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2025
(7:00 PM)



BLACKHAWKS VS NATION

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025
(4:00 PM)



PYTHONS VS LIONS

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025
(7:00 PM)



BLACKHAWKS VS PYTHONS

FRIDAY, 9 MAY 2025
(6:00 PM)

ELIMINATOR

2ND PLACE VS 3RD PLACE

SATURDAY, 10 MAY 2025 (5:00 PM)

FINALS

WINNER OF ELIMINATOR VS 1ST PLACE

SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2025 (6:00 PM)

Lions win opening match in Antigua T20 Premier League



Nino Henry



Amahl Nathaniel

The New Winthorpes Lions made a successful start to the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda T20 Premier League on Sunday.

The Lions defeated the Pigotts Crushers by 19 runs in their opening encounter at the Pigotts playing field.

Set 132 to win, the Crushers were dismissed for 112 with three balls to spare. Amahl Nathaniel hit an unbeaten 67 off 56 balls, including nine fours and two sixes.

But opener Uri Smith, who scored 10, was the only other Pigotts Crushers batsman to reach double figures.

Demari Benta grabbed three for 12, captain of the New Winthorpes Lions and fast bowler Nino Henry bagged three for 26, and Ian Eusebe picked up two for 18.

The Lions made 131 for eight off their allotted 20 overs after being sent in to bat. Opening batsman Jermaine Ottos slammed 41 off 30 balls, including four fours and two sixes.

Bartlette Henry hit a run-a-ball 27, Keeshan Daawuud struck 18, and Asher Murray-Cornelius got 14. Crushers skipper Kadeem Henry took two for 24, and fast bowler Glen Williams captured

two for 26.

However, the opening match of the tournament between the Jennings Tigers and All Saints Pythons was abandoned due to the wet conditions at the Pigotts playing field.

The six-team domestic tournament was originally slated to be played exclusively at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

However, the organizers were forced to switch the matches to the Pigotts and Liberta communities due to the major financial requirements that are required to host the tournament at

the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The organizers say the required cost to host the tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium is prohibitive.

The tournament will continue with three matches at Liberta and Pigotts on Saturday. The All Saints Pythons will face the New Winthorpes Lions at 11 am, and the Jennings Tigers will face the Liberta Blackhawks at 2:30 pm at Liberta.

Empire Nation will take on the Crushers at the Pigotts playing field at 2:30 pm.

Sports News



Chargers-Eagles 1 stay top of ABAVA's Second Division League

City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours, Chargers Eagles 1 maintained their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Women's Division 2 Development League on Sunday.

The Chargers Eagles 1 notched up their fourth win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against Dynasty Queens 2 at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Chargers Eagles 1 soared past Dynasty Queens 2, winning the opening set by default 25-0 and taking the second 25-20. The Dynasty Queens 2 remain in the cellar of the nine-team round-robin second division after suffering their fourth defeat in as many games.

Starz 2 Juniors consolidated their position in second place by securing their third win in five encounters with a 2-0 victory against DHS Enterprises, Print Express, and Auto



The City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours, Chargers Eagles 1 women's volleyball team.

Craze Royal Cruisers 2 in another women's Division 2 affair.

Starz 2 Juniors took just 28 minutes to secure their victory, winning the opening set by default 25-0 and prevailing 25-20 in the second set. It was the second loss in three games for the Royal Cruisers 2.

City South Municipal Foundation Inc., Townhouse Furnishings, CIU, and MKUU Tours, Char-

gers-Velocity also consolidated their second-place position in the men's second division league.

The Chargers-Velocity notched up their third win in four games with a 2-0 victory against Invaders 2.

The Chargers Velocity took 49 minutes to prevail 25-14, 25-23 against Invaders 2, who remain in third place of the four-team men's second division league after suffering

their third loss in four encounters.

The ABAVA's First Division League will resume with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Former champions Paragons 1 will take on Royal Cruisers 1 in a women's Division 1 affair at 7 pm, and Invaders 1 will face Renegades in a men's first division encounter.

Open Daily –
12:00pm – 10:30pm

ANTIGUA currytandoorhouseanu curryhouseanu (268) 736-7165

Survivors get second win in women's softball cricket competition



Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors women's softball cricket team.

Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors maintained their successful start in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) St. John's Co-operative Credit Union 15-Over Women's Division Championship on Sunday.

Survivors won for the second time in as many games by pulling off a 44-run victory against Bravos Wholesale and Distributors Rockets at the Dredgers playing field.

Survivors made 109 for three off their allotted 15 overs. Sacha Michael hammered an unbeaten 47, Stacey Bright scored 18, and Cerie Richards hit 16 not

out. Shemique Benjamin and Valarie Isaac each captured one for 16.

In reply, the Rockets were restricted to 65 for seven off their 15 overs. Shemique Benjamin hit 31 not out, and Orentia Bisasor got 12 for the Rockets, who lost for the first time after beating Police in their opening encounter.

Menova Govia grabbed three for 15, while Leukelle Pelle took one for eight, and Sacha Michael claimed one for 11.

Lana Thomas and Annette Frank both hit half centuries as Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets claimed their first win of the compe-

tion with a crushing 84-run victory against Police at the Powells playing field.

Thomas hit an unbeaten 59, and Frank slammed 50 not out to lead Bullets to 144 for one off their 15 overs. Kelia Thomas captured one for 43.

Chasing a victory target of 145 runs, Police could only muster 60 for four off their 15 overs. Lelieth Joseph struck 17, and Louisa Quashie made 13 not out. Lana Thomas claimed two for 11, and Tonia Anthony picked up two for 14.

But the women's division encounter between Alzarri and Sharon Joseph North Sails Antigua Female Flyers

and Potters Uprising Cricket Team was abandoned due to wet conditions at the Potters playing field.

All three second-round matches in the men's division of the ABSCA WTP 93.5 FM 30-Over Championship were also abandoned due to the wet conditions of the match venues.

The matches are Goody's Taxi Service and Tours 300 against PMS, Rackaman Construction Strictly Business versus Dredgers, and Marcko Inc. Buckley's 3Js against Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets. Teams share the points in matches that are abandoned.

Sports News



PRESS RELEASE



Stuti Kashyap Claims Silver; Promising Debuts for Simmons and Loague at Caribbean Youth (U15 & U19) Championships

Bridgetown, Barbados – Antigua and Barbuda's young table tennis athletes delivered an inspiring performance at the 2025 Caribbean Regional Youth Championships, held April 20–26 at the Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Com-

plex.

Stuti Kashyap led the way, claiming a brilliant second-place finish in the Girls' U19 Singles. With composed and skillful play, the 16 year old Kashyap advanced through the group stage and knockout rounds, defeating strong opponents from across the region before finishing as runner-up in a spirited final. Her silver medal performance highlights her growing reputation as one of the Caribbean's rising stars.

Mekhi Simmons and Barrington Loague also made encouraging international debuts. Though they did not advance past the early rounds, their determination, adaptability, and positive attitude made their participation a true success, laying a strong foundation for future growth.

Special recognition goes to Aleena Edwards of Trinidad and Tobago, who served as coach and chaperone for Stuti, providing critical support and expert guidance throughout the competition. Tritia George, serving

as Team Manager, ensured smooth logistics and provided invaluable leadership to the team.

"We are incredibly proud of how our athletes represented Antigua and Barbuda," said Charles 'Chucky' Bellot, President of the Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association. *"Their performances, both on and off the table, show that our future in table tennis is bright. Special thanks to Aleena and Tritia for their outstanding support."*

The Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA) extends heartfelt congratulations to all athletes and staff for a job well done.

Very special mention and appreciation to the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee for making the team's participation in the championships possible.

For more information, contact:
Antigua and Barbuda Table Tennis Association (ABTTA)
Email: info@abttatennis.org
Phone: 268 720-8302

Da Project and All Saints Slam make winning starts to Division 1 playoffs



Da Project and All Saints Slam got off to winning starts in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division playoffs on Sunday evening.

Both teams took a one-nil lead in their best-of-three first-round series

after surging to commanding wins in their opening games at the JSC Sports Complex.

Third-seed Da Project pulled off a 92-68 victory against sixth-seed Lava Smoke Shop Warriors.

Terry Dawkins shot a game-high 24 points; T-Shawn Lewis sank 19 points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Donte Trimmingham produced 15 points, 10 rebounds, and six assists; and Sean Nicholas scored 10 points and snatched 11 rebounds for Da Project.

Lincoln Weekes sank 21 points; Kebo Orford produced 16 points, 15 rebounds, and eight steals; Shaquille Kelly converted 13 points and claimed eight rebounds; and Faisal Obeidat chipped in with nine points, five rebounds, and five steals for the War-

riors.

The fourth-seed All Saints Slam recorded a 94-64 victory against fifth-seed Spanish Heat.

Iornie Joseph shot a game-high 24 points and grabbed 21 rebounds; Humroy Wright sank 22 points; Wilkin Floyd produced 15 points, 11 rebounds, eight assists, and five steals; and Andrew Venture chipped in with 12 points, 11 assists, and five steals for All Saints Slam.

Nikon McGregor converted 20 points and claimed five rebounds; Bernard Andrew sank 13 points and snatched seven rebounds; Steven Matthew produced 10 points, seven rebounds, and five assists; and Gabriel Perez chipped in with nine points and seven rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

St. Kitts and Nevis club honours community giants at annual awards banquet



Vernon Springer, left, and other honourees at the St. Kitts-Nevis Graduates Soccer Club's 19th Annual Awards Banquet at the luxurious Eastwood Manor in the Bronx, New York. Springer, who has been residing in Antigua and Barbuda for the past several years, is host of the 'Pointe On De Streetz' current affairs program on Pointe FM 99.1.

In a dazzling evening of pride, heritage, and celebration, the St. Kitts-Nevis Graduates Soccer Club recently hosted its electrifying 19th Annual Awards Banquet at the luxurious Eastwood Manor in the Bronx — and it was nothing short of spectacular.

The ballroom shimmered with elegance and Caribbean pride as community champions were honoured for their outstanding contributions to the Kittitian and Nevisian Diaspora.

Awardees included the dynamic Avril Francis, veteran broadcaster and sports advocate Vernon Springer, community stalwart Larry John, and the beloved Glenroy “Mannie” Maynard. Each honoree received well-deserved accolades for their tireless dedication and impact.

The night took an unexpected and thrilling turn when the Honourable Kevin Riley, a distinguished New York City Council member, made a surprise appearance to personally support honoree Avril Francis.

In a heartfelt moment, Councilman Riley presented a New York City Council Citation to Mr. Pelham Warner, President of the Graduates Soccer Club, recognizing his unwavering leadership and service to the community.

Amid cheers and applause, the recipients proudly accepted their awards, standing before a sea of well-wishers and supporters draped in the vibrant colors of St. Kitts and Nevis. The plaques bore testimony to years of commitment, sacrifice, and communi-

ty upliftment.

And the excitement did not stop there. The 19th Annual Graduates Soccer Awards Banquet continued its celebrations with a grand event in Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis, on Monday(yesterday) — where the homegrown heroes of the sport were once again celebrated on native soil.

Each year, the St. Kitts-Nevis Graduates Soccer Awards shine a spotlight on individuals who elevate the spirit of excellence in soccer and community service, fostering pride across generations.

This year's dual celebrations, in both New York and St. Kitts & Nevis, reflect the unwavering bond of a people, both at home and abroad, whose love for sport and community runs deep.

Attacking Saints enhance chances of staying in Premier Division

The Attacking Saints moved a step closer to retaining their spot in the nation's top domestic league during the second round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) promotion playoff series on Sunday.

Joshua Samuel struck a hat trick to fire the Attacking Saints to a 4-1 victory against SAP FC in their opening match of the First and Premier Division promotional playoff series at the ABFA Technical Center.

Samuel struck his first when he converted a penalty kick in the ninth minute after teammate Shafeeq Joseph opened the scoring with a conversion in the sixth minute as the Attacking Saint went into the interval with a two-nil lead at halftime.

Bea-Jay Williams pulled a goal back for SAP FC with a conversion in the 64th minute, but Samuel scored twice in the latter stages to wrap up victory for the Attacking Saints.

Samuel converted his second goal in the 83rd minute and achieved his hat trick by scoring his third in the sixth minute of added time.

The result ensures that SAP will remain in the First Division next season after suffering their second loss in the three-team round-robin playoff.

SAP FC also slumped to a 4-1 defeat against the Freeman's Village Scorpions in the opening match of the playoff series. It means the final match of the playoff series between the Attacking Saints and the Scorpions will determine which team will



Players of the Attacking Saints football team

play in the Premier Division next season.

Both teams will clash at the ABFA Technical Center on Thursday at 6:30 pm.

Meanwhile, the final match between Tryum FC and National Parks English Harbour will also determine which team will win the first and second division playoff series.

Both teams will clash in the final match of that series at the ABFA Technical Center on Thursday at 4:30 pm.

Tryum FC must beat English Harbour by at least a two-goal margin to retain their spot in the First Division next season after suffering a 2-1 loss to Sea View Farm in their opening match of the First and Second Division playoff series on Sunday.

Following a goalless first half,

Leon O'Garro put Sea View Farm ahead with a 49th-minute conversion. But Tryum FC drew level in the 61st minute when Swayne Thomas got the equalizer by converting a penalty kick.

However, Ikah Codrington snatched the winner for Sea View Farm with a conversion in the 65th minute.

It means Sea View Farm ended the playoff series with a win and a loss after suffering a 2-1 defeat against fellow Second Division team English Harbour when both sides met in the opening game of the three-team round-robin contest.

English Harbour will gain promotion to contest the First Division with a draw or a win on Thursday, while Tryum FC will be relegated to the Second Division next season.