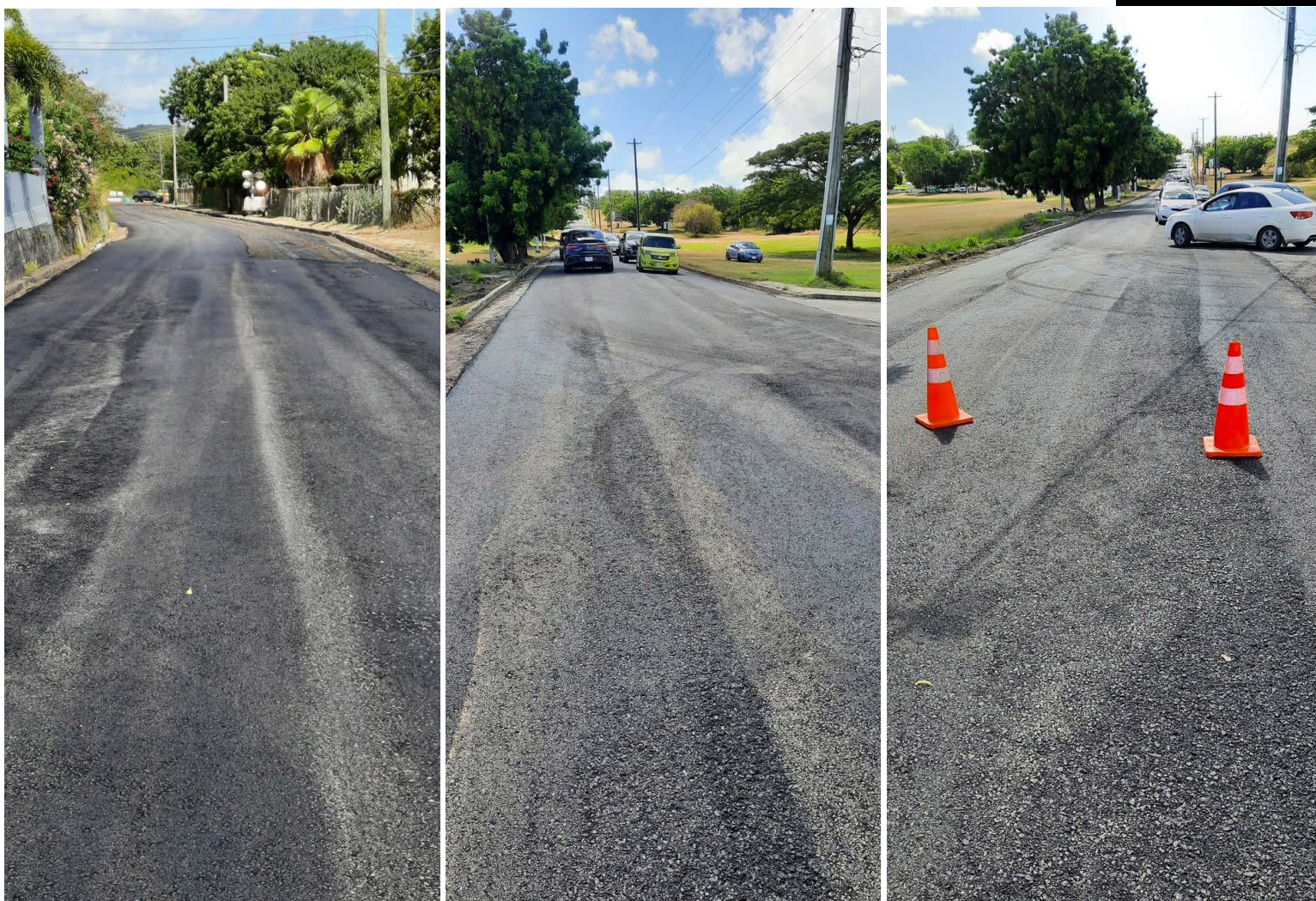


Public Works Prioritizes Road Improvements Along Carnival Parade Route

Story on Page 2



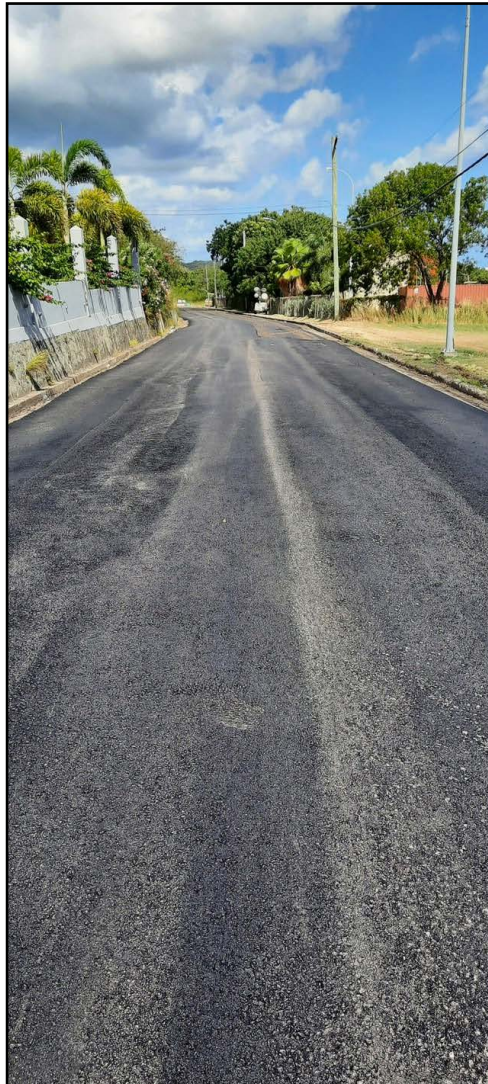
The Public Works Department (PWD) says it is committed to delivering road improvements along the Carnival Tuesday parade route,

Public Works Prioritizes Road Improvements Along Carnival Parade Route Amid Pipe Rupture Challenges



The Public Works Department (PWD) says it is committed to delivering road improvements along the Carnival Tuesday parade route, to ensure revelers have a safe and enjoyable experience.

In a media release, PWD said the new route will traverse Old Parham Road, Simon Bolivar Boulevard, Sir Sydney



Walling Highway, Parliament Drive, Queen Elizabeth Highway, Independence Drive, and Redcliffe Street.

“The PWD acknowledges that our road improvement efforts have faced unavoidable complications due to the sudden ruptures of decades-old cast iron water pipes. Additionally, the

heavy-duty equipment required to deliver resilient roads sometimes causes vibrations and pressure changes which may also trigger leaks,” the release stated.

PWD noted that it has been actively working to avoid such situations, in coordination with the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), by scheduling road improvements to follow the replacement of aged pipes. However, ensuring the public’s safety and comfort may sometimes require it to make critical road repairs before re-piping is conducted. APUA may therefore need to excavate newly refurbished roads to address arising leaks.

“The PWD understands and empathizes with your frustration when freshly resurfaced roads must be excavated for utility repairs. Please rest assured that we will conduct the required remedial work in the shortest possible time when these unavoidable situations do occur,” the release noted.

PWD is also expressing its thanks and appreciation to members of the public for the patience and understanding that they have displayed as the road improvement works continue. Additionally, the Ministry of Housing and Works is reassuring the public of its commitment to improving the aesthetics of St. John’s through tree-planting and other initiatives along refurbished roads and that it will keep the public informed along the way.



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PM again hails the 'Strategic Partnership' with Global Ports Holding (GPH)

The Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne is hailing the agreement signed with Global Ports Holdings as one of the key decisions of his administration that was beneficial to the country especially at a critical time; the COVID-9 pandemic.

Accordingly, the Prime Minister Browne credited the leasing of cruise port facilities to Global Ports Holding as a critical decision that maintained economic stability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking on the weekly radio programme of Pointe FM, the **Browne and Browne** show, PM Browne identified the key outcomes as follows:

\$80 Million US Investment: Building the fifth cruise berth without using national funds.

Sustained Capital Projects: Alongside PLH in Barbuda, GPH's investments helped keep the economy afloat when tourism arrivals plummeted.

PM Browne noted that critics had misrepresented the GPH agreement, falsely claiming that Antigua and Barbuda was transferring ownership of public assets. In reality, no properties such as Heritage Quay were sold or transferred to GPH.

"There is absolutely no transfer of ownership for any properties to Global Ports," he stated definitively.

Describing the Global Ports Partnership as a Case Study in Empowerment Capitalism, the prime minister noted that prior to GPH's involvement, Antigua and Barbuda had borrowed US\$22 million to develop Heritage Quay. Yet, despite nearly two decades, the debt had barely been reduced, hovering around US\$21.6 million by 2019. The head taxes collected—approximately US\$1 million annually—were insufficient even to cover interest payments.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Through the agreement, the government was able to achieve two critical outcomes; transferring risk associated with the loan to another entity (GPH) while at the same time generating growth.

Browne explained that under his government's empowerment capitalism model:

□ The debt burden was transferred to

Global Ports.

□ GPH invested an additional US\$35 million to construct a fifth cruise berth.

□ Another US\$30 million is currently being invested in landside facilities.

Importantly, no government properties were sold to Global Ports. Ownership of national assets like Heritage Quay remained firmly with the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"We didn't even originate this model. We customized it for Antigua and Barbuda as part of our own bespoke economic model: empowerment capitalism," PM Browne emphasized.

This model rejects traditional foreign extractive investment patterns. Instead, it emphasizes expanding domestic ownership and retaining profits within the local economy to fund national development.



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Tranquility Park: Delivering What the UPP Did Not

Burials to start next Monday

With the announcement that the official dedication of the new Tranquility Park Cemetery will take place on Thursday, now word comes that burials at the cemetery will commence next Monday July 21.

Among those who have welcomed the announcement is Prime Minister Gaston Browne who noted that it had been years that the need for a new cemetery was widely recognized and his administration made the necessary decision to deliver this vital facility to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking on the *Browne and Browne* show last Saturday, PM Browne provided the nation with critical background information of the processes that lead to Thursday's dedication and the commencement of burials on Monday.

Firstly, he recalled that the idea for the cemetery dates back to the Lester Bird administration. Secondly, the UPP government blocked it through protests led by then-Minister Jackie Quinn. Thirdly, despite having 10¼ years in office, the UPP never established a cemetery elsewhere.

PM Browne noted that his administration revived the



plan, completed the project, and delivered a much-needed public service without opposition protests this time around.

“When you know you’re doing the right thing, you must stand firm,” he emphasised.

The prime minister described his weekly radio engagements as a form of public consultation and reiterated the importance of governments making decisions in the best interest of the people, despite emotional arguments from critics.






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NOTICE OF EARLY CLOSURE

We wish to advise the general public that due to our **Bi-Annual General Staff Meeting** on **Thursday, July 17th**, the following branches will close early:

-  **Ebenezer Branch** – closes at **1:30 PM**
-  **Barbuda Branch** – closes at **2:00 PM**
-  **Head Office (St. John's)** – closes at **2:00 PM**

We apologize for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your understanding as we continue to serve you.

- MANAGEMENT

New interns join annual summer programme hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E.P Chet Greene (centre) welcomes the 2025 participants of the ministry's internship programme

Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs have welcomed participants of the 2025 Summer Internship programme organized to expose young people to the workings of the central government.

In the welcome exercise held at the Ministry headquarters, Minister E.P Chet Greene, extended a warm welcome to the participants to the programme noting that it offers insights into the operations of government that they would not yet have at this stage of their development.

“This is an initiative of the Gaston Browne Administration as we recognized the need to have our young people exposed to the realities of the world of work as soon as practicable while at the same time allowing you to begin making your contributions to national development even at this stage in your careers. Here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we are the

point of contact between Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the world; a world that has seen a rise in conflicts and tension in recent times,” he explained.

Additionally, he noted that the Ministry of Trade is the agency that oversees the nation's trade relations with other countries and together these ministries provide an excellent launch-pad for their entries into the government service.

Minister Greene also noted that the government was quite pleased with outcome of the internship programme instituted across the various ministries and departments last year and had given its approval for the continuation of the summer internship programmes across the government sector for 2025.

In his remarks, Permanent Secretary Ambassador Dr. Clarence Pilgrim noted that the internship marks a small but significant step in the participants' journey of pro-

fessional discovery and personal development.

“During your time here, you will be exposed to the inner workings of a government institution. You'll engage with real issues—trade policy, consumer protection, international commerce, and economic data. You'll have the opportunity to work alongside committed public officers who are charged with implementing policies that affect our nation's future. We encourage you to observe, participate, ask questions, and think critically. Let curiosity be your compass,” P.S Dr. Pilgrim remarked.

Coordinator of the programme, Jomica Carbon said the interns will spend six to eight weeks working at various developments within the ministry aimed at strengthening their understanding of its role and functions. There are also plans for an engagement with Barbuda as part of the exercise.

Optimist Club crowns its winner at its annual pre-teen pageant



The Optimist Club of Antigua on Sunday staged the annual The Optimist Petit Show which attracts participation from pre-teen boys and girls.

Described as 'not your typical pageant', the Optimist Petit is a developmental show which aims to provide an avenue for boys and girls, ages 9-11 to display their skills within specific categories.

A spokesman for the Optimist Club said the show consists of three judged segments, namely talent, personality and aspiration, as well as interviewing skills in addition to an opening number and evening/party wear, which were not judged segments.

10-year Jahzia Reid, a student of the Sunnyside School and who was sponsored by Auto Craze Parts and Accessories, emerged as the overall winner. 1st runner

up, 10 year-old Shatoya Kendall, student of Five Islands Primary school, sponsored by Civil Engineering and Associated Ser-

vices. 2nd Runner up, 11 year-old Azalyah Ambrose, a student of Pigotts Primary school who was sponsored by Millenni-

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Local News

PAGE 7

um Brokerage and Equipment Services. 3rd runner up was 10 year-old Jaedah Baird, a student of Villa Primary school, sponsored by Glenn's Pet Paradise.

This year saw nine delegates, eight girls and one boy, competing for the title. The show was held at the UWI Global Campus.

This year, 2025, also marks 30 years of the Optimist Club putting on this spectacular show.



Optimist Club Petit Show 2025's winners' circle with Jahzia Reid (second from left)



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MAY 12, 2025; JUNE 12, 2025; July 10-16TH, 2025


PRESS RELEASE

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, at its Thirty-Fourth (34th) Provincial Synod currently being held at The Regent Star Hotel, Piarco, Trinidad after prayerful contemplation, has elected the Rev. Ezra Parris as a Bishop of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum).

Rev. Parris, a native of Barbados, was elected on the 7th Ballot cast on the 14th July, 2025. He is currently serving as Pastor of the Sharon and Dunscombe Moravian Congregations in the Barbados Conference. He was ordained on June 29, 1992, and recently celebrated his 33rd Anniversary of Ordination. He was married to the late Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris and has two adult children.

The Moravian Church gives God the glory as he continues to lead us. We encourage the Moravian Family and the community to bear us up in prayer as Synod continues to meet.



Released by Rev. Liselle Roberts, Chairman of the 34th Provincial Synod.



Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province elects a Bishop of the Unity at Synod 34

Bishop -Elect Rev. Ezra Parris

Having served for 33 Years in Ordained ministry, he currently serves as Pastor of the Sharon and Dunscombe Moravian Congregations in the Barbados Conference. The Bishop is the highest order of the Moravian Ministry.

 **PIARCO, TRINIDAD**  **July 14, 2025**

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME'S DIVERSITY DIVIDEND: WHAT AMERICA CAN LEARN FROM FOOTBALL'S GLOBAL SUCCESS



By Professor C. Justin Robinson
*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
 UWI Five Islands Campus*

As Chelsea's Cole Palmer lifted the Club World Cup trophy at MetLife Stadium, surrounded by teammates representing dozens of nationalities and races, a stark contrast emerged. While America increasingly retreats into debates about who belongs and doesn't belong, the world's most popular sport has spent decades proving that diversity isn't weakness—it's a superpower.

The Numbers Don't Lie

The 2025 Club World Cup showcased 81 nationalities competing at the highest level. The Premier League features players from 64 different countries, with 43% being Black players who've revolutionized the sport. Meanwhile, France's "Black-Blanc-Beur" (Black-White-Arab) team won the 2018 World Cup with 15 of 23

players tracing heritage to Africa. Stars like Kylian Mbappé (Cameroonian father, Algerian mother), Paul Pogba (Guinean parents), and N'Golo Kanté (Malian parents) weren't tokens—they were the engine of French excellence.

Multipolarity in Action

Here's what America struggles to grasp: football operates in a truly multipolar world where size does not mean power, excellence comes from everywhere, and everyone accepts it. While Americans still think in binary terms—us versus them, East versus West—football fans cheer for the best regardless of origin.

Morocco's stunning 2022 World Cup semifinal run exemplified this. With players born across Europe but choosing to represent Morocco, they created a multicultural powerhouse that stunned Belgium (#2 ranked), Spain, and Portugal. When they lost the third-place match to Croatia—a nation of 3.9 million that has won three World Cup medals—their coach captured the beauty of football's meritocracy: "We had 0.01% chance of winning this World Cup at the outset and we managed to get through to the last four."

Croatia's success story particularly challenges American assumptions about size and dominance. With roughly 6% of England's population, they've won as many World Cup medals as England. How? They embraced global integration early, sending players to compete across Europe's diverse leagues,

learning from different football cultures while maintaining their identity.

The Diversity Dividend Is Real

The best academic research consistently shows that "a one-standard increase in diversity leads to a significant increase in goal difference of 0.77 to 1.79 goals per match" for national teams. This isn't feelgood rhetoric—it's performance science.

Consider the current Ballon d'Or contenders: Ousmane Dembélé (French of West African descent), Lamine Yamal (Spanish with Moroccan and Equatorial Guinean heritage, only 17), Mohamed Salah (Egyptian), Raphinha (Brazilian, Afro-Latino), and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (Georgian). These aren't diversity hires—they're the world's best players, representing a rainbow of backgrounds that American institutions often struggle to embrace.

The historical greats tell the same story: Pelé (Brazilian of African descent), Zinedine Zidane (French of Algerian Berber descent), Thierry Henry (born to Caribbean parents), and George Weah (Liberian—the first non-European Ballon d'Or winner in 1995). Each succeeded by integrating their unique cultural strengths with local football systems.

The Multipolarity Challenge

Football's comfort with multipolarity stands in stark contrast to America's current identity crisis. While Americans debate whether

diversity weakens or strengthens them, football nations have long accepted that excellence emerges from everywhere—and the best strategy is integration, not isolation.

Morocco's celebrations weren't just confined to Africa. When they beat Belgium, celebrations erupted in Brussels and Paris, Barcelona and Rotterdam—proving that in an interconnected world, identity is fluid and success transcends traditional boundaries. This terrifies those who prefer clear hierarchies and simple identities, but it's the reality of our global future.

Eight nations have won the men's World Cup, but the most compelling stories come from everywhere else: South Korea reaching the 2002 semifinals, Turkey doing the same, Croatia's repeated excellence, Belgium's golden generation. The message is clear: in football's multipolar world, anyone can compete, and everyone has something to contribute.

The Choice Before America

The Club World Cup generated \$21.1 billion for global GDP, with \$9.6 billion in the United States alone. Americans excel at creating economic value from global events. But the deeper lesson isn't economic—it's cultural.

Football has figured out what America sometimes forgets: excellence emerges when talent from everywhere gets the chance to compete and collaborate. The sport's global success isn't despite its diversity—it's because of it.

When Lamine Yamal, a 17-year-old Spanish player with Moroccan and Equatorial Guinean heri-

tage, dazzles defenders with skills learned in Barcelona's multicultural academy, he represents football's—and perhaps America's—future: globally sourced, locally developed, culturally integrated.

As current American political currents push toward isolation and homogeneity, football offers a different model. The beautiful game has always understood that in a connected world, the best strategy isn't to keep others out, but to bring out the best in everyone.

Game on, America.

Prof. C. Justin Robinson, a Vincentian and UWI graduate, holds a BSc in Management Studies, MSc in Finance and Econometrics, and PhD in Finance. With over 20 years at UWI, he has served in various leadership roles, including Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies. A Professor of Corporate Finance with extensive research publications, he is actively involved in regional financial institutions and is currently the Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.



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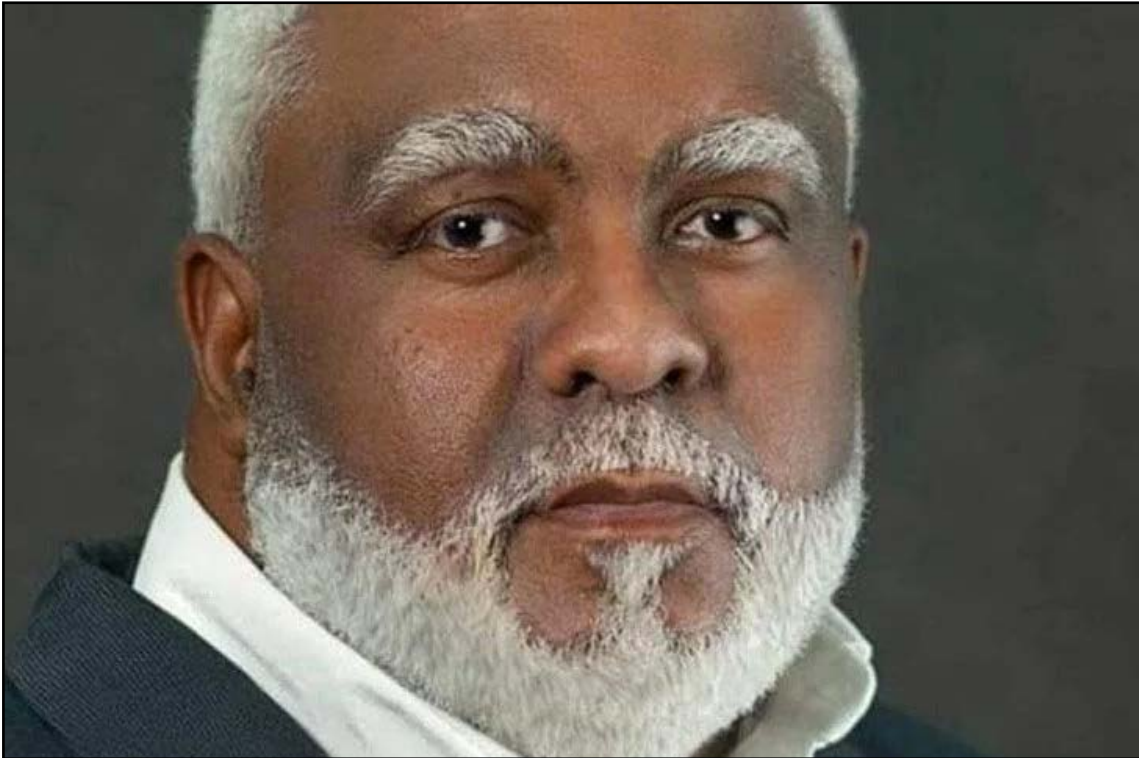





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Regional News

EPA urges Govt to fix school security



The Estate Police Association (EPA) has called on the Government and Education Minister Dr Michael Dowlath to urgently address security concerns at schools across the country, citing serious risks to students, teachers, and security personnel.

EPA president Deryck Richardson on Saturday highlighted recent incidents that underscore the need for immediate action. He referred specifically to an incident at Malick Secondary School where two estate police officers were tied up and robbed.

“There was a situation at the Malick Secondary School where the officers were tied up and robbed recently,” Richardson said. “We have a listing of similarly compromised school facilities which poses a threat to the students, teachers and secu-

rity officers.”

Richardson said the Association conducted an audit of the physical infrastructure of schools and found that many had serious security deficiencies. “A significant number of schools were found to have compromised fencing, inadequate or absence of proper lighting, coupled with the challenges of inadequate manpower to secure the schools,” he said, adding that at some schools, just two officers are assigned to protect populations of more than 600 students.

“Two officers cannot be expected to secure a school where the population is in excess of 600,” Richardson added.

He also pointed to criminal activities taking place on school compounds due to poor security measures. “There are many instances

where the criminals breach the fence lines, get into the schools, and conduct nefarious activities. There are instances where drugs have been found at schools,” he said.

The Association is calling on the Government to provide a secure environment for students and staff. “We need to have a secure environment for our children, and we are calling on this Government to provide such an environment so that we can properly and adequately secure the said spaces,” Richardson said.

He urged Dowlath to give priority to the matter. “We are calling for the new Minister of Education to pay particular attention to the security of the schools and for him to provide adequate protection for the students, visitors, and the estate police or security officers who

are stationed at our schools,” he said.

The robbery of the two security officers at Malick by four armed suspects is being investigated by the police.

According to reports, around 11.40 p.m. on July 5, two security officers were on duty conducting checks on the western side of the school compound when they were approached by four unknown individuals, each armed with pieces of iron. The suspects reportedly entered a classroom behind the officers, instructed them to lie on the floor, and carried out the robbery.

One of the victims, a 25-year-old man employed with MTS Security Limited, told police that he was struck on the left thigh with a piece of iron by one of the suspects, then choked as he was asked for the cafeteria keys.

He was relieved of a silver Samsung S9 cellphone valued at \$900 and \$50 in cash. The suspects then placed a chair on top of him before escaping the scene.

The second victim, an 18-year-old employed with Superior Security Services, stated that he was in the same classroom during the incident and had gone there to charge his red Samsung cellphone valued at \$650. After the suspects left, he discovered that his phone was missing.

PC Voisin is continuing enquiries. (*Trinidad Express*)

CARICOM releases firm statement on ‘humanitarian catastrophe’ in Gaza



The CARICOM Heads of Government have issued a clear and unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Precipitating from the 49th Heads of Government gathering in Jamaica, they have issued a joint statement expressing their profound distress over the “appalling situation” and the “unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe,” condemning the violence and civilian suffering caused by relentless military actions and violations of international law in Gaza.

Against the backdrop of the region’s evolving relationship with Palestine, and a consensus in recognizing its statehood as of May 2024, the state-

ment highlights their outrage at reports of widespread hunger, disease, and displacement.

Furthermore, the bloc of regional leaders go on the record in stating:

“The weaponization of essential resources is morally repugnant, intolerable and unconscionable.”

They further condemned all violence against civilians, including the attacks on October 7, 2023, and the disproportionate military response that undermines peace efforts.

In terms of solutions, CARICOM called for an immediate ceasefire and insists on “full, safe, and unimpeded humanitarian access” to ensure aid reaches those in need.

They demand the “immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and detainees,” as well as the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The Heads also condemn the demoli-

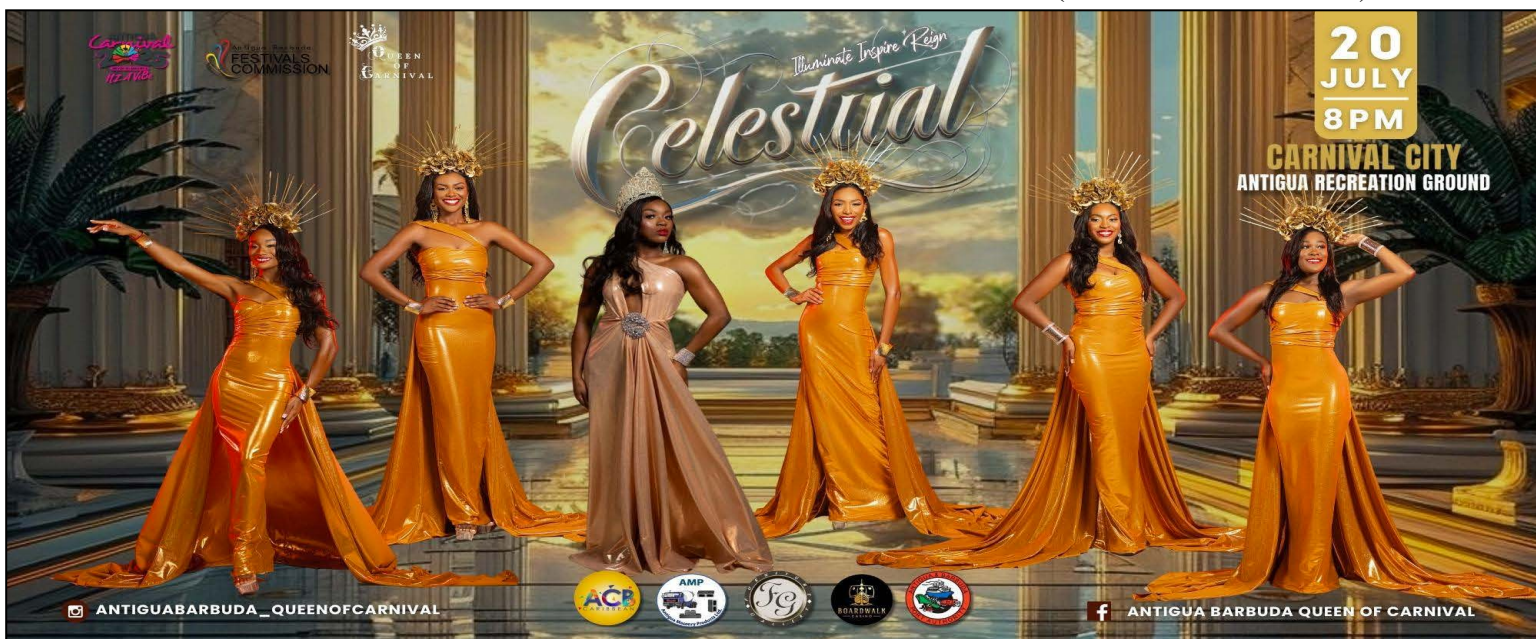
tion of humanitarian mechanisms and illegal settlement expansion, emphasizing that accountability must be upheld for all violations of international law.

Reaffirming their support for a two-state solution, they urge the international community to intensify efforts toward a just and lasting peace, standing in solidarity with all victims and emphasizing that “the international community cannot stand idly by while this catastrophe deepens.”

Notably, Belize was the first nation under the CARICOM umbrella to take categorical action regarding its stance on Gaza, and in 2023 severed diplomatic relations with Israel.

Additionally, last month Barbados’ Caribbean Movement for Peace and Integration (CMPI) filed an unprecedented case against the State of Barbados in the nation’s Supreme Court, calling for “urgent national action in response to Israel’s ongoing atrocities in Gaza.”

The Caribbean Community welcomed its first Palestinian ambassador, Dr. Linda Sobeh Ali, on July 3, 2025. (*Dominica News Online*)



Regional News

Westmoreland cops urge responsible political campaigning ahead of election

With a general election looming, the Westmoreland police want political representatives, their supporters and the general citizenry to strive to keep the peace in order to avoid the political conflict that marred previous campaigns.

Speaking at last Thursday's monthly meeting of the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation, Deputy Superintendent of Police Kevin Francis, the head of police operations in Westmoreland, appealed for maturity and dialogue on the campaign trail.

"With the pending election drawing near, I want to use the opportunity to encourage us as citizens, as councillors, and as representatives of the country to engender peace, goodwill, and ensure that our constituents remain safe during this time," said Francis.

He further emphasised that the role of the police is not only to enforce the law, but to partner with community leaders in preserving social order.

"As the police, we are charged to ensure that we maintain the peace, but it is also our responsibility as a council, as a people, as councillors, to speak to your constituents to avoid violence, to avoid confrontations, to avoid situations that may escalate into something that we don't



want it to be," Francis stated.

"You don't have to agree with me, but as someone who has good civic pride and someone who maintains that we are all one Jamaican people, I believe it is important for me to remind us of the importance of treating with the peace that should exist across the country," he added.

Councillor Warren Lyttleton of the People's National Party and representing the Grange Hill Division, raised concerns over an incident involving political paraphernalia, including the reported prosecution of a driver whose vehicle displayed an image of a political candidate.

"Now that we are in the campaign period of a general election, on what basis would the police prosecute a motorist for having the photograph placed on his

vehicle?" Lyttleton asked Francis.

In response, Francis acknowledged the concern and promised to look into it, as well as to consult with his superiors on how such issues should be treated. He promised to respond to the WMC via Mayor Dan-ree Delancy, the corporation's chairman.

"The concern is noted, and I will look into the matter. I was not made aware of it until now. However, I will look into the matter to see how this can be treated and provide you with an answer, maybe at the next council meeting," said Francis.

However, Francis was emphatic in noting that while campaign signs themselves aren't illegal, the police must also consider other road traffic violations.

"There are offences such as obscure windshield...

There are other offences that will prevent the person from having a clear view of what is in front of them. I'm not sure if that was the case. However, like I said, I will take on the matter and I'll provide you with feedback," he said.

Francis also responded to concerns about escalating political tensions, especially the tearing down of campaign materials, a matter that was raised by Dr Garfield James of the Jamaica Labour Party, who is the councillor for the Sheffield Division.

James questioned the police's role in the removal of political signs and billboards.

"We have seen, in the past, tribalism and this has resulted in injury, death, and other situations we do not want," said Francis. "The superintendent also has the authority to warn political representatives and their supporters, and failure to comply with these warnings normally results in arrest or detention. We do not want that kind of thing, so we are encouraging dialogue.

"Talk to the people who follow you, talk to the people you have influence over, that you can support your party without violence, without resorting to this kind of situation," he said. (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Tourism highlighted as noticeably absent from CARICOM's 2025 agenda

Tourism, the lifeblood of many Caribbean economies, was noticeably missing from the official outcomes of the 49th Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, which concluded in Montego Bay, St James, last Tuesday.

This absence comes despite the region being the most tourism-dependent in the world, and having just recorded its highest-ever visitor arrivals in 2024.

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett had only weeks earlier delivered a presentation during Caribbean Week in New York, urging CARICOM to take a more structured and consistent approach to tourism policy.

In his remarks, Bartlett called for tourism to become a standing item on the agenda of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), and for the establishment of a dedicated Tourism Subcouncil that would ensure cohesive, region-wide strategy and implementation. Bartlett underscored that tourism is no longer a peripheral "service sector" but the Caribbean's largest export, its principal source of foreign exchange, and the foundation of many supporting industries, such as agriculture, culture, transport, and digital services. He revealed that in 2024, CARICOM member states welcomed 34.2 million overnight visitors, generating US\$81.4 billion in economic activity, which accounted for 17.6 per cent of the region's collective GDP. The industry also supports more than three million jobs, with



women comprising over half the workforce, and one-third of all positions held by youth under 30.

When contacted by The Gleaner following the conclusion of the Heads of Government meeting, Bartlett said, "It is a pity that a formal discussion was not had on tourism, even though CARICOM knows of its importance."

He added: "We anticipate a COTED Tourism that will be a more focused policy approach to the future growth and development of the industry, given its known economic impact on the region."

However, during his presentation in New York, he noted that CARICOM's regional framework remains disconnected from the realities and opportunities of tourism. He pointed to the sporadic engagement of COTED with tourism matters, stating that the last dedicated ministerial meeting was held more than a decade ago.

In the absence of structured oversight, policy coordination has been left to ad hoc committees and national-level discussions.

Bartlett also highlighted institutional fragmentation, with organisations such as the Caribbean Tourism Or-

ganization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), and national ministries each carrying partial mandates, often with overlapping roles and stretched resources. Connectivity was cited as another major concern, with the region still plagued by high airfares, unreliable schedules, and financially unstable carriers. He also called out the lack of standardised, real-time tourism data, which hinders investment, delays access to climate finance, and weakens the region's negotiating power.

To address these issues, the Jamaican tourism minister presented a comprehensive 10-year strategy outlining eight pillars for action between 2025 and 2035. The plan included the creation of a Caribbean Tourism Resilience Fund, a regional digital travel platform, the introduction of a multi-destination CARICOM tourism visa, expanded air and ferry connectivity, and the launch of a unified 'Caribbean United' marketing brand. He also proposed cross-border training programmes, the mutual recognition of tourism credentials, and incentives for product diversification, including agro-tourism and heritage routes.

Bartlett projected that, if fully implemented, the framework could generate an additional US\$20 billion in GDP by 2035, create 300,000 new jobs, and significantly increase the Caribbean's value capture from each tourist dollar. Yet, despite these ambitious goals and the clarity of his recommendations, there was no mention of tourism in the final CARICOM communiqué, nor was the issue raised during public briefings by regional leaders.

The omission has not gone unnoticed by tourism stakeholders, many of whom view it as a missed opportunity. At a time when global travel is surging and Caribbean destinations are vying for market share, the absence of tourism from CARICOM's top-level agenda raises questions about the region's commitment to integrating and advancing its most vital industry.

Bartlett's appeal to elevate tourism within CARICOM's economic framework was clear. He wants tourism as a permanent agenda item for COTED, approve the formation of a Tourism Subcouncil, and mandate the CARICOM Secretariat to work with CTO and CHTA on detailed implementation plans within six months.

"Tourism already underwrites our foreign exchange, our employment, and much of our social infrastructure," Bartlett stated. "Yet, without deeper regional coordination, we leave value on the table and expose ourselves to unnecessary risk. The time to act is now." (*Jamaica Gleaner*)

Nine killed and dozens hurt in fire at Massachusetts assisted-living home



At least nine people have been killed after a fire swept through an assisted living facility in Massachusetts, and dozens of other residents and five firefighters have been taken to hospital.

Authorities responded to the fire at Gabriel House, in the town of Fall River, at approximately 21:50 local time on Sunday (02:50 GMT on Monday). On arrival, they discovered residents trapped in the blazing building.

About 50 firefighters went to the scene, including approximately 30 who were off-duty at the time.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The town of Fall River is about 50 miles (80km) south of Boston and 20 miles from Providence, Rhode Island.

In a statement, the local department of fire services said that “several occupants” were pronounced dead at the scene, with others rescued and taken to local and regional hospitals in varying conditions.

The five firefighters who were taken to hospital suffered from non-life threatening injuries.

“This is an unfathomable tragedy for the families involved and the Fall River community,” Fall River fire chief Jeffrey Bacon said.

Approximately 70 people were living

at the facility before the fire.

In a news conference, Fall River mayor Paul Coogan said that the building was equipped with sprinklers and that the fire had been contained to one wing of the building, but that smoke had spread throughout the three-storey structure.

“Smoke kills more people than fire does, every day in America,” he said. “I think the lesson that can be learned here is that you listen to your smoke detectors and react because smoke is a very deadly force.” (*BBC News*)

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Boeing fuel switches safe, regulator says after Air India crash

The US aviation regulator has said fuel control switches in Boeing aeroplanes are safe, following their reported involvement in a fatal Air India crash that killed 260 people in June.

The safety of the switches has become a key point of concern after a preliminary report on the disaster was released by investigators on Friday.

That report said fuel to the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner engines was cut off moments after take-off from Ahmedabad airport, and highlighted past FAA reports that suggested the switches should be inspected for safety.

In an email seen by the BBC, Air India's chief executive warned against jumping to "premature conclusions" following the report's publication.

The disaster involving London-bound Flight 171 was one of the worst aviation incidents globally in almost a decade.

Switches controlling fuel flow to the jet's engines had been moved from "run" to the "cut-off" position, hampering the thrust of the plane, according to the preliminary report, which was published by the India Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB).

Investigators referred to a 2018 FAA advisory, which urged - but did not man-



date - operators of Boeing models to inspect the locking feature of the fuel cut-off switches to ensure they could not be moved by accident.

This step was not taken by Air India, the AAIB said in its early findings.

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday told civil aviation authorities that it had seen AAIB's preliminary report.

It noted that its own 2018 advisory "was based on reports that the fuel control switches were installed with the locking feature disengaged" - but added that it does not believe this makes the planes unsafe.

"Although the fuel control switch design, including the locking feature, is similar on various Boeing airplane models, the FAA does not consider this issue to be an unsafe condition that would warrant an Airworthiness Directive on any Boeing airplane models, including the Model 787," said the authority, in an internal note

shared with the BBC.

"The FAA will continue to share relevant information with foreign civil aviation authorities as appropriate."

AAIB, which reviewed recovered cockpit voice recordings, reported that one pilot could be heard during the flight asking the other why he cut off the fuel.

"The other pilot responded that he did not do so," said the report.

Investigators said the fuel switches had almost simultaneously flipped from run to cut-off just after take-off. The report did not say how the switches could have flipped during the flight.

Air India chief executive Campbell Wilson has warned against drawing "premature conclusions" about the cause of the accident in an email to staff seen by the BBC.

He said there was "an ongoing cycle of theories, allegations, rumours and sensational headlines" that had appeared over the past

month, many of which had later been disproven.

The report, he stressed, had identified no cause for the accident, and nor had it made any recommendations.

"The investigation is far from over", he said.

"We will continue to cooperate with the investigators to ensure they have everything they need to conduct a thorough and comprehensive enquiry.

Mr Wilson said the report had "found no mechanical or maintenance issues with the aircraft or engines", adding that all necessary checks had been carried out before the flight.

Nevertheless, extra checks had been carried out across Air India's 787 fleet within days of the accident "out of an abundance of caution". All were found to be fit for service, he said.

Air India Flight 171 was scheduled to fly from Ahmedabad in India to London's Gatwick airport.

The plane crashed into a medical college near the airport within a minute of take-off, killing 260 people who were mostly passengers. One British national survived the crash.

Investigators are expected to produce a more detailed report in 12 months. (*BBC News*)

Historic lodge destroyed in Grand Canyon blaze



A raging wildfire near the Grand Canyon in the US has destroyed dozens of buildings - including a historic lodge that was the only accommodation available within the surrounding national park's North Rim.

The fire that destroyed the Grand Canyon Lodge is one of two that has swept across tens of thousands of acres in the area.

The blazes have also forced the closure of the North Rim for the remainder of the 2025 tourist season.

Authorities in the state of Arizona are still working to contain the fires, which have been dubbed the Dragon Bravo Fire and White Sage Fire.

Located approximately 8,000ft (2,438m), the Grand Canyon Lodge also included dining facilities, a gift shop and post office. It had been op-

erating since the 1930s.

"As stewards of some of our country's most beloved national treasures, we are devastated by the loss of the Grand Canyon Lodge," Aramark, the company that operated the lodge, said in a statement.

"We are grateful that all of our employees and guests have been safely evacuated," the statement added.

No injuries are reported to have been caused by the blaze, which was fuelled by sustained winds that reached up to 40mph (64km/h).

But preliminary assessments from the National Park Service (NPS) indicate that between 50 and 80 buildings have been lost to the Dragon Bravo Fire, including administrative buildings and visitor facilities.

Firefighters in several areas were

forced to evacuate due to a leak of chlorine at a nearby water treatment facility, the NPS added.

Chlorine gas is heavier than air and can settle in lower elevations, potentially posing a risk to both firefighters and hikers in the area.

The second blaze, the White Sage Fire, has so far burned more than 40,000 acres of the Kaibab National Forest, forcing hundreds to evacuate.

Both the fires are believed to have been started by lightning, the park service said.

Nearly five million people visited the Grand Canyon in 2024, making it one of the most popular tourist destinations in the US.

The canyon's South Rim remains open. (*BBC News*)

Sports News

Warriors roar to the top as Capitals crash in Providence showdown



Captain of Guyana Amazon Warriors Imran Tahir, right, celebrates after claiming one of his four wickets against the Dubai Capitals in the Global Super League at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, on Sunday, July 13, 2025. (Getty Images)

Backed by a roaring Providence crowd under the Sunday night lights, the Guyana Amazon Warriors lit up the National Stadium with a dominant performance to crush the Dubai Capitals by 57 runs and storm to the top of the points table in the 2025 ExxonMobil Guyana Global Super League (GSL).

In match six of the high-stakes five-team showdown, the Warriors bravely defended a modest 138 for seven — turning the heat on with a fiery bowling display that folded the Capitals for 81 inside 16 overs.

Despite early blows — losing power-hitters Rahmanullah Gurbaz (0), Shimron Hetmyer (14), and Johnson Charles (11) inside the powerplay — the Warriors found their backbone in Moeen Ali.

The classy Englishman

staged a counterattack with two gritty partnerships, a steady 43-run stand with rising Antiguan teenage star Jewel Andrew and a quick-fire 47 with the ever-dangerous Sherfane Rutherford.

Ali smashed 40 off 38 balls, including two fours and two sixes. Rutherford cracked 33 off 29 balls, Andrew struck 16, and Romario Shepherd made 15 not out. Capitals' left-arm seamer Kaleem Sana Rehman captured four for 31.

The real carnage, though, came when the Warriors had the ball. Captain Imran Tahir orchestrated a bowling masterclass — rotating seven bowlers to perfection.

Dwayne Pretorius set the tone, sending back the out-of-form Rohan Mustafa for one, before Shepherd delivered a knockout punch with a double-wicket over in which he removed opener



Jewel Andrew made a handy contribution to the Guyana Amazon Warriors

Sediqullah Atal for 25 and captain Gulbadin Naib for a first-ball duck.

From there, it was the Tahir show — the veteran leggie spun a web around the Capitals' middle and lower order, finishing with an incredible four for 12 — the best figures of the tournament so far.

Gudakesh Motie joined the party, picking up two for 14 as the Capitals collapsed spectacularly. Shepherd finished with two for 11.

With this commanding victory, the Warriors now sit pretty at the top of the table with two wins from three matches — while the Capitals are left clinging to a shot at the final ahead of their final clash against the defending champions, the Rangpur Riders.

Next up, the Warriors face the Hobart Hurricanes XI on Wednesday in what promises to be another sizzling encounter.

VACANCY

PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is seeking a motivated and creative Public Relations Coordinator to support and manage key public relations and public education initiatives. This role is essential to strengthening APUA's brand presence and fostering meaningful connections with the public, media, and key stakeholders.

Key duties include:

- Develop and execute strategic public relations campaigns that align with APUA's goals
- Serve as a key contact for media, partners, and stakeholders, managing communications across multiple platforms
- Monitor media coverage and assess the impact of PR initiatives
- Craft and refine compelling content across formats, including articles, reports, and promotional materials
- Oversee the production of brochures, leaflets, videos, photography, and other multimedia assets
- Plan and coordinate events such as press conferences, exhibitions, and community outreach activities
- Manage APUA's website updates and support digital engagement efforts
- Conduct research to guide public relations and education strategies
- Strengthen community relations through public engagement and participation in local initiatives
- Provide communications support during crisis situations while upholding and enhancing the Authority's reputation

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing or a related field.
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in public relations, communications, or related area.
- Exceptional interpersonal and human relations skills with the ability to build and maintain relationships.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, with proven editing and content creation abilities.
- Excellent organizational, time-management, and multitasking skills; adept at working under pressure.
- Creative mindset with a strong sense of initiative and imagination.
- Business acumen and awareness of current affairs affecting the organization.
- Positive, proactive attitude with a vibrant, hardworking, and detail-oriented approach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and adapt to a dynamic environment.

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- Build and maintain trusted relationships with key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Identify and capitalize on new business opportunities
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- Prepare accurate sales forecasts and performance reports
- Use a variety of sales methods including cold calling, networking, and referrals

The successful candidate MUST possess the following:

- Proven track record in B2B sales, preferably in telecommunications or a related sector
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and presentation skills
- Strong understanding of sales pipelines, client relationship management, and sales software
- Highly self-driven with the ability to work independently and consistently deliver results
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Must own a reliable vehicle and hold a valid driver's license
- Familiarity with APUA Telecommunications products and services is an asset

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

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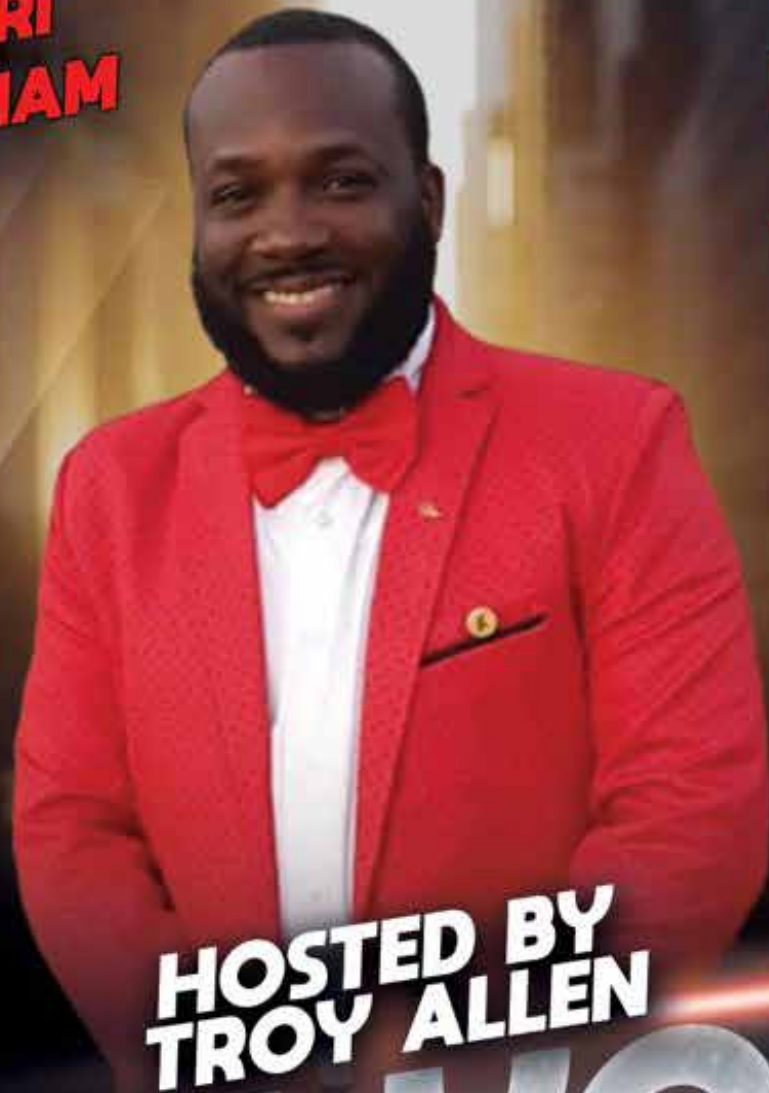
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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

ABNOC continues to celebrate Olympic Day with activities this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) is continuing its activities as it joins the global Olympic Movement in June and July to celebrate World Olympic Day 2025 under the inspiring theme “Let’s Move.”

Observed annually on June 23rd, Olympic Day marks the founding of the modern Olympic Games. It has evolved into a worldwide celebration that unites people across continents through sport and shared values.

This year, the ABNOC is organizing a series of engaging events aimed at encouraging physical activity, community wellness, and a deeper appreciation for the ideals of Olympism.

These engagements highlighted the importance of Olympic Day and highlighted the role sport plays in national development, youth empowerment, and community unity.

The celebrations began on Monday, June 23rd, when members of the Olympic Committee will participate in media appearances across the country.

Activities will continue with a dynamic health fair at the YASCO Sports Complex on Saturday, July 19, from 9 am to 1 pm. The fair will bring together athletes and officials from various sporting associations and federa-

tions for a day of wellness activities, health screenings, educational outreach, and demonstrations.

This event is designed to promote holistic health and wellness within the sporting community and among stakeholders. The ABNOC Health Fair will feature some of the island’s medical practitioners, providing their services to the island’s best and aspiring athletes and officials.

The services will include body mass index, cholesterol checks, blood pressure, medical consultation, dental, ophthalmology, physiotherapy, and anti-doping education. ABNOC’s Third Vice President, Dr. Philmore Benjamin, will spearhead the event.

The ABNOC shifts its event to an early morning activity, starting at 5:30 am on Sunday, to culminate this year’s activities.

The public is invited to participate in the annual Olympic Day Run/Walk/Jam on Sunday morning. The events will begin at the YASCO Sports Complex with a warm-up session.

An expected crowd of 400 participants will hit the streets of St. John’s, starting on Old Parham Road, right onto Simon Boulevard, right onto Factory Road, left onto Parliament Drive, right onto Queen Elizabeth Highway, right onto Inde-

pendence Drive, left onto Redcliffe Street, right onto Thames Street, right onto High Street, left onto Independence Drive, right onto Old Parham Road, and ending at YASCO.

The Olympic Day Walk/Run will feature musical entertainment by a mobile sound system, featuring some of the hottest artists for the 2025 Antigua Carnival, including Zamoni, Island Prince, and Soca Villan.

Registration for the fitness event can be done at the ABNOC Office at Sir Vivian Stadium or with any member of the NOC. Reg-

istration is only \$10. Each participant will receive an Olympic Day T-shirt and refreshments.

The Olympic Day Walk/Run/Jam is open to national federations and associations and is mandatory for the cooperation of Olympic sport organizations.

Individuals and groups of all ages and fitness levels are welcome to join and celebrate. This event offers a chance for athletes from all sports to come together in an active and spirited demonstration of unity and health under the global theme “Let’s Move!”



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT : 462-3476 OR 725-8011 OR
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Sports News

England hold nerve to sink India in Lord's thriller

LONDON (Reuters) - England stayed calm under intense pressure to beat India by 22 runs on a final day of simmering tension and drama in the third test at Lord's on Monday and move 2-1 up in the series.

Shoaib Bashir bowled Mohammed Siraj for four to seal victory, India's number 11 playing a defensive stroke before the ball trickled down the face of his bat and rolled on to the stumps as he watched on in disbelief.

Bashir was later ruled out of the rest of the series due to a fracture in his left finger, which he had suffered on Saturday while attempting a low catch during his own bowling. The 21-year-old is set for surgery later this week.

As the England players celebrated wildly, Ravindra Jadeja trudged off the field having made a valiant unbeaten 61 to take India to the brink of an extraordinary win.

"I probably bowled a few more overs than I thought I would but I am glad to get the win today on this special day," England fast bowler Jofra Archer said.

"Honestly, I thought one of us would win by lunch. It dragged on a bit."

The hosts had looked on course for a far more comfortable victory when they reduced India to 112-8 at lunch, but Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah battled for nearly two hours to inch their team towards a target of 193.

Jadeja was given out lbw to Chris Woakes by the umpire but the decision was overturned on review and the left-hander heaved the next delivery over mid-wicket for six, prompting loud cheers from the Indian fans.

England finally made the breakthrough when Bumrah, on five, skied an attempted pull off man-of-the-match Ben Stokes and was caught by substitute fielder Sam Cook.

The majority of the crowd erupted



England's players celebrate their win against India on the fifth and final day of the third cricket test match between England and India at Lord's cricket ground in London, Monday, July 14, 2025. (AP)

with a mixture of joy and relief but Jadeja continued to frustrate England, reaching his 50, off 150 balls, by edging Stokes over the slips for four.

Siraj survived 30 deliveries for his four runs as Jadeja farmed the bowling and took a succession of singles off the fourth ball of the over to dominate the strike.

Siraj suffered a painful blow to his shoulder after being struck by an Archer delivery and shortly afterwards his resistance was finally broken.

"To make a comeback like this was tremendous from Ravindra Jadeja and the lower order," India captain Shubman Gill said.

"It was an anti-climax for us the way Mohammed Siraj went. We needed a couple of partnerships in our top order and that didn't happen for us."

England had claimed four wickets in the morning to take charge of the match after India resumed on 58 for four. Rishabh Pant played a strange

one-handed straight drive for four off Archer to move to nine, but the fast bowler responded two balls later with an excellent delivery which uprooted his off stump.

Stokes snared KL Rahul lbw for 39, the England captain dropping to his knees and imploring the umpire to give him out. He refused to do so but England called for a review and the decision was overturned to huge cheers from the crowd.

Washington Sundar was next to fall for a duck, Archer leaping to his right to take a superb one-handed catch off his own bowling.

Jadeja and Nitish Kumar Reddy frustrated England with solid defence in a partnership of 30 until Woakes found the edge of Reddy's bat just before lunch to give the hosts a huge lift as they left the field to warm applause from a packed crowd.

Matthews named ICC Women's Player of the Month for June

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews is the ICC Women's Player of the Month for June.

She was crowned on Monday following a vote conducted among global fans registered at icc-cricket.com and a specialist panel comprising former international players and media representatives.

Matthews, who has previously won the awards in November 2021, October 2023, and April 2024, edged South Africa's Tazmin Brits and compatriot Afy Fletcher to become only the second player to win the award four times after Australia all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner.

The West Indies skipper scored 104 runs in the three ODIs against South Africa, which included a half-century in the third match. She also grabbed four wickets in the series.

Her fine run continued in the subsequent 2-1 T20I series win. She was named Player of the Series for her two fifties in an aggregate of 147 runs and two wickets.

"It's an honour to receive the Player of the Month award again. I've been pleased with my form recently, but



Hayley Matthews

more importantly, it's been great to contribute to the team's success—especially in a hard-fought T20I series against South Africa.

"Recognition like this is appreciated, but my focus remains on what's ahead. There's a lot more I want to achieve, both personally and with this team. We're heading in the right direction, and I'm excited about where we can

go from here."

South Africa's Aiden Markram won the men's award ahead of team-mate Kagiso Rabada and Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka for his for Player of the Match effort in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Final against Australia at Lord's.

CON'T FROM PAGE 28

of 17.48 meters.

Charles also claimed second place in the open women's shot put, which was won by her Panthers International teammate Ranique Richards with a throw of 10.36 meters.

Maliek Francis of Panthers International won the open men's javelin throw with an effort of 55.87 meters. His Panthers International teammate Nicholas Simpson claimed second place, and Taj Bellot of EduSports finished in third place.

Alyssa Dyett of PSE won the open women's triple jump with a distance of 12.61 meters.

Jada Gunthropes of Panthers International won the open women's long jump with a distance of 5.72 meters. Leann Joseph of Wadadli Athletics came second, and Jahnessi Simon of Panthers International came third.

The open men's long jump was won by Ajaharye Williams of PSE. Naeem Simon took second place ahead of his Panthers International teammate Asahel Henry, who clinched third place.

Jalen Dyett of PSE captured the open men's 400-meter final with a time of 46.72 seconds. Osei Gardner of Tigers Track Club came second, and Ryan Aikin of Panthers International claimed third place.

Tyra Fenton of Roots Athletics clocked 54 seconds to win the open women's 400-meter final. Kettia Ambrose of Panthers International came second, and Shenika Bentick of PSE took third place.

La'nica Locker of PSE won the open women's 200-meter final with a time

of 22.99 seconds. Tyra Fenton took second place in 23.12 seconds, and Alyssa Dyett of PSE came third in 24.24 seconds.

Meanwhile, the Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) honoured three nationals in recognition of their long-standing service and dedication to the development of athletics in Antigua and Barbuda.

Teddy Daley, Jyme Bridges Sr., and Richard Lindsay were recognized for their invaluable contributions over the years.

PSE dominates National Track and Field Championships



Representatives of Caribbean Alliance Insurance present awards to Zonique Charles, second left, and Darion Skerritt, second right, for achieving the most outstanding performance by a female and male athlete, respectively, at the National Track and Field Championships at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday, July 13, 2025. (Photos courtesy of the ABAA)

Power, Speed, and Endurance (PSE) Track Club continued their dominance on the second and final day of the Antigua and Barbuda National Track and Field Championships at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday.

The athletes of PSE capped a successful overall display during the two-day meet by winning the last two events, the women's 4x100 meter relay open and the men's 4x100 meter relay open.

The PSE quartet of Alysia Dyett, Geolyna Dowdie, La'nica Locker, and Shenika Bentick claimed the

women's 4x100 meter relay open with a time of 46.24 seconds.

The A Team of Panthers International took second place in 52.66 seconds, while the A Team of Edusports claimed third place in 54.99 seconds.

The PSE team comprising Ajani Daley, Kasiya Daley, Dwayne Fleming, and Jelen Dyett won the men's 4x100 meter relay by clocking 40.97 seconds.

The A Team of Panthers International took second place in 42.31 seconds, while the B Team of PSE claimed third place in 44.88



The Antigua and Barbuda Athletics Association (ABAA) honoured three nationals in recognition of their long-standing service and dedication to the development of athletics in Antigua and Barbuda. From left to right. Teddy Daley, Jyme Bridges Sr., and Richard Lindsay.

seconds.

Geolyna Dowdie and Dwayne Fleming won the women's and men's open 100 meter titles, respectively, on Saturday's opening day.

Sprinter Darion Skerritt of Phoenix Track Club and javelin thrower Zonique Charles of Panthers International delivered the most outstanding male and female performances, respectively, to claim the Caribbean Alliance Insurance

prestigious awards.

Skerritt produced a time of 20.67 seconds to win the open men's 200-meter final. Dwayne Fleming took second place in 20.82 seconds, and Osei Gardner of Tiger's Track Club captured third place in 21.05 seconds.

Charles' effort of 42.09 meters was good enough to win the open women's javelin throw. Kadian Adams of SuperNova Athletics took second place with a throw

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