

Antigua and Barbuda Joins in Celebrating Commonwealth Day

Story on page 2



Left to right: Sir David, Sir Toriano and Sir Clarence Edwards attended the Commonwealth Day Service at the Sawcolts Methodist Church on Sunday as Antigua and Barbuda joins in celebrating Commonwealth Day 2026

Antigua and Barbuda Joins in Celebrating Commonwealth Day



Antigua and Barbuda is observing Commonwealth Day today (Monday March 9) as it prepares to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) later this year.

Activities are taking place locally as well as in London where the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene as well as the country's CHOGM Envoy, Sir Vivian Richards are taking part in events there.

The local activities started on Sunday with a church service at the Sawcolts Methodist Church. In attendance were the Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts and Lady Roberts, the UK High Commissioner Representative, John Hamilton, Sir Clarence, Sir Toriano and Sir David Edwards of the Burning Flames Band, members of the Antigua and Barbuda Ex-Servicemen Association, the Boys Brigade, Head of the Commonwealth Day Planning Committee, Paula Hunte and other members of staff of Government House along with other representative groups and members of the Sawcolts Methodist Church.

The Service of Thanksgiving sought

to bring together representatives of Government, the diplomatic corps, youth organisations, the uniformed services, and the wider community in reflection and prayer for the Commonwealth and the nation's continued contribution within it.

Today, Commonwealth Day, the activities kick off with Commonwealth Youth FLOE On The Go (FLOE is acronym for (Future Leaders Opportunities Experience).

According to Government House, speakers from select organizations will address students at select school assemblies for no more than ten minutes on the Commonwealth, CHOGM and Tips for Successful Living. At other select schools, Principals will read a message from the Governor General's



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Deputy.

The Commonwealth Day Street Parade, one of the highlights of the celebrations, will start at the former Culture Building on Parliament Drive and culminate at the Antigua Recreation Grounds.

The parade starts at 9:00 o'clock in the morning and it is expected to attract upwards of three hundred par-

ticipants from primary and secondary schools alongside representatives of the uniformed and para-military services.

A Commonwealth Day Programme will follow the parade at the ARG. This cultural programme will highlight Antiguan and Barbudan youth talent and traditional customs, celebrating its identity within the wider Commonwealth. The morning's pro-

ceedings will culminate with the ceremonial reading of His Majesty The King's Commonwealth Day Message, to be delivered by the Governor General's Deputy on this occasion while The Governor General accepts official invitations to Commonwealth activities in the United Kingdom.

This year, the Commonwealth Day Committee will also launch a Commonwealth mobile app platform to encourage student-friendly Commonwealth-related activities which will be rolled out throughout the year.

In London, Sir Rodney and Lady Williams as well as Minister Greene and Sir Vivian will be part of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey that will be followed by a Commonwealth Day Reception at St. James's Palace.

As part of the promotion of this year's CHOGM in St. John's, Sir Vivian signed a number of cricket bats to be presented as souvenirs to key officials in London. King Charles heads the list of those who will be presented with one the bats from the cricket icon.

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Commonwealth Day Message



From His Excellency Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

Head of the CHOGM 2026 Taskforce

On this Commonwealth Day, we join the other nations of the Commonwealth in celebrating the enduring bonds that unite nearly one-third of humanity across every ocean and continent. This occasion reminds us that cooperation among nations—freely chosen, values-based and grounded in mutual respect—remains one of the strongest foundations for peace, stability and shared prosperity.

At the very heart of the Commonwealth lies a fundamental and enduring principle: peace among nations. For decades, this voluntary association has provided a trusted forum where dialogue prevails over division, diplomacy replaces confrontation, and shared values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law guide collective action. In an increasingly uncertain world, the Commonwealth’s commitment to peaceful cooperation remains one of its most defining and enduring pillars.

This year’s observance carries special significance for Antigua and Barbuda, as our nation prepares to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026. This historic gathering will bring together Heads

of Government, ministers, officials, youth leaders, business representatives and civil society from across the Commonwealth. It will be the largest international conference ever hosted in Antigua and Barbuda, placing our nation at the centre of global dialogue on the future direction of this remarkable association.

CHOGM 2026 presents a historic opportunity to reinvigorate the Commonwealth and to chart a bold new roadmap for cooperation, peace and sustainable prosperity among its member states. From Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth will renew its commitment to peace, partnership and progress. At a time when global insti-

tutions are being tested, this meeting can serve as a turning point—renewing confidence in multilateral partnership and strengthening the Commonwealth’s role as a force for stability, development and opportunity.

As Head of the CHOGM 2026 Taskforce, I call on all patriotic citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda to embrace this moment with pride and purpose. The success of CHOGM will reflect the unity, professionalism and hospitality of our people.

Together, let us ensure that this historic gathering becomes a defining moment for our nation and a new chapter of progress for the Commonwealth.

REGGAE IN THE PARK 15

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CLIMAXX SOUND AZERO DEGREES MARINE HEAVY LIGHTIN’ English Harbour Antigua Rum Heineken

FA Minister Greene Promotes CHOGM At Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Session



Antigua and Barbuda Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene commenced his official engagements in the United Kingdom by participating in the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting (CFAMM) in London, where he moderated the Open Session of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers.

In this role, Minister Greene led a high-level exchange among ministers on key issues shaping the future of the Commonwealth and the global multilateral system.

Discussions focused on the future of multilateralism in the current global context, including the role of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers

in strengthening cooperation and advancing reforms proposed by the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Ministers also examined the continued relevance of the Commonwealth in the current global democratic climate, highlighting the important role of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) in safeguarding and promoting Commonwealth values.

The session further explored innovative approaches to economic diplomacy within the Commonwealth, including ways to accelerate the removal of trade barriers and facilitate increased trade and investment among Commonwealth member states. Ministers also discussed strategies to strengthen resilience across the Commonwealth, including advancing common positions on global initiatives such as the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), Bridgetown Initiative and enhancing coordination within international governance platforms, including the EU, G7, G20, and BRICS.

Addressing colleagues during the meeting, Minister Greene also provided a comprehensive update on Antigua and Barbuda's preparations to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, which will take place in St. John's from 1st - 4th November, 2026.

"Antigua and Barbuda is deeply honoured to host CHOGM 2026," Minister Greene stated. "Our preparations are advancing steadily, and we look forward to welcoming Commonwealth leaders to St. John's for a meeting that will strengthen partnerships, accelerate

Local News

investment, and advance the shared prosperity of our Commonwealth family.”

On the margins of the meeting, Minister Greene held several productive bilateral engagements with international partners to deepen diplomatic cooperation and discuss areas of mutual interest.

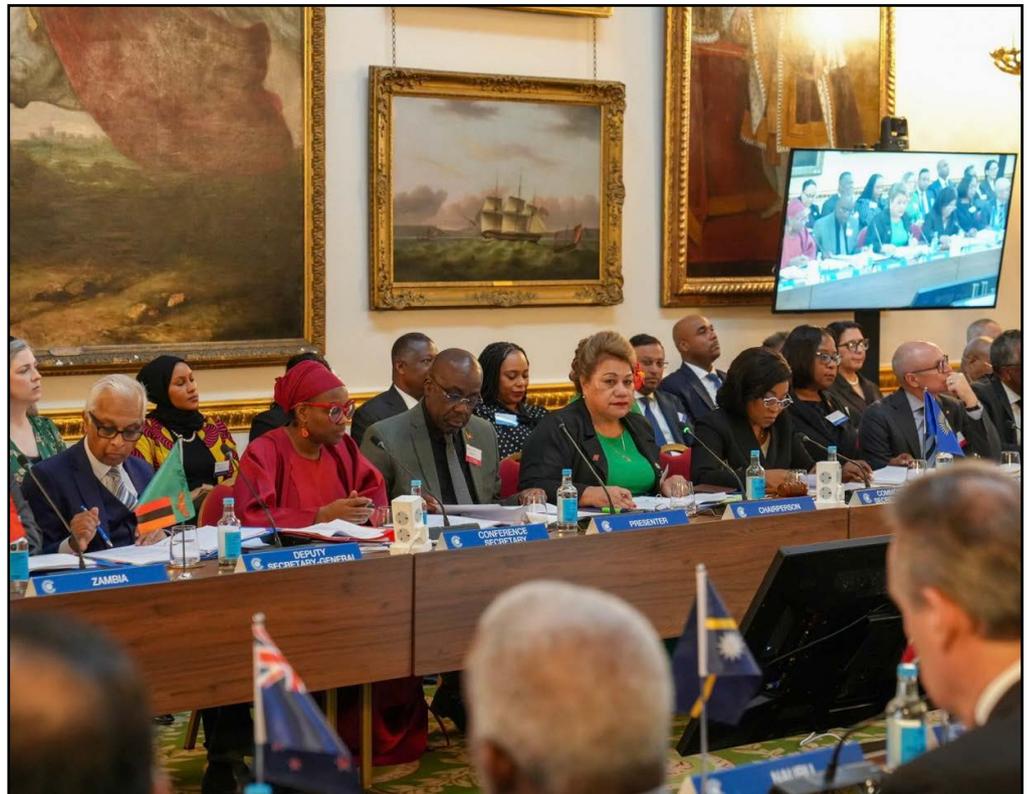
These included meetings with:

- Honourable Robert Oliphant MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
- Honourable Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India
- Honourable Dr. Ian Borg MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of Malta
- Honourable Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh
- Mr. Luke Goh, Permanent Secretary for Law and Foreign Affairs of Singapore

Minister Greene emphasised that these discussions strengthened bilateral partnerships and built momentum toward CHOGM 2026.

“The Commonwealth remains an important platform for collaboration, dialogue and opportunity,” Minister Greene noted. “Through partnerships and shared action, we can build resilience, unlock economic opportunity, and ensure that the Commonwealth continues to deliver meaningful benefits for our people.”

Minister Greene’s visit to the United Kingdom continues with participation in Commonwealth Day celebrations, including the Commonwealth Day Service of Celebration and other official engagements with Commonwealth partners and members of the Antigua and Barbudan diaspora.



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Government agrees to provide training for local sound engineers



The government has agreed to provide training for local sound engineers as a critical component of the investments into providing all the facilities needed for the country to successfully host international conferences, concerts and similar events.

Word of this comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a discussion on current state of the sound industry in Antigua and Barbuda and the failure of local sound systems to provide the requirements for international concerts such as the One Nation Concert held in January.

PM Browne said as the country seeks to establish itself as a hub for large conferences, international concerts and other events that require world-class sound systems and engineers as several reports from professionals in the field have signaled to the government. They reports say the local sound systems fall below acceptable international standards.

The discussion formed part of Saturday's *Browne and Browne*

show where the guests included local sound system owner and engineer, Whitney Williams of Stone Wall System and special appearances by sound engineers, Shane Browne of Jamaica and his colleague, Ricardo Aikman.

Both overseas-based engineers reported that they have worked as engineers for many top international artists and that they have also worked alongside Williams and his team at Stone Wall.

Their assessment is that 'Whitney/Stone Wall have provided the best that they can do', but that this falls below what is expected by international artists.

Sound engineer Browne indicated that despite being a sound engineer with many years' experience, he still undergoes regular training to sharpen his skills and to learn of the latest trends in the industry.

He made an offer to personally finance a trip for Williams to travel to Jamaica where he will undergo intense training to bring his skills up to the required standards.

PM Browne said the matter has been discussed at the level of the Cabinet on whether to government should enter into a joint venture with a local company such as Stone Wall to improve their overall product to include training, purchase additional equipment and even to encourage the group to improve on their overall appearance when they are working on shows etc.

"We came to a decision that we have to 'level-up' because Antigua and Barbuda is emerging as an international conference destination. We have hosted SIDS4, Caribbean Tourism Marketplace and this year CHOGM and with CHOGM there will be an international concert for which we are trying to get one or two international artists and they are very particular about the type of system we should have," he revealed.

He added that the government is in discussions with a team to manage certain aspect of the conference including audio and video and they are suggesting to the government the need for adequate equipment to undertake the task.

Both Browne and Aikman have recommended that the government ought to acquire the necessary equipment and to incorporate the local sound system in the company to make Antigua and Barbuda to production capital of the sub-region. Additionally, they are recommending professional training for all those who will operate the system. The prime minister the Cabinet in essence have agreed to these recommendations.

Attaining 'White Coat' Status Is A Covenant, GG Tells AUA Students

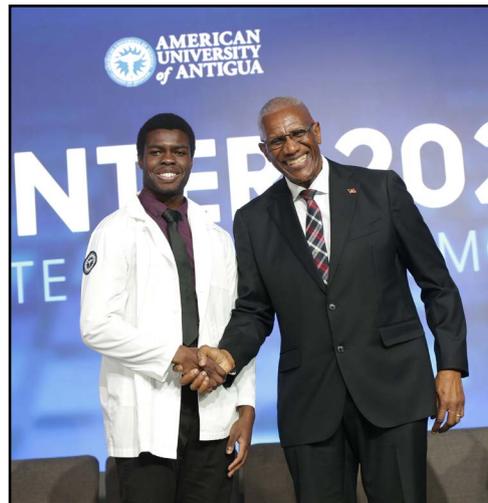


The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, underscored the significance of attaining 'white coat' status when he addressed a ceremony marking the occasion for a group of students at the American University of Antigua.

Sir Rodney was the featured speaker when the American University of Antigua College of Medicine hosted its White Coat Ceremony on Friday afternoon at the AUA Convention and Conference Center on the University's campus, marking an important milestone for medical students as they transition into the clinical phase of their training.

In his address, the Governor General reflected on the deep meaning and responsibility associated with the white coat in the medical profession. He noted that "for some, it is simply a garment, but for those of us in medicine, it is a covenant. It represents trust, the sacred trust placed in you by patients who will reveal their fears, their vulnerabilities, and sometimes their very lives into your hands."

Drawing on more than four decades of experience in family medicine, sports medicine, and aviation medicine, Sir Rodney encouraged the students to embrace the responsibilities that accompany the profession and to



remain grounded in compassion and humility. He reminded them that the white coat represents responsibility to listen carefully to patients, to pursue lifelong learning, and to treat every person with dignity and respect.

The Governor General also emphasized that while medicine continues to evolve through scientific advancement and technological innovation, the central role of the patient must never be forgotten. As he stated, "no algorithm can replace compassion. No machine can replace a listening ear. No prescription can substitute for respect. The most powerful words you will ever say to a patient are often the simplest, 'I am here.'"

Addressing the families present, he acknowledged the sacrifices and encouragement that support students throughout the demanding journey of medical education, noting that this milestone reflected not only the achievement of the students but also the commitment of those who supported them along the way.

The White Coat Ceremony is a longstanding tradition in medical education and serves to underscore the ethical responsibilities, professionalism, and commitment to service that define the medical profession. The ceremony concluded with the formal



presentation of white coats to the students, symbolizing their transition from classroom learning to hands-on clinical practice.

The event was chaired by Dr. Hani Morcos, who served as Master of Ceremony.

Among those in attendance were Dr. David Graham, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Matthew Hogan, Dean of Clinical Sciences, members of the University's faculty and administration, as well as families and friends of the students.

Remarks were also delivered by Dr. Graham, who congratulated the students on reaching this important stage of their medical education and encouraged them to approach their clinical training with dedication, professionalism, and a strong commitment to patient care.

Founded in 2004, the American University of Antigua College of Medicine continues to train physicians from around the world and contributes significantly to the global healthcare workforce, while reinforcing Antigua and Barbuda's role as a centre for international medical education and professional training.

Good Humans 268 Launches Digital Waste Management Classroom with Global Youth Impact Support

Good Humans 268 Inc. is taking an important step toward strengthening environmental education in Antigua and Barbuda with the launch of a new Online Waste Management Classroom, led by youth project leader Kelisha Pigott.

The initiative is supported under the framework of the UNESCO x Nestlé Youth Impact Global Youth Grant Scheme, where youth leaders from around the world were selected from nearly 5,000 applications for projects focused on climate action and sustainability.

Through Good Humans 268 Inc., the project will develop a digital learning space where teachers, students, community groups, and households can access simple and engaging resources about waste management. The platform will feature workbooks, puzzles, games, activity sheets, and more than 100 educational videos designed to make environmental learning accessible and interactive.

The online classroom will also serve as the foundation for the Student Community Service App, a future platform designed to track environmental volunteerism across the island. The app will allow students to record community service hours, trees planted, and recyclable items collected, helping build a national database of youth environmental action.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, the world generates more than 2 billion tonnes of municipal waste every year, and plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental challenges presently.



Kelisha Pigott emphasized the importance of education in addressing the problem.

“Waste management starts with awareness. When people understand how their everyday actions impact the environment, they are more likely to change their habits. This project is about making that information easy to access for everyone in Antigua and Barbuda.”

She added that plastic waste in particular presents both a challenge and an opportunity.

“Plastic is one of the most widely used materials in the world. The goal is not just to reduce it, but to

help people understand how it can be reused, recycled, and managed responsibly.”

Good Humans 268 Inc. will also be visiting several schools across the island to share the project with students and teachers. Community members are encouraged to follow the organization’s social media pages for photos, videos, and updates as the resources are developed.

At a time when the country has recently experienced landfill fires and an oil spill, initiatives like this aim to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda continues moving toward a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future.

More Cannabis Seized At The Airport...No Arrests Made

The police have conducted another drug interdiction operation at the VC Bird International Airport Cargo Shed, during which they seized a quantity of cannabis with an estimated street value of EC\$78,000.

At approximately 5:30 p.m. last Thursday, officers attached to the Narcotics Department and Customs Enforcement Unit, carried out a coordinated operation at the LIAT Cargo Shed. During the exercise, two brown cardboard boxes were searched. The boxes contained thirteen (13) packages of cannabis, with a combined weight of approximately thirteen (13) pounds.

No arrests have been made in connection with the seizure at this time; however, investigations into the matter are ongoing.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to work closely with Customs and other law enforcement partners to combat the importation and trafficking of illegal drugs into the country.

Anyone with information that may assist the police in this investigation is asked to contact the Narcotics Department at 462-5150, the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913, or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).

Meanwhile, the police have arrested and charged Jamolee Joseph of Perry Bay in connection with a break-in at Antigua Fisheries Limited located on Market Street.

It is alleged that sometime between 3rd and 4th March 2026, the accused unlawfully entered the business establishment and stole a quantity of groceries and equipment valued at approxi-



mately EC\$24,311.60.

Further investigations led to the recovery of groceries and equipment valued at EC\$3,910.22, which are the property of Antigua Fisheries. As a result, Joseph was also charged with Receiving.

Investigations into the matter are ongoing, and the accused is expected to appear before the court at a later date.

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda continues to urge mem-

bers of the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities.

Anyone with information that may assist the police with this or any other investigation is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).

AGHS Alumnae Present EC\$3,000 Donation Following Book Project



The Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) has received a EC\$3,000.00 donation from a global network of alumnae, represented at the cheque presentation by Dr. Ermina Osoba née Davis and former Headmistress Evelyn Sheppard née Davis. The presentation underscores the continued commitment of past students around the world in supporting their alma mater.

Principal Rosalind Beaser accepted the cheque during a special assembly with students. She expressed sincere gratitude for the contribution, noting that the donation comes on the heels of the school's 140th anniversary celebrations. She commended the alumnae for their dedication to preserving

the institution's legacy and for giving back in such a meaningful way.

The book was published by Tellwell Publishing in 2024 after "old girls" in a group chat started by Holly Peters née Joseph embarked on the project to capture personal reminiscences and achievements of the many students who graced the halls of the island's lone public school for girls.

The project not only celebrates the rich history of AGHS but underscores the enduring bonds shared among its students across generations. Proceeds from the publication will support ongoing initiatives at the school, reinforcing a tradition of excellence that has defined Antigua Girls' High



School for more than a century.

The book is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble (online). Future sales and royalties will go to the school.

REGGAE IN THE PARK 15

SAVE THE DATE

TUE 21 APR

End Hostilities Wherever They Are and Immediately Declare Zones of Peace – Part II



Written by Ambassador Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

The escalating hostilities in the Middle East once again demonstrate how fragile global stability has become and why the international community must urgently pursue the creation of durable zones of peace. In Part I of this series, I argued that diplomacy, restraint, and multilateral cooperation must prevail over military confrontation if the world is to safeguard human life, economic stability, and environmental sustainability.

Recent military actions involving the United States and Israel against Iran, followed by retaliatory strikes across the region, have heightened geopolitical tensions and shaken global markets. Several countries have been directly or indirectly affected by the hostilities, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Turkey, Yemen, and the United Kingdom, whose bases in Cyprus have also faced security threats. Aviation routes have been disrupted, energy infrastructure has come under threat, and the risk of broader con-

frontation across the Gulf region remains real.

The economic consequences were immediate. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities in late February 2026, Brent crude oil had been trading between approximately \$67 and \$72 per barrel. Following the escalation of military activity and fears of supply disruption, prices surged sharply. In early March 2026, Brent crude briefly exceeded \$93 per barrel, with analysts warning that prices could approach or even surpass \$100 per barrel if instability continues. Much of this concern centers on the vulnerability of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime passage through which nearly 20 percent of the world's oil supply flows each day. Any serious disruption to this corridor would trigger severe economic consequences worldwide, affecting transportation costs, food prices, inflation, and the stability of many national economies.

These developments illustrate a fundamental reality: the modern world is deeply interconnected. The Earth's land area spans approximately 57 million square miles, yet within this shared space global trade routes, transport networks, financial systems, and environmental processes bind nations together. Instability in one region therefore reverberates rapidly across the globe.

The scale of humanity further magnifies these risks. The world's population now stands at approximately 8.3 billion people. India, with roughly 1.47 billion inhabitants, is the most populous country, followed by China with approximately 1.41 billion. The United States, Indonesia, and Pakistan rank among the next most populous nations. In a world of such scale and complexity, the consequences of war cannot easily be contained within national borders.

Unfortunately, the Middle East crisis is only one example of a broader pattern of instability affecting several regions of the world.

Sudan remains engulfed in a devastating civil war that has created a large displacement crisis. Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories face severe humanitarian distress. Yemen continues to suffer the consequences of nearly a decade of conflict, while Ukraine remains a major theatre of war in Europe.

Elsewhere, the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to experience persistent violence and displacement. Afghanistan struggles with deep economic hardship and humanitarian need. Syria remains one of the world's largest displacement crises more than fourteen years after the outbreak of war. Haiti faces severe institutional breakdown as insecurity undermines national governance.

Across the Sahel region, particularly Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, extremist violence and fragile governance have produced one of the most neglected humanitarian emergencies in the world. Myanmar also continues to experience widespread displacement and instability following its military coup.

These crises differ in geography and political origin, yet they share common consequences: displacement, poverty, institutional collapse, and immense human suffering.

Humanitarian organizations warn that some of the most dangerous places in the world to be a child today include Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gaza, and Haiti. In such environments, schools close, healthcare systems deteriorate, and entire generations grow up surrounded by insecurity.

A sobering truth emerges: a gener-

ation raised in conflict often inherits instability.

War also inflicts serious damage on the fragile environmental systems that sustain life on Earth.

Approximately 70 percent of the planet's surface is covered by oceans, yet only about 2.5 percent of Earth's water is freshwater, and only a small fraction of that freshwater is accessible for human use. Humanity therefore depends on a limited portion of the planet's natural resources.

At the same time, global temperatures have risen well above 1°C above pre-industrial levels, with current estimates placing warming at roughly 1.4°C above late nineteenth-century averages.

Armed conflict accelerates environmental degradation. Military operations destroy ecosystems, release pollutants, and generate significant greenhouse gas emissions. Explosions, fires, and the destruction of industrial facilities release large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. In this way, war almost certainly contributes to global warming while simultaneously diverting global attention and resources away from climate action.

Even the reconstruction that follows conflict requires enormous quantities of energy, steel, cement, and other carbon-intensive materials.

The planet's biodiversity is also under increasing strain. Scientists estimate that Earth may host approximately 8.7 million species of plants and animals, many of which support complex ecosystems essential for food production and environmental stability.

Deforestation can also intensify in regions affected by conflict. Military activity, fires, weakened governance, and economic desperation often lead to accelerated forest destruction and illegal logging. As forests disappear, biodiversity declines and the planet's capacity to absorb carbon emissions weakens.

Pollution further compounds the

problem. Plastic waste may take hundreds of years to decompose, while metals such as aluminum can persist for centuries. Plastic pollution alone causes billions of dollars in economic damage annually, particularly to fisheries, tourism, and marine ecosystems.

Because oceans connect every region of the planet, pollution and environmental damage rarely remain confined to where they originate. Ocean currents distribute contaminants across vast distances.

In this sense, peace among nations is inseparable from peace with our environment.

Conflict also undermines one of humanity's most ambitious cooperative frameworks: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These goals represent a global blueprint for eliminating poverty, improving healthcare and education, reducing inequality, combating climate change, and strengthening institutions.

Yet war weakens every one of these objectives.

Resources intended for development are diverted toward military expenditure. Infrastructure is destroyed faster than it can be rebuilt. Schools and hospitals collapse. Climate initiatives stall as governments shift attention from sustainability to security.

Simply stated: war reverses development.

Achieving sustainable development therefore requires something deeper than economic growth. It requires stability, cooperation, and peace.

This reality also highlights the growing urgency of reforming the United Nations.

The United Nations today consists of 193 member states, with two permanent observer states — the Holy See and the State of Palestine — participating in its work. It remains the most universal institution for international cooperation ever created.

However, the structure of the organization still largely reflects the geopolitical realities of 1945 rather than the world of the twenty-first century. The composition of the United Nations Security Council has not evolved sufficiently to reflect modern global demographics and political realities, leaving large regions of the world underrepresented in the institution responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

Efforts such as the UN80 Initiative seek to strengthen peace operations, improve the efficiency of the UN development system, and promote more equitable representation. But reform must move beyond discussion and become action.

A stronger and more representative United Nations would be better equipped to mediate conflicts, coordinate humanitarian responses, and prevent crises from escalating into prolonged wars.

At the same time, the international community must pursue a broader objective: the creation of zones of peace.

Zones of peace represent deliberate commitments by nations to reduce tensions, prioritize diplomacy, and protect civilian populations from the devastation of war.

Peace among nations supports peace among people.

Peace among people supports peace with our environment.

Together, these forms of peace provide the foundation upon which sustainable development and long-term global stability can be built.

The lesson is unmistakable: peace is not merely a moral aspiration — it is a strategic necessity for humanity's survival and progress. If the international community is serious about safeguarding development, protecting the environment, and ensuring global stability, the creation of zones of peace must become an urgent global priority.

International Women's Day 2026

Message from the Commissioner Of Police

Mr. Everton Jeffers, KPM

On this International Women's Day, I extend sincere greetings and appreciation to all female officers and staff of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, while also saluting women in law enforcement across the globe for their courage, dedication, and invaluable service to their communities.

This year's theme, "Give to Gain" reminds us that true success comes through dedication, discipline, and perseverance. Policing is a demanding profession, and the women who proudly wear this uniform continue to demonstrate exceptional strength, professionalism, and commitment to public service.

I commend the many female officers within our organization who have distinguished themselves through academic achievements, leadership development, and professional growth.

Your accomplishments reflect the val-



Mr. Everton Jeffers, KPM Commissioner of Police Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda

ue of hard work and the rewards that come from giving your best in service to others.

To every female officer, I encourage you to continue striving for excellence and to recognize that your potential within this organization is limitless. Your contributions remain vital to

strengthening policing and enhancing public safety in Antigua and Barbuda.

On behalf of the Police Administration, I thank you for your service and dedication.

Happy International Women's Day. May you continue to rise, lead, and inspire.

DAILY PROGRAMMING

EARLY VIBRATIONS	6AM-10AM MON. - FRI.
WITH GREMSTA	
THE RUSH HOUR SHOW	5PM-7PM MON. - FRI.
WITH ROGER LAKE	
TOUCHLINE	7PM-9PM MON. - THURS.
WITH EPILUS	
BAD COMPANY	2PM-6PM THURS. 12PM-4PM SATURDAYS
LIVE FROM THE V.I. & 1PM-5PM ON SUNDAYS	
REGGAE INSPIRATION	9PM-12AM MON. THURS. SUNDAY
WITH SELECTOR KEEGAN	
JAH WADADLI	7PM-9PM FRIDAYS
WITH DJ JAH WADADLI	

Women, Strength and Visibility: Why Disability Must Be Part of the Equality Conversation

Every year on March 8, the world marks International Women’s Day, a moment dedicated to recognizing the strength, resilience, and achievements of women everywhere. It is a day of celebration. A day for reflection. A day for recommitting ourselves to the promise of equality. But there is an important truth that must also be acknowledged: not all women experience equality in the same way.

For millions of women with disabilities across the world, the journey toward recognition, dignity, and opportunity is often more complex. Across the globe, more than one billion people live with disabilities, representing roughly one in six individuals worldwide. Within that population, women make up a significant portion. Studies suggest that nearly one in five women globally lives with some form of disability, meaning that disability inclusion must be a central part of the conversation about gender equality.

Yet too often, these women remain in-



visible in policies, programs, and public discussions. Women with disabilities frequently encounter barriers that others may never have to consider. They encounter buildings without ramps or elevators. They encounter classrooms that

are not designed for inclusive learning.

They encounter workplaces that underestimate their abilities before they even have the chance to demonstrate their potential. And sometimes, they

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encounter attitudes that assume limitation rather than possibility. The United Nations describes this experience as “double discrimination”—the combined impact of gender inequality and disability exclusion.

In many countries, women with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, less likely to complete their education, and more likely to face barriers to employment. They are also at greater risk of social isolation and violence. These realities highlight an important truth: equality cannot exist if it excludes some women from the conversation. Despite these obstacles, women with disabilities around the world continue to demonstrate remarkable strength and leadership.

They are activists advocating for accessibility. They are entrepreneurs building businesses and creating opportunities. They are educators, community leaders, and innovators challenging outdated ideas about ability and potential.

Their work is helping to reshape the global conversation about inclusion. As the United Nations has reminded the world: “Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.”

But gender equality cannot truly exist without disability inclusion. UNES-

CO has also highlighted the importance of inclusive systems, particularly when it comes to education. The organization emphasizes that education must be “inclusive and equitable for all learners,” recognizing that access to learning is one of the most powerful tools for empowerment.

Education is often the first step toward breaking cycles of exclusion. When girls with disabilities are given access to quality education, they gain knowledge, confidence, and opportunities that can transform their futures. They become leaders within their families, workplaces, and communities. But when education systems are inaccessible, those opportunities disappear before they even begin.

That is why inclusion must be intentional. It requires governments to design policies that recognize the unique experiences of women with disabilities. It requires schools to create classrooms that support diverse learners. It requires businesses to build workplaces that value talent and diversity.

And it requires communities to challenge stereotypes and embrace inclusion. International Women’s Day offers an opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of women but also to examine how far we have come—and how far we still have to go.

True equality means creating a world where every woman has the opportunity to participate fully in society, regardless of her physical abilities or circumstances. It means recognizing that diversity strengthens communities. It means understanding that inclusion is not charity—it is justice. When women with disabilities are empowered, their contributions reach far beyond individual success stories.

They bring new perspectives to problem-solving. They inspire younger generations. They challenge systems to become more equitable and inclusive. And in doing so, they help societies move forward.

International Women’s Day reminds us that the journey towards equality is still unfolding. But it also reminds us that change is possible when voices that were once unheard begin to lead the conversation. Because when women with disabilities rise, they do not rise alone. They bring families, communities, and entire societies forward with them.

And that is the true promise of equality.

Joshuanette Francis

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Tel 268 727 2120 or 268 463 5674



A Tribute To Sybil Walling A Masterclass In Service

By Agatha Dublin

Yet, again...another jewel has fallen from our crown! Sybil Walling has left us with warm memories of her illustrious life of impeccable probity, graceful poise and polished aplomb. Hers, was a life that impacted others. I cannot speak for all netballers...but, I'll attempt to represent those of us, whose lives she touched.

In my formative years, I was fortunate to call her my leader, during my transition to adulthood, I was grateful to call her my mentor; later, as I navigated the complexities of life, I was privileged to call her, my friend.

To most of us, she became our moral compass, who personified dignity and elegant stoicism; punctuated by an unpretentious aura of regal decorum.

Her noble service spanned multiple terms as President of Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) and the Caribbean Netball Association (CAN). Her delicate, graceful, charming demeanor foreshadowed the deep appreciation she'd garnered for the vast levels of authority she commanded in her varied, professional roles.

Mrs. Walling was Netball Royalty; she wasn't a perfect person; but, she was the perfect lady. Always aware of her immense stewardship of us, which transcended far beyond the game. Immaculately groomed; refined, to 'almost aristocratic perfection'. Sybil Walling was our role model. Netballers, then, admired and revered her with immense pride. She was the symbolism of structure, order, correctness, and finesse!

She ran the organization as if it was a Finishing School. Madame President was determined that we always reflected the Pride of Antigua and Barbuda, during our national undertakings; cultivating discipline in our development, with every fundraising event we were required to work. We were schooled in protocol and etiquette. Back then, if you earned the privilege of being selected to the National Team...you knew



As the World Celebrated International Women's Day 2026, it is fitting that the nation of Antigua and Barbuda remembers the late Sybil Walling who left an indelible mark on women's sports both locally and regionally.

that every official appearance was carefully coordinated. Grooming and deportment were paramount! We couldn't be seen traipsing around, publicly, with curlers in our hair; or inappropriate attire. That was just NOT allowed! We were young ladies, and were required to look and act accordingly!

So, permit me to recall...the first and only time we ever saw her break protocol. We were in St. Vincent, competing in a regional tournament; We had, unwittingly, squandered a winning opportunity in a match, the evening before. She was peeved, but silent; the next morning, an unsmiling Sybil Walling, appeared at practice...with a single curler in the front of her hair... she then, gracefully sat, as only Sybil could; she outstretched her right leg across a chair, generously, revealing way too much of her bare, upper thigh. We all stood, dumbfounded! You see, those, seemingly, innocuous 'indiscretions' just didn't happen, not with Lady Walling! She was just held to a higher standard.

With stunned disbelief, a silent mayhem ensued, betrayed only by the

frenzied, bewilderment of our lying, deceiving eyes. The myriad facial expressions were priceless. You see, We were due for a sound berating for our inexcusably, dreadful performance; we'd lost a game, but...this woman had lost her mind!

The growing enormity of the moment suddenly dawned on us...so, no one dared to openly broach the topic. Embarrassingly subdued, we anxiously awaited the much deserved, verbal onslaught. But, she didn't say much, she just, quietly allowed us to absorb the magnitude of her 'displeasure'. One glance at us, and, she knew she'd just delivered a breathtaking, psychological gut punch to the team. Mission Accomplished! Then, she cracked her signature smile.

That was her way of realigning our collective focus, after our hapless, miserable game loss, the evening before. Her message was delivered with clinical tact! In that single moment...seeing her step out of character, was all it took to rein us in!

Sybil chided us without ever raising her voice; her calm, soft demeanor prevailed...even in adversity, she maintained her composure.

It was a Master Class in Effective Nonverbal Communication, Leadership and Self Control!

The pinnacle of her esteemed tenure, saw her boldly leading a large contingent to the 1983 World Netball Championships in Singapore. In 1983, the significance of that ambitious venture was so profound...Let history recall and Hansard reflect, that the then sitting PM, Hon. V.C. Bird Sr. had interrupted an ongoing parliamentary session to, lustily, announce to a proud nation, that Antigua and Barbuda had just defeated the host team, Singapore, in the Championships opening match. Parliament erupted in thunderous applause! You'd have thought we'd won the championship! Sybil's report to the PM made headline news!

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National Festivals Office, 1st Floor, Cecil George-John Building, Corn Alley & Redcliffe Street
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Regional News



Haitian group condemns death of Haitian in ICE custody

The San Diego, California-based Haitian Bridge Alliance (HBA) has condemned the death of a Haitian national in the custody of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

On Friday, ICE said Emanuel Cleford Damas, “a criminal illegal alien from Haiti currently facing criminal charges for assault and battery, died while in custody on March 2.

But, according to Guerline Jozef, HBA executive director, Damas died at a Scottsdale hospital “after reportedly suffering complications linked to an untreated tooth infection while detained at the Florence ICE facility, raising serious concerns about access to timely medical care for immigrants in government custody.”

“Damas’ death is part of a deeply troubling pattern,” she added, stating that, at least 30 to 32 people died in ICE detention in 2025.

“The crisis appears to be continuing into this year,” Jozef continued. “Multiple deaths have already been reported in the early months of 2026, including four migrants who died while in US immigration custody in the first 10 days alone in 2026.

“Far too many immigrants—including Haitian nationals—have died in ICE custody,” she said. “The death of Emmanuel Damas is a devastating reminder that our immigration detention system is failing the most basic standard of human dignity. People seeking safety should not die from untreated medical conditions while in government custody.”

Jozef said these deaths demand “urgent accountability, transparency, and meaningful reform.”

She said HBA calls on federal authorities to launch independent investigations into deaths in immigration detention, ensure adequate medical care for all detainees, and expand humane, community-based alternatives to individuals with pending immigration cases who pose a risk to public safety.” (CMC)



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St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister and Foreign Minister face election petition over dual citizenship



The High Court in Kingstown has begun hearing election petitions challenging the eligibility of Prime Minister Dr. Godwin Friday and Foreign Affairs Minister Dwight Fitzgerald Bramble.

The case, filed by Unity Labour Party (ULP) candidates Carlos Williams and Luke Browne, questions whether the officials' dual Vincentian-Canadian citizenship disqualifies them from holding parliamentary office under Section 26 of the Constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Both Friday and Bramble secured victories in the November 2025 general elections, representing East Kingstown and the Northern Grenadines respectively. The petitioners argue that their Canadian citizenship constitutes an "acknowledgment of allegiance" to a foreign power, which the Constitution prohibits for elected representatives.

Exiting the courthouse after Thursday's case management hearing, Dr. Friday offered a lighthearted remark: "It is a wonderful day. Look at the sunshine," before deferring questions to his legal team. Lead counsel for the government, Anand Ramlogan S.C. of Trinidad and Tobago, described the pro-

ceedings as "an interesting, if not amusing experience." He expressed confidence in the government's position, noting the prime minister's "overwhelming mandate" from voters.

The petitioners are represented by Stewart Richard Young S.C., Al Elliott, and Carlos James, while the respondents' defense team includes Ramlogan alongside attorneys from Trinidad and Tobago and England. Justice Gertel Thom is presiding over the matter.

The timeline of the case sets out several important deadlines. By March 12, 2026, the respondents must disclose their election declarations. The petitioners are then required to file additional evidence by March 27, 2026, after which the respondents must submit their replies by May 11, 2026. A further case management hearing is scheduled for May 19, 2026. The trial itself has been fixed for three consecutive days—July 28, 29, and 30, 2026—before Justice Gertel Thom.

At stake is whether the Court will uphold the election results or rule that dual citizenship constitutes disqualifying allegiance under constitutional law. (Dominica News Online)



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Appeals court rules against Trump administration's efforts to end protected status for Haitians

A federal appeals court this week sided with a lower judge's ruling against the Trump administration's efforts to end temporary protected status for roughly 350,000 Haitians living in the United States.

The US Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., issued the 2-1 ruling on Friday.

"The government's failure to meet its burden of demonstrating irreparable harm alone justifies denying emergency relief that would upend the status quo and increase uncertainty while this appeal proceeds," the court said.

A message seeking comment was left Saturday with the Homeland Security Department.

Temporary Protected Status can be granted by the Homeland Security secretary if conditions in home countries are deemed unsafe for return due to a natural disaster, political instability or other dangers.

While it grants TPS holders the right to live and work in the US, it does not provide a legal pathway to citizenship.

Haiti's TPS status was initially activated in 2010 after a catastrophic earthquake and has been extended multiple times. The country is racked by gang violence that has displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

The Trump administration has aggressively sought to remove the protection, making more people eligible for deportation. The moves are part of the administration's wider, mass deportation effort.

In addition to the migrants from Haiti, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem — whom Trump announced he was firing on Thursday — has terminated protections for about 600,000 Venezuelans, 60,000 people from Honduras, Nicaragua and Nepal, more than 160,000 Ukrainians and thousands of people from Afghanistan and Cameroon. Some have pending lawsuits in federal courts. (AP)



NOTICE

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St.Johns Magistrate Court
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Antigua

TO:The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
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St.John's
Antigua

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice - Application for Tavern Licence

I, Maria Hernandez of Whenner Road, with registered business Sara's Grocery and Fast Food situated at Whenner Road in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's, Antigua on Tuesday 7th April, 2026, next ensuing for a Liquor License pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxicating Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Revised Edition 1992 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, in respect of the premises known as " Sara's Grocery and Fast Food" situated at Whenner Road in the Parish of St. John's Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 3rd day of March. 2026
1268-725-2969
Maria Hernandez

12 years on, renewed hunt for missing Flight MH370 comes up empty as families press for answers

Twelve years after Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 vanished with 239 people aboard, a renewed deep-sea search in the southern Indian Ocean has so far failed to locate the missing aircraft, Malaysian authorities said Sunday, as families pressed for the effort to continue.

The Air Accident Investigation Bureau said in a statement that a seabed search conducted by marine robotics company Ocean Infinity between March 2025 and January 2026 surveyed thousands of square kilometers of ocean floor but has not produced any confirmed findings of the aircraft wreckage.

Malaysia gave the nod to the Texas-based company last year to renew the search for Flight 370 under a “no-find, no-fee” contract at a new 15,000-square-kilometer (5,800-square-mile) site in the southern Indian Ocean where it was believed to have crashed. Ocean Infinity will be paid \$70 million only if wreckage is discovered.

The search was carried out for 28 days in two phases — March 25–28 last year and Dec 31, 2025, to Jan 23 this year, covering about 7,571 square kilometers (2,923 square miles) of seabed, the bureau said. Weather periodically disrupted operations, it said.

“The search activities undertaken have not yielded any findings that confirm the location of the aircraft wreckage,” it said in a statement. It didn’t give details on when the search will resume.

The Boeing 777 plane vanished from



radar shortly after taking off on March 8, 2014, carrying 239 people, mostly Chinese nationals, on a flight from Malaysia’s capital, Kuala Lumpur, to Beijing. Satellite data showed the plane turned from its flight path and headed south to the far-southern Indian Ocean, where it is believed to have crashed.

An expensive multinational search failed to turn up any clues to its location, although debris washed ashore on the east African coast and Indian Ocean islands. A private search in 2018 by Ocean Infinity also found nothing.

Voice 370, representing the families of some of those aboard the missing plane, urged the government to extend Ocean Infinity’s contract and to consider similar arrangements with other deep-sea exploration companies.

Although Ocean Infinity’s contract runs until June, the group said the company’s vessel has been redeployed for other work and is unlikely to return soon to complete the remaining search areas due to the approaching winter months and deteriorating sea conditions.

“The government pays nothing unless the aircraft is found. Any request by Ocean Infinity to extend the search contract should therefore be granted without hesitation,” it said in a statement. “If the present search is unsuccessful, we would also urge Malaysia to kindly consider extending similar no find, no fee opportunities to other capable deep sea exploration companies.”

The group vowed to “continue the fight for answers. We will never give up!” (AP)



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More than 500,000 displaced in Lebanon as Israel escalates attacks



More than half a million people in Lebanon have been registered as displaced after fighting restarted between Israel and Hezbollah following the United States and Israel's war on Iran.

Lebanon's Social Affairs Minister Haneen Sayed told a press briefing on Sunday that the total number of people who had registered on a website affiliated with the ministry reached 517,000, including 117,228 in government shelters, since fighting in Lebanon resumed on Monday.

The announcement comes as Israel widened its military campaign in Lebanon, striking for the first time into the heart of Beirut, a significant escalation in a conflict that has killed 394 people in Lebanon in a week, including 83 children, 42 women and nine rescue workers, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health.

Early on Sunday, an Israeli drone struck a hotel room in Raouche, a sea-front neighbourhood of the Lebanese capital popular with tourists and, more recently, with thousands of displaced Lebanese who had fled fighting elsewhere.

At least four people were killed 10

were wounded, Lebanese health officials said.

Israel said the attack killed five senior commanders of Iran's elite Quds Force, the overseas operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"The commanders of the Quds Force's Lebanon Corps operated to advance terror attacks against the state of Israel," the Israeli military said.

Raouche had been spared during Israel and Hezbollah's last war, which ended with a ceasefire in November 2024 although Israel had engaged in near-daily violations of the agreement.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army also announced that two Israeli soldiers have been killed in southern Lebanon, the country's first fatalities since fighting between Israel and Hezbollah resumed last week.

"Master Sergeant Maher Khatar, aged 38, from Majdal Shams ... fell during combat in southern Lebanon," the military said, confirming that a second soldier died in the same incident.

Lebanon was pulled back into war on Monday when Hezbollah fired rockets

and drones into Israel in response to the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in joint Israeli-United States air strikes last month.

Israel responded with a ferocious air assault across the south, east and Beirut's southern suburbs. Israeli ground forces, meanwhile, have been pushing into southern Lebanon, seizing hill-tops near the border.

Tanks and armoured bulldozers have been massing at the frontier, fuelling fears of a full-scale Israeli invasion.

Hezbollah has continued launching rockets and drones into northern Israel daily, saying its forces were involved in clashes with Israeli troops near the border town of Aitaroun on Sunday.

Al Jazeera's Nour Odeh, reporting from Ramallah, said "there are now serious concerns being raised" in Israel about attacks being launched from Lebanon.

"There is no advanced notice for these northern communities. They have a few seconds to rush to the shelters, and there is now consideration of evacuating those northern communities."

Hezbollah, Odeh said, has been able to target cities as far as Nahariya and Haifa as its forces battle Israel. "Haifa, that strategic city which has a lot of military and intelligence assets, is also being targeted by Hezbollah and Iran."

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said, "Our country has been drawn into a devastating war that we did not seek and did not choose," warning that the scale of displacement could produce "unprecedented" humanitarian and political consequences.

Israel said it has killed about 200 Hezbollah fighters since hostilities resumed.

The armed group has not published its own toll. (Al Jazeera English)

Iran's foreign minister rejects calls for a ceasefire: 'We need to continue fighting for the sake of our people'

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has rejected calls for a ceasefire in the Middle East, telling NBC News' "Meet the Press" that his country needs "to continue fighting for the sake of our people."

The U.S. and Israel "are killing our people, they are killing girl students, you know, they are attacking hospitals," he told moderator Kristen Welker.

He said Israel and the U.S. had already shattered the ceasefire reached to end last year's 12-day war, adding, "And now you want to ask for a ceasefire again? This doesn't work like this."

"There needs to be a permanent end to the war," Araghchi said. "Unless we get to that, I think we need to continue fighting for the sake of our people and our security."

On Friday, four sources told NBC News that Russia was providing intelligence to Iran on the location of U.S. forces in the Middle East, including intelligence that could help Iran locate American warships.

Pressed on whether Iran is receiving Russian support, Araghchi said that "cooperation between Iran and Russia is not something new, it's not a secret." He did not say whether Russian intelligence was helping Iran locate U.S. military assets.

"They are helping us in many different directions. I don't have any detailed information," he said.

In a separate interview on "Meet the Press," United Nations Ambassador Mike Waltz discussed reports of Russia sharing intelligence with Iran, saying he had "no doubt President Trump will deal with it accordingly."

Asked whether he considered Russia to have entered the conflict,

Waltz said "we know that both Russia and Iran have had this symbiotic relationship."

"If they are providing anything, it certainly hasn't been very effective, because the U.S. military is decimating Iran's air force, air defenses, navy, ground forces, command and control," Waltz said. "So whatever they're providing, if they're providing anything, hasn't shown to help them very much."

On Saturday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran would no longer attack neighboring Gulf nations unless they facilitate U.S. or Israeli attacks, and he apologized to the region after Iranian strikes killed people in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

But Araghchi said Iran had not been "attacking our neighbors" intentionally.

"We are attacking American bases, American installations, American assets, which are unfortunately located in the soils of our neighbors," he said.

Araghchi added that Pezeshkian had apologized to the people of the region for "the inconveniences they have faced because of this aggression by the United States and retaliation by us."

The Iranian minister also said that if the U.S. deploys ground troops to Iran, "we have very brave soldiers who are waiting for any enemy who enters into our soil, to fight with them and to kill them and destroy them."

President Donald Trump said last week that one of the reasons for launching the war was that Iran would soon have missiles capable of reaching the U.S., but Araghchi said this was untrue.

"This is in fact misinformation," he

said. "You know, we have capability to produce missiles, but we have intentionally limited ourselves to below 2,000 kilometers of range because we don't want to be felt as a threat by anybody else in the world."

Iran's Assembly of Experts has chosen a new supreme leader after strikes killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to Iranian state media, but Araghchi did not offer any insight on who was set to replace him.

"Nobody knows," he said. "There are lots of rumors around. But you know, we have to wait for the Assembly of Experts to convene."

Pressed on comments by Trump that he wanted to be involved in choosing Iran's next leader, Araghchi said Iran will "allow nobody to interfere in our domestic affairs."

"This is up to the Iranian people to elect their new leader," he said. "They have already elected the Assembly of Experts, and the Assembly of Experts will do the job."

Trump said in a post Friday on Truth Social that the U.S. would not make a deal with Iran "except UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER."

Asked on "Meet the Press" what the president meant, Waltz said he would "leave that to the president as commander in chief to determine what that ultimately looks like."

"We're ahead of schedule, and what he ultimately wants is pretty much common sense," Waltz said. "As he said, we have to have an Iranian government that no longer threatens the American people, threatens our allies and threatens the world, and holds the world's energy supplies hostage through both its missiles and its navy." (NBC)

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The armed group has not published its own toll. (Al Jazeera English)

Museums looted of priceless artifacts as Sudan counts the cost of a deadly conflict



A statue of the Nubian god Apademak stands alone in the courtyard of Sudan's National Museum, one of the few survivors of systematic looting amid a conflict that has developed into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

Inside the museum's exhibition halls, display cases stand empty, stripped of their lightweight, high-value contents during a period of occupation by the Rapid Support Forces from April 15, 2023, until early last year.

"More than 60% of the museum's holdings were looted," said Ghalia Jar Al-Nabi, director of the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums, noting the theft of gold and jewelry belonging to the kings of Napata and Meroe, two ancient kingdoms that inhabited the region. The towering figure of Apademak, a deity of the Meroitic empire, which ruled between 300 B.C. and 350 A.D., was likely too heavy to move.

The war raging between the RSF and the Sudanese military has claimed at least 40,000 lives and displaced at least 13.6 million people, according to figures from United Nations agencies and the World Health Organization, though aid groups say the true death toll could be many times higher. An independent U.N. report last month accused the RSF of carrying out "a coordinated campaign of destruction" against non-Arab communities in parts of Sudan, "the hallmarks of which point to genocide."

The preliminary losses across the culture, antiquities and tourism sector during the war stand at \$110 million, according to an estimate from Sudan's minister of culture and information, Khalid Ali Aleisir, who said that figure captures only part of the irreversible damage inflicted on repositories of African history. At least 20 museums have been destroyed or looted, he said, including the National Museum, the historic Republican Palace, mil-

itary museums and the Sultan Ali Dinar Museum in El Fasher, North Darfur.

Khartoum, where the conflict first broke out in April 2023, contains four museums for antiquities and heritage, all within the line of fire. "For months of the war, no one could know what became of these museums," Al-Nabi said.

In the Darfur region, three museums suffered complete destruction and looting during the first months of the conflict. The Nyala Museum was robbed of its antiquities and destroyed, followed

by the looting and destruction of the Al-Geneina Museum and the destruction of the Sultan Ali Dinar Museum building in El Fasher. The same fate, Al-Nabi added, befell the Gezira Museum in Wad Madani following the RSF's invasion of Gezira state.

There is no resolution in sight for the conflict in Sudan, with peace still distant amid worsening conditions for the millions trapped in the country. "From the ground, the situation is not getting any better, and we continue to be very concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation," U.N. spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric warned last month.

Once containing more than 150,000 artifacts representing various historical periods in Sudan, from the Stone Age until the arrival of Islam, the Sudan National Museum now lies mostly bare.

"Reports during the first months of war indicated trucks moving from the

museum loaded with looted artifacts,” Al-Nabi added. Priceless Sudanese artifacts were put up for sale on eBay after being smuggled out of the country, according to a report from the French news agency Agence France-Presse. UNESCO has expressed alarm over the illicit trafficking of goods from Sudan, warning that threats to culture have reached an “unprecedented level.”

A recovery committee has retrieved 570 pieces taken from museums and heritage sites, but thousands of valuable items remain missing, said Graham Abdel Qader, undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information. The National Museum suffered the worst damage, he said, with its exhibition halls and concrete rooms looted of approximately 8,000 pieces.

“The looted artifacts are not merely inanimate objects, but represent a people’s history and a nation’s entity, reflecting cultural identity and embodying the national memory that unites peoples and preserves the cohesion of their cultural and social fabric,” Al-Nabi said.

Ikhlas Abdel Latif, head of the looted antiquities recovery committee and an official at the Sudan Antiquities and Museums Authority, said that Naqa and Musawwarat es Sufra in northern Sudan, both World Heritage Sites containing artifacts from the Meroitic civilization, were at risk as the conflict rages.

“We feared for these sites,” Abdel Latif said, expressing fears that they could lose their World Heritage status.

The war also meant maintenance was halted at heritage sites, he said, along with security and archaeological missions. The massive displacement of people has created further pressures as some have sought temporary shelter inside archeological sites, with some instances of vandalism and graffiti on temple walls. Some have even begun constructing homes there, claiming ancestral land rights.

“We suffered greatly from these ac-

tions,” Abdel Latif said.

Illegal mining poses perhaps the gravest threat to archeological sites. On Sai Island on the Nile, bulldozers operate inside ancient burial sites, while miners use metal detectors that cannot distinguish between gold and buried artifacts. “Many archaeological pieces contain precious metallic elements,” Abdel Latif said. Some mining companies received licenses to work inside sites without clearance from the antiquities authority due to war conditions.

Jibreel Ibrahim, Sudan’s finance minister, told reporters at a January event in Khartoum to announce the retrieval of some of the looted artifacts that the

thieves “understood the value of these artifacts and sought to erase the country’s identity, but failed.”

Sudan has also offered rewards for information leading to artifact recovery and compiled a comprehensive report outlining violations for journalists and researchers.

But Al-Nabi fears these measures aren’t enough.

“Despite efforts made,” she said, “the process of tracking and monitoring stolen pieces requires broad international cooperation and joint efforts from various institutions concerned with protecting cultural heritage.” (NBC)

Volunteers Needed

There is still time to be a part of CHOGM 2026!

If you have been thinking about volunteering for the historic Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2026), to be hosted in St. John’s, 1- 4 November 2026, now is your chance!

Antigua and Barbuda’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs continues to invite enthusiastic, motivated, and professional individuals aged 18 or older to volunteer for this world-class event. Do not miss your chance! It is a unique opportunity to contribute your time and skills to the event’s success, gain experience, and expand your network.

Interested? Complete the volunteer application form at the following link for a fulfilling and worthwhile experience:



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/h7bf39zPzT>

Please note that the QR code is attached.



Wings Sports Club shares football gear with schools and Parham FC

The CPTS/Wings Sports Football Unit recently received several pairs of donated football cleats (boots) from Omonia Football Club in London, England.

This initiative was made possible through the efforts of Coach Kevin McIntosh. The cleats were shipped to Antigua with the assistance of the High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Karen Mae Hill.

Following the arrival of the donation, Barbara Coates, Chairperson of the Wings Football Unit, distributed several pairs of cleats to young players across the island, including students of the Jennings and Bolans primary schools.

Their football coach, Derrick “Pretty Boy” Edwards, was on hand to receive the timely donation on behalf of the young athletes.

Additional donations were also made to the Parham Youth Football Programme. The Parham players, along with their coach Jeremiah “Fatty” Harriette, were present to receive the equipment.

Coates stated that the donation demonstrates her team’s continued commitment to expanding the development of football across the island.

She explained that the initiative focuses on providing gear to children whose parents are sometimes unable to afford the necessary equipment for the sport.



Chairperson of the Wings Football Unit Barbara Coates, right, with students of Jennings Primary School and coach Derrick ‘Pretty Boy’ Edwards, second right, during the presentation. (Photos courtesy of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club)



Chairperson of the Wings Football Unit Barbara Coates, left, with Parham FC’s coach Jeremiah ‘Fatty’ Harriette, right, and youth players during the presentation.

By supplying cleats and other football gear, the Wings Football Unit hopes to encourage greater participation in football and sup-

port the growth of youth development programmes throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

Sports News

Antiguans lose 2nd qualifier in 2026 CONCACAF women's competition

Antigua and Barbuda's senior team remain winless after losing 4-0 to Guyana in their second match of their Group B campaign in the qualifying round of the 2026 CONCACAF Women's Championship at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Thursday.

Guyana took the lead in the 15th minute via an own goal by Antigua and Barbuda's defender **Karmiellia Hughes**. The visitors doubled their advantage in the 55th minute, when captain **Brianne Desa** unleashed a rocket from way outside the box.

The Guyanese extended their lead in the 67th minute after **Annalise Vincent** converted a penalty kick, following a handball in the box from Hughes.

Vincent notched her second of the night in the 77th minute, as she took advantage of a deflection to score the final goal of the match.

The victory allows Guyana to remain in third place on goal difference in the four-team group to improve to six points, the same as first-place Jamaica and second-place Nicaragua.

Antigua and Barbuda remain last in the group after suffering a similar 4-0



The Starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda senior women's team.

defeat to Nicaragua at home in their first encounter at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on November 27 last year.

The Antiguan will travel to Kingston to face Jamaica's Reggae Girls in their third encounter on April 10 and will wrap up their qualifying campaign when they tackle Dominica on April

14.

The group winners will qualify for the CONCACAF Women's Championship, which will be played in November 2026, and serve as the Confederation's qualifiers for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil and the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

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MONDAYS
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Gunners extend unbeaten run in Division 2 basketball league



The Cedar Grove Gunners maintained their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Saturday.

The Gunners shot their way to their sixth win in as many matches by snatching a narrow 80-78 victory over the Old Road Daggers in a top-of-the-table clash at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tyras Grayman sank 20 points and grabbed 20 rebounds; Keady Martin produced 16 points, seven rebounds, and seven assists; Sergio Symister sank 15 points and snatched seven rebounds; and Shawn Thomas scored nine points and claimed 19 rebounds for the Cedar Grove Gunners.

Ryan Shepherd shot a game-high 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Kwame Huntley converted 17 points and claimed eight rebounds; Craig Thomas sank 12 points and snatched

six rebounds; and Rafiki Harris chipped in with 10 points, eight assists, and six steals for the Old Road Daggers, who suffered their second loss in seven games.

Da Project 2 recorded their fourth win in seven games with a 66-59 victory against Navigators 2.

Nathan Matthew shot a game-high 21 points and snatched nine steals; Erije Joseph converted 11 points; Kevin Pimentel scored 10 points; and Donalde Hunte sank eight points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Da Project 2.

Raheem Sawyer converted 18 points and snatched seven rebounds; Henry Dorsette produced 14 points, 11 rebounds, and six steals; Abdul Wadud sank nine points and grabbed 19 rebounds; and Ricky Willock scored eight points and claimed 10 rebounds for Navigators 2, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

Meanwhile, Daryll Matthew Ottos returned to winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 league in their latest outing.

After slumping to their first loss in a 79-101 defeat to the Ovals Ojays in their previous outing, Ottos rebounded to claim their fifth win in six games with a convincing 96-57 victory over the bottom team, Navigators.

Nick Strawter shot a game-high 27 points and dished out 10 assists; Pindo Drammeh sank 20 points and grabbed

12 rebounds; Danny Perez converted 14 points and claimed seven steals; Warren Bogle had 12 points; and Akeem Davis chipped in with 11 points for Ottos.

Michael Barton converted 12 points and grabbed 25 rebounds, Raheem Sawyer sank 12 points and claimed seven rebounds, and Tyreke Lewis scored 10 points and snatched six rebounds for the Navigators, who suffered their seventh loss in as many games.

The Cuties Ovals Ojays notched up their fifth win in six games with a commanding 127-80 victory over the All Saints Slam.

Jalen Owens produced 23 points, seven steals, seven assists, and six rebounds; and Jabari Smith scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Ovals Ojays to their latest victory.

In support, Jayleyle Joseph sank 21 points and grabbed 20 rebounds; Tajahron Davis converted 17 points; Shaheem Omarde had 13 points and seven rebounds; Sam Taylor produced 12 points, 11 rebounds, nine assists, and five steals; and Christian Wood scored 11 points for the Ovals Ojays.

Rolontae Knowles sank 30 points and snatched eight rebounds; Andrew Dagle converted 22 points and claimed six rebounds; Tristan Jacobs had 13 points and nine rebounds; and Nigel Joseph scored 10 points for All Saints Slam, who suffered their sixth loss in seven games.

Double wins for PMS in School Basketball League

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) notched up two wins in their latest outings in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex.

Princess Margaret School secured a 27-15 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in the Senior

Girls Division.

Lena Mills sank 18 points, and Renel Brumant scored nine points for Princess Margaret School, while Abigail Gilbert converted five points for Ottos Comprehensive School.

The Princess Margaret School also snatched a 19-13 victory over St. Jo-

seph's Academy in the Mini Boys Secondary Division. Trevorn Adams sank eight points for Princess Margaret School.

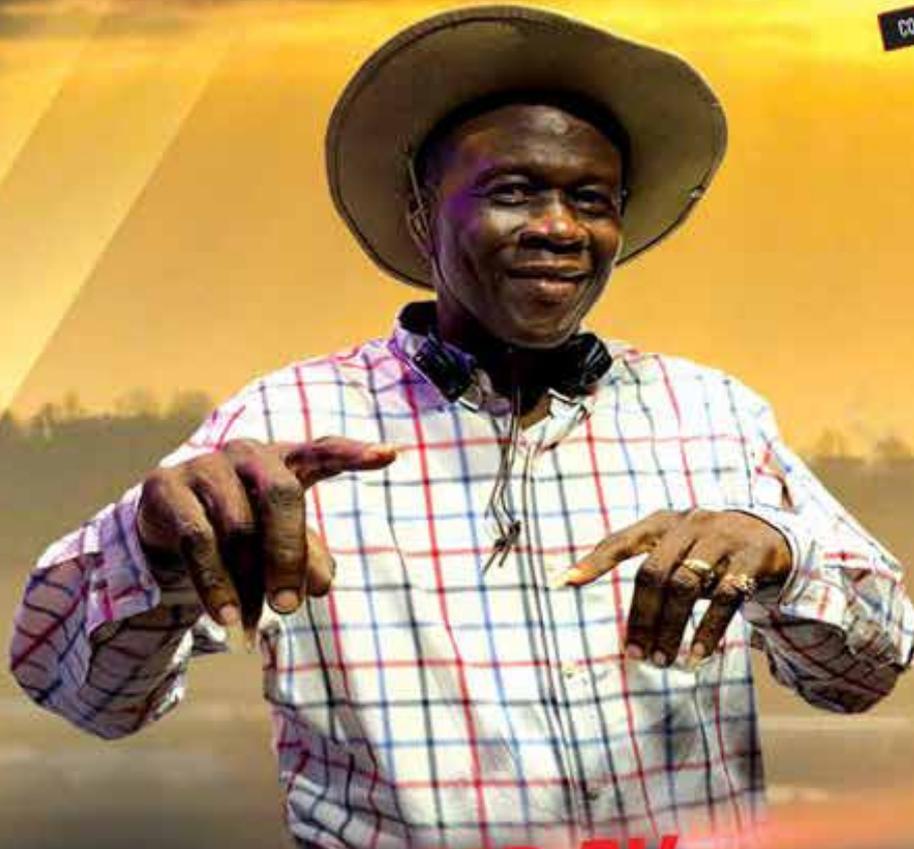
Jude Bailey scored five points, and Ethan Browne and Mihkail Martin each converted four points for St. Joseph's Academy.

Golden Grove Prima-

ry clinched a 5-4 victory against Villa Primary in the Mini Boys Primary Division.

Kzane Marcelle and Aiden Micklele each scored two points for Golden Grove Primary, while Joseph Browne and Zylon Henry each converted two points for Villa Primary.

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India beat NZ to retain T20 World Cup title



India's players celebrate after winning the T20 World Cup cricket final match against New Zealand in Ahmedabad, India, Sunday, March 8, 2026. (ICC/Getty Images)

AHMEDABAD, India (Reuters) - India became the first team to retain the men's Twenty20 World Cup title after handing out a 96-run demolition of New Zealand in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

India also became the first team to lift the title three times, while New Zealand's wait for a maiden white-ball World Cup continues.

The victory will taste particularly sweet for India since it came at a venue where they were beaten by Australia in the final of the 50-overs World Cup three years ago.

Put in to bat, India capitalised on a 98-run opening stand between Sanju Samson (89) and Abhishek Sharma (52) to rack up 255 for five.

Number three Ishan Kishan smashed 54, but James Neesham bowled a three-wicket over to apply the brakes on India's scoring rate towards the end of the innings.

Chasing such a daunting target, New Zealand could not recover from a

top-order collapse and were all out for 159 in 19 overs despite defiant knocks by Tim Seifert (52) and Mitchell Santner (43).

"This feels extremely special because I've played one final in my home venue but couldn't win that one, but today I won," said India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, whose four for 15 fetched him player of the match award. "I knew the wicket was a flat one so had to use all my experience."

Samson, who smashed his third successive 80-plus knock, was adjudged player of the tournament. Earlier, wary of having to bowl with a hard-to-grip, dew-soaked ball later in the evening, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner elected to field.

New Zealand used four different bowlers in the first four overs but could not stop India from milking 92 without losing a wicket after the six powerplay overs.

Rachin Ravindra dismissed Abhishek with his first ball to bring relief to the

New Zealand camp, ending the opener's 21-ball knock that included three sixes.

With Samson continuing in the same vein and Kishan joining him in a batting carnage, there was hardly any respite for New Zealand. Both found boundaries with remarkable regularity as India reached the 200-mark in the 15th over.

Samson, who smacked Ravindra for three sixes in a row, was finally caught in the deep off James Neesham, who also removed Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav in a three-wicket over.

India could not maintain the tempo after the departures of their set batters and yet comfortably breached the 250-mark. New Zealand's top order wilted early

in their chase and they could never really recover after being reduced to 47 for three inside five overs.

Finn Allen, who smashed a 33-ball hundred in the semi-final against South Africa, got a reprieve when Shivam Dube dropped him in the first over from Arshdeep Singh.

Allen could not capitalise on it though, and holed out against spinner Axar Patel in the third over.

Bumrah dismissed Ravindra with his first delivery and Axar got rid of Glenn Phillips to rattle New Zealand. Stymied by lack of partnerships and faced with a spiralling required run-rate, Seifert had to go for the jugular but it did not pay off.

Spinner Varun Chakravarthy had Seifert caught in the deep as New Zealand lost the top half of their batting for 72 to effectively drop out of the hunt. Santner, dropped on 26, went on to make 43 but India had the match in the bag by then.

Sports

MONDAY 09TH MARCH 2026

POINT EXPRESS
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

United strengthens lead atop of Premier Division League

Defending back-to-back champions All Saints United further strengthened their lead at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League, which resumed on Saturday.

Following a two-week break due to damage to parts of the playing surface, All Saints United moved six points clear of Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades at the top of the Premier League by recording their 13th win in 16 matches with a 3-1 victory against the Pigotts Bullet in the second game of a double-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Antoniell Campbell put the Pigotts Bullets ahead with a 13th-minute conversion. Raheem Deterville scored an equalizer for All Saints United in the first minute of added time as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

Second-half goals by Vaughn Jackson Jr. in the 60th minute and Joylan Sinclair in the 89th minute secured victory for All Saints United.

The result allows All Saints United to remain at the top of the 12-team standings with 41 points. The Pigotts Bullets remain in fifth place on 28 points after slumping to their sixth defeat in 16 matches.

The Potters Tigers and Garden Stars battled to a 2-2 draw in the opening encounter on Saturday.

Keon Greene scored twice with conversions in the 19th and 44th minutes to give the Potters Tigers a two-nil lead at halftime. Garden Stars salvaged a draw with goals by Nadre Thomas in the 62nd minute and Joshua Samuel in the second minute of added time.

The result allows the Potters Tigers to remain in sixth place on 23 points after

securing their fifth draw in 16 matches.

The Garden Stars remain in seventh place with 21 points after salvaging their sixth draw in 16 matches.

Meanwhile, the Freemans Village Scorpions snatched a 1-0 victory against Empire FC at Radio Range in the ABFA's First Division League.

Tafari Looby snatched the winner by scoring the only goal of the match with a strike in the 29th minute.

The result allows the Freemans Village Scorpions to move into fifth place on goal difference with 27 points after recording their eighth win in 14 matches.

Empire FC remains in seventh place with 24 points after slumping to their sixth defeat in 16 matches.



A starting XI of the All Saints United football team

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