

YEEP Records 96.5% Overall Pass Rate in CSEC and CAPE Examinations

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Edna Parker Chiddick Turns 103; Receives \$10,000 Reward Through Government Initiative

YEEP Records 96.5% Overall Pass Rate in CSEC and CAPE Examinations



The Youth Education and Empowerment Programme (YEEP) has recorded an impressive overall pass rate of 96.5 per cent in the 2026 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) examinations.

A total of 196 YEEP students wrote examinations across 13 subject areas, with nine subjects achieving a perfect 100 per cent pass rate.

The subjects recording full passes were Electronic Document Preparation and Management (EDPM), English A, Office Administration, Principles

of Business, Economics, Principles of Accounts, CAPE Tourism Studies, CAPE Entrepreneurship and CAPE Physical Education.

Students also performed strongly in Physical Education, which recorded a 93 per cent pass rate, while Mathematics achieved 91 per cent and Social Studies recorded 85 per cent.

CAPE Management of Business recorded a pass rate of 71 per cent.

The department's overall performance represents an increase of 11.5 percentage points over the 2025 result

of 85 per cent. It is also 16.5 percentage points higher than the 80 per cent overall performance recorded in 2024.

The results demonstrate consistent year-on-year improvement within YEEP and reflect the commitment of its students, teachers, administrators and support staff.

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Creative Industries Minister Rejects ‘Dying Art Form’ Label for Calypso

Refusing to accept that calypso is a ‘dying art form’ in Antigua and Barbuda, Minister of Sports and Creative Industries Dwayne George says a shot in the arm is what is required for the art form.

Minister George’s statement was in response to the reaction of some citizens and residents that the low turnout of patrons at this year’s calypso competition for Carnival 2026 is an indication that it is no longer central to Antigua and Barbuda’s culture.

While acknowledging that calypso has declined in recent years, the Minister of Sports and Creative Industries said it remains a critical component to the creative industry.

He added that extra resources will ensure its sustainability.

“We are responsible as leaders spearheading the industry to put more resources into our platforms and our art forms,” Minister George stated.

He added that the recent announcement by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda to inject \$250,000 into the newly-established Creative Industries Development Fund will significantly aid in boosting the creative sector.

According to the Cabinet Notes, it is expected that calypsonians and other artistes will utilise the fund to develop their work, and in so doing, maintain international standards and revenue generation.

“We know in many cases the constraint of our music is more or less the financial resources. We came to the consensus that we would be pumping more into our creatives because we know the Carnival is, and shouldn’t just be two weeks. It should be all year round,” Minister



Minister of Sports and Creative Industries Dwayne George

George lamented.

“It should be a product that is sold all year round. As I have said, my first Carnival has given me a clearer understanding of what it takes to produce an event of this magnitude and more importantly, what it will take to move Carnival to the next level,” he added.

Minister Dwayne George noted that his aim is to build a culture and creative industry that “provides opportunities, generates economic activities, and perspective for our creatives and our people throughout the entire year”.

That he pointed out, includes calypsonians.



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Are Carnival Live Streams Cheapening the Culture?: Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul Proposes Pay Per View Model for Carnival Broadcasts

Are free carnival live streams cheapening the culture? Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul, has opened a deeper conversation surrounding the role of public consumption in the success of the nations festivals and exported culture. The statements were made during an interview on the On Pointe Radio show with Senator Abena St Luce, where Makhoul addressed previous controversies regarding the topic.

During the carnival season, the public was taken aback by reports that carnival events would not be carried live publicly. Social media pundits and members of the general public were ablaze with opinions on the role of live streaming for carnival events and whether a pay-per-view system should be introduced for local festivals.

Ambassador Makhoul gave a comprehensive explanation of the rationale behind the initial decision to introduce a pay per view model for Carnival Events. In essence the portal would optimise the marketability of Antigua Carnival to introduce a revenue stream that would be put toward the advancement of the country's musical sector.

The revenue acquired from this initiative was to be put into a joint fund to provide added relief for the country's musical stakeholders. The objective therefore was to secure funding to de-



Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul

velop local artists, whom she has witnessed struggled to excel due to inadequacies in their finances

"We wanted the pay-per-view money to start a fund for pan, calypso and soca," Makhoul stated. "This year, our calypsonians struggled to score out their music because they're doing the production on their own, causing low artist turnout at the Calypso Tent. So, it was not a way for us to make money; it was a way to raise funds for the stakeholders that really matter."

As far as the uproar that permeated social media in mid-July, Makhoul cited premature reporting on the part of the National Broadcaster ABS for inaccurately representing communications between the two entities

Makhoul said the Festival Commission recognized the urgent need for greater government assistance for mu-

sic in the country, and subsequently approached ABS TV and Radio with the idea of introducing a pay-per-view model for the 2026 season. Subsequent tests revealed shortcomings in the station's capacity to execute which prompted the commission to signal a halt in that effort.

"When we were told they were having some challenges with it [pay-per-view], we told them we're not going to go live, and we left it there because we did not want to announce the pay-per-view that way. However, they ran with it. No one decided to ask us a question or call for feedback, including ABS, and it somewhat killed the momentum."

The Chairman explained that while the team ultimately relented and allowed viewership at the expense of the artists, The Festival Commission maintains that a pay per view model is a proven concept throughout the Caribbean, providing lucrative revenue that has helped to advance music and culture in these places.

She noted that introducing the model is still very much an ambition as the commission seeks out ways to support local artists, aiding them in the numerous expenses associated with production and performance. A trial run of the pay-per-view model, Makhoul Notes, may be implemented for the One Nation Festival in January.



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Antigua and Barbuda Receives Three Ocean Data Buoys to Strengthen Forecasting

Antigua and Barbuda has received three SOFAR Ocean Data Buoy Stations in a major upgrade to the country's marine forecasting, climate monitoring and early-warning capabilities.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation Michael Freeland formally accepted the equipment on behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda during a handover ceremony at Point Wharf on Tuesday.

The buoy stations were provided under the European Union-funded Strengthening Institutional Capacity for a Resilient Caribbean Coastal and Marine Environment Project, implemented through the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology.

The equipment will provide near real-time marine and meteorological observations, giving forecasters access to improved data on conditions in the waters surrounding Antigua and Barbuda.

That information is expected to strengthen marine forecasting, maritime safety, climate monitoring, coastal-hazard assessment and the country's Multi-Hazard Early Warning System.

Freeland said the buoys represent far more than the acquisition of new equipment.

"They are an important investment in Antigua and Barbuda's ability to observe and better understand our marine environment, while strengthening marine forecasting, maritime safety, climate monitoring, coastal-hazard assessment and early warning," he said.

According to the minister, the system will also strengthen the country's ability to satisfy essential standards established by the International Maritime Organization and the World Meteorological Organization.

He said the investment comes at a critical time as the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service pursues



what it has described as a "Meteorological Renaissance."

The initiative is intended to transform the Met Service into a modern, technologically advanced and resilient national institution capable of delivering stronger weather, climate and marine services.

"The SOFAR buoy network will be an important part of that transformation," Freeland said.

"The observations it provides will strengthen the information upon which our forecasts and warnings depend and help us advance towards impact-based forecasting and Early Warnings for All, ensuring that better information leads to earlier and more informed action."

Following the handover, technical personnel from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology began training staff of the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service and other national stakeholders.

The training covers the operation, deployment, maintenance and practical application of the SOFAR buoy sys-

tem, helping to ensure the equipment can be effectively managed locally.

Freeland commended the institute, the Met Service and national stakeholders for collaborating to deploy the stations and build the technical capacity required to operate them.

He also expressed appreciation to the European Union for financing the wider regional resilience project.

"On behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, I gratefully accept these buoy stations and reaffirm our commitment to making full and sustainable use of this investment for the protection of our people, our marine environment, our economy and our way of life," Freeland said.

The handover marks the transition from the provision of the equipment to its operational deployment and use by Antigua and Barbuda.

Officials say the improved flow of marine data will support earlier action during hazardous conditions and help protect lives, livelihoods, property and the country's critical economic sectors.



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Local News

Edna Parker Chiddick Turns 103; Receives \$10,000 Reward Though Government Initiative



Another centenarian is benefiting from the recent initiative under the auspices of the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation, receiving an EC \$10,000 grant from Minister of Social Transformation the Honourable Rawdon Turner.

Mrs. Edna Parker-Chiddick who on

Tuesday celebrated her 103rd Birthday, and had her milestone achievement recognized by the Ministry's Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division, in collaboration with the Office of Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

The centenarian celebrated her

birthday surrounded by family, friends, government officials and members of her community, including Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation Rosa Greenaway, Acting Deputy Director of the Com-

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Local News

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munity Development and Citizens' Engagement Division, Simmons Francis, and Community Development Field Officer Gerard Brookes

She ultimately received the \$10,000 cheque on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, from

Minister of Social and Urban Transformation Rawdon Turner, who, in a rare statement, deemed it a privilege to celebrate another member of the country's centenarian community.

"Mrs. Parker-Chiddick's 103 years represent more than longevity. They

reflect a lifetime of strength, wisdom and invaluable experiences that form part of the history of Antigua and Barbuda," the minister stressed, "It is an honour to present this cheque on behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. We celebrate her remarkable life and pray that she continues to be blessed with health, happiness and the love of her family and community."

Parker-Chiddick also received gifts and warm wishes during the visit.

Although there was no formal ceremony, the occasion was filled with joy and appreciation as loved ones gathered to honour the cherished centenarian.

The Ministry of Social and Urban Transformation extended birthday greetings to Parker-Chiddick and wished her continued blessings, good health and happiness

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Local News

Barbuda Ocean Club Deepens Investment in Local Talent Through Turfgrass Training



Barbuda Ocean Club is continuing its investment in local talent, with 10 members of its Agronomy team recently completing an intensive four-

day Turfgrass Management Training Programme aimed at strengthening technical expertise, professional development and standards across the

resort.

The latest training represents the second installment of the programme, following the participation of 13 team members in May 2025. Together, the two cohorts have provided training opportunities for 23 local young men and women, with two participants subsequently progressing within the department to the role of Foreman.

The programme forms part of Barbuda Ocean Club's broader commitment to developing its people and strengthening the capacity of its local workforce through education and professional training.

The four-day Turfgrass Management Training Programme covered a wide range of areas essential to



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maintaining healthy, high-quality turf in a tropical environment.

Participants received instruction in tropical turfgrass growth and morphology, turf establishment, soil and media requirements, nutrition and soil fertility, maintenance practices and equipment, pest management, irrigation and water management, workplace safety, and the identification of stress, nutrient deficiencies, pests and diseases.

The training also included practical field observations on the golf course, giving participants an opportunity to connect classroom learning with the challenges and conditions they encounter in their daily work.

Organisers say effective turfgrass management goes far beyond what is visible on the surface. Maintaining healthy playing surfaces requires an understanding of soil conditions, plant health, nutrition, water management, equipment and safety, as well as the ability to identify and address problems before they become more serious.

For the Agronomy team, the training provided not only instruction on what to do, but a deeper understanding of why particular practices are necessary.

The training programme was delivered through a partnership between Barbuda Ocean Club and The University of the West Indies Global Campus Antigua, reinforcing the resort's commitment to working with local educational institutions to expand professional development opportunities for its employees.

The latest programme was facilitated by Gaius Eudoxie and Ramnath Persad from The UWI, who shared their knowledge, experience and technical expertise with the participants throughout the training.

The turfgrass programme is one of several professional development



initiatives undertaken by Barbuda Ocean Club and The UWI Global Campus over the past 15 months.

Other programmes have included Business Writing and Communication, Supervisory Management,

People Management and HR Fundamentals for Supervisors and Managers, Effective Management and Leadership, Introduction to Procurement, and Advanced Supervisory Management.



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Regional News

Haitian opposition says 'armed gangs will win' election if security not restored

Haitian politician and lawyer, André Michel, says there is a need to restore “a minimum level of security” in Haiti before elections are held in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) country.

Michel, who in the past had announced his intention of contesting the post of president, said in a statement ahead of the arrival of an Organization of American States (OAS) delegation that also includes the Caricom Secretary-General Dr Carla Barnett, “that without a minimum level of security, armed gangs will win the elections”.

OAS Secretary General, Albert R Ramdin on Sunday led a three-day visit of a high-level delegation of regional and international partners to Haiti. He said that the purpose in coming to Haiti together is not simply to demonstrate solidarity, but to continue strengthening coordination and help deliver results in security, elections, institutional strengthening, humanitarian needs and long-term development.

Last week, Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé said “the elections will take place this year, no matter what” as the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) announced the publication of the final list of approved political groups.

The CEP has scheduled the first round of long-awaited presidential and legislative elections, alongside a constitutional referendum, for December 13 this year, marking the first time Haitians will be casting ballots since 2016 when President Jovenel Moise was elected.

Moise was later assassinated on July 7, 2021.

In his statement, Michel, who in the past has claimed to be a human rights and anti-corruption lawyer, said Haiti should take advantage of the presence of the OAS/Caricom delegation “to reiterate the need to restore a minimum



level of security before the elections are held in Haiti.

“Unblocking the national highways remains the fundamental condition for holding the elections,” he said, adding “we cannot hold elections only to hand power back to armed gangs and their political allies.

“The international community and the government must assume their responsibilities. I will register to vote in Port-au-Prince this week,” he said, urging his supporters, sympathisers, to do the same.

“Security is essential for a successful electoral process. The transition has gone on for too long. It must end,” said Michel.

Meanwhile, media reports in the country, say Germany wants to contribute to the Gang Suppression Force (GSF), approved by the United Nations Security Council. According to the reports, the Germans are willing to make air transport capacity available in the short term to the GSF which will include military officials from Chad, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Côte d’Ivoire.

The reports said that Germany is to transport equipment and supplies for

troops operating in Haiti in the coming weeks.

According to the deployment schedule, during the month of August, the objective is to reach an intermediate threshold of 2,000 to 2,500 soldiers and police officers on the ground with the arrival of the second half of the Chadian contingent, complementing the promised target of 1,500 soldiers and the first specialized units from Sri Lanka.

During September, there is expected to be a massive deployment of forces from Latin America and Asia to extend the operational area beyond Port-au-Prince with contingents expected from Guatemala, El Salvador and Côte d’Ivoire.

The tactical priority will be to launch targeted intelligence-led operations in the Artibonite department and strengthening the protection of humanitarian corridors.

The authorities here are hoping to have a 100 per cent deployment of the 5,500 operational military and police personnel as well as 50 civilian advisors by October with the arrival of the main contingent from Bangladesh and police forces from the Bahamas and Jamaica. (CMC)

Attorneys Demand CCJ President Recuse from Guyana Extradition Case

Legal representatives for Nazar and Azruddin Mohamed are formally requesting that Justice Winston Anderson, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, recuse himself from their ongoing extradition case.

This demand follows serious allegations from Guyana's opposition leader regarding Anderson's purported involvement in partisan political negotiations and judicial appointments.

Furthermore, internal leaked communications suggest a fractured court, with fellow judges accusing Anderson of authoritarian conduct and attempts to improperly influence case outcomes.

While Justice Anderson has denied these claims, the Mohameds' attorneys argue that his participation compromises the fairness and transparency of



their legal proceedings.

The situation highlights a growing crisis of public confidence in the regional court as the defendants face

significant fraud and money laundering charges from the United States. (St Vincent Times)

Turkey turns to Guyana as Black Sea oil supply takes hit

Turkey is turning to Guyana for oil supplies as escalating Ukrainian drone attacks on Russia's Black Sea export infrastructure disrupt shipments and squeeze supplies to one of the world's major crude buyers.

According to Reuters, Turkey sharply reduced its purchases of Russian oil in July and is expected to cut them even further this month, with Guyana and Brazil emerging as alternative sources of crude.

Turkey received about 900,000 tonnes of oil from Russian ports in July, down from 1.2 million tonnes in June, according to LSEG shipping data. Supplies arriving directly through Russia's Black Sea ports plunged by half, from about 600,000 tonnes in June to just over 300,000 tonnes in July.

In August, Turkey is expected to receive some 200,000 tons of oil from Russia's Black ports, according to LSEG. The two tankers expected to be supplied carry Kazakh KEBCO oil, while this month no CPC Blend

or Urals oil loadings to Turkey are planned yet. The data may be updated later, however.

Turkey diversifies supply to offset negative effects from the Black Sea crisis, traders said, adding that in August the state will make rare imports of oil from Brazil and Guyana.

Loadings from the CPC pipeline, which carries about 1.8% of global oil supply from Kazakhstan to Russia's

Black Sea coast, have been disrupted since the middle of last month, adding to the supply outages linked to the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Ukraine has paused drone strikes on non-Russian oil tankers using Russia's Black Sea CPC terminal after a request from U.S. Vice President JD Vance, the Financial Times said on Wednesday, citing Ukrainian officials. (Kaitour News)

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Regional News

Govt. begs citizens to cut electricity use as blackouts surge

The Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Inc. is rushing to install new lines to supply key areas with reliable electricity as the demand for power continues to grow beyond the capacity of the installed infrastructure.

In the interim, government is appealing to consumers to employ energy-saving techniques to help maintain a stable distribution of power.

During a media conference on Friday at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation, Deodat Indar laid out a long list of troubles the agency must address to ensure stable power is distributed across the Demerara Berbice Interconnected System (DBIS).

He explained that the “unusually hot” season coupled with the rapid expansion in the country has resulted in peak demand for electricity increasing significantly in just one year.

The minister said, “As at last night and the night before, we saw the grid...recorded a demand of 242.64 megawatts (MW), it’s the highest we have had since the grid was formed. Last year we saw a demand peak of 221 MW- so in a single year it rose by 21.6MW.”

Be that as it may, he assured that while there is enough power being generated to meet the demand on the DBIS, the issue is now the transmission and distribution lines that in many cases cannot accommodate the high demand for electricity in some areas, resulting in power outages.

According to the minister, “...what is



happening now is because the overall demand is raising, it is putting pressure and the thermal limits of some of these feeders are causing these trips.”

While GPL may require as much as three months in some instances to install new lines to distribute the power, the government is appealing to consumers to ensure electricity is conserved.

“There are some large customers that we have asked them to come off the grid that have self-generating capacity to come off the grid during the peak so that we can have a stable grid, and it’s not running on, you know and the

engines are not running on the max capacity because sometimes when they run on the max capacity, some of these engines that we have in the system, they’re old and they kind of back down,” Indar explained.

Additionally in an appeal to household customers, he said, “We are also asking the general public to look into ways in which they can conserve the uses of energy, if they have lights that they are not using, unnecessary equipment that is being used, that are not critical to them and any other thing that they can do in the household or in their businesses.” (Kaiteur News)


 An advertisement for Curry House restaurant. The background is a dark green surface with several bowls of different Indian curries and chutneys. The text "Curry House" is written in a large, stylized red font. Below it, "ANTIGUA" is written in a smaller red font. To the right, the text "Open Daily - 12:00pm - 10:30pm" is displayed in white. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, followed by the handles "currytandoorihouseanu" and "curryhouseanu", and the phone number "(268) 736-7165".

Disney sues FCC over challenge to broadcast licenses, claiming retaliation over 'Jimmy Kimmel'



Disney filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the Trump Administration's Federal Communications Commission, alleging a violation of its First Amendment rights.

The suit comes after FCC Chairman Brendan Carr recently defended the

agency's actions against ABC, saying broadcasters have a duty to "operate in the public interest" and the FCC is merely trying to restore that standard.

Carr has said the country should have a "trusted, respected news media, and we're not there."

ABC had accused the agency of a brazen attempt to chill its constitutionally protected free speech — and by extension, that of every media outlet in the country.

The network's July comments came in its latest filing to the agency, expressing its formal opposition to the FCC's early review, launched in April, of eight ABC local broadcast licenses well before they expire.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly called for late-night host Jimmy Kimmel to be fired.

When the FCC launched its early review of ABC's licenses in April, it came amid a fight with Kimmel over a joke that offended Trump.

The agency cited diversity, equity and inclusion practices at the company.

Messages were sent seeking comment to the FCC and ABC. (AP)



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Philippine student killed in livestreamed school shooting

A student livestreamed himself shooting another schoolmate dead before taking his own life at a high school in the Philippines on Tuesday, authorities said.

The school shooting, the country's second in as many months, took place at Ateneo de Zamboanga University, a Catholic private institution in western Mindanao.

"What we know so far is that (the shooter) went to the classroom of our known victim. He shot the victim, and after doing that, he went up to the fifth floor and shot himself," regional police spokeswoman Shella Chang told AFP.

In a separate statement, interior secretary Victor Remulla confirmed the ninth-grade suspect had livestreamed the incident on social media. The alleged shooter's Facebook account has since been disabled.

In the video, which was circulated by local media, the barrel of a gun can be seen moving down a hallway in the style of a first-person shooter video game before being pointed into a classroom and fired.

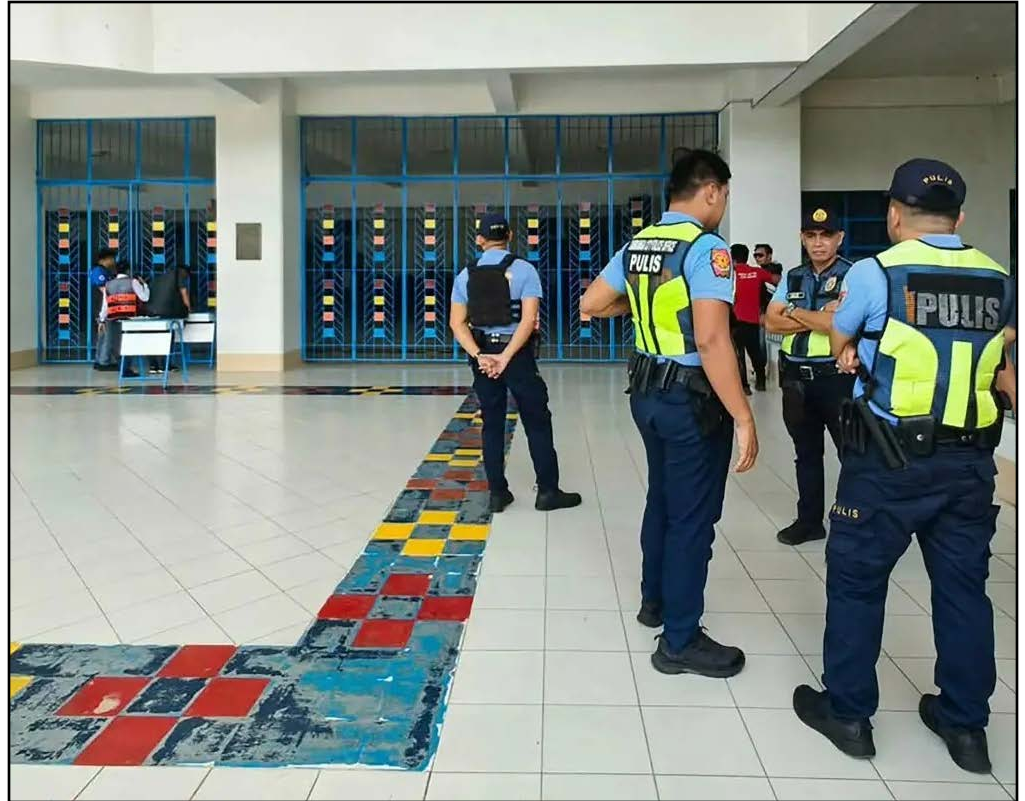
Children in school uniforms are then seen screaming and rushing for an exit.

Police have not confirmed any additional injuries.

National police are now trying to "establish the motive behind the shooting, determine the ownership and source of the firearm used, and find out how it was brought inside the school campus", the interior ministry said in a statement.

Hours later, the Philippines' customs department issued a statement saying it had ordered the "preventative suspension" of an agent who owned the guns "allegedly used by the student involved".

Customs Deputy Chief of Staff Noel



Bendijo told AFP they had acted on intelligence from their own officers in Zamboanga.

"The information is that he was the father of (the alleged shooter)... As for the actual firearms used and how the kid was able to access them, all of those are still under investigation," he said.

"We've also spoken with the party involved. He understands, but of course, he's also grieving because he also lost his child," Bendijo added.

"That's a nightmare for any parent."

Police said only that they were still investigating when asked about the customs report.

Ateneo de Zamboanga president Father Guillrey Andal, confirming the two fatalities, said the school was "deeply saddened" by the shooting and was cooperating with the investigation.

"We are in the process of working

with the police for us to be able to identify them, so that we can communicate first with their loved ones," he told reporters earlier in the day, acknowledging the incident had caused "deep concern and worry".

"Prior to this, our security team had even been preparing a simulation exercise, precisely because we understand the value to everyone — our students, our personnel — of safety."

School shootings are rare in the Philippines, but three teenaged students were killed and 20 others wounded in an attack at a school in the central Philippines in June.

Ateneo de Zamboanga last month became one of many schools across the country to conduct active shooter drills in the wake of that tragedy.

Legal gun ownership is tightly regulated in the Southeast Asian country, but a large black market exists for firearms. (AFP)

Brazil's President Lula hails oil discovery near Amazon river



Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has hailed the discovery of oil near the mouth of the Amazon river.

Speaking after the find was announced by Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras, he said it could be "a passport to the country's future".

His decision to allow exploratory drilling in the area known as the Brazilian Equatorial Margin was heavily criticised by environmentalists, who raised concerns that any potential oil spills could devastate its ecosystem.

Lula, who is running for another four-year term in elections scheduled for October, stressed that he was still committed to eventually phasing out fossil fuels to curb climate change.

The oil discovery was made in the sea about 175km (110 miles) off the Amazon coast but the size of the field is not yet clear.

It is also still unknown whether extracting the oil, which is located at a depth of 2,886m (9,469ft), would be commercially viable.

Conservationists have warned that the area where the exploratory drilling is taking place is very biodiverse.

They fear that any accidents could threaten not just the nearby reefs but that currents could carry spilled oil to coastal wetlands teeming with wildlife.

Lula has in the past rejected criticism by conservationists as "meddling" and on Monday he again said that he would not accept any foreign interference.

"This means national sovereignty. Any country which has oil of this quality won't allow anyone to butt in," he said.

Petrobras started the exploratory deep-water drilling operation in the area in October 2025.

The company's chief executive Magda Chambriard said that the discovery confirmed that Petrobras's "optimism" of finding oil in the Brazilian Equatorial Margin had been warranted.

She added that the company was committed to "ensuring the country's

energy security".

President Lula has argued that oil revenues are needed to help fund Brazil's transition to non-fossil fuels.

Speaking on Monday, he insisted: "I'm not denying my commitment to the fight for a day when we no longer need fossil fuels, because Brazil will continue to be the king of biofuel innovation and will remain a major player in renewable energy."

Environmentalists were aghast when Lula announced he had given Petrobras the green light to start the exploratory drilling just weeks before the COP30 climate conference hosted by Brazil last November.

In his remarks on Monday, the president made a reference to the anger at the time, singling out opposition in Europe in particular.

"Many people didn't want me to announce that Petrobras had won the licence because they said that the Europeans would be annoyed," he said.

"I took the decision to announce that people wanted to do exploratory drilling there before COP because the interests of our country and our company were at stake."

The prospect of oil discovery off the coast has already given a boost to the nearest town.

In Oiapoque, in Amapá state, the hope of jobs and opportunities has led to an influx of people, according to the local housing authorities.

With less than two months to go before the presidential election, Lula will be trying to attract voters hoping for economic development in this remote part of Brazil without alienating those concerned about the potential impacts on the environment. (BBC)

DR Congo Ebola outbreak 'far from being under control', says WHO chief



The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is moving faster than any previous epidemic of the disease and risks spreading to more countries, the head of the World Health Organisation warned Tuesday.

"We must be frank: the epidemic is far from being under control," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told an emergency meeting on the outbreak.

"It had a big head start, and we are still playing catch-up."

His comment came after the DRC on Monday said the outbreak had killed more than 2,300 people out of nearly 5,000 cases, making it the deadliest in the country's history.

Declared on May 15, the DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak is thought to have already been spreading for several

weeks by that point.

It has hit regions in the north and east where the presence of the state is weak, health infrastructure is largely lacking and myriad armed groups have roamed for decades.

Tuesday marked the second meeting of the WHO emergency committee since it declared on May 17 the outbreak a so-called Public Health Emergency of International Concern — its second-highest alert level.

It remained unclear when the committee would release its recommendations.

Currently, the United Nations health agency assesses the public health risk level at "very high" at the national level in the DRC, "high" for Uganda and other bordering nations, and "low" for the rest of Africa and the world.

Cases have so far been reported in six DRC provinces, including near the border with South Sudan, as well as in neighbouring Uganda.

"The risk of further national and international spread remains high," Tedros warned.

"It is moving faster than any previous Ebola outbreak," he said, according to a transcript of his remarks.

A 2018-2020 outbreak in the DRC, previously considered the country's deadliest, killed 2,299 people out of 3,381 confirmed cases, according to WHO figures based on Congolese data.

The deadliest Ebola outbreak ever hit west Africa in 2013-2016, killing more than 11,300 people, mainly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. (AFP)

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2026

MATCH SCHEDULE

FRI 7 AUG	JKM		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
SAT 8 AUG	SKNP		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
SUN 9 AUG	ABF		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST VINCENT
TUE 11 AUG	JKM		v		BR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 12 AUG	SLK		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 13 AUG	JKM		v		GAW	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
FRI 14 AUG	SLK		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 15 AUG	JKM		v		TKR	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
SUN 16 AUG	SLK		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
TUE 18 AUG	JKM		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	JAMAICA
WED 19 AUG	SLK		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
THU 20 AUG	ABF		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
FRI 21 AUG	SLK		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST LUCIA
SAT 22 AUG	ABF		v		TKR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
SUN 23 AUG	ABF		v		GAW	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
TUE 25 AUG	ABF		v		BR	7:00 PM	ANTIGUA
WED 26 AUG	TKR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 27 AUG	SKNP		v		JKM	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 28 AUG	TKR		v		BR	8:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SAT 29 AUG	TKR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
SUN 30 AUG	SKNP		v		ABF	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
MON 31 AUG	TKR		v		JKM	5:00 PM	TRINIDAD
TUE 1 SEP	SKNP		v		BR	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
WED 2 SEP	TKR		v		ABF	7:00 PM	TRINIDAD
THU 3 SEP	SKNP		v		SLK	7:00 PM	ST KITTS
FRI 4 SEP	GAW		v		JKM	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 5 SEP	BR		v		TKR	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 6 SEP	GAW		v		SKNP	10:00 AM	GUYANA
SUN 6 SEP	BR		v		SLK	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
TUE 8 SEP	GAW		v		ABF	7:00 PM	GUYANA
WED 9 SEP	GAW		v		SLK	7:00 PM	GUYANA
THU 10 SEP	BR		v		SKNP	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 11 SEP	GAW		v		TKR	7:00 PM	GUYANA
SAT 12 SEP	BR		v		JKM	8:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 13 SEP	BR		v		GAW	7:00 PM	BARBADOS
WED 16 SEP	ELIMINATOR - 3 RD v 4 TH					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
THU 17 SEP	QUALIFIER - 1 ST v 2 ND					8:00 PM	BARBADOS
FRI 18 SEP	QUALIFIER 2 - WINNER ELIMINATOR v LOSER QUALIFIER 1					7:00 PM	BARBADOS
SUN 20 SEP	FINAL					7:00 PM	BARBADOS

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WCPL FIXTURES

BARBADOS 2026

SAT 5 SEP **BT**  **V**  **TKR** **3:00 PM**

SUN 6 SEP **JE**  **V**  **GAW** **2:00 PM**

THU 10 SEP **TKR**  **V**  **JE** **10:00 AM**

SAT 12 SEP **TKR**  **V**  **GAW** **10:00 AM**

SAT 12 SEP **BT**  **V**  **JE** **3:00 PM**

SUN 13 SEP **GAW**  **V**  **BT** **2:00 PM**

WED 16 SEP **PLAYOFF** **2ND V 3RD** **10:00 AM**

THU 17 SEP **FINAL** **2:00 PM**



WCPL



Second win for Antigua in CFU Boys Under-14 Challenge Series

Antigua and Barbuda's young Benna Boys maintained their winning start to their campaign at the 2026 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Boys Challenge Series in the Dominican Republic on Monday.

The young Antiguanians made it two wins in a row, recording their second victory in Tier II Group B with a 2-1 triumph over Dominica on the second day of the tournament, which is being staged in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from **August 16 to 23**.

Kalique Martin snatched the winner for Antiguanians after **Jaiydan Victor** equalized for Dominica. Player of the match **Tevon Henderson** scored the opening goal to give Antigua and Barbuda a one-nil lead.

However, Henderson squandered a good opportunity to score a second goal via a penalty kick, which was saved by Dominica's goalkeeper.

Goals by Martin, Henderson, and captain Allan Henry propelled Antigua and Barbuda to a 3-1 victory over the Cayman Islands on the opening day of the tournament.

Dominica snatched a one-nil victory over the Turks and Caicos Islands in their opening-round match in Tier II Group B. The Cayman Islands rebounded to beat the Turks and Caicos Islands 4-1 in their second Tier II Group B encounter.

Antigua and Barbuda will meet the Turks and Caicos Islands in their final Tier II Group B encounter on Wednesday, August 19.

In other Day 2 results, St. Vincent and the Grenadines prevailed 2-0 over the British Virgin Islands (BVI), and St. Martin trounced Bonaire 4-0 in Tier II Group A.

The Bahamas hammered Montserrat 5-0, and Guyana beat Anguilla 4-1 in Tier II Group C.

St. Lucia cruised to a 7-0 victory over the US Virgin Islands, and Grenada



The starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda national team for their Tier II Group B match against Dominica in the CFU Under-14 Boys Challenge Series in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on Monday, August 17, 2026. (Photo courtesy CFU)

and Suriname share the points after a 1-1 draw in Tier II Group D.

The Dominican Republic crushed Martinique 5-0, and Barbados and Bermuda battled to a 1-1 draw in Tier I Group A.

Haiti prevailed 5-2 over French Guiana, and Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago fought to a 1-1 draw in Tier I Group B. Jamaica hammered St. Kitts and Nevis 4-0, and Aruba and Curaçao played to a 1-1 draw in Tier I Group C.

Following the three round-robin group matches, the top teams from each group will advance to the playoff and crossover knockout rounds, which are scheduled to take place from August 20 to 23.

The official match groupings and divisions for the **2026 CFU Under-14 Boys Challenge Series** feature **28 teams** divided across two distinct competitive tiers.

Tier I features 12 teams split into three groups. Group A comprised Barbados, Bermuda, the Dominican Re-

public, and Martinique. Group B consists of French Guiana, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad & Tobago, while Group C will feature Aruba, Curaçao, Jamaica, and St. Kitts & Nevis.

Tier II features 16 teams split into four groups. In Group A are Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, St. Martin, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

Battling for top honours in Group B are Antigua & Barbuda, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Contesting Group C are Anguilla, the Bahamas, Guyana, and Montserrat, while battling for supremacy in Group D are Grenada, St. Lucia, Suriname, and the US Virgin Islands.

The under-14 challenge series tournament is organized by the Caribbean Football Union and features young talent from across the region competing in a week-long developmental showcase.



Garden Stars get first win in defense of Parham Super League title

Reigning champion Garden Stars have claimed their first win in the fourth edition of the Parham Super League, which is organized by East-boy Promotions.

Garden Stars snatched a one-nil victory over East Furlong in their second encounter in Group 1 at the Parham playing field on Monday evening.

Nadre Thomas scored the winner and only goal of the match with a strike in the 65th minute. Two minutes earlier, Malik Charles squandered a good chance to give East Furlong the lead when he failed to convert a penalty kick.

The Garden Stars were held to a 1-1 draw by Swetes FC in their opening encounter in Group 1 of the 10-team round-robin competition.

It was the second loss for East Furlong, who suffered a 5-0 defeat against

the Freemans Village Scorpions in their opening encounter.

Former back-to-back champions Pigotts Bullets have maintained their winning start to their campaign in the PSL.

The Pigotts Bullets made it two wins in as many games by recording a 3-1 victory over Parham in their second encounter in Group 2.

Goals by Kemoi Walsh in the 20th minute, Troy Jules in the 30th minute, and Vashami Allen in the 60th minute gave Pigotts Bullets a three-nil lead.

Davrick Lockhart reduced the deficit for Parham when he scored a consolation goal by converting a penalty kick in the 68th minute. It was the second loss in as many games for Parham.

The Pigotts Bullets, who won the PSL in the first two years of the competition in 2023 and 2024, launched

their campaign in Group 2 by surging to a 5-2 victory over newcomers Glanvilles FC.

After suffering a 3-0 loss to the Potters Tigers in their opening match in Group 2, Point West Ham rebounded to claim their first win by snatching a one-nil victory over Glanvilles FC.

Stephan Whyte scored the only goal of the match with a conversion in the 55th minute. It was the second loss in as many matches for Glanvilles FC.

However, the Group 1 match between Blackburn Palace and Swetes FC ended prematurely. Blackburn Palace lost 4-0 to the Freemans Village Scorpions in their opening encounter.

Similar to the third edition of the PSL in 2025, this year's winning team will take home a grand prize of EC\$3,000, with EC\$1,000 going to the runners-up.


 A purple and yellow advertisement for Senior Hoggs Tequila Bar. On the left is a QR code and the phone number 268 736 7165. The center text says 'Open Daily - 7:00am - 11:30pm'. The right side lists activities: 'Thursdays, 7:30pm - Karaoke', 'Saturdays, 8pm - Live Band', 'Breakfast served from 7:30am', and 'Games Night - COMING SOON!'. The bar's logo, featuring a pig and the name 'Senior Hoggs', is in the middle.

Sports News

All Star Newbies win ABFA 7-a-Side football competition

All Star Newbies have won the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's Seven-a-Side (7v7) Tournament.

The competition, which was held at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, brought together three competitive teams, Empire Trendsetters, Cutting Edge, and All Star Newbies.

After an exciting round-robin stage, Cutting Edge and All Star Newbies finished at the top of the table and battled it out in the final. The match ended 1-1, sending the final into a marathon penalty shootout to decide the winners.

After a long and intense battle from the penalty spot, All Star Newbies came up with the crucial save to secure the victory and were crowned champions.

All Star Newbies captured the EC\$1,000 first-place prize, while Cutting Edge secured second place and EC\$500.

National striker Gabrielle Desuza



All Star Newbies celebrate with the trophy after winning the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Women's Seven-a-side Tournament at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, August 16, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)

finished as the tournament's top goal scorer.




**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
45TH INDEPENDENCE
CELEBRATIONS
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**



Renaissance

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Date	Event	Time
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER	National Youth Rally, Special Drills and Cheerleading Competition Sir Vivian Richards Stadium	8:30 AM
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER	National Food Fair Sir Vivian Richards Stadium	7:30 AM
	Independence Church Service Church TBC	4:00 PM
	National Schools' Panorama Sir Vivian Richards Stadium	6:00 PM
MONDAY 26 OCTOBER	National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony Heroes Park - Sir Sydney Walling Highway	10:00 AM
	National Honours Award and Reception Governor General Gardens	6:00 PM
	National Independence Business Decor Competition Starts: October 26 Ends: October 29	
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER	Festival of Choirs St. Anthony's Secondary School	8:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER	Schools' Independence Programs Schools Across the State	
	Golden Age Gala - Celebrating Life Various Communities in Antigua and Barbuda	
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER	Schools' Mural Reveal Antigua Recreation Grounds - South Wall	9:30 AM
	Barbuda Day Activities	
	Evening of Drama Multipurpose Cultural Centre	7:00 PM
	Independence Calypso Competition Green Lounge - Cedar Valley	8:00 PM
	National Dress and Flag Day	
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER		
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER	Distinctly Antiguan and Barbudan Festival Botanical Gardens	12:00 PM
SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER	Independence Flag Ceremony Barbuda	7:00 AM
	Independence Ceremonial Parade Sir Vivian Richards Stadium	5:45 PM

SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

22 rising stars selected for CWI High-Performance Camp



Trinidad and Tobago win the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Women's title at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds in Antigua on Saturday, August 15, 2026. (CWI Media)

Twenty-two (22) of the Caribbean's promising young female cricketers have been given an immediate opportunity to build on their performances in the recently concluded Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship, as Cricket West Indies (CWI) steps up preparations for the ICC Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup in 2027.

The players have transitioned directly from the successful regional tournament into a two-week High-Performance Camp in Antigua, which began on August 17 and runs until August 29.

The initiative is part of CWI's deliberate approach to identifying, developing, and preparing the next generation of West Indies women cricketers for the demands of international competition.

The Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship, which concluded in Antigua on August 15, provided CWI's high-performance team with an opportunity to assess the region's leading young talent in a competitive environment.

Selection for the camp was based on a combination of on-field performances and technical assessments, age eligibility for the 2027 World Cup, tactical awareness, tempera-

ment and competitiveness, fitness and the overall balance and composition of the squad.

The programme will focus on technical, tactical, physical and mental development, while providing the players with greater exposure to the standards, intensity and expectations associated with progressing to the international level.

CWI High-Performance Manager Dwain Gill said the immediate transition from regional competition into a high-performance environment was intentional and important to the players' development.

"The Rising Stars Championship gave us a valuable opportunity to see these players compete, respond to pressure and demonstrate their potential in a regional environment. We did not want that assessment process to end with the tournament.

"Bringing the selected players directly into camp allows us to build on what we have seen, work more closely with them and begin addressing the areas that will be critical to their progression.

"This is an important first step in building a group that can be competitive at the 2027 World Cup, while also developing players who can

contribute to West Indies women's cricket beyond the Under-19 level."

The camp will also extend beyond on-field development, continuing CWI's broader commitment to preparing young cricketers for the demands of high-performance sport and professional cricket.

Educational and development sessions will address areas relevant to their personal and professional growth.

On the field, the players will work with several members of CWI's High-Performance coaching staff, led by Senior Women's Assistant Coach Ryan Austin, alongside Shane Dowrich, who has been part of the West Indies women's recent assignments, including the ICC T20 World Cup in England and Wales, and West Indies Academy Head Coach Ramesh Subasinghe.

West Indies Under-19 Women's Training Camp participants: Jessica Davis, Brianna Harricharan, Shriya Jairam, Jannah Mohammed, Sian Ramnarine, Samara Ramnath, and Amrita Ramtahal (Trinidad and Tobago); Eboni Brathwaite, Zaniyah Bruce, Sabriel Henry, Theanny Herbert Mayers, and Jadaeya Holder (Barbados); Davehjah Brown and Brianna Plummer (Jamaica); CQuinya Dasent, Zara Skerritt, Leanga Warner, and Aaliyah Weekes (Leeward Islands); Jaeda Tyrell and Kaela George (Windward Islands); and Allia Henry, Danielle Manns (Guyana).

Antigua Pitbulls contest Aloysius Daniel Youth Classic in St. Lucia



The Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls

The junior national basketball team, the Antigua Barbuda Pitbulls, is participating in the fifth annual Aloysius Daniel Youth Classic competition in St. Lucia.

The Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls, which departed on Monday for St. Lucia, will be competing against teams from Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and St. Lucia at the Beausejour Indoor Stadium in Gros Islet from August 17 to 21.

The Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls, which began preparations in May for the tournament in St. Lucia, comprised players who represented secondary schools across the islands as well as the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), former-

ly Antigua State College.

Nathan Matthew of St. Joseph's Academy is the captain of the Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls.

The squad includes Erije Joseph, Jayden Lewis, and Iczjaire Sebastian of St. Joseph's Academy, Tristan Thibou of Island Academy, Yohan Nicholas of St. Mary's Secondary, Gabriel Desuza, Elijah Charles, and Noah Massiah of Princess Margaret School, and Kadeem Simon of ABCAS.

The other players are Raheem Sawyer of Antigua Grammar School, Jahaziel Santana of Clare Hall Secondary, Kamal Mason and Zende Dorsett of St. Anthony's Secondary, and Marcus Murphy of All Saints Secondary

School.

The coaches are Cedric "Supa" David, Bradbury Browne, and Edward Shaw. The managers are Oleno Knight and School Basketball Coordinator Carl "Bowlie" Knight.

The Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls were slated to face ECA Tigers in their opening match on Tuesday.

The Antiguanians will face the ECA Lions on Wednesday at 6 pm, will meet D-UP Academy on Thursday at 4 pm, and will play BFTF in their final encounter on Friday at 2 pm.

The Antigua and Barbuda Pitbulls' trip to St. Lucia is being facilitated with the support of the Ministry of Sports and Cool and Smooth.