

THURSDAY 27TH JULY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 144 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

NEW SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TO BE NAMED

Story on Page 2



Left: Chief Executive Officer of State Insurance Company Aarion Nicholas with President of the Pan Association Patrick Johnson.
Right: Creative Industries Minister Daryll Matthew with SIC CEO Aarion Nicholas at the launch of the new Panorama sponsorship.
Story on page 5.

Local News

A new Supervisor of Elections is to be named

The lower house of parliament, the House of Representatives, is convening a meeting today to discuss several important matters.

Among the matters to be discussed is the creation of a national Land Registry that will include the lands in Barbuda.

It will be the first time that lands in Barbuda will be featured in a national land registry for Antigua and Barbuda.

The members of the House will also consider the appointment of a Supervisor of Elections to fill the vacancy left, following the departure of Dame Lorna Simon who retired after serving for twenty-one years in the post.

Government sources say Acting Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes, will be nominated to succeed Dame Lorna. Hughes has served as deputy supervisor of elections for several

years.

The issue of the by-elections that will be held shortly in the St. Mary's South Constituency is also among the matters likely to be discussed. This will be the first meeting of the House since the resignation of the former member for St. Mary's South, Kelvin Simon, which paved the way for the upcoming by-elections.

House Speaker Sir Gerald Watt, who had initially declined to accept



Antigua & Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION PRESENTS

JRCALYPSO MONARCH

SUN JUL 30TH | 6:30pm

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

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The beach is just the beginning.

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Burning Flames to receive keys to Carnival City

The stage is set for the ceremonial opening of Antigua Carnival 2023. Following months of planning and preparations, the opening of the annual summer festival is just mere hours away. It takes place this Thursday, July 27, starting with a parade through the streets of St. John and culminating at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG), now transformed into Carnival City.

The popular Burning Flames band, Antigua and Barbuda's Fabulous Four will serve as Grand Marshalls for the



Burning Flames

parade, which moves off from the Ministry of Agriculture's compound on Independence Drive and then makes its

way through St. John to the ARG.

There will be an on-stage ceremony where official remarks will be presented by the Minister of Creative Industries, Honourable Daryll Matthew who will also present the keys to Carnival City to the Burning Flames Band and declare the start of the Carnival celebrations.

There will be appearances by the 2023 Miss Queen of Carnival, the Mr. and Miss Teenage pageant winners as well as the contestants taking part in *cont'd on pg 4*



ANTIGUA Carnival
OPENING PARADE AND CEREMONY
Thur 27th | 4:30pm
ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS
#carnivaliscalling

Assembly point:
Ministry of Agriculture

Route:
 RIGHT on to Independence Drive, LEFT on Redcliffe St, RIGHT on Thames St, RIGHT on High St, LEFT on Independence Drive, RIGHT on to Old Parham Road, RIGHT to Coronation Road into Carnival City

Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission

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Local News



cont'd from pg 3

the JCI Caribbean Queen Show. The finalists in the Junior Carnival, Calypso Monarch, and Party Monarch competitions will also participate in the show.

Reigning Queen of Carnival, Miss Cedar Valley Golf Course, Ischikelle Corbin will deliver the welcome address and there will be cultural performances by several groups.

The opening activities will end with a fireworks display followed by a jam session led by the Burning Flames band.

The complete programme for the opening activities is attached.

ORDER OF CEREMONY for the Opening of

Antigua's Carnival 2023

Prelude
Steel Band Performance
Police Iron Band and RT Performers
National Anthem
Prayer
Welcome by the Queen of Carnival 2023
A moment for those who have transitioned
Video Presentation – The Journey
Slavery Introduction
The Royal Rave
Freedom Performers – The RT Performers & Hand Women to add to their performance
Honoring Burning Flames - Tribute to

Burning Flames production
Introductions of the:
Queen of Carnival
Mr. and Miss Teenage
Ms. Jaycees contestants
Junior Calypso and Soca Monarch Competitors
Senior Calypso Monarch Competitors
Senior Soca Monarch Competitors
Minister's Remarks
Handing Over of the key by the Minister to Grand Marshals to unlock carnival
Cutting of the ribbon, by the Minister to declare carnival open
The opening of Carnival is declared
Fireworks
Jam Band Performance

CAVALIER

TSHIRT MAS

Parade starts UP Old Parham Road, RIGHT on St. Johnson's Village Main Road (Simon Bolivar Drive), RIGHT on Factory Road, LEFT on to Parliament Drive, and RIGHT on to Queen Elizabeth Highway, RIGHT on Independence Drive, LEFT on Redcliffe Street, RIGHT on Thames Street, RIGHT on High Street

SAT JUL 29th | 3:00pm

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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA FESTIVALS COMMISSION PRESENTS

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Festivals Ministry formally announces new Panorama sponsor



Minister responsible for the Creative Industries, Honorable Daryll Matthew has welcomed the decision by State Insurance Company Ltd. to sign on as title sponsor for the 2023 Panorama Competition.

Speaking at the formal launch of the sponsorship on Wednesday, Minister Matthew said it is good that the competition is emerging from the three-year hi-

atus caused by COVID-19 with a new sponsor.

“It is quite timely that coming out of the pandemic crisis which affected us over the last few years we are announcing a new sponsor for Panorama 2023.

“The State Insurance Company is no stranger to carnival, as it has been mentioned that they, have in the past, sponsored the

cont'd on pg 6



Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION PRESENTS

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

PANORAMA COMPETITION

SAT AUG 5th | 8:00pm | \$30

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

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Local News



cont'd from pg 5

Junior Soca, Junior Calypso, and Junior Carnival activities of the festival.

"Now having taken on the mantle and burden of sponsorship, this demonstrates a clear commitment to carnival itself," he stated.

Minister Matthew described the pan/steel band as being a staple in the carnival programme. "It's a staple in our culture as it represents all strata of society," he added.

He recalled the struggles the early pan players had to endure before being accepted by the upper classes of society.

He noted that things have changed for the better in the ensuing years as pan/steel band is now widely accept-

ed across the society, made evident by the number of churches which today have their own steel bands as well as the popularity of pan within the nation's schools.

For her part, Chief Executive Officer of State Insurance, Aarion Nicholas, stated that the decision to sponsor the Panorama competition did not mean that there had been wavering in the company's commitment to carnival.

"The vision hasn't changed so much, as we are still very invested in our youth development, our culture, and our people, but we are approaching it from a different angle," she remarked.

She revealed that she has been

visiting the pan yards to listen to the practice sessions of the steel bands and she shared that she was quite thrilled with what she has heard and experienced.

President of the Pan Association, Patrick Johnson also welcomed the involvement of State Insurance with the Panorama Competition.

He explained that the maintenance and upkeep of steel bands are quite expensive, and he expressed the hope that the company's involvement with the competition will be a lasting one.

All the speakers invited the public to come out in their numbers to support Panorama slated for August 5 at Carnival City.

ANTIGUA BARBUDA FESTIVALS COMMISSION PRESENTS

ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT

JUNIOR PARTY

WED AUG 2nd | 8:00pm | \$15

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

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ISLAND PRINCE PRODUCED BY ISLAND PRINCE PRODUCTION

ANTIGUA BARBUDA FESTIVALS COMMISSION

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Global Ports - title sponsor for Junior Party Monarch Competition

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, and the Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) is pleased to officially announce that Global Ports has been elevated to the sponsorship level of Carnival Baby for Antigua's Carnival 2023.

The company has come forward as a good corporate citizen and has played an invaluable role in the development and successful execution of Antigua's summer festival, by pledging its support as title sponsor for the Junior Party Monarch Competition 2023. Now named, The Global Ports Junior Party Monarch 2023.

Minister with responsibility for Carnival, Honourable Daryll S. Matthew expressed his gratitude to Global Ports for their sponsorship.

"We are delighted with this bold gesture from Global Ports, for its

sponsorship as a first-timer." Minister Matthew stated, "As a fairly new company to Antigua and Barbuda, Global Ports must be commended for the investment into our youth, as this is demonstrated through this sponsorship."

Minister Matthew, who also presides over Culture, said that the Jr. Party Monarch is one of the fastest-growing cultural singing art forms, and in a few years, this will be one of Carnival's dominating youth events."

Returning Committee Chairman, Mr. Rudolph Davis, noted a surge of new blood in the art form.

Meanwhile, the Committee is gearing up for the Global Ports Junior Party Monarch, scheduled for Wednesday, 02nd July 2023 at 7 pm at Carnival City.

The 2019 Junior Monarch, Island Prince, has now advanced to the se-

nior competition. Consequently, this year, six (6) new Groovy artists will be competing for the crown. At the same time, seven (7) Junior Jumpy artists come up against the reigning Junior Monarch African Prince.

The order of appearance for the Global Ports Junior Party Monarch is as follows:

Groovy: 1. Young Zee, 2. African Prince, 3. Dani, 4. Jai'lilah 5. JP

Jumpy: 1. Lyrical Bungy, 2. Mini Rampler, 3. Young Zyon, 4. Mighty Bakker, 5. JP, 6. African Prince, 7. Young Zee.

The Juniors are excited to be back on the stage after a three-year hiatus promoting their theme 'It is what it is... We love Di Soca Biznez.'

Let us support our young artists as they answer the call for #Carnivalis-Calling the Mas, Music, and Creativity, Antigua Carnival 2023.

- MILD HYBRID
- 9-INCH HD DISPLAY AUDIO
- 360 VIEW CAMERA
- HEAD-UP DISPLAY
- WIRELESS CHARGER



VIBE DIFFERENT

GIVE US A CALL AT 481-2500 FOR MORE DETAILS



Local News



Two gov't agencies and CDB to launch capacity building project

Two government agencies – the Office of the National Authorizing Officer (ONAO), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA), and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) are combining efforts to launch a capacity-building project in Antigua and Barbuda.

The launch, slated for August 02, is the second project to be implemented in Antigua and Barbuda funded by the European Union (EU), under the CARIFORUM-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Standby Facility for Capacity Building.

The project is entitled, “Strengthening Private Sector Capacity to utilize the CARIFORUM- European Union Economic Partnership Agreement to increase competitiveness and maximize opportunities for global export.”

The launch will be held at the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority Conference Room- Deep Water Harbour.

The project is being implemented by the ONAO with support from national beneficiary agencies and business support organizations, which is valued at EUR 189,307 in technical assistance to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

This intervention will focus on

strengthening the private sector’s capacity to utilize the CARIFORUM-EU EPA and attain greater market penetration within the CSME, by building the sustainable export capacity of MSMEs through a digitally enabled strategic framework.

Speakers at the launch will include, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene, Vice President of Operations - Caribbean Development Bank, Isaac Solomon, and Project Manager-Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM, Sheldon Jackman.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

EARLY CLOSURE NOTICE

Due to a staff activity, please be advised that the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will be closed at 12:30pm on Thursday 27th July 2023

We do apologize for any inconvenience caused

MANAGEMENT



National Solid Waste Management Authority
Sir George Walter Highway
Tel: (268) 562-1347/8
Email: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag

July 26th, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Authority wishes to inform the general public that the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the agency mandated by law to collect, transport, and dispose of solid waste in Antigua and Barbuda.

In an effort to improve our services and reliability we are updating the residents in the community below of the delayed service and we are working to resolve the issue promptly.

- Herberts

In today’s schedule, an unavoidably late start will be in the following community:

- Hatton

We thank the residents in those communities for their patience.

The National Solid Waste Management Authority wishes to advise private citizens that if there is a delay or missed collection of their residential waste services, to contact the Authority via the hotline number 562-1347.

“Working In Partnership for a Cleaner Antigua And Barbuda”



The National Solid Waste Management Authority



COOL & SMOOTH



Antigua Barbuda
**FESTIVALS
COMMISSION**
PRESENTS

**AUG
3RD**

**ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUNDS**

8:00PM



Melting Pot

50 YEARS OF SOCA

FEATURING:

KING SHORT SHIRT | BUNJI GARLIN AND FAY ANN LYONS | SKINNY FABULOUS | BURNING FLAMES
CLAUDETTE PETERS | TIAN WINTER | RICARDO DRUE | MERVYN SLEEPY EDWARDS | TIZZY | KENNE BLESSIN
MENACE | KING BANKERS | SINGING ALTHEA | BLADE | BYKE | ASA BANTAN | SUPA MARIO
LYRICKSMAN | RATTIGAN | ZAMONI | G'EVE | EMPRESS | ISLAND PRINCE | KID VICIOUS
KHAN CORDICE | DJ BRANDON STRIKER | SUPA DYMOND | IBIS | DJ JIME | DJ QUEST | DJ ALTITUDE

EARLY BIRD

\$ 50

REG.

\$ 65

GATE

\$ 85

V.I.P.

\$ 300

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ticketing

TICKETS AVAILABLE



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CIU
Carnival Insurance Unit

Premier
Beverages



Bridons



Carib



ABS



Apua



inet



STATE INSURANCE



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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

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[i antiguacarnival](https://www.instagram.com/antiguacarnival)
[t antiguafestivals](https://www.tiktok.com/@antiguafestivals)

Local News



More than \$2 thousand raised to help burn victim

The Community Development Division has announced that it has been successful in its efforts to raise funds to assist a 7-year-old burn victim.

The Division said it raised \$2,373.00 for the family of 7-year-old burn victim

T'rique Jeffrey of Swetes Village.

The Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division, on Wednesday, handed over a cheque to the family.

The Division reported that the money represented

the proceeds from a barbeque held to raise funds for the burn victim.

Present to hand over the funds to the family was the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Health, Wellness and Social Transformation, Colin O'Keefe,



the Director of Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division, Dale O'Brien, and the staff of the South Zone Team within the department.

Jeffery suffered serious burns to 52 percent of his body in an accident, at his home, in May this year and was medically airlifted to the Dominican Republic, where he continues to receive treatment through the financial assistance of the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF).

The Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division wish to extend gratitude to its sponsors Christos Supermarket, Chase Distributors, T.I.N.Y Supermarket, Little Canton Supermarket, Cassandra Thomas of Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Grocery, Bernard Percival, E&M Restaurant, GCS Bottling Co. Ltd, Brownies Bakery, Central Marketing Corporation, O.H.K Supermarket, staff and others who contributed to make the fundraiser a reality.



Kiwaniis
ST. JOHN'S ANTIGUA



**EVERETT LAKE
SCHOLARSHIP 2023**

The Everett Lake Scholarship is designed to help primary school students whose parents/guardian face difficult economic circumstances and are not able to provide their young children with the basic supplies for the academic year.

Applications are invited from the public. Students will be awarded the scholarship based on a need based assessment.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- *Johnson's Point Health Clinic**
- *Browne's Avenue Health Clinic**
- *Gray's Farm Health Clinic**
- *A.G Morgan (Redcliffe St.)**
- *Modern Chic (Village Walk)**
- *Methodist Book Store (St Mary's St)**

**Deadline for submission of applications
31-July 2023**



Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) employees are part of a premier organization dedicated to excellence in patient care and education. By working at **SLBMC**, you gain the opportunity and the responsibility to make a real difference in the world. Take a closer look at the vacancy below and submit your resume for consideration if you are interested in helping contribute to the legacy of great achievement and even greater promise at **SLBMC**.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is seeking to recruit a highly experienced and motivated **Financial Reporting Analyst**. This individual provides support leadership to the financial reporting unit in order to ensure the timely and accurate reporting of external and internal financial information to Executive Management, Board of Directors and or other authorized parties.

The position will work closely with the Accounting Manager to achieve the unit's objectives.

EDUCATION AND COMPETENCIES

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field
- In the final stages of completing an accounting qualification (CPA, ACCA, CA, etc.)
- Minimum of 2 years experience within the Accounting field
- External Audit experience would be considered an asset
- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Knowledgeable in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- Experience with Microsoft Dynamics GP would be considered an asset
- Effective oral and written communication
- Must pay close attention to detail
- Exceptional interpersonal skills, respect for confidentiality, tact, discretion and teamwork.
- Must have the highest standard of ethics
- Must be Goal orientated and self-driven
- Excellent problem-solving skills, and timely problem escalation.
- Excellent time management and organizational skills

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Balance Sheet Reconciliations.
- Internal and External Financial Report Preparation.
- General Ledger postings and review.
- Budget preparation and analysis.
- Cashflow forecasting and monitoring.
- Maintain supporting documentation.
- Support External Audit.
- Coordinate and monitor the work of Financial Reporting Assistants.
- Any other reasonable duties as assigned by the Accounting Manager and/or Financial Controller.

Email your resume to: HRM@msjmc.gov.ag indicating the position you are applying for by August 4, 2023. ONLY suitable candidates will be contacted.

Education



UNESCO calls for global ban on smartphones in schools

CMC - The United Nation's education, science and culture agency, UNESCO, is urging Caribbean countries to be part of a global ban on the use of mobile phones in schools.

A New UN report is raising concerns about the excessive use of smartphones and its impacts on learning.

The UNESCO report on technology in education urges countries to carefully consider how technology is used in schools and emphasises the need for a "human-centred vision" where digital technology serves as a tool rather than taking precedence.

UNESCO's Director of the Global Education Monitoring, Manos Antoninis, is also warning of the danger of data leaks in educational tech, as only 16 per cent of countries guarantee data privacy in the classroom, by law.

"We know that vast amounts of data are being used without the appropriate regulation, so this data ends up being used for other non-educational purposes, commercial purposes and that's of course a violation of rights that needs to be regulated."

The UNESCO report also highlights the disparities created by digital learning. It noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, half a billion students worldwide were left out due to the shift to online-only tuition.

Geographically, the report noted a significant imbalance in online resources favouring Europe and North America.

UNESCO is urging countries to set their own standards for the way technology is designed and used in education such that it never replaces in-person, teacher-led instruction and supports the shared objective of quality education for all.



"The digital revolution holds immeasurable potential but, just as warnings have been voiced for how it should be regulated in society, similar attention must be paid to the way it is used in education," warned UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay.

"Its use must be for enhanced learning experiences and for the well-being of students and teachers, not to their detriment."

The report, "Technology in education: A tool on whose terms?" was launched at an event in Uruguay hosted by UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Culture of that country with additional support from the Ceibal Foundation and 18 ministers of education from around the world.

It proposes four questions that policymakers and educators should reflect upon as educational technology becomes increasingly accessible and utilised around the globe.

The first question focuses on the appropriate use of technology in class. Disabled children who may struggle in a traditional, in-person setting may also benefit from the option of technological assistance.

"The opportunities it has opened up are incredible, and we are always

amazed by the new windows this opens for learners," said Antoninis, who is responsible for producing the report.

"We need to learn about our past mistakes when using technology in education so that we do not repeat them in the future. We need to teach children to live both with and without technology; to take what they need from the abundance of information, but to ignore what is not necessary; to let technology support, but never supplant human interactions in teaching and learning," he added.

The rapid shift to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic left out an estimated 500 million students worldwide, mostly affecting those in marginalised, rural communities.

The report underlines that the right to education is increasingly synonymous with the right to meaningful connectivity, yet one in four primary schools do not have electricity. It calls for all countries to set benchmarks for connecting schools to the Internet between now and 2030, and for the primary focus to remain on these marginalized communities.

UNESCO notes that there's a
cont'd on pg 14






UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS MR. AND MS. TEENAGE PAGEANT
Sat Jul 22nd | 8:00pm | \$20

QUEEN OF CARNIVAL
Sun Jul 23rd | 8:00pm | \$25 | \$50

OFFICIAL OPENING
Thur Jul 27th | 3:00pm - 9:00pm

FACEOFF
Fri Jul 28th | 9:00pm

CAVALIER RUM TSHIRT MAS
Sat Jul 29th | 3:00pm - 9:00pm

OASIS JR CARNIVAL | 2:30pm
SMALTA JR CALYPSO | 6:00pm
Sun Jul 30th | \$15

JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW
Mon Jul 31st | 8:00pm | \$50 | \$150

DRUESDAY
Tue Aug 1st | 9:00pm

GLOBAL PORTS JR PARTY MONARCH
Wed Aug 2nd | 8:00pm | \$15

COOL & SMOOTH MELTING POT
Thur Aug 3rd | 8:00pm | \$65 | \$350

CARIB BEER CALYPSO MONARCH
Fri Aug 4th | 8:00pm | \$30

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LTD PANORAMA
Sat Aug 5th | 8:00pm | \$30

APUA INET PARTY MONARCH
Sun Aug 6th | 8:00pm | \$40

CAVALIER RUM J'OUVERT
3:00am - 10:00am
CAVALIER RUM CARNIVAL MONDAY
Mon Aug 7th | 2:00pm

CAVALIER RUM PARADE OF THE BANDS
Tue Aug 8th | 12 Noon

LAST LAP
Tue Aug 8th | 7:00pm

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Technology

Excitement over Threads fades but users return to app

BBC - Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has said his new social media app, Threads, is drawing more repeat users than he had expected.

The app attracted more than 100 million sign-ups within days of its launch this month in a challenge to Elon Musk's rival platform, X, formerly Twitter.

But analysts questioned whether Threads would be able to keep people engaged.

Outside data firms have reported that sign-ups and time spent on the platform have declined since the launch.

Mr Zuckerberg said the initial success had taken executives by surprise and "we're seeing more people coming back daily than I had expected".

He said improving that engagement was the company's focus now and success was not a "foregone conclusion".



Shot of five smartphones in people's hands.

"We have a lot of work to do to really make Threads reach its full potential," he said.

His remarks came as Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, reported a surge in advertising sales and solid user growth, with 3.07 billion people globally active on one of its apps each day.

The gains suggest Meta is emerging from last year's slump, when advertising sales fell in the face of increased competition, privacy changes from Apple and

general economic weakness.

Meta said it raked in \$32bn in advertising sales in the April-June period, up 11% from the prior year.

That was better than analysts had expected, with growth accelerating from the prior quarter.

Profits rose even faster, climbing 16% year-on-year to \$7.79bn.

The results helped lift the firm's shares in after-hours trade. The price per share has already more than doubled since the start of the year, as investors buy

into Mr Zuckerberg's campaign to cut costs and refocus the tech giant.

Meta said it employed about 71,469 people at the end of June, down 14% from a year earlier. It said the figure only reflected the impact of about half of the thousands of layoffs it has announced in recent months.

"There's a lot to feel good about when it comes to Meta right now," said Insider Intelligence principal analyst Debra Aho Williamson.

She said the company still had to navigate a weak advertising market and tough competition in advertising and artificial intelligence. Its virtual reality investments also have yet to pay off.

"These things will weigh on Meta in the second half of the year, but thanks to the momentum .. it will be in a stronger position to face those challenges," she said.

cont'd from pg 12

lack of impartial evidence concerning the added value of tech. It notes that most evidence comes from the United States, where the What Works Clearinghouse pointed out that less than two per cent of education interventions assessed had "strong or moderate evidence of effectiveness".

UNESCO argues that the evolution of technology is putting strain on education systems to adapt and that digital literacy and critical thinking

are increasingly important, particularly with the growth of generative artificial intelligence (AI).

Additional data in the report shows that this adaptation movement has begun with 54 per cent of countries surveyed have outlined skills they want to develop for the future, but only 11 out of 51 governments surveyed have curricula for AI.

"Let's not forget that to be able to navigate the digital world, we don't necessarily need very sophisticated

skills. Those who have the best reading skills are those least likely to be duped by a phishing email, for instance," said Antoninis.

Moreover, teachers also need appropriate training yet only half of countries currently have standards for developing educators' information and communication technology skills. Even fewer have teacher training programmes covering cybersecurity, despite five per cent of ransomware attacks targeting education.

Sinéad O'Connor: Irish singer dies aged 56

BBC - Irish singer and activist Sinéad O'Connor has died at the age of 56.

Her family announced the news "with great sadness", saying "her family and friends are devastated". The cause of death has not been made public.

She was best known for her single *Nothing Compares 2 U*, released in 1990, which reached number one and brought her worldwide fame.

Taoiseach (Irish PM) Leo Varadkar said her music "was loved around the world and her talent was unmatched".

Irish President Michael D Higgins praised O'Connor's "authenticity" as well as her "beautiful, unique voice".

"What Ireland has lost at such a relatively young age is one of our greatest and most gifted composers, songwriters and performers of recent decades, one who had a unique talent and extraordinary connection with her audience, all of whom held such love and warmth for her," he said.

Born Sinead Marie Bernadette O'Connor in Glengageary, County Dublin, in December 1966, the singer had a difficult childhood.

As a teenager, she was placed in Dublin's An Grianan Training Centre, once

one of the notorious Magdalene laundries, originally set up to incarcerate young girls deemed to be promiscuous.

One nun bought her a guitar and set her up with a music teacher - which led to the launch of O'Connor's musical career.

She released her first critically acclaimed album *The Lion And The Cobra* in 1987, which entered the top 40 in the UK and US.

Her follow-up was *I Do Not Want What I Haven't*



O'Connor was best known for her single *Nothing Compares 2 U*, written by Prince.

Got, which included *Nothing Compares 2 U*.

Written by Prince, the song reached number one

around the world, including in the US and the UK.

O'Connor, who was

cont'd on pg 16



BAD COMPANY

PLATINUM FM 97.9

THURSDAYS - 2PM - 6PM
 SATURDAYS - 12PM - 4PM
 SUNDAYS - 1PM - 5PM

cont'd from pg 15

outspoken in her social and political views, released 10 studio albums between 1987 and 2014.

In 1991, she was named artist of the year by Rolling Stone magazine and took home the Brit Award for international female solo artist.

The following year, one of the most notable events of her career took place when she ripped up a picture of Pope John Paul II on US TV show Saturday Night Live, where she was the invited performer.

Following an acapella performance of Bob Marley's War, she looked at the camera and said "fight the real enemy", a protest against child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

Her actions resulted in her being banned for life by broadcaster NBC and protests against her in the US, which saw copies of her records destroyed in New York's Times Square.

"I'm not sorry I did it. It was bril-

liant," she said in an interview with the New York Times in 2021.

O'Connor's last studio album, I'm Not Bossy, I'm The Boss, was released in 2014.

Converting to Islam in 2018, the Dublin singer changed her name to Shuhada' Sadaqat, but continued to perform under her birth name. She released a memoir, Rememberings, in 2021.

In January 2022, her 17-year-old son Shane was found dead after being reported missing two days previously.

Writing on social media following his death, she said he had "decided to end his earthly struggle" and requested "no-one follows his example".

The singer later cancelled all live performances for the rest of 2022 due to her "continuing grief" following the death of her son.

O'Connor paid tribute to Shane in one of her final tweets, calling

him "the love of my life, the lamp of my soul, we were one soul in two halves".

Belfast filmmaker Kathryn Ferguson, one of the last few people to speak to O'Connor before her death, said she was "devastated" by the news.

Ferguson had been working on a documentary film about O'Connor, titled Nothing Compares, which is set to be released this Saturday.

"Our film really, for me, it was a love letter to Sinéad. It was made over many, many years," she told BBC Radio 4's Front Row. "And made because of the impact she'd had on me as a young girl growing up in Ireland.

"She is one of the most radical, incredible musicians that we've had. And we were very, very lucky to have had her."

Social media was also flooded with tributes to the singer after her death was announced on Wednesday evening.

Singer Alison Moyet said O'Connor had an "astounding presence" and a voice that "cracked stone with force by increment".

"As beautiful as any girl around & never traded on that card. I loved that about her. Iconoclast."

Irish comedian Dara O'Briain said of her death: "That's just very sad news. Poor thing. I hope she realised how much love there was for her."

Musician Tim Burgess of the Charlatans said: "Sinéad was the true embodiment of a punk spirit. She did not compromise and that made her life more of a struggle. Hoping that she has found peace."

Irish author Marian Keyes described O'Connor's death as "heart-breaking".

"How she suffered. Poor, poor Sinéad. Rest in peace, you amazing, brave, beautiful, unique wonder."

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Child Safety Code to be implemented on Sint Maarten

The Court of Guardianship Sint Maarten, with the technical support of UNICEF the Netherlands, is working towards implementing a 'child safety code' (official name to be determined), which is in line with Article 243d of the Civil Code of Sint Maarten.

Once implemented, the code will serve as a guideline for professionals to ensure the rapid detection of possible child abuse to provide support to the child and family.

In addition, the code will help ensure that reports of suspected child abuse in Sint Maarten are better streamlined between all relevant departments, such as the Court of Guardianship, Police Department, SJIS, schools, medical centres, and other institutions that offer family services.

"The success of the child safety code and related programs relies heavily on the cooperation between these institutions. Teachers, police officers, medical personnel, and other child-care professionals are often the first to be able to detect signs of suspected child abuse. They, therefore, also have a responsibility to offer the much-needed emotional support to children in those difficult situations or report when necessary," explains Neidi de Carvalho, Child Protection Specialist for UNICEF the Netherlands.

Aside from establishing the legal frameworks and working agreements between relevant parties to implement the child safety code, the Court of Guardianship and UNICEF the Netherlands are also rolling out supporting programs. These programs include Child Check and Handle with Care, which strengthen the identification, reporting, and follow-up of suspected child abuse cases on Sint Maarten – especially in institutions that work with children or



parents.

"During consultations with relevant stakeholders, many professionals indicated that the communication between departments and follow-up related to suspected child abuse cases needs to be improved. The child safety code, Handle with Care, and Child Check, will offer a more efficient and reliable system for reporting. Our top priority is to work towards a safer Sint Maarten for all children by enhancing collaborations and introducing uniform procedures for all professionals," explains Kimberly Dort-Brown, Head of the Court of Guardianship.

Last year, in Aruba, the Departamento di Mucha y Hoben/Department of Youth and Family Affairs (DMH) implemented its own 'Codigo Di Proteccion'. To learn from this process, Dort-Brown, on behalf of the Court of Guardianship, and de Carvalho, on behalf of UNICEF the Netherlands, attended a 4-day working visit to Aruba. Their visit was curated by the DMH, whose specialists elaborated on the overall implementation and sustainability of the 'Codigo Di Proteccion' in Aruba.

Several other institutions that play a

role in the execution of the child safety code in Aruba were also visited, including the KPA (Korps Politie Aruba, Stichting Katholiek Onderwijs Aruba, Bureau Sostenemi (Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting, University of Aruba, DVR (Directie Voogdijraad), Dr Horacio Hospital & 'Telefon pa Hubentud' (Youth Helpline), amongst others.

The main objective for the visit was to gain knowledge, best practices, advice, and inspiration regarding the process, procedures, workflow, legal framework, and implementation phase from the beginning to where Aruba currently stands. The gathered insights will assist in developing and implementing the child safety code on Sint Maarten. "I'd like to thank the Departamento di Mucha y Hoben and their partners for their assistance in facilitating a successful working visit to Aruba," concludes Dort-Brown.

This activity is part of the Child Resilience and Protection Project (CRPP) executed by UNICEF the Netherlands in collaboration with the Government of Sint Maarten, financed by the Government of The Netherlands, through the Sint Maarten Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank.

Regional News

Work continues to address electricity issues on the BVI

Loop - The British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (BVI EC) said its power generation equipment are currently not operating at full capacity.

In a statement yesterday, BVI EC's General Manager Dr Neil Smith explained that one of the territory's largest generators is being overhauled while another has been experiencing issues that has to be rectified by specialists from the manufacturers.

He continued: "Another smaller generating set has been un-operational and awaiting assembly. Complicating matters even further is the fact that power consumption in the Territory is currently at the highest levels that it has ever been.



Coping with the situation has forced the corporation and some of our public partners, to take steps to manage the load on the system so that we can maintain general power to the territory."

One of the largest con-

sumers of power produced by BVI EC is the Seven Seas desalination plant. Smith said the plant consumes four megawatts of energy when operating at full capacity.

In order to regulate the load on the power grid, the

plant is taken offline to preserve the already overburdened distribution network.

This then affects water production and distribution.

"We appreciate that persons would have endured

cont'd on pg 19



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Water woes add to power concerns in Montserrat

The power situation in Montserrat is having some impact on the island's regular supply of water.

Another load-shedding schedule was shared yesterday for the British Overseas Territory with this schedule running from Tuesday, July 25 to Thursday, July 27 indicating which areas will have electricity.

Montserrat's Governor Sarah Tucker, Premier Joseph Farrell and Deputy Premier Dr Samuel Joseph in their Tuesday update said the Power situation continues to impact Island-wide.

On Monday night, there was a quick change in the schedule for power by Montserrat Utilities Limited (MUL) because of a generator failure at the water pumping station, which left the North of the island without water.

Temporary replacement generators were expected to be positioned on Tuesday to alleviate the situation; however, it will take a



few days to get water levels back to full capacity. It was noted resources from MCWLE are being diverted to support the Water and Sewage team to develop a strategic plan.

In its update on the power situation, it was stated the engineer from BVI is supporting MUL, and a further engineer from Miami was expected to arrive on Tuesday evening and another person on Wednesday, to provide resilience.

It is anticipated that

MUL will be able to bring the #6 Generator back online by Friday, July 28, to reduce or remove load shedding by the weekend.

Montserrat Disaster Management Coordination Agency (DMCA), with MUL, is supporting the Hospital to ensure it can continue to operate, and with the help of Meridian, and the Montserrat Port Authority, they will have a replacement generator in place this week.

"We are seeking data on

requirements and potential solutions to assess what additional generator capacity is needed. This takes time and so is not an immediate fix."

With regard to load shedding, officials say this will continue as it tries to minimise changes to the schedule but note that as critical emergencies arise, short-notice amendments may be needed.

"We recognise this is a very difficult time for everyone, and it is hard to maintain fresh food. Buying little and often at the current time will help to manage this. We will be setting up a call centre for people to register if they need support. Further details will be issued once finalised."

It added that the Ministry of Health will continue to offer advice on food safety and well-being.

cont'd from pg 18

frustration due to the present situation, but we apologise and we are asking the public to be patient with us as we carry out the necessary work to restore the power plant to its optimal load carrying capacity," he said. Smith is also appealing to the public to reduce their electricity consumption.

Meanwhile, Minister of Works Kye Rymer said bringing the British Virgin Islands' power generation facilities to optimum levels is a priority of the government.

Rymer said he's aware that the reduced power generation capabilities by BVIEC is having wide ranging impacts on the territory.

"Providing reliable and dependable utilities to the Territory is paramount to everyone. We [know] that the current issues are inconveniencing the public. For this, we apologise. We are working tirelessly to resolve the issues, but we need the public to bear with us while the solution is put in place," he said in a statement.

Hunter Biden: Plea deal for president's son collapses in dramatic court hearing

BBC - An agreement expected to see US President Joe Biden's son, Hunter, plead guilty to tax charges and admit a gun offence has dramatically fallen apart in court.

The plea deal, negotiated over several weeks, was likely to spare the younger Mr Biden prison time.

But a judge on Wednesday said she could not "rubber stamp the agreement".

The case marks the first time the justice department has charged the child of a sitting president.

Hunter Biden's lawyers have been given 14 days to hash out a new deal with the prosecution.

It follows a five-year investigation into the finances of the US first son, who arrived on Wednesday morning at the court in Wilmington, Delaware.

In a plea agreement announced last month, he was to be charged with two misdemeanour counts for failing to pay his taxes on time in 2017 and 2018.

He was also to admit that he had illegally possessed a gun while being a drug user, and agree to drug treatment and monitoring in lieu of a more serious felony charge and possible jail time.

But during the three-hour hearing, US District Court Judge Maryellen Noreika questioned whether the deal would also provide Hunter Biden with immuni-



Congressional Republicans allege Hunter Biden was offered a "sweetheart deal".

ty from crimes he could be found liable for in the future.

She said the agreement contained "non-standard terms" and its proposed resolution for the gun possession offence was "unusual".

Officials with the justice department are still investigating whether Hunter Biden violated federal laws that required him to register as a foreign agent while working in China and Ukraine during his father's vice-presidency, CNN reported.

Legal teams for both sides were seen negotiating in full view of reporters inside the court in an effort to salvage the plea deal or carve out a narrower agreement.

But the hearing ended with Judge Noreika, a Trump appointee, declining to sign the deal.

She gave the two parties a fortnight to reach a new agreement and brief her.

Hunter Biden, who initially offered to enter a guilty plea, ended by pleading not

guilty for the timebeing.

In a statement on Wednesday, the White House said the president and first lady "love their son and they support him as he continues to rebuild his life".

"Hunter Biden is a private citizen and this was a personal matter for him," said press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

The misdemeanour tax counts are minor charges compared to the more serious allegations against Hunter that congressional Republicans have introduced in committee hearings.

Republicans allege that he was offered an unusually lenient plea deal because he is the president's son.

The House of Representatives Oversight Committee has already heard testimony from a whistleblower who claimed the justice department had deliberately stalled the tax investigation.

That is denied by the US Attorney for Delaware, Da-

vid Weiss, who led the investigation.

Mr Weiss was appointed by former President Donald Trump and left in place by the Biden administration to finish the investigation into Hunter.

He has offered to testify in front of Congress to address criticism of the inquiry.

Republicans, who are examining various allegations against Hunter Biden, have focused on a notorious laptop that he apparently abandoned in a computer repair shop in Delaware.

The contents have been used to try to prove bribery and corruption against the president's son, and to attempt to connect his father to illegal business dealings.

But Democrats say it is no coincidence that Republicans are attacking the justice system while Mr Trump faces two criminal indictments and may soon learn of charges against him in two more cases.

Niger soldiers announce coup on national TV

BBC - Soldiers in the West African country of Niger have announced a coup on national TV.

They said they had dissolved the constitution, suspended all institutions and closed the nation's borders.

Niger President Mohamed Bazoum has been held by troops from the presidential guard since early on Wednesday.

He had Washington's "unwavering support", US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a call.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres also said he had spoken to the president and offered the UN's full support for him.

Mr Bazoum is a key Western ally in the fight against Islamist militancy in West Africa.

Two neighbouring countries, Mali and Burkina Faso, have experienced coups triggered by jihadist uprisings in recent years.

In both countries the new military leaders have fallen out with France, the former colonial power, which also formerly ruled Niger.

In the TV announcement on Wednesday, Col Maj Amadou Abdramane, alongside nine other uniformed soldiers behind him, said: "We, the defence and security forces... have decided to put an end to the



Supporters of President Bazoum rallied in Niamey earlier on Wednesday.

regime you know.

"This follows the continuing deterioration of the security situation, and poor economic and social governance."

He also said that all of the country's institutions had been suspended and that the heads of the ministries would take care of day-to-day business.

"All external partners are asked not to interfere," he went on. "Land and air borders are closed until the situation has stabilised."

He added a night curfew would take effect from 22:00 until 05:00 local time until further notice.

Col Maj Abdramane said the soldiers were acting for the National Council for the Safeguard of the Home-

land (CNSP).

After the soldiers' TV announcement Mr Blinken called for the release of President Bazoum. He told a news conference in New Zealand that "what it clearly constitutes is an effort to seize power by force and to disrupt the constitution".

The West African economic bloc Ecowas has said it "condemns in the strongest terms the attempt to seize power by force".

Earlier on Wednesday, crowds in the capital Niamey took to the streets in support of Mr Bazoum. A BBC reporter also saw heavily armed forces loyal to the president stationed around the national broadcaster.

The city was mostly peaceful, although soldiers

behind the coup attempt fired shots to break up the protests.

Niger is grappling with two Islamist insurgencies - one in the south-west, which swept in from Mali in 2015, and the other in the south-east, involving jihadists based in north-eastern Nigeria.

Militant groups allied to both al-Qaeda and Islamic State are active in the country.

President Bazoum, who was democratically elected in 2021, is a close ally of France, and other Western nations.

Niger has experienced four coups since independence from France in 1960, as well as numerous attempted coups.

Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau shuffles cabinet in major overhaul

By Nadine Yousif

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made a major overhaul to his cabinet ahead of the country's next election.

This is the first ministerial shake-up since Mr Trudeau was re-elected with a minority government in 2021.

Of the 38 cabinet members sworn-in on Wednesday, only eight remain in their previous roles.

Many of the changes put an emphasis on affordability as Canada grapples with an ongoing housing crisis.

Mr Trudeau, who has been in power for eight years, said that the shake-up was about making sure Canada is prepared to meet "a consequential moment" domestically and globally.

He referenced issues like the impact of climate change on Canada, the ongoing war in Ukraine and a potential global economic downturn.

"People realise that we are involved in challenging times not only in this country but around the world, and bringing in fresh energy was important," Mr Trudeau said at a news conference.

One major change is Mr Trudeau's combining of the housing and infrastructure files. Sean Fraser, the former immigration minister, will take over those portfolios.

The shift is seen as a response to the increasing unaffordability and limited housing supply in Canada, at a time when immigration has grown Canada's population at a historic rate.

The average home price in Canada is C\$716,083 (\$528,000; £426,000), according to the Canada Real Estate Association, though homes in Canada's most populous city Toronto average about C\$1.15m. Household debt in Canada - mostly driven by mortgages - is the highest of any G7 country.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his new team (pictured behind him) was assembled to meet "a consequential moment" for Canada.

Mr Trudeau has also swapped Canada's defence minister.

Anita Anand, who held the post for nearly two years, will be replaced with Bill Blair while she takes over as President of the Treasury Board.

Mr Blair has been a member of parliament since 2015 and was formerly the chief of the Toronto Police Service for a decade. He has also overseen public safety and emergency preparedness.

His new role will mean tackling Canada's response to the Ukraine war, as well as growing calls from Nato allies for Canada to increase its defence spending to at least 2% of its GDP.

Ministers remaining in their current roles include finance minister Chrystia Freeland and foreign affairs minister Melanie Joly.

Public safety minister Marco Mendicino has been kicked out of the cabinet, and will be replaced by long-time member of parliament Dominic LeBlanc.

The change comes as Canadian politics have been rocked with allegations of foreign interference by China, with the prime minister facing repeat-

ed calls for a public inquiry on the issue.

Mr Mendicino has also faced criticism for his office's handling of the prison transfer of serial killer Paul Bernardo, who was recently moved to a lower-security prison.

Four other ministers have been removed as they will not be seeking re-election.

The shake-up is widely seen as Mr Trudeau's way of refocusing his government ahead of Canada's next election, which must be held on or before 20 October, 2025.

Pierre Poilievre, the leader of Canada's Progressive Conservative opposition, criticised the cabinet shuffle, writing on social media that the changes were an admission that Mr Trudeau's government had failed to deliver on its promises.

"Firing ministers won't change that - firing the Prime Minister will," Mr Poilievre said.

An Abacus Data poll released on Wednesday shows Mr Poilievre's party has a big lead among voters, with 38% of public support compared to Mr Trudeau's 28%.

Wadadli Elite stages recruitment camp for young basketballers

Young basketball players will get an opportunity to showcase their talents with the objective of securing recruitment to a professional team at an international recruitment camp, which is being hosted by the Wadadli Elite organization at the JSC Sports Complex from July 28th to 30th.

Three top coaches and scouts will be attending the camp, which is also expected to feature some players from Grenada, with the aim of recruiting players to play overseas.

In attendance will be the General Manager of Orange1 Bassano Academy, Giacomo Rossi of Italy, Pro Recruiter Johnathan Weeks of Caribbean Hoops, and NCAA Coach Jemelle Speedy Fraser, who is currently the Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Blinn College in Texas, USA.

Wadadli Elite's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Byron Andrew, said the main objective of the camp is to provide the participants with the opportunity to be recruited by the scouts to play basketball overseas.

"We are all excited. The players are getting sharp in terms of what they are going to be showing these scouts, and hopefully, they will delight some of these scouts so that they may be able to get an opportunity to go overseas and play basketball,"



Wadadli Elite's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Byron Andrew. (File photo)

Andrew stated.

"Ultimately, that's our main goal, which is to get these players in the spotlight in order for them to participate in these opportunities."

Rossi was born in Siena, Italy. He graduated in Sports Marketing and Communication. Rossi started in the world of basketball by playing at Virtus Siena, where he became head of communication and then talent scout.

In 2010, he moved as General Manager to Rome at the Stella Azzurra, where, together with Germano D'Arcangeli, he built the

"Academy" project, recruiting players and coaches from all over the world.

In recent years, he has also collaborated with various brands to organize events in conjunction with Nike, Adidas, the Euroleague, the NBA, BWB, and the NCAA.

Coach Fraser recently ended his first season as an assistant men's basketball coach at Blinn College. Prior to arriving at Blinn, the Bronx, New York, native served as an assistant coach at LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York. Fraser assisted in recruiting and play-

er development, along with game and practice planning.

Fraser has coached and played in several countries internationally. He served as a head coach at the NBA Basketball School in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2020.

He helped develop grassroots and high school boys' basketball players and ensured high-quality programming and training. Additionally, he evaluated players' skill levels at the end of each term.

Andrew also said the camp will also feature coaching and training sessions for a younger group of Under-16 participants, who will be taught the fundamentals of basketball.

"Two-fold in this camp. Of course, we are going to be looking at the younger players, so we have two groups coming in. The younger group will feature those who are just starting to play, and some of them are a little bit more advanced than the others," Andrew said.

The International Recruitment Camp will take place on Friday and Saturday from 1 pm to 7 pm. It will conclude with a family-fun-filled event on Sunday from 5 pm to 9 pm, which will feature slam dunk, three-point shootout, and skills challenge competitions. Food and drinks will also be on sale.



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West Indies and India to clash in first ODI

The stage is set for an enthralling clash as West Indies take on India in the first One-Day International (ODI) at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, today (Thursday).

Both teams have rich cricketing histories, having each won the ODI World Cup twice.

However, this series takes on an intriguing twist as West Indies finds themselves out of the upcoming World Cup after a disappointing campaign in the qualifiers.

For the West Indies, the ODI series holds the opportunity to rebuild and make a statement despite missing out on the World Cup. With no pressure of qualification, they can play with freedom and try to rediscover their white-ball fortunes.

On the other hand, India is gearing up for the home World Cup and will be keen on resuming their preparations with a strong performance in this series.

They have some key players missing, including Jasprit Bumrah, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, and Rishabh Pant, providing an opportunity for others to step up and make their mark ahead of the mega event.

In the last few months, India has focused on T20s and Tests, but they will now shift their attention back



Players of the West Indies team in celebration on the field of play. (File photo)

to the ODI format. Players like Shubman Gill, who impressed in Shikhar Dhanwan's absence, will be eager to solidify their spots in the team.

The Kensington Oval has witnessed some low-scoring contests, and seamers have played a significant role in past matches. Moderate temperatures are expected, providing an ideal setting for the teams to battle it out.

The West Indies will have the boost of Shimron Hetmyer's inclusion in the squad, but they will miss the services of Jason Holder and Nicholas Pooran for this series.

For India, Suryakumar Yadav will aim to bounce back after a challenging ODI series, and he might get

a longer run in the absence of Shreyas Iyer.

The team management will have to make a decision on the wicketkeeper's spot, with both Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan vying for a middle-order position. The visitors have a wealth of pace options to choose from for the playing XI.

As the teams lock horns in this exciting encounter, cricket enthusiasts can expect a thrilling battle between two talented sides. The West Indies, playing without the burden of qualification, might unleash their potential against a determined Indian team looking to fine-tune their strategies ahead of the World Cup.

The first ODI promises to be an intriguing affair, and fans will eagerly antici-

pate the cricketing spectacle that unfolds at the Kensington Oval.

West Indies Squad: Shai Hope(w/c), Kyle Mayers, Brandon King, Shimron Hetmyer, Alick Athanaze, Rovman Powell, Keacy Carty, Romario Shepherd, Gudakesh Motie, Alzarri Joseph, Oshane Thomas, Jayden Seales, Kevin Sinclair, Dominic Drakes, and Yannic Cariah.

India Squad: Rohit Sharma(c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson(w), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Umran Malik, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Siraj, Jaydev Unadkat, Mukesh Kumar, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Ishan Kishan, and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

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Combined Schools team await first win on UK tour

The Antigua and Barbuda Combined School Cricket Team is still awaiting their first win on their tour to the United Kingdom.

Following a loss in their opening encounter, the team's second game against an MCC XI at the Crouch End Cricket Club in London yesterday (Wednesday) was abandoned without play due to rain.

The Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools Cricket Team lost their first match on their tour to the United Kingdom on Tuesday.

Antigua Combined Schools went under by 193 runs against Loughborough University at the Haslegrave Cricket Ground in Loughborough, Leicestershire, England.

Loughborough University amassed 308 for

eight after winning the toss and electing to bat. James Meggitt hammered 120, Jar Pistolvia struck 55, and Matt Weston chipped in with 26.

Fast bowler Glen Williams captured three wickets for 57 runs in 10 overs, and Antwone Willock claimed two for 42 in six overs.

In reply, the Antigua Combined Schools were bundled out for 115, with

Melique Jacobs getting 61 runs.

Harshit Sith snapped up four wickets for six runs in four overs, and Rishabu Mukhejee took two for 32 in six overs.

The Antigua Combined Schools will face an ACE XI in their next limited overs match at the Shepherds Bush Cricket Club in London, England, tomorrow (Friday).

During the tour, the young Antigua Combined Schools team will play 10 matches, including seven one-day games and a T20 encounter in England, and two limited-overs matches in Scotland.

The tour will end with a T20 match against the ACE Programme during the second annual English Cricket Board (ECB)-supported Heritage Day on August 13th.

In addition to the matches, the team will participate in presentations about study and scholarship opportunities at Loughborough University and Stirling University.

The young cricketers will also benefit from a specially planned education and character development day, which will be hosted at Lord's, and enjoy hikes and tours of historic places in England and Scotland.



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Spain, Japan reach knockout stage at Women's World Cup

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) - Jennifer Hermoso and Alba Redondo each scored twice to help Spain advance to the knockout stage of the FIFA Women's World Cup with a 5-0 romp over Zambia in Auckland, New Zealand yesterday (Wednesday).

Teresa Abelleira opened the scoring in the ninth minute before Hermoso and Redondo converted their respective braces for Spain (2-0-0). Hermoso scored in the 13th and 70th minutes, and Redondo tallied in the 69th and 85th minutes.

Misa Rodriguez made two saves for Spain, which will battle Japan on Monday for the top spot in Group C.

Eunice Sakala finished with eight saves for Zambia, which will clash with



Spain's Jennifer Hermoso jumps into the arms of teammate Alexia Putellas celebrating after scoring her side's second goal during the Women's World Cup Group C soccer match against Zambia at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Wednesday, July 26th, 2023. (AP)

Costa Rica on Monday for third place.

Hikaru Naomoto scored in the 25th minute and Aoba Fujino tallied two minutes later to help Japan punch its ticket to the knockout round with a 2-0 win over Costa Rica in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Naomoto took advantage of a slip from Maria Paula Coto and unleashed a shot that sailed past goalkeeper Daniela Solera. Fujino converted from a sharp angle just two minutes later for Japan.

Ayaka Yamashita made two saves for Japan, while

Solera finished with 10 stops for Costa Rica.

Adriana Leon scored in the go-ahead goal between two defenders in the 53rd minute to lift the Canadians to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory against Ireland in a Group B clash in Perth, Australia.

Canada also benefited from an own goal in first-half stoppage time to forge a 1-1 tie after Katie McCabe scored off a corner kick in the fourth minute for Ireland.

Kailen Sheridan made five saves for Canada, while Courtney Brosnan finished with six stops for Ireland.

Canada returns to action against Australia on Monday in Melbourne. Ireland, in turn, will tangle with Nigeria on Monday in Brisbane, Australia.

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The media release further states, "The ABCGA holds high expectations for these athletes representing us at the Commonwealth Youth Games. While the CYG has not set a specific qualifying process, we have relied on the expertise and selection of our national federations to identify the best athletes for this event. We hold these federations responsible for ensuring our athletes perform at their best."

According to Secretary General of the ABCGA, Cliff Williams, "Our goal is to assemble a team of true competitors, not just participants. We expect our athletes to showcase their skills and strive for excellence in every event

they compete in.

"Furthermore, we are committed to monitoring their progress and providing ongoing support through a development plan that extends from the CYG to the senior Commonwealth Games in 2026.

"In essence, we aim to retain this group of talented individuals and assist them in reaching their full potential, with the ultimate goal of achieving outstanding performances at the Senior Commonwealth Games in 2026."

The ABCGA is responsible for overseeing Antigua and Barbuda's participation in various international sporting events such as the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Pan

American Games, and Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, among others.

The association aims to promote sports development within Antigua and Barbuda while nurturing talented athletes who can proudly represent the twin-island nation on a global scale.

The Commonwealth Youth Games provide an incredible platform for young athletes to gain valuable experience and showcase their abilities on an international stage. Approximately 1,000 athletes are expected to participate in the Commonwealth Youth Games in the sports of track and fields, swimming, cycling, rugby sevens, beach volleyball, triathlon, and netball.

Antigua name contingent for Commonwealth Youth Games

A team of five track and field athletes and four swimmers will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) in Trinidad and Tobago from August 4th to 11th.

According to a media release from the office of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC), "The Antigua and Barbuda Commonwealth Games Association (ABCGA) is thrilled to announce the selection of our team for the upcoming 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games.

"Our team will consist of exceptional athletes from two of our leading Olympic and Commonwealth Sports disciplines: Swimming and Athletics. We are proud to present a group of talented individuals who have demonstrated their skills and dedication in their respective sports."

The track and field team comprises three sprinters who won medals at this month's North American, Central American, and Caribbean (NACAC) Athletics Associations' Under-18 and Under-23 Championships in San Jose, Costa Rica.

They are Under-18 Boys 100 and 200-meter gold medalist Kasiya Daley, who will serve as the male flag bearer in Trinidad; Under-18 Boys 100-meter bronze medalist Dwayne Fleming; and Under-18 Girls 200-meter silver medalist La'Nica Locker.

The other two track and field athletes are male sprinter Cleon Joseph and female sprinter Geolyna Dowdy. The athletics team official will be



From left to right: Sprinters Dwayne Fleming, Kasiya Daley and La'Nica Locker will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago from August 4th to 11th.

Heather Samuel Daley, a former national female sprinter who is currently a track and field coach and serves as the nation's Director of Sports.

The swimming team includes Ellie Shaw, the current National Junior Sportswoman, who will also be the other flag bearer. The other female swimmer on the team is Aunjelique Liddie. Tivon Benjamin and Ethan Stubbs-Green, national record holders in swimming events, are the male swimmers. J'air Smith has been appointed as manager of the swim team.

Legendary netballer and current president of the national netball association, Karen Joseph, has been selected as Team Leader (Chef de Mission), while Eric Henry will serve as Assistant Team Leader and Administrator during the prestigious event.

The President of the ABNOC and



National swimmer Ellie Shaw

ABCGA, Paul Chet Greene, and Secretary General Cliff Williams will also be part of the Antigua and Barbuda contingent attending the seventh edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games.

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