

SENATOR DWAYNE GEORGE: “I’M HERE FOR THE PEOPLE”



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, left, and the newest senator Dwayne George, centre, along with Prime Minister Gaston Browne at Government House on Thursday.

Senator Dwayne George says “I’m here for the people”

The newest member of the Upper House of parliament, the Senate, Senator Dwayne George, says his recent moves are being motivated by his desire to ‘serve the people’ of the St Mary’s South constituency.

Speaking moments after his swearing-in exercises at Government House on Thursday, Sen. George said he is committed to serving the people, and he desires to serve them in the best way possible. “It’s a lovely feel-

ing; I’m here for the people; the people are the ones who put me here as they have been asking for me. I want to give thanks to God, thanks to my family, and thanks to ABLP Political Leader and Prime Minister Gaston Browne. I also want to give thanks to my people in Bolans, Crabbe Hill, Johnson’s Point, and Urlings,” he declared.

Sen. George said ‘bringing back’ jobs to the people in the constituency is among his top priorities. He noted



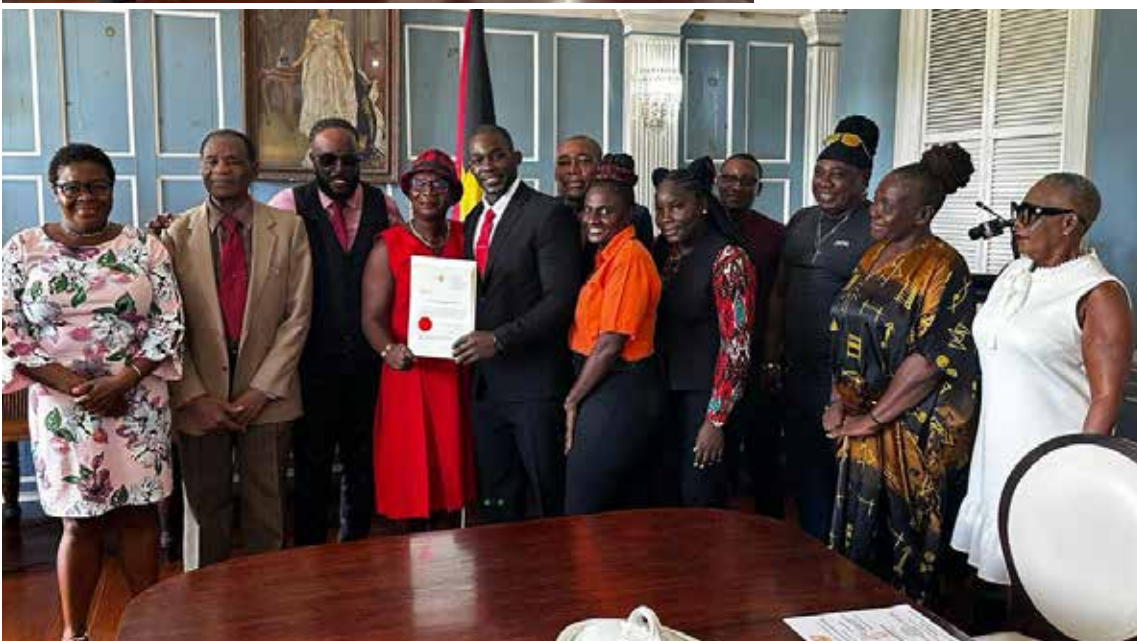
that there are several hotels in the area, yet unemployment remains high. This, he said, is one of the first things he wishes to tackle should he emerge victorious at the upcoming by-election. His other priorities include agriculture, upgrade of sporting facilities, and economic development for the people of the area.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Browne said the selection of Sen. George as the

candidate for the by-election has improved the party’s chances of winning the by-election.

He drew comparisons with how Senator George is approaching his expected nomination with that of the UPP candidate for the January 18 elections, who failed to resign from his government post, before Nomination day. According to the Prime Minister, Sen. George who has served as a lecturer at the Antigua State College for many years, has already submitted his resignation.

The Prime Minister also scuffed at the suggestion that Sen. George has been ‘bought out’ by the ABLP. He said the party had been searching for a candidate to replace Sen. Samantha Marshall, and several persons in the area recommended the new senator. PM Browne noted that the response that the new caretaker has received in the constituency has been quite positive.



Internal investigations underway into shooting death of Manny James

The police have launched an investigation by the Serious Crime Unit within the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) into the circumstances surrounding the incident that led to the death of 45-year old Manny James on Monday night. James died after being shot during a chase involving law enforcement officers that culminated in the Grays Farm area when the shooting happened. James was allegedly among three men who were traveling in a white a Suzuki Vitara motor vehicle when it approached a police stop and search operation on the Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

Operations Officer at the CID, Superintendent Lisborn Michael, said the protocols in place at the police department call for an investigations into these incidents by this specialized department

within CID.

He added that the officer involved in the incident has since been relieved from active duties and is mandated to undergo a period of counselling. The name of the officer was not disclosed, but he is said to be at the rank of Corporal.

Supt. Michael could not confirm who fired the shot that led to James' death as it is believed that a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force was also involved in the chase.

He however disclosed that James body had evidence of being shot twice; one bullet penetrated from the back and the other from the front. This as the video that is now being widely circulated recorded the sound of a single shot being fired.

According to Supt. Michael when

the vehicle approached the road block, it was observed that it was traveling without a front registration plate and as the police attempt to stop it, it sped away in the opposition direction. A police vehicle gave chase and the driver and its other occupants continued to drive at a high speed making stops in Ottos, where one person alighted and escaped and again in Gray Hill where another escaped. The vehicle was then driven into Grays Farm where it was packed and James ran from the scene during which he was shot.

The senior police officer noted that during the chase shots were fired from the Vitara at the police vehicle and that there are two bullet holes in the vehicle to prove that this happened.

All these factors will become part of the investigation now underway.

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Legislation paving the way for body cameras coming soon

The legislation paving the way for police officers to use body cameras, to record incidents between them and members of the public is coming soon.

That is according to Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, speaking at Thursday's Post-Cabinet press briefing. He said the current legislation does not make way for video evidence from body cams to be used in criminal proceedings.

However, he noted that the government is quite mindful of the useful-

ness and effectiveness of these technologies, and efforts are being made to make the necessary adjustments to the law.

Nicholas reported that the matter has been referred to the Attorney General's chambers where the legal draft personnel are expected to prepare documentation to take to parliament for an amendment to the Criminal Proceedings Act.

The minister expected that changes will be made to the legislation, re-

garding this issue shortly. He noted that a benefactor has already made a donation of body cams to the government.

The issue of body cams for the police was raised at Thursday's Post-Cabinet press briefing. The second in charge of the Criminal Investigations Department, Supt. Lisborn Michael said he has no difficulty with the use of body cams but he said the legislation must first be changed to make that happen.

Antigua and Barbuda to receive promotion on network television in the US

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has announced its partnership with CBS Broadcasting Inc., which will feature Antigua and Barbuda in the first full episode of the hit reality series *Secret Celebrity Renovation*, Season 3. The highly anticipated first episode for the season, showcasing Antigua and Barbuda is set to premiere in the US on August 4 2023.

Secret Celebrity Renovation is one of the most popular American Reality Television Series, which was initially released on July 9, 2021. The reality series showcases celebrities that are in sports, music and entertainment who give surprise home renovations to meaningful people who have helped guide them to success. Season 3 hosts are Nichelle Turner, Sabrina Soto and Rob Mariano.

The CBS Original *Secret Celebrity Renovation* crew visited Antigua in March and April of this year, for



surprise renovations at the St John Hospice Centre. The St John Hospice, which is a nonprofit organization whose Patron is the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, provides comforting home care, in Antigua and is the only Hospice located in the Eastern Caribbean.

Celebrity Phil Keoghan who is a television personality, best known for hosting the American version of *The Amazing Race* on CBS is featured on the hour-long premiere. Phil Keoghan

who spent most of his early childhood life in Antigua, returned to Antigua to revisit places from his childhood memories and to surprise his former neighbour with a major renovation to a place very dear to her, the local hospice centre. Phil's vision was to create a remarkable and mega transformation, of the St John Hospice Centre.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez said "Having our historic Shirley Heights and other iconic scenes from across the island as the backdrop for this meaningful episode will bring much exposure to the country, showing viewers what awaits them in Antigua and Barbuda."

The series has been highly anticipated by audiences and the storyline is expected to be even more captivating. Don't miss out on the release and make sure to tune in and watch the Antigua and Barbuda backdrop on international television.



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Watch parties planned for mother-daughter space flight

Excitement is growing and several watch parties have been planned for the historical event - the flight into lower space, by the mother-daughter pair aboard the Virgin Galactic vessel.

Keisha Schahaff and her daughter Anastasia Mayers are set to embark on a space travel journey, that will see them become Antigua and Barbuda's first astronauts, and the first Caribbean mother-daughter duo to go to space.

Antigua and Barbuda's Schahaff who is forty-six years old, and her eighteen-year-old daughter will on August 10, 2023, board the Galactic 02 space-

flight from Spaceport America, New Mexico, marking Virgin Galactic's first private astronaut spaceflight, and second commercial spaceflight.

To mark the historic occasion, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority announced that two public watch parties will take place on August 10 in both Antigua and Barbuda, allowing for the entire nation to be a part of the celebrations.

The flight of the Galactic 02 will mark a historic and inspirational moment for the Caribbean and beyond, with watch parties and observances

happening to celebrate the curiosity and achievements of the astronauts.

"Antigua and Barbuda's spirit of adventure is unparalleled. We commend the duo who will for years to come serve as an inspiration for those within our society who dream of travelling to space, and as a reminder of fearless Antiguan and Barbudans who have broken barriers. We are excited to witness this moment in history and extend an open invitation to all, to join us at the watch parties for this historic moment," said Antigua and Barbuda Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez.

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James added, "We applaud our ladies as they embark on their remarkable journey to space. The excitement is such, that all of Antigua and Barbuda feels as if we will be going to space with the ladies. We cannot wait for August 10, and will be out with our flags to cheer the ladies on."

Special guests of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, at the watch party will be Sir Richard Branson founder of Virgin Galactic, and Christopher Huie, a Jamaican-American, who earlier this year became the 19th Black astronaut, family of the Antigua and Barbuda astronauts, as well as Government officials and dignitaries.

The watch party in Antigua will take place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds and in Barbuda, at the Holy Trinity Primary School. Venues will open at 9:00 a.m. with launch time shortly after 10:00 a.m.

In addition to being part of the countdown and witnessing the exciting launch of the Galactic 02 spaceflight from Spaceport America, New Mexico, and live on screens in Antigua and Barbuda, persons attending the public event will also enjoy entertainment and activities in celebration of the occasion.



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Greene completes another excursion for St. Paul's seniors

Close to one hundred persons from the St. Paul constituency were entertained with day-long activities on Thursday by the parliamentary representative, E.P Chet Greene.

Six buses of seniors, as well as his constituency and office staff were taken on a tour of Antigua; visiting the Housing Development at Paynters, then driven along the airport road to Hodges Bay, passing not just the airport but also the American University of Antigua where over one thousand students are enrolled. They also visited the Hodges Bay Club and viewed several developments

in the northern section of the island.

The tour took them past the West Indies Oil Company facility, with its many storage tanks, before visiting 'Bridgetown', the name given to the St John's City East constituency where several bridges have been constructed to tackle the chronic problem of stagnant water or flooding, whenever there is a heavy downpour of rain.

The next main stop on the tour was the Royalton Hotel where the general manager and staff extended a warm welcome to the seniors. Following interactions with



staff at the hotel, the seniors were taken to the final stop, the Nest restaurant at Valley Church Beach.

There, they were provided with lunch and were entertained by several local artists

including Menace XL, Lyricks Man, Calypso Freddie, and others. The Black Eagle steel band of Liberta also provided entertainment for the seniors, as they enjoyed lunch. All in all, Greene described the outing as a happy experience; both for the seniors and him personally, as this was one way for him to 'give back' to those who have been supporting him over the past ten years.

The senior's excursion as well as the summer camp for the young people are two annual events organized by the parliamentary representative for the people of St. Paul.



Dr. Ruby Lake Richards to receive official funeral

The Antigua and Barbuda national, who was a member of the first cohort of students at the nascent University College of the West Indies, later known as the University of the West Indies in 1948, Dr. Ruby Lake Richards has died and will receive an official funeral.

This decision was made by Cabi-

net, at its regular meeting on Wednesday. Dr. Lake-Richards was a recent recipient of the second-highest National Honours.

Additionally, she was also honoured by the University of the West Indies at a ceremony held at the Five Islands campus, in Antigua and Barbuda.

She was a medical doctor who continued to provide for her patients up until she reached 95 years of age.

Cabinet recalled that Dr. Reginald Alford Walwyn was also of that UWI cohort.

He too, received a National Honour in November 2021 and was given an official funeral upon his death.

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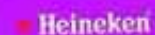
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Embarking on a New Journey: From Senator to Diplomat

By **Caleb Gardiner**

I extend profound gratitude to Honorable Prime Minister Gaston Browne for entrusting me with the role of the youngest Senator in Antigua and Barbuda's history. Today, I'm thrilled to announce the next chapter in my journey—a new role as a diplomat at the Washington Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda.

As the youngest Senator, I've diligently carried out my responsibilities, tirelessly working towards our nation's betterment. My time in the Senate has been defined by active legislative engagement, championing crucial initiatives, and advocating for the interests of our people, especially the youth. From the "Let's Get to Work: Self-development Workshop," empowering our youth for the world of work, to my literacy campaign in rural primary schools, and motivational speeches at gradua-



tions, I've ensured developmental opportunities are accessible to all.

Believing in diplomacy as a potent tool for international cooperation, I'm excited to embrace this new role in the Washington Embassy. I intend to strengthen diplomatic ties, promote bilateral relations, and effectively represent Antigua and Barbuda's interests on the global stage.

I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering support, guidance, and

encouragement throughout my journey. To my esteemed fellow senators, the cabinet, parliamentary staff, cherished friends, and family, your belief in me has been my strength. Serving our nation alongside exceptional individuals has been an honor, and your support continues to drive me.

About Caleb Gardiner:

Caleb Gardiner is a dynamic, driven individual with a deep commitment to public service. His leadership, evident in initiatives such as youth awards in Barbuda, reading programs, and empowering workshops, has earned him recognition as a promising leader and an asset to our nation.

Upcoming Contributions:

Caleb Gardiner is committed to donating to the Department of Youth and Sports in Barbuda and supporting the UWI Five Islands Campus Guild Council.

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Opinion



Kenyan intervention in Haiti? More work needed

By Sir Ronald Sanders

No one should yet be pouring champagne to celebrate the announcement by the U.S. government that Kenya has agreed to lead a multinational police force to help subdue gangs and improve security in Haiti. This announcement is rightly far from a done deal.

The U.S. exerted a great deal of diplomatic effort in trying to persuade many countries to lead a multinational force into Haiti – a principal request of Haiti's unelected Prime Minister, Dr. Ariel Henry. Among the countries that declined was Canada, which opted to provide direct support to Haitian forces.

Many nations are cautious about leading or even participating in such a force in Haiti, not least because they recognize that, within Haiti, while the people want an end to the kidnappings, violence, rapes, and other atrocities associated with the rise of gangs, a significant number are concerned about further foreign intervention in their country.

These nations also know that the underlying reasons for Haiti's condition are the economic actions by France which crippled the country's economic prospects for over a century; a U.S. invasion and its economic consequences; the convenient maintaining

by foreign governments of avaricious Haitian leaders; and the general impoverishment of the country.

Haitian civil society groups have widely opposed the deployment of any foreign force, referencing bitter experiences with previous intervention and fears that intervening forces would be propping-up the present unelected regime which they regard as partially responsible for the country's crises.

Further, all governments are keenly aware that a multinational force in Haiti's present circumstances would not be a traditional United Nations (U.N.) peacekeeping force. What Dr. Henry has requested is a force that will help the Haitian police confront and conquer the more than 60 gangs that now dominate the safety and security space in Haiti, leading to potential bloodshed.

For its part, the Kenyan government has said that it is ready to deploy 1,000 police officers to help train and assist Haiti's police to "restore normalcy in the country and protect strategic installations". The form of assistance was not clarified, and the government also made it clear that its "proposed deployment will crystallize" once it gets a mandate from the U.N. Security Council "and other Kenyan constitutional processes are undertaken".



Sir Ronald Sanders

The Kenyan need for a U.N. Security mandate explains why the U.S., which is the Chair of the Security Council for the month of August, has announced that it will propose a U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing Kenya to lead a multinational police into Haiti. Getting a Security Council mandate will not be easy. Already the U.S. has been unable to obtain endorsement of the work plan for its Chairmanship because of Russia's objections primarily due to the inclusion of Ukraine.

Interestingly, while U.N. Secretary-General, António Guterres, has welcomed Kenya's announcement, he has described it as "a non-U.N. multinational operation in Haiti". Where such a development places Kenya's offer is left to be seen, particularly as the government has publicly stated that it wants "a

mandate from the U.N. Security Council".

What is troubling about this development is that it is not awaiting the outcome of several initiatives seeking "a Haitian led solution". Among these initiatives is the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group of three former Caribbean Prime Ministers, working to bridge division among stakeholders in Haiti and to arrive at an agreed plan to take the country forward. Their work is not concluded, nor have they pronounced on whether their mission has any chance of success.

Another initiative was the U.N. Security Council's unanimous Resolution on July 14, 2023, asking the Secretary General to produce options to help combat Haiti's armed gangs. The time for the submission of the Secretary General's report has not yet

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 elapsed.

The U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, disclosed that the U.S. will be seeking Security Council endorsement for Kenya to lead a multinational force into Haiti, saying, "This is not a traditional peacekeeping force, this is not a traditional security situation [...] We have gangs that have overtaken the country, ... that are terrorizing civilians every single day." She admitted that the situation is "unusual".

What is being proposed is not a traditional U.N. peacekeeping force, but a military exercise designed to eliminate heavily armed gangs, which were created by elements of the political and business classes of Haiti, and which are now out of their control.

While no one would disagree with

the U.S. that Haiti desperately needs stabilization, not everyone will be convinced that a foreign multinational force, especially one that is not fully endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, is the answer.

Equally concerning is that any intervention in Haiti should be at the expressed wish of the majority of stakeholders in Haiti, including political parties, civil rights groups, the business community, and the influential Haitian diaspora.

Foreign intervention in Haiti is unlikely to secure the desired broad consensus among Haitians, unless the terms are agreed by them, including oversight, agreement on its purpose, and the expiry of its stay.

Moreover, the essential question of who is in charge of the country while it

endures these events still remains.

Will it continue to be an unelected group, or a transitional government comprised of representatives of political parties, civil society, the business community, and qualified Haitians in the diaspora? Achieving a Haitian consensus on a multinational force and the terms and objectives of its operations should be the first effort on which energies should be exerted.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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Commentary



Bacchanal and the Black Sheep

By Prince Court

Just as Labour Day in Antigua and Barbuda is celebrated on the first Monday in May, instead of the first of May, Carnival Monday is the day that represents the first of August, which is Emancipation Day. The Labour unions hold activities on Labour Day, and the day has been officially recognized here for about two-thirds of a century.

But what about Carnival and Emancipation? Well, for the last decade, a few people have been trying to remind this society that August 1st is the day in 1834 when slavery was

abolished in this country, and our ancestors celebrated with iron bands. It's not the first time, nor the first set of people, but we didn't have a calendar of Emancipation activities before. Certainly, we had no established Emancipation Watch Night on July 31st.

Iron Band

So, for the last decade, the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission, established by the government as part of a Caricom Reparations Support Commission, has been organizing Emancipation Week activities, culminating in the July 31st Watch Night event, with artistic

expressions, audio-visual presentations, mini-lectures, and the midnight iron band jam session.

Without official recognition, and in obscure locations like the historical Betty's Hope, a tiny handful of faithful folks have gathered, and in the most recent years, in the St John's Botanical Gardens, or Park, as it has been most commonly known. But who takes note, with a major carnival show at the Antigua Recreation Grounds always eclipsing the Emancipation Watch Night?

Lodge

Last year, however, the government declared the Emancipation Week activities part of the annual carnival celebrations. Great. Yet, for the second time such declaration, with the carnival shows now spread over an extended period, it was still not seen fit to dedicate the night of July 31st to the theme of Emancipation.

The Eurocentric Caribbean Queen Show could easily have been held on another night. There can be absolutely no excuse for placing in on July 31st, Emancipation Watch Night, once more leaving a few people to huddle under a tree in the Botanical Gardens, like the meagre remnants of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, or some other vanishing

lodge.

Mockery

There, in the Botanical Gardens, while the rest of the country is focused on the Queen Show, the few faithful do our best to feel good about ourselves, while suffering what is known in theatre or cinema as cosmic indifference. That is the world around us couldn't care less about a few miserable creatures in a little side-alley show. It is a mockery of our ancestors, and of ourselves, to declare the activities official and then disregard them.

The group of Nigerian artists should have been coming for Emancipation celebrations. Instead, there's official cosmic indifference.

Again Next Year?

Within official promotions, people dress up in madras cloth each year, looking like maids and butlers in Massa's house. But one could count the number of persons in any African-inspired clothing on African Dress Day on Friday, July 28th. What official promotion was there?

But, with official promotions, massive crowds went out almost naked onto the street for so-called T-shirt mas. Will we do this official disregard again next year to leave our young people clueless about who they come from and what they should become?

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Amazon online sales improve despite economy fears

By **Natalie Sherman**

Amazon's e-commerce business perked up in the three months to June, after months of lacklustre spending amidst a wider, sluggish economy.

The uptick follows a push by boss Andy Jassy to make the online shopping giant's delivery network run faster and more smoothly, the firm said.

It helped to drive overall sales up 11% year-on-year to a better-than-expected \$134.4bn (£105.4bn).

Amazon's July Prime Day was its biggest ever, with 375 million items purchased.

The company surpassed analyst expectations, with quarterly profits of \$6.7bn (£5.2bn), up from a \$2bn loss a year earlier. That was the firm's biggest profit in more than a year.

Boss Andy Jassy said the results showed "another strong quarter of progress".

Though known for its online shopping operation, Amazon's financial results are driven far more by units such as its cloud computing business, called AWS, and - in more recent years - advertising.

It said that AWS's sales had stabilised, rising 12% year-on-year, as businesses become less worried about the economy. Advertising



revenue jumped 22% year-on-year.

The update comes as a string of other data suggests that some of the darkest clouds over the global economy may be starting to lift.

The company's executives said consumers were still keeping a close eye on their budgets, which in many countries have been squeezed as prices rise at the fastest pace seen in decades.

But those increases have shown signs of cooling more recently.

Amazon's online sales rose 4% year-on-year in the April to June period, after no growth at the start of the year, the company said.

The upturn in Amazon's ecommerce business is an "encouraging sign"

for the rest of its year, said Insider Intelligence's principal analyst Andrew Lipsman.

Even its international business, which was posting declines a year ago, reported sales growth, of roughly 10%.

Amazon has been pushing to hold onto its dominance in online shopping, since the huge growth it experienced during the pandemic had slowed.

Mr Jassy, who took over as chief executive two years ago, has focused on trimming costs and improving efficiency, leading to big job cuts and an overhaul of the firm's delivery network. It has meant that orders are routed regionally, closer to the customer.

He said the firm was still making big investments, including in arti-

ificial intelligence: a top interest on Wall Street, where discussions about the potential for transformation from new advances have fuelled a surge in share prices.

Amazon's share price had already surged roughly 50% so far this year. After Thursday's update, share were up more than 7% in after-hours trade.

"As ever, Amazon's real strength comes from the breadth of its ecosystem," said Julian Skelly, managing partner at digital consultancy Publicis Sapient, Europe.

"Looking forward, the signs of slowing inflation and broader growth in the market suggest that we can hope for better-than-anticipated performance in the second half of 2023," Mr Skelly added.

Turks and Caicos: Police on high alert following Grace Bay shooting

The Turks and Caicos Islands recorded its 12th murder for 2023 on Wednesday when a man was gunned down in a brazen attack at Grace Bay in what police believe was linked to gang-related serious crime, motivated by revenge and retribution.

Commissioner of Police of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF), Trevor Botting, described Wednesday's shooting as shocking as soon after the incident in Grace Bay yesterday, the RTCIPF received reports of a group of armed men in the Dock Yard area. When Police Officers arrived at the area, they were subject to sustained gunfire from a group of men who were armed with automatic weapons.

In order to protect themselves, the Police officers also discharged their firearms. It is not known if any persons were injured as a result of the exchange. Due to the protection afforded by the armoured vehicle, no police officers were injured in what the Top Cop describes as a cowardly attack on Law Enforcement. Very soon after this event, the second RTCIPF armoured vehicle was also deployed to Dock Yard and the armed gang members dispersed.

The Police Commissioner



says: "The brazen manner in which armed men carried out the murder in Grace Bay and the attack on the Police Officers in Dock Yard is shocking and highly concerning. I also remain concerned that further shootings will be carried out between gangs of young men involved in organised gang activity, motivated by drugs, guns, and retaliation.

"For this reason, the RTCIPF is on high alert and is undertaking robust operations in our communities, on our roads, and through intelligence-led targeted operations to locate and bring to justice those seeking to cause harm and fear across the TCI."

He says in terms of the threats posed to Police officers, if someone threatens a Police officer with a firearm, they must expect to be challenged and the threat will be met with potentially lethal force.

The Top Cop states: "In the days

ahead, you will see more Police Officers on the streets, in your communities, and carrying out policing operations on the roads and in neighbourhoods. Please ensure that if you are around this operational policing, do not threaten officers and comply with any instructions given, this will help officers do their job."

The Commissioner of Police is appealing to persons in the community who have information on these incidents to call CrimeStoppers:

"Our young men on the TCI are dying needlessly through senseless violence. This matter is under active investigation, and I am asking you, our community, to tell us what you know about this and other serious crimes.

"You can do this in a number of ways and if you wish to stay anonymous, you can use Crimestoppers to tell us what you know. You don't need to leave your name and the information will be passed to us."

The Top Cop realises that Wednesday's incidents have caused fear within communities and one man lost his life. In the coming days, there will be increased visibility of officers on TCI's streets as the police force works to bring calm, security, and safety to the TCI.

Guyana: Two miners killed in mining pit collapse

CMC - An investigation has been launched for an incident in which two miners lost their lives late on Wednesday when a mining pit collapsed, burying them deep underground.

The miners have been identified as Trayon Hastings and Rocky Norton

The incident took place at Moonlight Backdam, Kamarang Landing in the Up-

per Mazaruni area.

The two men were reportedly working in the mining pit after 10pm (local time) on Wednesday, when it suddenly became loose and collapsed.

A police statement said the two were the only ones working in the pit at the time.

Another miner, who was close by and noticed the collapse, raised an alarm and

alerted other miners in the area, who launched a rescue operation.

With the use of two excavators, the search team started to dig through the soil in search of the men. They were able to finally reach the bodies, two hours after they started their search.

Both men were found lifeless, in mud, with multiple injuries.

Police investigators who visited the scene, have since transferred the bodies to Georgetown, where a post mortem examination will be conducted.

Guyana has recorded a number of mining pit collapses and deaths in recent years, raising concern about the mining practices and monitoring of miners in many of the interior mining districts.

Bahamas committed to sending more than 100 officers to Haiti

CMC - The Bahamas government says it is committed to sending 150 persons to support a multi-national force in Haiti as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country welcomed the announcement by Kenya it is prepared to lead such a force to Port au Prince as escalating violence between armed gangs and police is fuelling a humanitarian crisis that has displaced tens of thousands of people.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that The Bahamas would send the personnel to Haiti as part of the multi-national force "once authorised by the United Nations Security Council.

"We now urge the passing of a UN Security Council Resolution in support of this force," the statement added.

Gang warfare has increasingly plagued Haiti since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and many service providers have been forced to close, leaving a growing number of people in this country of 11.45 million without access to healthcare, food, education and other basics.

In a statement over the last weekend, Kenya's Foreign Minister, Alfred Mutua, said his country's commitment is to deploy a contingent of 1,000 police



officers to help train and assist Haitian police restore normalcy in the country and protect strategic installations.

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken welcomed the statement from the African country, adding that Washington was looking forward to working with partners of Haiti to advance this process successfully, including through a UN Security Council Resolution authorizing a multi-national force to Haiti.

In its statement, the Bahamas said it was looking forward to working with Kenya and other partners in Haiti to assist in efforts to bring about peace and stability.

"We appreciate that this is, as the Kenyan Foreign Minister Alfred Mutua stated, a decision to, "[stand] with persons of African descent across the world, including those in the Caribbean, and aligns with the African Union's diaspora policy and our own com-

mitment to Pan Africanism.

"We also look forward to cooperating with hemispheric partners including the United States and Canada," Nassau said, adding that the Bahamas will continue to support the CARICOM led Eminent Persons Group, which includes former Bahamas prime minister Perry Christie and his colleagues Dr Kenny Anthony of St Lucia, and Bruce Golding of Jamaica, and the Organization of American States' Haiti Working Group chaired by Trinidad and Tobago.

"These regional and Diasporic approaches to addressing insecurity caused by gang violence are critical to creating a safe space to foster political consensus and to restore democratic order."

Last year, Haiti's Prime Minister Dr Ariel Henry, sent an urgent appeal to the UN asking for "the immediate deployment of a specialized armed force, in sufficient quantity" to stop

gang warfare.

Last month, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the UN Security Council and major potential contribution countries to act fast to create the conditions for the deployment of multinational force to Haiti.

Guterres said that a UN expert's estimate that Haiti needs up to 2,000 additional anti-gang police officers is no exaggeration.

Last month, CARICOM leaders at their summit in Trinidad and Tobago "expressed "grave concern over the deep humanitarian, security and governance crisis," in Haiti.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to rescue an American nurse, Alix Dorsainvi, and her young daughter, who were kidnapped over the weekend.

The Christian organisation Dorsainvil works for, El Roi Haiti, has released a photo of her smiling happily with her arm around her husband but provided no details about the mother and their daughter.

Dorsainvil was providing medical care in El Roi Haiti's small brick clinic late last week in a gang stronghold of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, when armed men burst in and abducted her.

They have since demanded a one million US dollar ransom.

Donald Trump pleads not guilty to election charges in latest arraignment

BBC - Former US President Donald Trump has pleaded not guilty in a Washington DC court to conspiring to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

During a short arraignment, he spoke softly to confirm his not-guilty plea, name, age and that he was not under the influence of any substances.

He later told reporters the case was persecution of a political opponent.

It marks the former president's third appearance in four months as a criminal defendant.

Mr Trump entered through a backdoor of the courthouse on Thursday afternoon in the centre of the nation's capital, just yards from the scene of the US Capitol riot that is central to the prosecution's case.

About 1,000 defendants charged with participating in the storming of Congress on January 6 2021 have appeared in the same court building.

The former president seemed to exchange glances across the court with Jack Smith, the special counsel leading the investigation.

Mr Trump was seen twiddling his thumbs as he sat waiting for the hearing to begin, and he shook his head as the clerk read out the case number.

The former president had taken a short flight on his private plane from his New



Mr Trump spoke to reporters at Reagan airport standing near his aide Walt Nauta (left), his co-defendant in a separate case. Jersey residence to attend the hearing.

His not-guilty plea covered the four charges in this latest indictment:

- * conspiracy to defraud the US
- * conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding
- * obstruction of an official proceeding
- * conspiracy against the rights of citizens

Magistrate Judge Moxila Upadhyaya told the former president not to communicate about the facts of the case.

She warned him that failure to comply could result in an arrest warrant, revoked release conditions and contempt of court charges.

Prosecutors told the hearing the case would benefit from a speedy trial.

But Trump defence attorney John Lauro said they would need more time to prepare. He said the prosecution's timeline was "somewhat absurd" given that the investigation had taken three years.

The allegations laid out

on Tuesday in an indictment, or charge sheet, include a count of "conspiracy to impair, obstruct, and defeat the federal government function through dishonesty, fraud and deceit".

Mr Trump lost the 2020 presidential election, the result of which was subject to weeks of uncertainty and challenges across several US states.

Speaking to reporters before flying home to New Jersey, Mr Trump said his arraignment was a "very sad day for America".

He told reporters he was sad to see "the filth and the decay and all of the broken buildings and walls and the graffiti" in Washington DC.

The election case amounted to "a persecution of a political opponent", he added.

Outside court, one of his lawyers previewed a possible defence strategy.

Alina Habba argued that the former president had been given bad guidance by his team in the aftermath of the

election.

"I think that everybody was made aware that he lost the election, but that doesn't mean that that was the only advice he was given," said Ms Habba.

She added: "He may not agree with Mike Pence. He may not agree with one of his lawyers. But that doesn't mean there weren't other people advising him exactly the opposite. And the president has a right, as every one of us do, to listen to several opinions and make a decision."

The indictment lists six unnamed co-conspirators who allegedly helped Mr Trump plot to quash his election loss.

Three police officers who testified to Congress about their battle with Trump supporters during the US Capitol riot attended Thursday's court hearing. Several off-duty judges were also in the room.

A group of supporters waving Trump campaign flags assembled outside. Anti-Trump demonstrators were also present.

The next hearing will take place on 28 August and is expected to be procedural. However, the judge may set a trial date.

The Republican has already been charged in two other cases: with mishandling classified files and falsifying business records to cover up

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Two US Navy sailors charged with spying for China

By Mike Wendling

Two US Navy sailors in California have been arrested on charges of providing sensitive military information to China, authorities said Thursday.

Jinchao Wei, 22, a naturalised US citizen, is accused of conspiring to send national defence information to a Chinese agent.

A second sailor, Wenheng Zhao, 26, was arrested on charges of accepting money for sensitive photos and videos.

It is not clear if the two men were contacted by the same Chinese agent.

Prosecutors announced the charges during a news conference in San Diego on Thursday.

They said Mr Wei, who served as a machinist's mate on the amphibious assault ship USS Essex, held a security clearance and had access to sensitive information about the ship.

He was allegedly approached by a Chinese agent in February 2022, while he was going through the process of becoming a US citizen.

The agent paid Mr Wei, who also goes by the name



One of the suspects served on the USS Essex, shown here near San Diego in a file photo from 2012.

Patrick Wei, thousands of dollars for photographs, videos, technical manuals and blueprints of the ship, the indictment said.

Justice Department officials said Mr Wei also gave the agent details of US Marines who were on a maritime training exercise.

"When a soldier or sailor chooses cash over country and hands over national defence information in an ultimate act of betrayal, we have to be ready to act," said US Attorney Randy Grossman.

Mr Zhao, who also goes by the name Thomas Zhao, worked at Naval Base Ventu-

ra County near Los Angeles. In 2021 he was allegedly approached by a Chinese agent who posed as a researcher seeking information for investment decisions.

The agent paid Mr Zhao nearly \$15,000 (£11,800) for photos and videos along with diagrams and blueprints for a radar system stationed on a US military base in Okinawa, Japan, authorities said.

If convicted, Mr Wei faces 20 years to life in prison, while the charges against Mr Zhao carry a maximum sentence of 20 years.

The two men were charged in separate cas-

es. Officials would not say whether both were contacted by the same Chinese agent.

Authorities characterised the alleged espionage as part of a concerted effort by China to obtain US military secrets.

A Chinese spy balloon that floated over the United States earlier this year strained relations between the two countries, although American authorities later said it did not collect any sensitive information.

"The Department of Justice will continue to use every tool in our arsenal to counter threats from China and to deter those who aid them in breaking our laws and threatening our national security," said Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen.

It was not clear if either Mr Wei or Mr Zhao had hired lawyers who could comment on their behalf.

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a hush-money payment to a porn star.

One of his co-defendants in the classified documents case, his aide Walt Nauta, was seen by Mr Trump's side during his trip to Washington.

Mr Trump now faces five upcoming trials - three in New York, over the hush-mon-

ey payment, and civil trials over business practices and alleged defamation of a woman who accused him of rape.

The fourth trial will take place in Florida relating to the alleged mishandling of classified documents. Mr Trump remains the frontrunner for the Republican nomination for president next year.

Niger: President Mohamed Bazoum calls on US for help after coup

By Francesca Gillett

Niger's ousted leader has urged the US and "entire international community" to help "restore... constitutional order" after last week's coup.

In an opinion piece in the Washington Post, President Mohamed Bazoum said he was writing "as a hostage".

Unrest has erupted in the west African state since he was overthrown.

On Thursday, the coup leaders announced they were withdrawing the country's ambassadors from France, the US, Nigeria and Togo.

In a statement read out on national television, they said the functions of the four ambassadors had been "terminated".

Niger is a significant uranium producer - a fuel that is vital for nuclear power - and lies on a key migration route to North Africa and the Mediterranean.

In his newspaper article, Mr Bazoum warned the coup, if it succeeded, would have "devastating consequences for our country, our region and the entire world".

"Fighting for our shared values, including democratic pluralism and respect for the rule of law, is the only way to make sustainable progress against poverty and terrorism," Mr Bazoum wrote.



A supporter of the coup wears a hat in the colours of the Russian flag during a rally in the capital on Thursday.

"The Nigerien people will never forget your support at this pivotal moment in our history."

Mr Bazoum also warned of the coup leaders' links to Russian mercenary group Wagner, which operates elsewhere in the region and has been seen by many as exercising a malign influence in Niger.

"The entire central Sahel region could fall to Russian influence via the Wagner group, whose brutal terrorism has been on full display in Ukraine," wrote Mr Bazoum.

Many supporters of the coup in Niger have been chanting pro-Russian slogans and wearing the colours of the Russian flag.

On Thursday, thousands of people took to the streets of Niger's capital, Niamey, in a peaceful demon-

stration backing the coup and criticising other West African countries for imposing financial and trade sanctions on Niger.

There is no indication that Wagner was involved in the overthrow of Mr Bazoum, according to the US - but Wagner's leader has reportedly described the coup as a triumph.

The military takeover has also been internationally condemned, including by the EU, UN and the US.

Earlier this week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to Mr Bazoum on the phone, with the US saying afterwards it was committed to the restoration of Niger's democratically elected government.

Mr Bazoum, the first democratically elected president to succeed another in Niger, was detained by his

own guards last week. Coup leader Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani has been installed as head of state.

Niger is a key part of the African region known as the Sahel, an area plagued by jihadists and beset by military regimes. In recent years it had been seen as an example of relative stability, while its neighbours Mali and Burkina Faso succumbed to military coups.

It hosts French and US military bases and is seen as a key partner in the fight against Islamist insurgents.

President Bazoum's government has been a partner to European countries trying to stop the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean Sea, agreeing to take back hundreds of migrants from detention centres in Libya. He has also cracked down on human traffickers.



The national domino team, the Wadadli Warriors, will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's Championship in Guyana later this month. (ABNDA)

National domino team to get financial support from Ministry of Sports

The Ministry of Sports is giving some financial assistance to the national team, the Wadadli Warriors, to facilitate their participation in the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's (WCDF) Championship in Guyana later this month.

According to the Public Relations Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA), Carol Faye Bynoe, the team is expected to receive financial assistance from the Ministry of Sports before the Wadadli Warriors travel to South America next week to defend their back-to-back titles at the world championships, which will be hosted at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence from August 12th to 21st.

"The Ministry of Sports came through. The papers are being worked on at the Treasury, so we are hoping that before we leave here next week we would have access to the funds," Bynoe stated.

"We want to thank the Ministry of Sports for coming on board and doing

their part."

The national domino association wrapped up its fundraising efforts with a lunch sale last Saturday in aid of the Wadadli Warriors' participation at the world championships.

Bynoe said it was a successful lunch sale that was well supported by the public.

"In terms of the lunch, the lunch was a success. It was well supported by our supporters and the general public," she said.

"We are hoping that after we come back from Guyana, we can have a few more lunch sales so we don't leave everything for the year of the world tournament to start mobilizing funds because this year has been a real challenge for us."

Bynoe is also expressing gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade, and Barbuda Affairs, E.P Chet Greene, for assisting the Wadadli Warriors with a set of uniforms.

"Minister Greene has graciously come forward and sponsored the second

set of uniforms for the Wadadli Warriors, so we want to say thank you to Minister Greene for your support," Bynoe said.

This means that the Wadadli Warriors will have three sets of uniforms to wear at the world championships.

John F. Shoul and Bristol Marine, a boat and yacht building company based in Rhode Island in the United States of America, have also sponsored the Wadadli Warriors with the other sets of uniforms.

A 45-member Wadadli Warriors' team, which comprises male and female players, will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the world championships.

Teams from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada, the USA, and host Guyana have confirmed their participation in this year's world tournament. Participants will compete in the following eight disciplines: Team Four Hand, Female Three Hand, Male Three Hand, Mixed Pairs, Female Pairs, Male Pairs, Queen of Domino, and King of Domino.

CWI President commits to Governance Reform

According to a release from Cricket West Indies (CWI), President Dr. Kishore Shallow remains unwavering in his commitment to delivering a new era of governance reform within the region’s governing body for the sport.

After a series of ongoing consultations with key stakeholders since being elected in March, President Shallow notes that the indispensable role of governance is a key element in reinvigorating CWI.

President Shallow said, “We have produced several reports on governance over the years and the regional dialogue on this matter has also been unending.

“The way forward is for all stakeholders to recognize that the reform effort is fundamental to the transformation and advancement of West Indies Cricket.”

He further added, “I am resolute, that if we are to achieve the desired outcomes and realize sustainable growth in West Indies Cricket, we must act with a measure of insistence and have a sense of priority towards the reform exercise.”

Last week during the 22nd Frank Worrell Memorial Lecture, Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, echoed similar statements.

Prime Minister Mottley said, “You cannot have the benefit of all of these reports, from all different types of society, all differ-

ent parts of the region, and then we say no, ignore it. The first issue we need to get right is governance.”

She concluded, “The longer we take to do it, the worse the results will be.”

The CWI President said full consideration will be given to these reports, including but not limited to the 1992 Governance Report, Patterson Report 2007, Wilkins Report 2012, Barriteau Report 2015, and Wehby Report 2020.

Dr. Shallow led consti-



Cricket West Indies President Dr. Kishore Shallow. (CWI Media)

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SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED



Players of Morocco celebrate after the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between Morocco and Colombia in Perth, Australia, Thursday, August 3rd, 2023. (AP)

Morocco beat Colombia to advance at Women's World Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) - First-time participant Morocco edged Colombia 1-0 on Thursday to advance to the knockout stage in the Women's World Cup.

Anissa Lahmari scored the only goal of the Group H match in Perth, Australia, pounding a rebound of Ghizlane Chebbak's missed penalty into the net at the end of the first half.

Germany, which beat Morocco 6-0, botched its

chance to advance by earning a 1-1 draw with South Korea.

That result eliminated Germany from the tournament and pushed Colombia into the Round of 16.

Germany needed a win over South Korea and was on the attack most of the match but failed to muster a second goal in the 1-1 draw in Brisbane, Australia.

Alexandra Popp got Germany even with a head-

er in the 42nd minute before defensive changes kept Popp in check. South Korea had only five shots on goal and was silent after a sixth-minute strike from Cho So-hyun.

Popp appeared to score the go-ahead goal in the 57th minute, but it was overturned by VAR.

Ranked second in the world, Germany finished with four points behind Colombia and Morocco with

six points each in Group H, sending the two-time World Cup champions home early.

In nine appearances in the World Cup, this is the first time Germany won't be part of the Group of 16.

Up next for Morocco is France. Colombia, which won its first two matches and finished ahead of Morocco on goal differential, will play Jamaica in Melbourne.

Manuela Vanegas will miss the match for Colombia after drawing another yellow card.

Morocco's men became the first African or Arab nation to reach a FIFA World Cup Round of 16 in 2022.

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tutional reforms during his presidency at the St. Vincent & the Grenadines Cricket Association and Windward Islands Cricket Board, including introducing term limits for presidents.

In the coming weeks, Cricket West Indies will meet with the CARICOM Sub-Committee on Cricket chaired by the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley. Governance reform is expected to be an agenda item.

PROTECT YOURSELF

EVEN THOUGH THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN RELAXED



Continue to practice proper hand hygiene by washing your hands and/or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

Wear a mask, especially indoors where physical distancing is not possible.



Choose open, well ventilated spaces over closed ones. Open a window if indoors.

Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.



Choose to get Vaccinated or boosted.



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & THE ENVIRONMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

For more information or assistance:
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or visit us on Lower High Street,
St. Johns, Antigua.

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West Indies pacer Jason Holder, left, celebrates the dismissal of Suryakumar Yadav of India during the first T20I match between West Indies and India at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on August 3rd, 2023. (Getty Images)

Fast bowlers lead West Indies to narrow win over India

TRINIDAD (Reuters) - Fast bowlers Jason Holder, Romario Shepherd and Obed McCoy shared six wickets as the West Indies claimed a tense four-run victory over a young India side in the first Twenty20 International (T20I) at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad yesterday (Thursday).

Chasing 150 to win, India lost wickets at regular intervals and the required run rate climbed beyond their reach as debutant Tilak Varma top-scored with 39 off 22 balls. Suryakumar Yadav chipped in with 21 and captain Hardik Pandya contributed 19.

Holder, who was later named man of the match, captured two wickets for 19 runs. Left-arm pacer McCoy claimed two wickets for 28 runs, and right-arm pacer Shepherd picked up

two wickets for 33 runs.

The visitors needed 11 off the final over, but Shepherd kept a cool head to concede five runs and picked up his two wickets to condemn India to defeat in their 200th T20 international. Only Pakistan has played more matches in the shortest format of the game at 223. India were without some of their experienced players, including Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli who were left out of the squad.

"We were right in the chase. We made some errors, which cost us, but it is fine," India's captain Hardik Pandya said.

"A young team will make mistakes. Throughout the game, we were in control. I have always believed that in T20 cricket, if you lose wickets, it becomes difficult to chase down a total."

West Indies won the toss and opted to bat, but struggled to get going as Yuzvendra Chahal removed both openers to finish with two for 24.

Rovman Powell (48) shared 38-run partnerships with Nicholas Pooran (41) and Shimron Hetmyer (10) to lift the hosts to 149 for six off their allotted 20 overs.

Opener Brandon King struck a quick-fire 28 at the top of the order to give the West Indies a brisk start before the intervention of Chahal. Arshdeep Singh pitched in with two wickets for 31 runs for the visitors, dismissing Powell and Hetmyer.

The second and third games of the five-match series will be played in Guyana on Sunday and next week Tuesday. The final two matches will be contested in Florida in the United States of America.

Antigua name squad to contest U-15 Championship

The young Antigua and Barbuda Benna Boys will be leaving the island tomorrow (Saturday) to contest the 2023 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Boys' Under-15 Championship in Curacao.

An 18-member squad and a six-member management and coaching staff will comprise the Antigua and Barbuda Contingent at the fourth edition of the competition, which will take place in Curacao and the Dominican Republic between August 6th and 13th.

The team will be captained by midfielder Leon Jackson, and fellow midfielder Marco Michael is the vice-captain. Both players are currently based at Brooke House College in the United Kingdom.

The other midfielders are Silence Manyaka and Samuel Brazier of Villa Lions, Brandon Stachell of New Evolution, Joshua Lake of Wings FC, Saki-di Meade of Golden Grove FC, and Brenden Skilling of West Pine United FC.

The defenders are Seth Layne of Generation Next



The Antigua and Barbuda national Under-15 football team at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

FC, Jaden Browne of Wings FC, Na'jantae Wijnaldum and Joshua Roache of All Saints United, Marlon Peters of Villa Lions, and Kamari Hewlett of Soccer Academy.

The rest of the squad are goalkeepers Gavin Gonsalves of West Pine United FC and Erick Moreta of TAMO FC, and forwards Greg Williams of New Evolution FC and Tayquan Harris of Willikies FC.

The support staff accompanying the team comprises Manager Salim Browne; Head Coach Auchland "Pin Up" Jarvis; Assistant Coach Gayson "Bubbler" Gregory; Physiotherapist/Trainer Maclean Lawrence; Goalkeeper Coach Janeil "Board"

Simon; and Equipment Manager Lakeisha Samuel.

The competition will include the participation of 42 boys' Under-15 teams, 40 from CONCACAF, and two guest nations from the Asian Football Confederation.

The competition will continue to be played in a three-league format (A, B, and C), starting with group stage play and followed by a knockout stage.

All Matches in leagues A and C will be played in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, while Willemsstad, Curacao, will host all matches in League B, comprising groups E, F, G, and H.

Antigua and Barbuda will be contesting League

B, Group H, alongside hosts Curacao, Bonaire, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Antigua and Barbuda will open their campaign in Curacao against Bonaire on Sunday, August 6th, at 4 pm. The following day, the young Benna Boys will take on St. Kitts and Nevis.

Antigua and Barbuda will tackle Curacao in their final round-robin encounter in Group H on Tuesday, August 8th. The two top finishers from Group H will advance to the quarter-finals, which will be played on Thursday, August 10th.

The semi-finals are slated to take place on Friday, August 11th, and the final will be held on Sunday, August 13th.