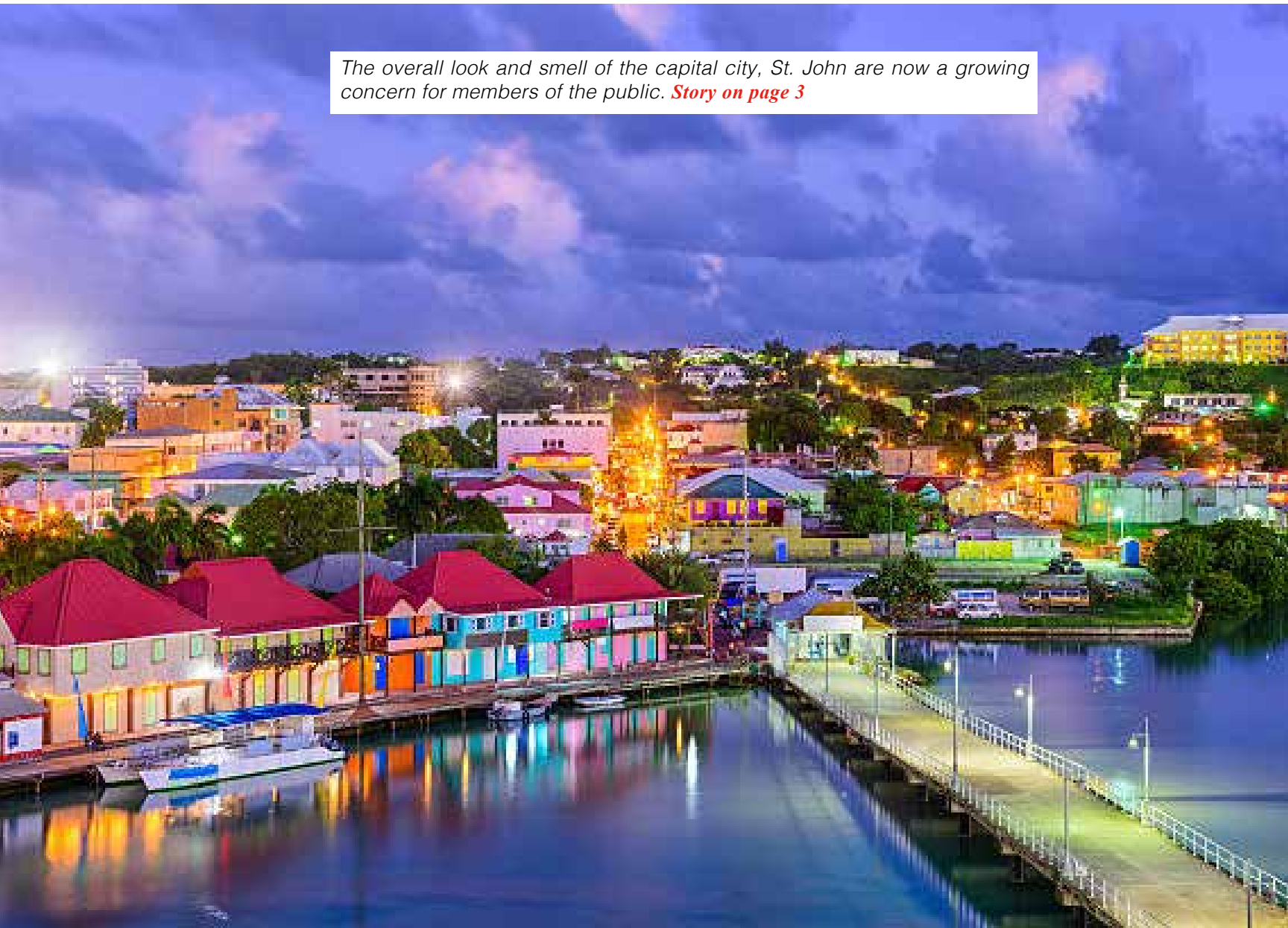


A&B TO SEND TROOPS TO HAITI

Story on Page 2

The overall look and smell of the capital city, St. John are now a growing concern for members of the public. [Story on page 3](#)



Antigua and Barbuda commits to sending ABDF personnel to Haiti

Antigua and Barbuda is among three Caribbean states that have pledged to send military personnel to Haiti as part of efforts to restore law and order in that strife-torn Caribbean country.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne confirmed this to Point Express newspaper overnight.

He said, however, there was no determination at this point on how many members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) will be dispatched

to Haiti or just how soon.

The Associated Press news agency has reported that the Biden administration pledged \$100 million on Friday to support a proposed Kenyan-led multinational force to restore security to conflict-ravaged Haiti and urged other nations to make similar contributions.

“Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that the US would provide logistics, including intelligence, airlift, communications, and medical support to the mission, which still needs to be

approved by the UN Security Council.

Other than Kenya, which would head the operation, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda have pledged to deploy personnel,” AP reported.

As recent as last Friday when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York City, PM Browne noted that the recent mission by the CARICOM Eminent Persons Group, seeking a resolution to Haiti’s political deadlock, voiced deep concerns

over the rising dominance of gangs and the ensuing human rights crisis.

“The immediate imperatives are clear: An urgent, comprehensive, coordinated intervention is required; that will concurrently restore governance, security, and the rule of law while resolving the humanitarian needs.

“The CARICOM Eminent persons strongly recommended that a broad-based transitional government is the linchpin for effective governance.

“It is our aspiration that this proposed representative transitional government materialises, to provide the necessary leadership that is required; with external assistance to restore order and bring lasting peace and prosperity to the Haitian people,” he stated.

Antigua and Barbuda, the prime minister emphasized, stands resolutely in solidarity with the Haitian people.

“In this regard, I reaffirm my government’s pledge to collaborate with all Haitian stakeholders, and with the international community, in the efforts to reinstate the rule of law, restoring democracy, and assisting with security and humanitarian relief,” he reiterated.

The people of Haiti deserve no less, according to the prime minister in his UNGA address.



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Overall improvements to St. John's occupy national attention

The overall look and smell of the capital city, St. John are now a growing concern for members of the public.

In last week's post-Cabinet Notes, it was reported that discussions were held surrounding improvements in the state of the city, as has been done in other Caribbean territories that rely heavily on tourism.

It said the Cabinet contemplates holding consultations with property owners within the City to meet a standard that could be set by law. Amendments to existing legislation would likely require building owners to upgrade the same.

The state of the capital was one of the questions put to Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez at last week's state of the industry press conference.

The Tourism Minister noted that

the plan is to have a multi-sector engagement, to look at the city and how to go about making the necessary improvements.

He said the ministries of health, tourism, and works will spearhead the drive to beautify the city.

He added that the Attorney General's office will also play a role, as it will devise the required regulations that will govern the undertaking.

Meetings have been held with the taxi association, where its members voiced their concerns about the roads and drainage in the city.

In another forum, Information Minister Melford Nicholas explained that many of the traditional businesses in the city have not fared well in the era of e-commerce and they may not have the resources to carry out the necessary upkeep required for their buildings.

This, in his view, gives rise to a

need to repurpose St. John's so that it may reflect the realities and requirements of the present day.

"As we re-conceptualize the use of the city, we also have to maintain the Georgian architecture that makes the city unique in whatever development we undertake. The intention is not to replace it, but to preserve it as much as we can," he remarked.

Meanwhile, the issue of the drains and gutters was also addressed. The Minister of Health has already articulated a solution that involves small sewage plants attached to each building's grey water system that would purify the run-off so that the flowing effluent that now spoils the air will be eliminated.

The use of lime in the gutters de-spills, the ocean-shore environment and the availability of potable water to flush the gutters daily is not a lasting solution.



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Antigua and Barbuda joins move to end reliance on fossil fuel

Antigua and Barbuda has joined several Pacific Island nations in calling for negotiations of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced at the Global Citizens Festival held over the weekend, as part of the events associated with the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

In a prepared message to the attendees, PM Browne described the current climate crisis as ‘the most significant existential threat facing all of humanity’.

“It doesn’t discern be-

tween European forests and Caribbean waters. We all feel the sting; some more than others, as in the case of Small Island Developing States.

“Rising sea levels, intensifying hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and droughts; our lives and livelihoods and the very soul of our cultures are under threat.

“This is why today, I’m honored to announce that Antigua and Barbuda officially joins our Pacific friends, in calling for the negotiation of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty,” he declared.

According to the prime

minister, this treaty will be more than words. It’s a binding plan to end the fossil fuel era.

“A pledge for a rapid shift to clean energy, a commitment to a future where economies transcend their fossil past, and an assurance that no community is left behind.

“Alongside Tuvalu and others, we have taken climate change to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and now we’re tackling the root source through a fossil fuel treaty,” he emphasized.

With this endorsement, the prime minister advised the signatories will send

a clear message: unity in purpose, unity in action.

“We are proud to become the first Caribbean nation to rally behind this cause, and we invite others to join us.

“I also invite you to join the fight to save our islands at the Fourth United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, next May, in my homeland, Antigua and Barbuda,” he stated.

In unity, he reiterated, the world can and will, pave a path to a brighter, safer, sustainable future.

“Let’s end fossil fuels fast, fair, and forever,” declared.

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AT&LU elects new president

The Antigua Trades and Labour Union, the oldest trade union in the country, now has a new president.

Bernard DeNully was elected last night at the end of the Trade Union's 84th annual conference held at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre.

DeNully defeated long-standing union executive member and shop

steward, Peter Leonard in a keenly contested election.

They were vying for the presidency, to succeed Wigley George, who held the position of president longer than any other individual.

George had long signaled his intention to retire from the post but had been urged to stay on by senior members of the union. He did not contest the position.



Bernard DeNully

Antigua and Barbuda signs landmark ocean protection treaty at the United Nations

Antigua and Barbuda has joined several countries around the world as the first signatories to a landmark agreement on marine biodiversity in the high seas, which allows for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans.

During the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade E.P Chet Greene added his signature to the agreement, committing Antigua and Barbuda to the principles laid out in what is known as the Biodiversity Behind National Jurisdictions or BBNJ Treaty.

The ceremony represented a ground-breaking moment for Antigua and Barbuda, as the signing comes after nearly two decades of talks that culminated last June when governments adopted the internationally legally binding instrument.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade E.P Chet Greene

The agreement required 60 ratifications to go into force, and thanks to Minister Greene, who was among Antigua and Barbuda's high-level delegation attending the UN General Assembly, this country can be counted among the well over 80 nations that signed as the first step towards ratification.

"This was indeed a proud and seminal moment for me personally, and for Antigua and Barbuda. We have no control over the vastness of the ocean or the actions of others who use it to dump their waste," Minister



Greene pointed out.

"In the BBNJ Treaty, we now have a legal framework on which small island nations like Antigua and Barbuda can rely in protecting our fragile marine space from what enters it from well beyond our borders. It is indeed fulfilling, that as a nation we were able to be a part of such an important process in getting us to this day," the Minister remarked.

Accompanying Minister Greene to the signing was

First Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission to the United Nations, Asha Challenger, a key figure in this country's efforts to impact the global effort to protect the oceans.

Challenger serves as Vice President of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, which is also seeking to develop a binding legal agreement that will see to the end of plastic pollution around the world.

Sons of Solomon Club donates fans to MEP Primary School

The Sons of Solomon Club recently donated fifteen (15) standing fans to the Mary E. Pigott Primary School.

“As the children start a new school year, we want them to be in a safe and healthy environment. One way to achieve this is to make sure that their classrooms are properly ventilated,” said Joel Rayne, President of Sons of Solomon Club.

This is not the first time that the club has engaged in charitable donations. It has partnered with other institutions including churches and has provided food vouchers for families during the Christmas season.

Rayne said: “We have made tangible donations to churches and other institutions and have provided food



vouchers to needy families around Christmas time.

“However, it is the first time that we have done it in a public setting. The reason is not to gloat, but to sensitize the general public of our existence and the work we are doing.”

Principal, Christopher Roberts, thanked the members of Sons of Solomon for their generous donation: “We are very grateful for these fans because the heat has been very trying and suffocating over the past few weeks. Roberts said the

teachers and students will be very happy to receive the fans. He said the fans came at a well-needed time and will improve the learning conditions in the classrooms.”

Sons of Solomon is a group affiliated with the Lodge fraternity.

One of the country's oldest citizens has passed away

Liberta resident Ethel Charles was 104 years old, a milestone she achieved on 24 May 2023.

She is being remembered for her generosity and as a mentor to many in the Parish of Saint Paul.

Ethel Charles was born in 1919 in Willikies but moved to Liberta after her marriage to Lauchland Charles. She is also remembered for her contributions to the Antigua Trades and Labour Union and to the performing arts in the village in which she resided.

She was the mother of two chil-

dren, the grandmother of nine, the great-grandmother of 12, and the great, great-grandmother of 15.

A statement read Ethel Charles held a special place within the community, and her memory shall endure eternally.

Last Friday, the Community Development and Citizens' Engagement Division announced the passing of another centenarian, Ada Drusilla Parker of Bolans.

She celebrated her 100th birthday on 3rd February 2023.



Ethel Charles

Digital penetration

By Dr. Oswald R. Thomas

I was doing my annual required training for psychologists with responsibility for completing “Violence Risk Assessment” The premise was to examine sexual offending behaviors now or in the future and/or violence to self and others.

In one of our many case studies, we analyzed a case on Digital Penetration. I began to grasp this new phenomenon and its legal ramifications/impactions on our small societies and cultural customs however, it was enough to pique my desire to share what I had discovered.

First, digital penetration is another form of sexual penetration. It is not something that happens in cyberspace. It involves the use of the digits such as one’s fingers, the thumbs, or the toes to sexually penetrate the vagina or anus of another person.

A clear definition of sexual penetration in law can be found in the Commonwealth of Australia section 35A of the Crimes Act 1958, a person (A) digitally penetrates another person (B).

A introduces their finger/s, thumbs, or toes (to any extent) into the vagina or B.

A introduces their finger/s, thumbs, or toes (to any extent) into the anus of B.

Second, it is widely believed by the general public that nonconsensual digital penetration and/or digital rape may not be a big deal as other forms of sexual penetration. While it is a fact that before 1991 digital penetration would not have warranted a rape charge and would have only been grounds for a lesser charge such as indecent assault, however, all this has ended with the introduction of section 35 of the Crimes Act 1958. Besides legislative changes,

the Victorian Supreme Court of Victoria Court of Appeal in R v Lomax (1998) 1 VR 551 ruled that in Victoria, there was no hierarchy of penetration whereby one form of penetration is less or more serious than the other. In fact, the Court of Appeals is affirming that if a person penetrates another person be it with their digits or penis there is no difference in the seriousness, in other words, sin is sin.

Third, in considering the gravity of the act of nonconsensual penetration when digits are used, one must assess whether digital penetration has the same psychological/emotional risk of injury, risk of pregnancy, or infections in comparison to acts of penetration when a penis is involved. However, DPP v Shrestha (2017) VSCA 364, the Court of Appeals in Victoria spoke to the need for increasing sentences
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Commentary



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where nonconsensual digital penetration is involved. Person(s) may be charged with digital penetrations would include sexual penetration of a minor and rape.

Fourth, digital penetration without consent is rape, and in Victoria, it attracts a sentencing standard and if

one is found guilty of digital penetration without consent, there is a 25-year maximum penalty.

Fifth, although laws identifying digital penetration as a crime may or may not exist in our parts of the commonwealth such as in Antigua and Barbuda and/or the rest of the Caribbe-

an. I am sure that many of our people have never heard about digital rape or digital sexual assault. Given the number of rape and sexual assault cases our small communities must wrestle with, somewhere there is a boy or girl, adult or minor who is digitally penetrated but may be unaware that this behavior constitutes a crime and/or is criminal, in nature.

Finally, as the world becomes increasingly, more digitally connected, I suspect that our laws will catch up with this new trend to protect our most vulnerable residents and citizens.

Lawmakers, counselors, parents, families, and educators will have to engage in a whole new educational campaign, given our cultural orientation that finger-

ing someone without their consent, does not equate to a crime, since we do not understand that nonconsensual digital penetration can produce the same psychological/emotional trauma, no different than been held against one's will and been rape.

Dr. Oswald Thomas (BPS., MS., Ph.D., Ch.T., Ph.D.) is a Staff Clinical Psychologist with the New Jersey State of Health and Addictions in one of New Jersey's Psychiatric Hospitals and a Clinical Psychologist with Long Island City Psychotherapy Services. Dr. Thomas also serves as a director on the governing board of The University of The Commonwealth Caribbean. Dr. Thomas is a candidate to replace the Hon: Sir. Robin Yearwood in St. Phillip's North.

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Nissan to go all-electric by 2030 despite petrol ban delay

By Simon Jack

Nissan will accelerate plans towards electrification by committing that all vehicles sold in Europe will be electric by 2030.

The announcement comes despite the UK postponing its 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars to 2035.

Nissan's boss said the firm's move was "the right thing to do".

Car trade body the SMMT has voiced concerns that the postponement of the ban would see consumers delay the switch to electric vehicles.

Nissan will also introduce new battery technology by the end of the decade that it said will reduce both the charging time and cost of electric vehicles (EVs).

"Nissan will make the switch to full electric by 2030 in Europe. We believe it is the right thing to do for our business, our customers and for the planet," said Nissan's chief executive Makoto Uchida.

In an interview with the BBC, Mr Uchida said the company was aiming to bring down the cost of electric vehicles for customers, so that they were no more expensive than petrol and diesel cars.

"It may take a bit of time, but we are looking at the next few years," he said.



"We are looking at it from the point of view of the technology, from the point of view of cooperating with suppliers, and of course working with the government on how we can deliver that kind of cost competitiveness to the consumer," Mr Uchida added.

Will that price parity happen by 2030? "That's what we're aiming for," confirmed Mr Uchida.

Mr Uchida also said that the company was fast-tracking a different kind of battery technology, known as all-solid-state batteries (ASSB), which are lighter, cheaper, and quicker to charge.

"We are going to have a pilot plant for ASSB in

Japan from next year, and we want to ensure they can be mass produced by 2028," he said.

"There are a lot of challenges with this, but we do have a solution, and we are on track [to meet that target]," he added.

Nissan is the only car company to have its own battery manufacturing capability in the UK.

Last year, it announced plans to invest £1bn in expanding the facility that sits next to its Sunderland car plant. The government contributed £100m towards the project.

That gives Nissan an advantage over other car-makers who import the vast majority of their batteries from China.

Post-Brexit trading rules due to take effect in January next year require vehicles made in the UK or EU to source 45% of their components by value from the UK or EU to avoid a 10% tariff when exported either way.

As batteries are the most expensive part of an electric vehicle, some manufacturers in both the UK and EU have said they will be unable to hit that threshold and have called on the requirement to be deferred until plants are ready and able to supply the batteries.

Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch recently told the BBC the government was optimistic that a deferral could be secured.

Metaverse: What happened to Mark Zuckerberg's next big thing?



By James Clayton

There was a time before ChatGPT when the tech world was talking about something entirely different.

Remember the metaverse?

For a while it dominated tech news. A virtual reality world that would be so immersive, so engaging, that we would want to spend part of our lives in it.

Driving the metaverse narrative was Mark Zuckerberg.

The tech billionaire was so committed that in October 2021 he changed Facebook's name to Meta.

"The defining quality of the metaverse will be a feeling of presence," the Meta boss said, announcing the change.

"Feeling truly present with another person is the ultimate dream of social technology. That is why we are focused on building this.

"In the metaverse, you'll be able to

do almost anything you can imagine," he said.

No one could accuse him of a lack of ambition.

But almost two years on, Zuckerberg's vision of the metaverse is in trouble.

In April he was forced to deny that he is now jettisoning the idea.

"A narrative has developed that we're somehow moving away from focusing on the metaverse," he told investors in April. "So I just want to say upfront that that's not accurate."

On Wednesday the company holds its annual VR event called Meta Connect.

It's a chance, perhaps, for Zuckerberg to again explain his reasoning for taking an extremely profitable social media company and diverting its focus to an extremely unprofitable VR venture.

How unprofitable? Well, the most

recent figures from Meta are eye-watering.

Reality Labs - which as the name suggests is Meta's virtual and augmented reality branch - has lost a staggering \$21 billion since last year.

Part of the losses reflect long-term investment. Meta wasn't expecting short-term returns. But the worrying fact for the company is that, so far, there is very little evidence that this enormous punt will work.

Horizon Worlds, a game published by Meta, is about as close as the company has got to creating a metaverse.

Users can hop into different settings - cafes, comedy clubs, night clubs, basketball courts - to hang out and play games.

Meta claims it has 300,000 monthly users: tiny when compared to the billions of people on Facebook and Instagram.

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And at any one time, vastly fewer people than that are actually playing the game.

User reviews complain of empty worlds, and say there simply aren't enough people to make it fun. Or if there are people, they're often children.

But the biggest criticism is that it looks a bit rubbish - akin to graphics from the 2006 Nintendo Wii rather than the lavish VR experience that Zuckerberg promised.

As for Meta's virtual reality headsets, it's hard to see how current technology is anything close to the vision the company's boss has articulated.

Meta's headsets have sold more than 20 million units, according to a Verge story from earlier this year. That isn't bad - and its Quest 2 headset received positive reviews.

But in sheer numbers, there are

plenty of games consoles that have fared better.

Sony claims that its PlayStation 5 has sold 40 million units, for example.

And remember, Zuckerberg isn't comparing success to a games console. He wants to revolutionise how we all live, work and, as he would say, "connect".

To put it bluntly, VR is still fringe. It's not the way most people play games, and it definitely isn't how most people choose to spend their time. Real life is stubbornly appealing.

In July, on an investor call, someone asked Zuckerberg why he'd spent all this money. "Help us understand," they said.

Zuckerberg said he understood the frustration, and admitted: "I can't guarantee you that I'm going to be right about this bet. I do think that this is the direction that the world is going in."

And so, on Wednesday, we'll hear from Zuckerberg as he attempts to breathe life into a concept in desperate need of oxygen.

We'll likely hear much more about Meta's new headset, the Quest 3 - and how Horizon Worlds is moving to mobile and desktop (so you won't have to use a headset to play).

We'll hear a range of new AI announcements, too.

No doubt we'll also hear again that the metaverse is a long-term project - that we haven't seen the real metaverse yet.

Zuckerberg most certainly still believes in it - as he expresses through Meta's cheque book. In July he said that Reality Labs is expected to post even bigger losses next year.

The metaverse, then, is still very much alive at Meta - but most of the rest of the tech world appears to have moved on.





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Bahamas: Cabinet minister, Obie Wilchcombe, has died

Bahamians are mourning the sudden passing of Cabinet Minister Obediah Wilchcombe. He was 65 years-old.

Mourners have gathered at the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama upon learning of his death.

The Office of the Prime Minister today announced the passing of Wilchcombe, who served as Minister of Social Services, Information and Broadcasting and Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly.

A statement said Minister Wilchcombe dedicated his life to public service and made significant contributions to the nation.

Prime Minister Philip Edward Davis is in Grand Bahama to pay his respects and offer condolences to the family.

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister and Member of Parliament for Killarney, Dr Hubert Minnis, has extended condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Obediah Wilchcombe.

He says Wilchcombe served The Bahamas with unwavering dedication and passion.

Minnis says the passing of Minister Wilchcombe is a profound loss to the nation and his invaluable contributions to the betterment of The Bahamas will forever be remembered and appre-

ciated.

It was noted that Wilchcombe as a devoted public servant, worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of citizens, first in the area of broadcast and journalism, and secondly as a Member of Parliament and as a Cabinet Minister, leaving an indelible mark on this country's history.

During his tenure in government, serving most recently as Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly, Minis-



Obediah Wilchcombe.

ter Wilchcombe exhibited a deep commitment to the exemplary leadership and well-being of the people.



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Dominica grapples with power crisis as aging plants struggle to meet island's demand

In a growing concern for residents and officials alike, Dominica is facing a mounting energy crisis.

The island nation's aging power plants, once the backbone of its electricity supply, are now grappling to keep pace with the surging demand for energy.

This was disclosed at the press conference of Dominica Electricity Services Ltd (DOMLEC) on Thursday, with one of its top officials calling the situation to be "insufficient generation capacity."

"We have been seeing in 2023 increased consumption, what you call increased load, so our peak so far for the year is 17.62 megawatts," DOMLEC Manager Bertilia McKenzie explained.

She went on to highlight the contrast with 2021 when the peak was 16.38 megawatts, representing a significant increase of over 1 megawatt in customer consumption in 2023 compared to two years prior. In 2022, the peak was also high at 16.35 megawatts.

McKenzie emphasized that not only are Dominicans consuming more power in 2023, but DOMLEC is also grappling with the challenge of aging machinery.

"This increased de-



mand coincides with an aging generation fleet, particularly an aging diesel generation fleet, where 10 megawatts of generation capacity have surpassed their intended lifespan and are overdue for retirement," she pointed out.

To promptly tackle the emergency, DOMLEC is leasing two megawatts of temporary generation from an outside source.

McKenzie also stressed the need of additional generation, citing Dominica's first geothermal plant that will be commissioned "in a few years."

The construction of the plant, which is expected to generate 10,000 kilowatts, is on-going with transmission networks currently being set up as the next phase of the project.

Dominica's Citizenship by Investment (CBI) Programme plays a crucial role in financing the geothermal project in addition to the financial support provided by the World Bank.

This CBI initiative has been instrumental in the reconstruction and improvement of Dominica following the destructive

impact of Typhoon Erika and Hurricane Maria.

With the MMC Development Ltd., a private development firm with a longstanding partnership with the government, the construction of numerous climate-resilient residential buildings and essential infrastructure were made possible with the CBI programme.

Moreover, MMC Development Ltd. has been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the development of Dominica's ambitious international airport.



Ex-President Edgar Lungu's weekly jogs have been attracting the attention of curious onlookers.

Zambia ex-President Edgar Lungu banned from 'political' jogging

By Wycliffe Muia

Zambia's former President Edgar Lungu has been warned against jogging in public, as police describe his weekly workouts as "political activism".

His Saturday runs with ordinary members of the public and supporters of his Patriotic Front (PF) party have been attracting a lot of attention.

Mr Lungu has been told to seek police approval for future jogging events.

The police order comes amid speculation that he will make a bid for the presidency in 2026.

A police statement said that the PF's failure to alert them of "public gatherings or demonstrations... amounts to a breach of the law. This is to ensure public safety."

It added that a "procession of a former head of state should be done with his security detail and devoid of

political activism".

But the former president's lawyer Makebu Zulu told the BBC that he would continue with his jogging without notifying the police.

Mr Zulu threatened to take legal action against the government if the former president, 66, was blocked from working out on Saturdays.

"Mr Lungu has been jogging since time immemorial and his motivation has never been to contravene the law," Mr Zulu said.

This is the latest apparent restriction on the former leader's activities, who served as president from 2015 to 2021.

Some commentators have said the government of President Hakainde Hichilema is using the heavy-handed tactics that he criticised during his many years in opposition.

Mr Lungu recently took the government to court after he was allegedly blocked from travelling to

South Korea for a conference. He later withdrew the case.

The PF also said the former president had been stopped from travelling for a medical trip despite seeking permission from the cabinet office.

The BBC has contacted Home Affairs Minister Jacob Mwiimbu for comment but has not yet received a response.

Despite saying he would retire from politics after losing the 2021 election, Mr Lungu has been reviving his public profile in recent months.

He is widely believed to be planning to contest the elections in three years' time, hoping to capitalise on growing anger over rising fuel and food prices.

Mr Hichilema won in 2021 by a large majority on the hope that he would tackle the country's economic problems.

He had previously unsuccessfully run for elections five times.

Two bodies found in Rio Grande as migrant crossings rise

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

The bodies of two migrants were recovered from the Rio Grande separating the US and Mexico this week, including a three-year-old child.

Migrant arrivals at the US southern border have spiked to near-record numbers in September, putting a strain on local resources.

The child is believed to have drowned after being swept away while crossing the river.

Hundreds of migrants die each year while attempting the crossing.

According to a Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson quoted by CBS, the BBC's US partner, the body of the three-year-old was recovered near the town of Eagle Pass on Wednesday. He was traveling with his family and was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

The following morning, Texas state troopers located another body submerged in the river in the same area.

Both bodies were discovered to the north of a controversial string of border buoys set up to deter migrant crossings near Eagle Pass.

The barrier has been the focus of intense legal wrangling, and a federal judge ruled earlier this month that they be moved



Eagle Pass declared a state of emergency earlier this week because of rising migrant figures.

by 15 September.

Texas filed an immediate legal challenge which was upheld and allowed the buoys to remain in place.

Across the length of the nearly 2,000-mile (3,218km) US-Mexico border, migrant apprehensions have risen to near-record levels this month, posing a significant challenge to US President Joe Biden's efforts to plan to handle immigration.

Internal Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) data obtained by CBS shows that 140,000 migrants were detained at the border in the first 20 days of September, an average of about 6,900 per day. In July, the daily average stood at 4,300.

About 9,000 migrants were processed on Wednesday alone, the highest daily figure seen since May just before the US moved to end Title 42, a Trump-era policy that allowed for the rapid expulsion of many migrants.

The figures suggest that the CBP is likely to reach 210,000 migrant apprehensions by the end of the month, the highest since the 222,000 recorded in December 2022.

In Eagle Pass - a small town with a population of about 30,000 - officials this week declared a one-week state of emergency to allow it to request additional resources to respond to the influx of migrants.

In both Eagle Pass and El Paso, officials were also forced to briefly suspend commercial vehicle traffic at international bridges so that personnel could be diverted to process migrants.

The issue has also become increasingly politically contentious, with the Biden administration coming under intense criticism from Republicans and some Democrats for its handling of the southern border.

Earlier this week, the administration announced that an additional 800 active-duty military personnel would be sent to bolster 2,500 troops already deployed there to help perform operational tasks.

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.



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Transport Board keep perfect record in business league

Former champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, maintained their perfect start to the 2023 Cool & Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Business League competition on Sunday night.

The Transport Board claimed their fourth win in as many games by cruising to an emphatic 24-point win against the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Anjis Anthony shot a game-high 23 points to lead the Transport Board to their 77-53 victory. Craig Massiah chipped in with 19 points, Raymond Dickerson contributed 12 points, and Shawn Williams added 11 points.

Delornje Jules converted 18 points, and Regillio Cisse sank 12 points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

Reigning league champions Eye Mobile Vision Care recorded their second win in four outings by romping to a convincing 84-39 victory against Police in the other encounter contested on Sunday night.

Eye Mobile Vision Care's main scorers were Kevin Pimental with 17 points, Beniah Mack with 16 points, Devonte Carter with 13 points, and Orion Seraphine with 11 points.

Javon Simon shot a

game-high 25 points for Police, who were playing their first game in this year's business league competition.

The competition will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex today (Tuesday). Trimmingham Truck-

ing Enterprise will take on Police at 6:45 pm, and Callan Shooters will clash with Richie's Shooterz at 7:45 pm.

ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES						
September 29 – October 8, 2023 St. John's, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA						
EVENT SCHEDULE <i>2 netball courts for simultaneous matches</i>						
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES						
1. Antigua and Barbuda		4. Dominica		7. St. Kitts and Nevis		
2. Barbados		5. Grenada		8. St. Lucia		
3. Cayman Islands		6. Montserrat		9. St. Vincent & the Grenadines		
Match #	DATE	TIME	TOURNAMENT FIXTURES		VENUE	
	Thursday, September 28	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of CNA Officials, UAPs & UMPIRES		VC Bird International	
		6:00pm	CNA & ABNA/LOC Meeting		Jolly Beach Resort	
	Friday, September 29	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of COUNTRY DELEGATIONS		VC Bird International	
		9:00am	Umpires' Seminar		Jolly Beach Resort	
7:30pm	WELCOME RECEPTION					
8:30am	TECHNICAL MEETING					
	Saturday, September 30	3:30pm	OPENING CEREMONY		YMCA	
		5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
		5:45pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 2
		7:30pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 1
		7:45pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	GRENADA	Court 2
5	Sunday, October 1	5:30pm	MONTERRAT	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
6		5:45pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
7		7:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
8		7:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	BARBADOS	Court 2
9	Monday, October 2	7:00am	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
10		5:30pm	DOMINICA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
11		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
12		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	MONTERRAT	Court 1
13	7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 2	
14	Tuesday, October 3	7:00am	DOMINICA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 1
15		5:30pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
16		5:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	MONTERRAT	Court 2
17		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 1
18	7:45pm	DOMINICA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 2	
19	Wednesday, October 4	8:30 – 11:30am	ECCB Personal Development Session		Jolly Beach Resort	
20		5:30pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
21		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
22		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
		7:45pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 2
23	Thursday, October 5	7:00am	BARBADOS	vs	GRENADA	Court 1
24		5:30pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 1
25		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 2
26		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
27	7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2	
28	Friday, October 6	7:00am	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
29		5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
30		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
31		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	BARBADOS	Court 1
32	7:45pm	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 2	
33	Saturday, October 7	4:00pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
34		4:15pm	MONTERRAT	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
35		6:00pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
36		6:15pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
		8:30pm	CLOSING CEREMONY		YMCA	

Benna Girls lose to Suriname in Gold Cup Qualifier

Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Girls suffered a narrow loss away to Suriname in their second encounter in Group A of League B in the 2024 inaugural Concacaf Women's Gold Cup qualifiers on Sunday.

Antigua and Barbuda lost 1-0 against Suriname at the Dr. Ir. Franklin Essed Stadium in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Andaya Lantveld scored the lone goal of the encounter in the 16th minute from the penalty spot. Lantveld was taken down inside the box on the prior play and converted with a clean strike to the left bottom corner.

The home side continued to work to extend the lead as left-back Stekkinger Shamaira and Bhagerath Anne combined to continue the attack against the Antiguan.

However, solid goal-keeping by the Antiguan custodian, Anique Jarvis, ensured there was no further breach of the visitors' defense by the Surinamese.

Diminutive forward Gabrielle De Suza provided constant threats on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, with her closest attempts coming in the 65th, 67th, and 79th minutes.

Suriname's goalkeeper, Mayra Tjin-A-Koeng, conserved the clean sheet to help her nation close



The Antigua and Barbuda senior national women's team. (File photo)

out the three points and take sole possession of first place in Group A of League B.

Guyana, who lost 2-1 to Antigua and Barbuda in their opening match, rebounded to take their first three points of the tournament on Sunday.

Guyana recorded a 5-0 victory over Dominica at the Wildey Turf Stadium in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Jalade Trim opened the scoring in the 5th minute with a header inside the box to cap off a tug-of-war between both teams. Stefani Kouzas provided the cross towards the far post to collect the assist.

Brianne Desa extended the lead in the 8th minute with a penalty conversion. The spot kick was awarded

to Guyana moments prior, as Hannah Baptiste was taken down inside the box.

Trim scored again in the 24th minute off a second header near the left post. This time, it was Otesha Charles who provided the cross from the right flank.

Dominica's best chance of the game came in the 27th minute off a free kick. Starr Humphreys got the shot on target, but goalkeeper Chante Sandiford was there to collect her lone save of the match.

Charles scored her first goal of the match in the 29th minute to give Guyana a 4-0 lead.

Charles scored from a distance in the 64th minute to complete her brace and Guyana's victory.

The women of El Salvador extended their grasp of first place in Group B with a 9-1 victory over Martinique at the Las Delicias Stadium in Santa Tecla, El Salvador.

Samaria Gomez headed in the first goal in the 3rd minute to complete an early attack by the hosts.

Martinique equalized in the 13th minute with a counterattack and a lob kick by Prisca Carin.

Brenda Ceren restored El Salvador's lead in the 16th minute by dribbling past the defensive line and placing the ball into the bottom right corner with a diagonal strike.

Gomez made it 3-1 in the 21st minute with a second header inside the box,

cont'd on pg 19

Amazon Warriors crush TKR to win first CPL title

It was a historic night at Providence as the Guyana Amazon Warriors won the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) final with a nine-wicket victory over the Trinbago Knight Riders, ensuring a maiden CPL title for the franchise.

Guyana Amazon Warriors won the toss and chose to bowl first, producing a disciplined performance to bowl the Knight Riders out for just 94.

Imran Tahir with two for eight, and Gudakesh Motie with two for seven, produced valuable economical spells, while Dwaine Pretorius took four wickets for 26 runs.

It was a nervy chase from the Amazon Warriors in front of a home crowd as the Knight Riders tried to restrict runs with spin. However, Saim Ayub and Shai Hope, the two leading run scorers in CPL this season, would ultimately see the team over the line.

Despite a 24-run opening stand between Chadwick Walton and Mark Deyal, the



The Guyana Amazon Warriors celebrating their historic first-ever CPL title following an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Trinbago Knight Riders at Providence in Guyana on Sunday, September 24, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

Knight Riders lost wickets at regular intervals, with three falling to seam bowling in the Power-play, including key batter Nicholas Pooran for just one.

Captain Kieron Pollard would fall straight after the Power play for a duck, as spin began to play a vital role, with Motie and Tahir causing havoc. The pair combined to capture four wickets between them and conceded just 15 runs in to-

tal.

Keacy Carty led the resistance for the Knight Riders, but as he ran out of partners, he found himself taking more risks, eventually falling to a brilliant Shimron Hetmyer catch for a top score of 38 off 45 balls.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors lost the early wicket of Keemo Paul, who was opening, which added tension to their chase.

The Knight Riders de-

ployed both Akeal Hosein and Sunil Narine in the Power play in an attempt to prize more wickets, but the Amazon Warriors ended the Power play on 29 for one.

Saim Ayub, who hit 52 not out, and Shai Hope, who struck 32 not out, showed the form that has led to them leading the run scoring charts this season to take the Amazon Warriors to victory.

Ayub brought up his half century with a six from the last ball of the chase to take the Warriors to a maiden CPL title win.

Scores: Guyana Amazon Warriors 99-1 (Ayub 52 not out, Hope 32 not out; Hosein 1-21) beat Trinbago Knight Riders 94 all out (Carty 38, Deyal 16; Pretorius 4-26, Motie 2-7) by 9 wickets.

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connecting on a cross from Juana Plata.

Danya Gutierrez added her name to the scoresheet in the 26th minute by placing a free kick into the top left corner of the net.

Andrea Amaya struck inside the box in the 34th minute after a back-heel assist from Ceren. Danya Gutierrez earned her brace in the 43rd minute to complete a

build-up from Ceren and Danielle Fuentes.

Fuentes got a goal herself prior to half-time, at the 45+1-minute mark, by connecting on a pass from Ceren at the right post.

Ceren completed her brace in the 70th minute, and Victoria Sanchez scored the ninth goal for the hosts in the 77th minute after Fuentes crossed the ball into the box.



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cont'd from pg 22

cessive victory after their latest outing in the Warriors Cup ended prematurely at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos on Sunday.

Garden Stars were leading CPTSA Wings 3-1 in the 82nd minute when the match was forced to end abruptly. The game ended prematurely when a Wings player, encouraged by his coach and teammates, refused to leave the field after receiving a red card from the match referee.

The player reportedly pushed down the goal on the southern side of the playing field as well. The organizers have banned the player from taking any further part in the competition, while the Wings team will be subject to sanctions due to the behaviour of the coach and the players.

The organizers have awarded the game a 3-1 win to the Garden Stars. Before the game ended prematurely, Joylan Sinclair scored in the 7th minute to give the Wings a 1-0 lead, but Garden recovered to score three times to take control of the match.

Tarek Charles scored the equalizer in the 20th minute, and Karique Knight had a 48th-minute conversion to give the Garden Stars a 2-1 lead. Allan Martin extended the Garden Stars lead when he scored his team's third goal in the 50th minute.

Elroy Roach bagged a hat-trick as Master Ballerz recorded their second win in three matches by romping to a 6-2 victory against the host Young Warriors.

Roach had conversions in the 7th, 19th, and 28th minutes. The other goals for Master Ballerz were scored by Alex Davis in the 35th minute, Brandon Stachell in the 36th minute, and Romar Girdirsingh in the 48th minute.

Zahiem Greene scored

in the 52nd minute, and Erik Moreta scored an own goal in the 66th minute for the Young Warriors.

The Warriors Cup will continue with a double-header at Radio Range today (Tuesday).

Young Warriors will face CPTSA Wings at 5:30

pm, and Sea View Farm will tackle Master Ballerz at 6:45 pm.

The competition will conclude with the final match on Thursday. Garden Stars will clash with Sea View Farm at 6 pm, and the awards ceremony will take place at 8 pm.



ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES

Antigua and Barbuda

Sep 29 - Oct 7
2023



The Netball action will take center stage at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Joseph claims three awards at ECVA Under-23 tournament

Antigua and Barbuda's captain and outside hitter Jassania Joseph captured three individual awards at the 2023 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Women's Under-23 Championship, which concluded at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau, Dominica, on Sunday night.

Antigua and Barbuda finished in a disappointing seventh place in the nine-team sub-regional volleyball competition, which was won by St. Lucia, who played unbeaten during the entire five-day tournament on the nature isle of the Caribbean.

The tall and lanky Joseph captured the awards for the best server and scorer. She also shared the award for the best spiker with Grace Vidal of Dominica, who finished

fourth in the tournament.

Dominica's Nyla Edmund claimed the award for the best receiver.

Champions St. Lucia claimed two individual awards. Amalia Louis was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament, and Chenoa Evans won the award for the best opposite hitter.

The British Virgin Islands (BVI), who finished in third place, captured the other four individual awards. Anna Gordon and Kristin Abraham shared the award for the best blocker.

Kayla Jacinto won the best setter award, while Aman Bispham captured the awards for the best libero and best digger.

St. Lucia captured the championship title by cru-



Antigua and Barbuda's captain and outside hitter Jassania Joseph, left, spikes during a game against Saba at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Women's Under-23 Championship at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau, Dominica, on Saturday, September 23, 2023. (DAVA media)

ing to a straight-set 3-0 win over St. Maarten in the final. The St. Lucians prevailed 25-11, 25-23, and 25-8.

The St. Lucians booked their spot in the final by

ousting the BVI 3-0 in the semi-finals, winning 25-17, 25-21, and 25-17. St. Maarten advanced to the final by beating host Dominica 3-0 in the semi-finals, prevailing 25-16, 25-11, and 25-22.

The BVI produced a commanding display to claim the bronze medals by beating Dominica 3-0 in the third-place playoff. The BVI won the encounter 25-14, 25-21, and 25-21.

Garden Stars extend winning run in Warriors Cup

Garden Stars kept their unblemished record intact and claimed their third suc-

cont'd on pg 21



Team St. Lucia that won the 2023 Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Women's Under-23 Championship at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau, Dominica.