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MEDAL JOY FOR THE BAHAMAS IAAF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS NEWS IN SPORTS SECTION E



LATEST RELEASE FROM WIKILEAKS

PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED IN 2012 CONTRACT SIGNED FOR \$27M ABACO AIRPORT TERMINAL

By CELESTE NIXON Tribune Staff Reporter cnixon@tribunemedia.net

'Most powerful' Bahamian women

THE NEW multi-million dollar Abaco airport terminal is expected to be completed in 2012.

The Prime Minister with cabinet ministers flew to Abaco yesterday to officially sign a \$27 million contract to construct the new Marsh Harbour airport terminal.

At the contract signing ceremony for the construction of the Marsh Harbour Airport Terminal Building, Air Traffic Control Tower and Fire/Crash Rescue Facility, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said the project has been a long time coming, almost 30 years in

SEE page eight

Tribune publisher named in US Embassy cable

THE five most influential women in the Bahamas were identified by the US Embassy in a cable released by Wikileaks yesterday.

They are: Tribune publisher Eileen Dupuch Carron, Court of Appeal president Joan Sawyer, former Deputy Prime Minister Cynthia "Mother" Pratt, former Attorney General Allyson Maynard-Gibson and domestic violence victims' advocate Sandra Dean-Patterson.

In the 2007 cable Mrs Pratt, current Progressive Liberal Party MP for St Cecilia, was chosen because of her position as deputy prime minister and minister of national security within

SEE page eight



TRIBUNE PUBLISHER AND CEO Eileen Dupuch Carron

TRAFFIC ISSUES FROM TOPPLED TREE



Felipe Major/Tribune staff

THIS TREE toppled by Hurricane Irene last week on Marathon Road has yet to be moved, forcing motorists to take alternative routes.

WIKILEAKS CABLE: FORMER MINISTER HAD NO IMPACT ON US TRAVEL LAW

DESPITE his claims to the contrary, former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe had no impact on the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), a recent released Wikileaks cable has revealed.

The WHTI was a US law implemented in 2007, designed to

SEE page eight

CHARITY IN TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OVER ALLEGED 'STOLEN' RELIEF SUPPLIES

By NOELLE NICHOLAS Tribune Staff Reporter nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

A LOCAL charity that claims the government "stole" its relief supplies says it has entered into talks with officials to resolve the matter.

Darren Adler, director of the Humanitarian Operation foundation (HOPE Foundation), said he is "very confused" about the actions of government officials in relation to his organisation.

"We are all very confused by this. We were not on a mission for any foreign government. We were not on a mercenary mission. And if we were, why would we put a press photographer on the flight? Did they think we were coming with special forces to wage war? And in that case, why did we go through immigration?" Mr Adler wondered.

The HOPE Foundation

worked in partnership with a Florida-based security company, Sea Air Land Security Inc (SALS), comprised of ex-military personnel and special-ops force members to deliver water and food supplies to residents in Cat Island, Eleuthera and other parts of the Bahamas.

Together, the organisations operated two helicopters and a fixed-wing aircraft. They worked independently of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). They also worked with Robin Hood Enterprises, which donated food and other supplies.

Of primary concern for the joint effort was an incident last week in which defence force officials "forcibly" removed water and food supplies from one of its aircraft destined to help victims of Hurricane Irene, according to Mr Adler.

The HOPE Foundation was

SEE page eight

PLP SAYS MOODY'S DOWNGRADING 'CONFIRMS GOVT'S MISMANAGEMENT'

By AVA TURNQUEST Tribune Staff Reporter aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THE lowered outlook by an international ratings firm on the country's investment-grade credit status has confirmed the government's economic mismanagement, according to the opposition.

The country has maintained its A3 government bond rating; however, Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the country's outlook from "stable" to "negative" due to limited growth prospects in the face of mounting debt accrued over the past decade.

According to Moody's, 40 per cent of the country's debt increase occurred in the past two years, pushing levels past the median for its rating range.

The revised outlook follows a downgrade by rival firm Standard & Poors Ratings Services in 2008, according to the Pro-

gressive Liberal Party that said government borrowing and public spending are dangerously unsustainable.

Standard & Poor affirmed its BBB+ on the Bahamas in May. Acknowledging the lowered outlook in a recent press statement, the government explained that the recent global economic and financial crisis necessitated the "extraordinary levels of spending" despite a "precipitous" decline in revenue.

The government explained that funds were needed to "safeguard the financial system, boost economic activity and provide assistance to Bahamians badly in need of help in these trying times."

The statement read: "The unusually high rise in debt levels therefore was not surprising and in fact forecasted by the Government in light of the

SEE page eight

MailBoat Company Ltd advertisement featuring an airplane, a boat, and a truck. Text includes 'A WINNING COMBINATION!!' and 'Earn miles on American Airlines when shipping with Laser /MailBoat'.

Back To School advertisement for Clarks Shoes. Features a 10% OFF discount for teachers with valid ID and lists retail locations like The Shoe Village.

LOCAL NEWS

BPSU PRESIDENT ASSURES MEMBERS THAT UNION FINANCES ARE 'IN ORDER'

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net



JOHN PINDER
BPSU PRESIDENT

FREEPORT – While in Grand Bahama this week, Bahamas Public Services Union president John Pinder assured members that the union's finances are in order, contrary to claims that are now being made by some executive members. Mr Pinder toured various government agencies on Tuesday, meeting with civil servants, and distributed back-to-school supplies to members at BPSU Hall on Wednesday.

Despite receiving positive feedback concerning his leadership, he said members are concerned about certain remarks they are hearing about the organisation's financial reports.

Mr Pinder said there are claims that the union's financial reports have not been signed off by an accounting firm, and calls are being made by his opponents for a forensic audit into the union's finances.

"The sad thing is that the persons who are making these claims are still part of our executive team... and they are now vying for various positions, particularly the presidency," Mr Pinder said.

The union's upcoming elections are scheduled for September 31.

Mr Pinder explained that the union is mandated by law under the Industrial Relations Act to provide the Registrar of trade unions, who is the director of labour, with a copy of the audited financial report each year,

them within seven days of a written request to the general secretary.

"If any member has concerns about any discrepancies or anything they are hearing about the finances they have the right to come and review all financial reports in detail," he said.

Mr Pinder said another concern for members in Freeport is when the government will pay the outstanding increments owed them.

He believes that it is unfortunate that, while the government has lifted the freeze off the promotions and the increments for July 1, it did not see fit to make the payments for outstanding back pay.

"The members are also wondering when they will get a general increase," he added.

The BPSU president said the union has been pressing government to come to the table to negotiate a new industrial agreement. He said some of the benefits they are seeking for members are health insurance and improved pension benefits and increments.

The union, he said, has filed a trade dispute against the government for refusing to come to the table to negotiate a new industrial agreement.

Mr John Curtis, area vice president, said Mr Pinder has proven himself over the past nine years to be a trade union leader.

He is urging members to re-elect Pinder and the We Care Team. "You know what you have in Mr Pinder and his team, but you don't know what you will get," he said.

Mr Curtis said once elected, the BPSU will make the position of vice president of the northern region a full time office.

usually on June 30.

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"We have made available, to the press, all audit reports under our leadership that various accounting firms would have signed off on," Mr Pinder said.

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"Every three years we try to throw out bids to see if we can get the best price on our audits," Mr Pinder said.

He stated that the auditor's report on the union's finances for 2010 will be presented at the annual general meeting on September 16.

Additionally, he said that any member in good standing has a constitutional right to examine the books which will be made available to

COURT NEWS

Bond revocable for man convicted of manslaughter

A YOUNG man convicted of manslaughter in the Supreme Court this week was given a three-year bond that will keep him out of prison because of the circumstances of the incident and the time he has already served.

However, Senior Justice Jon Isaacs made it clear that the bond could be revoked if the courts believed at a later date that sentencing was necessary.

Fritznel Decius, 21, was granted a \$1,000 bond with a surety by Senior Justice Isaacs after the young man, who was remanded to prison at the age of 16 after the stabbing death of Isaac Sweeting on October 1, 2007.

He said that Decius' time spent in prison was long enough for him to have learned a lesson as he admitted to killing the deceased in self defence.

Senior Justice Isaacs also said the bond would give Decius time to pursue his academic aspirations, which were put on hold when he was working as a packing boy at City Market to pay

tuition to attend a private school.

Sweeting was a security guard at a company in the Harbour Bay Shopping Centre. He was on duty at the time of his death. An argument broke out between Decius and the deceased which led to the stabbing of the security guard behind the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant.

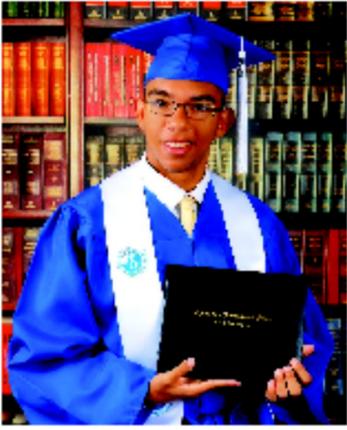
Decius claimed that the stabbing was in self-defence when he was pinned down and punched by the deceased who, he said, was the aggressor in the argument.

Co-workers of the deceased had testified to seeing Sweeting fleeing from the rear of KFC with a knife in his back, but did not know what had happened.

Decius was strongly advised to remain out of trouble. He was reminded of the possibility of the bond being revoked for sentencing at a future date if the court thought it necessary.

Terry Archer and Charlton Smith prosecuted the case while Richard Boodle was the defence attorney.

Congratulations: Samuel Joshua Jennings A Strong, Quiet-spirited & Courageous Leader.



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His results in earning the first ever maximum grade at the school in the "Standard Level" Math IB curriculum was an extra-ordinary accomplishment as it was achieved in half the normal two year course time.

In addition to his IB Diploma, Samuel passed five BGCSE's (again scoring the highest grade "A" in mathematics), with "B" passes in Physics, Combined Science and English and a "C" pass in Biology. These passes included privately tutored exam sittings and the first Lyford Cay International School sitting of the BGCSE exams.

In 2009 Samuel was nominated and accepted the scholastic merit based People to People Conference at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. In 2010, he participated in the National Student Leadership Conference in Engineering at Maryland University. Also in 2010, Samuel participated in a community assistance trip to Uganda as part of the IB program.

Besides his strength in Math's and Science, Samuel is also strong artistically having placed second in the 2010 National High School Art Competition of the Bahamas.

Samuel's outstanding academic record and extracurricular achievements resulted in him being offered four scholarships from some of the leading US College Engineering programs. However, The Ohio State University proved to be the University that best fit Samuel's interests and strengths and he will be attending the University from "Fall" 2011 to pursue a course in Engineering.

In his other interests, Samuel is pursuing his pilot's license, and has completed his first Solo Flight. He also enjoys playing basketball, writing poetry and listening to classical music and rap.

Samuel, we celebrate your achievements with you and thank God for what He is doing in your life. May God continue to bless you and keep you in perfect peace as you move on to success in the next stages of your life.

Congratulations with love and prayers from your proud parents Ian and Janet Jennings, your strong and loving brother Daniel, grandfather Herbert Miller, other relatives, Godparents Trevor Thompson, Ian Wilkinson and Faye Higgs and especially Bishop Gloria Redd.

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1 KIA Sportage to be won!

2 \$500 Texaco Fuel Vouchers

+\$50 in fuel every hour!*

Grand Prize Draw September 9, 2011 on Bahamas @ Sunrise & MORE 94.9 FM

Texaco offers you:

Great Performance Great Service

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

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INSIGHT

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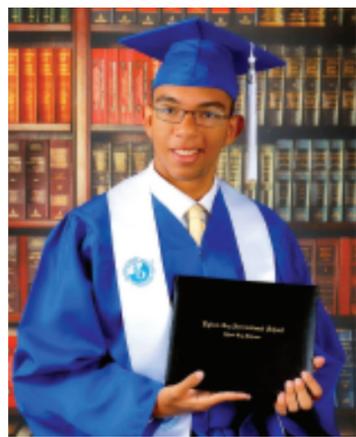
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INSIGHT

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LOCAL NEWS

ONE WEEK AFTER HURRICANE IRENE

HUNDREDS WITHOUT WATER, ELECTRICITY, PHONE SERVICES IN NORTH ELEUTHERA

By SANCHESKA BROWN

HUNDREDS of North Eleuthera residents are still without water, electricity and phone services, one week after Hurricane Irene devastated the island.

In addition to having no water with which to cook or bathe, no lights and no communication, residents have also now found themselves with no diesel.

The shortage of diesel has crippled the community and has also shut down operations at the North Eleuthera airport.

International flights at the airport have ceased as there is no more diesel to operate the generators. There is no way for the pilots to communicate with the UNICOM system to clear for landing and the lights on the runway are not functioning.

During a tour of the North Eleuthera airport Thursday, the PLP's candidate Clay Sweeting said he offered to ship the diesel to the airport from Spanish Wells, but it was refused.

"They told me they are getting the diesel from New Providence. I don't know why they would do that. It's cheaper if they get it locally. They won't have to pay shipping fees and all that but they told me no. It's more expensive and it'll take longer to get it from New Providence."

PLP Leader Perry Christie said it is a shame that the airport is not functioning because there is no diesel, especially in a place that attracts tourists.

"It's just appalling coming into an international airport like North Eleuthera Airport and learning there is no diesel and they are being held back by orders to only get diesel from New Providence as opposed to purchasing it in Spanish Wells" he said. "This is an area that has a lot of international residents who live in Harbour Island and rely on this airport."

Lack of running water is also a major problem. Water and Sewerage Manager Gregory Johnson said the corporation is doing all it can to restore water to North Eleuthera.

"Our generators have failed and our backup generators stopped working on Wednesday. They are old and they need to be replaced. There is little we can do until the power comes back on. The generators that ran the well fields aren't working so we are in the process of trying to get water from the naval base in South Eleuthera, but that too will only last for so long. So right now Harbour Island and North Eleuthera are without water."

Bahamas Electricity Corporation officials said they have restored power to most of the island.

However, most of North Eleuthera, particularly Cupids Cay and James Cistern, are still without power.

One BEC worker, who wishes to remain anonymous, said the reason it is taking so long to restore power is because there are only 12 BEC workers for the entire island.

"There is only a handful of us to do this entire island. We need help. No one has come to help us from Nassau yet. We started in the south and we are working our way down, but so many poles are destroyed it's



PLP LEADER PERRY CHRISTIE: 'It's just appalling coming into an international airport like North Eleuthera Airport and learning there is no diesel and they are being held back by orders to only get diesel from New Providence as opposed to purchasing it in Spanish Wells'

gonna take forever for us to finish. We need more hands. We just cannot do this alone."

In a press release from BEC, the company said: "In the islands where the damage was more extensive, Cat Island and Eleuthera, the Corporation has enlisted the assistance of Carilec (an association of electric utilities, suppliers, manufacturers and other stakeholders operating in the electricity industry in the Caribbean). Three teams are expected to be in the country by Sunday, September 4. Two of the teams will be deployed to Cat Island and a third team to Eleuthera where they will assist with the restoration effort."

Gregory Collie, a resident, said with all the damage in Eleuthera, he finds it appalling that the Prime Minister would say the island was not badly damaged.

"How could he say that. We have no power, no water, no communication. Most people have tarps on their roofs because of the damage. People have to replace furniture because the

water was at least six feet high."

Mr Christie and Mr Sweeting were joined by PLP Deputy Leader "Brave" Davis and party chairman Bradley Roberts. They distributed bags of ice throughout North Eleuthera to those without power.

South Eleuthera was not badly damaged.

The team heads for Cat Island, today.



BEC WORKERS fixing power lines in James Cistern yesterday. Hundreds in North Eleuthera are still without electricity after Hurricane Irene.

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Fertilizer, Fungicide,
Pest Control
Tropical Exterminators
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"If you want the best oil around, Castrol Syntec or Castrol Magnatec come in to Bay Street Garage, buy a gallon and we will give you *FREE Haagen Dazs or Lickety Split ice cream - the best ice cream around!"
Last day this Saturday!
*(1 coupon per gallon, Certain conditions apply).

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Distributed By
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Marine Navigation Courses

There is no substitute for training and at sea there is little room for error so plan to attend the **free first class** of the **Terrestrial Navigation Course** offered by **The Bahamas School of Marine Navigation** at BASRA Headquarters on East Bay Street on Monday, September 5, 2011 at 7p.m. then consider enrolling in the 2-month course. Other courses include **Seamanship** (Saturdays) and **Celestial Navigation** (TBA). Tel. 364-5987, 364-2861, 535-6234 or visit www.bsmn.biz.

DEATH NOTICE

IRA G. LOWE



Funeral service for Ira G Lowe of Plantation, Florida USA and formerly of Nassau, Bahamas will be held at Calvary Chapel of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida Saturday the 3rd of September 2011 at 11am.

He is predeceased by his son Matthew Ira Lowe. He is survived by his wife Pamala Lowe daughter Susan Winslow, son Chet Lowe numerous grandsons, granddaughters and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers donation can be sent to:- VFA-122 "Flying Eagles" Naval Air Station Chapel Lemoore, California

Galleria Cinemas
The Mall-at-Marathon
BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 10:00 AM DAILY
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2011

SHARK NIGHT 3D	NEW	1:05	3:25	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
APOLLO 18	NEW	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
COLOMBIANA	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:20	10:40
FRIGHT NIGHT	C	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
CONAN THE BARBARIAN	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:15	8:20	10:45
SPY KIDS	A	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:30
FINAL DESTINATION	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:50
THE HELP	T	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES	T	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:45
THE SMURFS	A	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:35
30 MINUTES OR LESS	C	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:55

GALLERIA 6 - JFK DRIVE
USE YOUR E-CARD TO RESERVE TICKETS AT 380-3549 OR WWW.GALLERACINEMAS.COM

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NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master

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The Bahamas has much to be thankful for

WHEN ONE thinks of hurricanes in past years, one is amazed at how far we have advanced with technology, and yet how complicated our lives have become since leaving the simple things behind.

Today we complain because we have no electricity during and after a storm. In the old days one did not expect to have electricity during a storm, and certainly not for a long time after. We couldn't switch on a light, but we could turn up the wick in the lantern, which just needed a little oil and a match to keep it burning. The washing machine could not be used to wash our clothes, but the big tub and the old washboard was still handy. As for ironing the clothes — the old goose, with its simmering hot coals and the little pin to keep top and bottom together did as good a job as any of today's electric irons. But those days and those handy gadgets are gone. We are modern, with modern gadgets that always let us down in times of crisis.

If the electricity fails, and there is no generator to kick in, we are dead in the water — as helpless as a new born babe, and as grumpy as a toothless old man.

Although we have telephones, cell phones, Internet, cable and all the other fancy little communication trinkets, if BEC fails we are out of touch. We were very aware of this dilemma on Friday when we were cut off from our office during the production of Saturday morning's Tribune. What a helpless, hopeless situation to be in. Apparently, Cable's equipment is powered by BEC and so when BEC is off, Cable is dead.

In the old days you had none of these fancy communication systems, so you expected to be out of touch. There was no panic. Today, no one expects to be shut off — wasn't modern gadgetry meant to end those inconveniences? It is the expectation of what should be, but isn't that drives one crazy.

However, at this point we would like to thank Mr Gomez, chief engineer at Cable, who we promised would have his Tribune hanging on his gate Saturday morning if somehow he could touch his Aladdin's Lamp and kick some life into our computers. Although he failed for Friday night, his team had us on by Sunday in time for Monday's Tribune — and it's been straight sailing ever since. We hope that Cable will find some way to disentangle itself from its dependence on BEC.

But really it is remarkable how far we have come. In the old days it took several days, sometimes weeks, for an island's "representor" — today's MP — to find transport to get to his constituency. And if the wireless operator had abandoned his station to go to

his field, leaving no one to crank the old Morse code machine, the "representor" was doubly out of touch, not knowing whether his constituents were dead or alive. However, when the "representor" eventually arrived, transport to take him from settlement to settlement was another problem. He had the choice of "shank's pony" — that is his own two feet — a dingy or in the case of our uncle — Eugene Dupuch, QC, on at least one occasion in Acklins — on the back of a bony old horse. We can assure you he was no horseman, so it must have been a most uncomfortable ride over rough terrain.

Today those days are light years behind us. By Saturday after Hurricane Irene had vented her fury on our island chain, Prime Minister Ingraham was in a helicopter — not the Aga Khan's this time — and off to Cat Island, the hardest hit of all the islands. By using a helicopter that can fly and land where an aircraft can't he had covered most of the stricken communities by Wednesday.

But even more remarkable is the information that he has gathered on the damage to the islands.

For this hurricane Government invited the Eagles' Wings Foundation to send two Pathfinder Task Force Type V teams to the Bahamas to do a rapid damage assessment of sewage, water, electricity, academics, transportation, medical and security, and to deliver critical goods to settlements throughout the islands. Within three hours of the all clear being given on Hurricane Irene, the team was in the Bahamas and on the job. Data was collected on the team's cell phones and geocoded on data and photos — all done without Internet, cell towers, and — as in Cat Island — with all electrical power down. A delivery of essential goods was started.

Pathfinder's invented this software, which no one else has. They used it after the catastrophic earthquakes both in Haiti and Japan. Their work is remarkable with maps and aerial photographs and detailed information on each island. It is a tremendous guide to follow when time is of the essence in relief work.

While we Bahamians complain, we only have to look across the Gulf at the chaos in the United States to realise how lucky we have been in the wake of this hurricane. As Irene worked her way up the United States' east coast she left 45 dead in 13 states, tens of billions of dollars in damage and at least two million people still without electricity. In the Bahamas, although there has been much property damage, there have been no deaths.

Really, Bahamians have much to be thankful for.

The Bahamas of tomorrow

EDITOR, The Tribune.

When you look around New Providence today, what do you see? When you think of our institutions what do they offer? What does The Bahamas look like now? Are we only sun, sand and sea or are we promise, potential, and possibilities? I think the later.

Some Bahamians look around in New Providence through impatient eyes and see mounds and mounds of dirt, debris and open trenches. They see workmen and equipment digging, placing pipes and paving the roads in many of our major thoroughfares. I, however, look not at the present state but the future; I see the infrastructural improvements in fiber optic cabling, underground utilities for water and power. I see what the roadwork will offer, what it will change and what it will impact. Thinking of underground utilities, in light of the passing of Hurricane Irene, imagine if all utilities were underground, the loss of service would have been minimal at best. There would be little to no pole damage, and little to no disruption of service; that is what I see in the future Bahamas.

When I am inconvenienced by the traffic diversions due to the road work, instead of getting enraged, I envision the more efficient flow of traffic that will result from the completed roads. Similar to what we now experience with the six legged round-about, this junction has decreased my morning and afternoon travel by at least 10 minutes due to its more efficient traffic flow.

The road improvement should bring about an improvement in the water quality throughout the island of New Providence as several aged corroded pipes will be replaced enabling the uninhibited flow of reverse osmosis water to areas that currently experience rust in their water supply.

The road project will improve the fiber optic capabilities throughout the island which will increase technological advances within The Bahamas. In the future, The Bahamas will continue with e-health by improving the health service delivery by the availability of specialist care at our fingertips. In the not too distant future, the new operating theatres at the Princess Margaret Hospital will be fitted with videoconferencing technology where Specialist Surgeons can provide assistance during actual surgery particularly bene-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

ficial when patients are unable to travel. Telemedicine will be expanded into new areas of specialty, as there is notable success in this medical advancement; Abaco, and Andros patients are seen via videoconferencing by Specialist here in Nassau.

I envision e-health continuance through the introduction of electronic medical records, where patients would no longer travel with their medical files but the file will electronically follow them to any connected clinic, private practice or hospital.

Our future has already started taking shape; we have embarked on the journey to join the rest of the world through globalization. The introduction of e-government via online applications for passports, registration for government service and the gradual move to additional online services will propel The Bahamas into this age of technology.

This translates to persons in any island of this archipelago having the means and opportunity to renew driver's licenses, apply online for government services and pay taxes like Real Property online. Similarly, to our current ability to book airline tickets, transportation and accommodation online to facilitate our travel abroad. I see online ordering of groceries for New Providence and Family Islands with the option of home delivery. Online bill payment would eventually become the norm with most banking transactions conducted online instead of travel to the banks.

I see our tourism industry positively impacted by our partnership in the globalization of the world. Our future can be littered with endless opportunities, when our valued tourists come to our shores no matter the island of their destination, they can connect to our website via smartphones to make online reservations at restaurants, to get directions for their rental cars, to contact tour and island activities and to get help in case of emergency. I see the offering of our craft, straw work and junkanoo art online with the global market at our doorstep waiting to quickly purchase the items so reminiscent of their island in the sun. How about dutyfree shopping online, a visitor can use their smartphone to purchase items that would be delivered to their airplane for their convenience.

With the Baha Mar and Atlantis anchors, we expect a bright future in the tourism market, with these bright stars leading the way. I think of a marriage between east and west with Baha Mar's Chinese influence and Atlantis tapping into the

Latin countries, we have an opportunity to not only showcase our Bahamian culture but learn the culture and languages of these new tourists to our shores. I was so impressed to see the Copa flights landing from its Latin American ports bringing many bright eyed eager Spanish speakers to The Bahamas, that I am inclined to brush up on a little Spanish, as I was always intrigued by their rich, vibrant culture and would welcome a culture fusion from this marriage of convenience.

That brings me to my next point as we look at our crystal ball into the future Bahamas, education. We must old and young alike, invest in our continued education. We have an opportunity to expand into e-learning for those that may not have done well in high school, these individuals can explore continued education to brush up on the skills that are required in the job market. Those that wish to enhance or change their career can also use e-learning either with COB's Continued Education or by various online courses and degrees offered by many institutions within the global education market. The opportunity encompasses individuals in the Family Islands to broaden their horizons through the e-learning portals and tap into educational institutions that were not traditionally available to them.

We must learn from the influences that grace our shores and infuse it with our unique flare that make our product a special one. The Bahamas has enjoyed, over the years, many cultural influences; now let's take it to the global stage. Let's offer the world our Bahamian products, not only when people travel here, but when they google "Bahamas" they are inundated with vibrant junkanoo art, with straw crafts and the memory of the sweet island life. Let's take over the internet market; we have so much to offer as a small nation. We are not an industrial nation, we are not a horticultural nation or a technological giant but we are a cultural giant. Our future showcase our culture well beyond our shores, we can take the world by storm. As the traditional employment opportunities locally become saturated we must flex and expand to the global market. I implore you, if you have an entrepreneurial idea, sit down with an internet savvy young adult and allow your mind to meld with theirs unlocking the endless world of promise, potential and possibilities.

Tune in to the second chapter of "A Bahamas Tomorrow - E-Bahamas" where we will explore new opportunities for business and employment.

DR HUBERT MINNIS, MP
Nassau,
August 30, 2011.

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LOCAL NEWS

COURT NEWS

AG'S OFFICE GIVEN TWO WEEKS TO PRODUCE VBI FOR MURDER CASE

By LAMECH JOHNSON

CHIEF Magistrate Roger Gomez gave the Attorney General's office a little more than two weeks to produce a Voluntary Bill of Indictment that was supposed to have been served in Magistrate's Court Wednesday morning.

The VBI, which directly forwards a legal case to the Supreme Court, was intended to be presented to four men charged in connection with the shooting death of a teenager last year.

Berkley Miller, 17, of Stapledon Gardens, was walking on Regent Street in Miller's Heights on May 7 last year when he was shot and killed.

Seriozha McKenzie, 31, Meritt Forbes 26, Kooban Barr, 26, and Teddy Butler, 24, were charged in connection with the murder of the teenager on August 9, one day after they were re-arrested shortly after being discharged by Magistrate Derence Rolle-Davis of Court Five, Bank Lane for the same matter.

However, when the accused men and their lawyers Jomo Campbell, Michael Kemp and Dion Smith appeared in court Wednesday morning, a representative from the Attorney General's office had not shown up.

The attorneys told Chief Magistrate Gomez that they were disappointed that a matter such as murder and conspiracy to commit murder had not been taken as seriously as the prosecution had said it would at the arraignment on August 9, when they indicated plans to proceed with a VBI, saying it would be ready on August 31.

Mr Campbell, who represents Seriozha McKenzie, said it was unfortunate that the courts are blamed in the media for the extensive backlog in cases and hinted that the real blame lay with prosecutors who did not show up when they were supposed to. "They blame the courts," he said. "We are all here today, your worship. There is

only one missing seat." However, because the circumstances of counsel's absence was not known, Chief Magistrate Gomez gave the Attorney General's representative time to appear with the bill and stood the matter down to 2pm the same day.

When counsel Sandraee Gardiner of the Attorney General's office showed up in court that afternoon, she asked that the matter be adjourned to a date in September for the VBI presentation. "That is not yet ready," she said.

Mr Campbell immediately objected to an adjournment because of the history of the case and the prosecution's handling of it.

Mr Campbell reminded Chief Magistrate Gomez that Magistrate Davis-Rolle of Court Five, after hearing the matter "for almost two calendar years" in a Preliminary Inquiry, had discharged the defendants on August 8 after medical records were not produced as ordered by the judge and after the lead investigating police officer failed to show up in court.

He felt it would be unfair for his client and the other defendants to go through another costly process because of the Attorney General's office's failure to have a VBI ready as promised. "My client should not be asked to pick up the slack for somebody else," he said.

Dion Smith, representing Teddy Butler and Kooban Barr, agreed to the objection due to "no reason" being given as to why the bill was not ready.

Chief Magistrate Gomez indicated that there would be no further adjournments if the Voluntary Bill of Indictment were not ready on September 16. This gives the Attorney General's office a little more than two weeks to prepare the bill.

McKenzie remains on \$25,000 bail while Forbes, Barr and Butler were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison.

PATHFINDERS TASK FORCE RAPID DAMAGE ASSESSMENT



THE ROOF of this church in Cat Island was torn off in Hurricane Irene.

CAT ISLAND: 14 HOMES, BUILDINGS DESTROYED BY HURRICANE IRENE

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Deputy Chief Reporter
thompson@tribunemedia.net

MORE than two hundred structures on Cat Island were affected and 14 homes and other buildings destroyed by Hurricane Irene, according to a rapid damage assessment by Pathfinders Task Force.

Pathfinders, supported by the US Eagles' Wings Foundation, has also mobilised \$130,000 worth of aid to Cat Island.

"We were able to within 18 hours get donations from US donors and accumulated over \$130,000 in relief supplies, many tonnes of meals ready to eat.

"Rice and beans, roof tarps and emergency building supplies," said Scott Lewis, incident commander, from Abaco yesterday.

The goods were to be

shipped from Nassau and to Cat Island yesterday.

After assessing 600 structures on Cat Island – the hardest hit by the tropical cyclone the group found that 277 structures were affected; 197 structures had minor damage; 112 structures had major damage and 14 homes or structures were destroyed.

The assessment team found that 443 structures on Eleuthera were affected, 40 of them had minor damage and five homes or other structures sustained major damage during the storm.

The team also assessed sewers, water, electricity, academics, transportation, medical, and security on Abaco.

The group, an American volunteer organisation, was engaged by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to help assess the

three islands after the category three storm swept over the Bahamas last week.

Rapid Damage Assessments contain information about individual structures and classify structural damage based on Type and Damage Condition.

Their reports also contain "geo-tagged" photos which provide a picture of where critical areas are and what resources are needed.

"We supply the information and let the government make its own judgment as to how best to respond.

"We provide them with critical, accurate GPS located data and that's what's important," said Mr Lewis.

"A lot of people take pictures but we take pictures with military spec cell phones, we have 400 of them that our team uses and they also attach an on-site

report that's customised – it all works with no cell towers and no Internet."

The information will be reviewed by government to determine whether the damage sustained was a result of sub-standard building codes, bad location or simply the sheer force of the storm, said Mr Lewis.

The team used the same software to help governments in Haiti, Japan and the United States after natural disasters in those countries.

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COURT NEWS

FOURTH MAN ARRAIGNED IN CONNECTION WITH POLICE CHASE AND DRUG BUST

A JAMAICAN was the last of four men arraigned in Magistrate's Court in connection with a high speed chase that resulted in police seizing more than 500 pounds of marijuana.

Jason Noble, 33, of Grant Street appeared before Magistrate Carolita Bethel yesterday.

He was charged with conspiracy to possess dangerous drugs and possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply.

Noble was remanded to prison and will return to Court 8 on September 5 for a bail hearing.

He with Trevor Cartwright, 32, of White's Subdivision, Travolt Bartlett, 29, of St James Road, and Nelson Johnson, 35, of Cordeaux Avenue and Market Street will appear in court on November 28 when their trial begins.

POLICE NEWS

HELP SOUGHT IN LOCATING SUSPECTS

POLICE are looking for thugs who shot an 18-year-old youth at a nightclub in Fox Hill.

Preliminary police reports state that the victim was at the Ju Ju Tree Club on Johnson Road at 9.45 pm when he was approached by the occupants of a silver Honda Inspire.

The culprits then opened fire on the victim, police were told.

The victim was taken to hospital by EMS where at last report he is in stable condition.

Police have appealed to the public to come forward with

information on this shooting.

JUVENILE ARRESTED FOR AMMUNITION

A 17-year-old juvenile male was taken into custody after he was allegedly found in possession of a quantity of ammunition.

Police reports indicate that the teenager was arrested at 8 pm Wednesday. According to police reports, officers of the Central Detective were on routine patrol on Quakoo Street when they searched the teenager and recovered the ammunition. Active police investigations continue.

CAPE ELEUTHERA ISLAND SCHOOL HOSTS REUNION BEACH CLEANUP IN NASSAU

THE Cape Eleuthera Island School hosted a clean up at Jaws Beach to raise awareness of environmental conservation.

Alumni of the Bahamas Environmental Stewards Scholarship (BESS) programme and the Deep Creek Middle School (DCMS) took part in the clean up, held in an effort to build bridges between Eleuthera and Nassau while promoting environmental awareness.

Both groups work collaboratively with the Island School and Cape Eleuthera Institute.

"It's exciting that we can hold events like this in Nassau," explained Kalin Griffin who organized the event for the Cape Eleuthera Island School. "It really gives our alumni the opportunity to connect and share ideas with like-minded individuals and share our message of conservation here in Nassau."

Supporters on hand to help with the cleanup and meet with alumni included members from the East Nassau Rotaract Club; Eric Carey, executive director of Bahamas National Trust; and Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, executive director of the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF).

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LOCAL NEWS

BAHAMIAN AND CARIBBEAN AGENCIES ASSESS HURRICANE DAMAGE

NEMA MEETS WITH CDEMA RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) representatives met late Wednesday evening with leading members of a Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency risk assessment team, who are in Cat Island, in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Irene throughout the Bahamas.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency team (CDEMA) went to Cat Island on Thursday "to continue to supply their technical expertise and linking with other agencies on the island — such as the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, the Water and Sewerage Corporation, BTC Bahamas and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force," NEMA's Operations Manager Mrs. Gayle Outten-Moncur said.

"They will also speak with the Island Administrator, who will bring them 'up to speed' on what is happening on the island at that time."

Mrs Outten-Moncur said the Bahamas is a participating member-state of CDEMA and the team's expertise is welcomed.

"It was on our invite that CDEMA was able to come," she said. "This is actually a part of the working mechanism, when you look at response in the disaster plan, not only in NEMA, but regionally."

Technical Manager for CDEMA's Preparedness and Country Support, Ms. Andrea Grosvenor said that CDEMA is the agency established by Caricom to oversee disaster management in the region. Across the 18-member states in the region, CDEMA implements management strategy that looks at all phases of disaster management and all hazards, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and all the peoples of the region who can be affected by a disaster or can assist in responding to it.

"For a number of islands in the regions, it is very important to be involved in a system like CDEMA because we face so many similar hazards in the Caribbean region and it allows us to be able to undertake similar approaches to how we can handle them," Ms. Grosvenor said.

"It sets up a broad framework that we can work from, it allows us to mobilise resources that can support a number of countries, it allows us to

have standards that we can all have to deliver our programming," she added.

"At a national standpoint, we have co-ordinating agencies that work together, bringing their expertise and technical skills, enabling assistance and help to others, as it relates to emergencies in the various technical areas," Mrs. Outten-Moncur said.

Ms Grosvenor said that a juncture like this, where The Bahamas has been affected by a storm that caused losses, the CDEMA mechanism becomes important because, as a part of that process, there is a regional response mechanism.

"The regional response mechanism really involves a number of actors (participants) and a number of procedures and plans and arrangements that really facilitate mutual assistance to a country that has been affected," she said. "It involves, also, external inputs that support it being delivered."

For example, Ms Grosvenor explained, when Hurricane Irene affected The Bahamas, CDEMA would have been monitoring the system, had constant contact with NEMA, and would have been preparing reports and information to be shared with a variety of partners. Then when The Bahamas was able to indicate areas of need, she added, CDEMA was able to identify and work with a number of partners in delivering on those needs.

"For instance, we were able to do the aerial reconnaissance over Acklins Island, Long Island and Cat Island, earlier this week," she said. "We were also able to — based on the needs that were specifically identified — send in on Saturday (August 27) a shipment of relief supplies into Mayaguana and Acklins Island, islands that were significantly affected."

"Now we are working to support the government of The Bahamas and NEMA in conducting a Rapid Needs Assessment in Cat Island, a significantly affected island in The Bahamas."

Ms Grosvenor said that the Rapid Needs Assessment is important because it gives a picture of what are the critical impacts and the critical needs, emerging from those



ERIC ROSE/IBIS PHOTO

PLANNING: Operations Manager at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mrs. Gayle Outten-Moncur (centre), works with Technical Manager for Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's (CDEMA) Preparedness and Country Support Ms. Andrea Grosvenor (left) and Senior Programme Officer Sarah Lionel late Wednesday evening. CDEMA was in The Bahamas assisting with Hurricane Irene response efforts.

impacts in 72 hours.

"We know that the Government of The Bahamas already has a number of people on the ground and we will also be working with them to see how we can ensure that we are also strengthening what they are doing, so that, at the end of this process, you will not only have the Rapid Needs Assessment, but you also have a detailed assessment of what the Government of The Bahamas is doing," Ms. Grosvenor said.

"That gives a good picture of how really and truly we ought to address the response and recovery efforts," she added. "That is done basically through the support of our member states."

Ms Grosvenor said that among those on the team doing the Assessment are representatives from the University of the West Indies, both the Barbados and Jamaican Coastal

Zone Units, the Pan American Health Organisation and the Jamaica Defence Force and Spatial Data Management Division.

"These are all Caribbean people coming together to help our neighbour at this time, who has been impacted by an emergency event," she said.

Ms Grosvenor said that NEMA is an intrinsic part of the CDEMA system, with an ongoing programme of partnership and response.

"For instance, when Hurricane Keith hit Belize in 2000, the Government of The Bahamas, through the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, sent a team of engineers to Belize to help build homes," she said. "That is the type of assistance that has been provided and there are several other examples."

She added that they are also working on an overall programme with NEMA, providing assistance to The

Bahamas outside of the realm of disaster response.

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"So, it is not only about the response," Ms. Grosvenor said. "We do not only come in after things happen; but it is a general programme throughout the year that we also offer."

"With all this in mind, CDEMA will continue to link with us, to ensure that all of the agencies are on the same page, as we move forward in the assessments for Cat Island, Acklins and other heavily-impacted islands," Mrs. Outten-Moncur said.



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LOCAL NEWS

BAHAMIAN AND CARIBBEAN AGENCIES ASSESS HURRICANE DAMAGE

NEMA MEETS WITH CDEMA RISK ASSESSMENT TEAM

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) representatives met late Wednesday evening with leading members of a Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency risk assessment team, who are in Cat Island, in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Irene throughout the Bahamas.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency team (CDEMA) went to Cat Island on Thursday "to continue to supply their technical expertise and linking with other agencies on the island - such as the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, the Water and Sewerage Corporation, BTC Bahamas and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force," NEMA's Operations Manager Mrs. Gayle Outten-Moncur said.

"They will also speak with the Island Administrator, who will bring them 'up to speed' on what is happening on the island at that time."

Mrs Outten-Moncur said the Bahamas is a participating member-state of CDEMA and the team's expertise is welcomed.

"It was on our invite that CDEMA was able to come," she said. "This is actually a part of the working mechanism, when you look at response in the disaster plan, not only in NEMA, but regionally."

Technical Manager for CDEMA's Preparedness and Country Support, Ms. Andrea Grosvenor said that CDEMA is the agency established by Caricom to oversee disaster management in the region. Across the 18-member states in the region, CDEMA implements management strategy that looks at all phases of disaster management and all hazards, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and all the peoples of the region who can be affected by a disaster or can assist in responding to it.

"For a number of islands in the regions, it is very important to be involved in a system like CDEMA because we face so many similar hazards in the Caribbean region and it allows us to be able to undertake similar approaches to how we can handle them," Ms. Grosvenor said.

"It sets up a broad framework that we can work from, it allows us to mobilise resources that can support a number of countries, it allows us to

have standards that we can all have to deliver our programming," she added.

"At a national standpoint, we have co-ordinating agencies that work together, bringing their expertise and technical skills, enabling assistance and help to others, as it relates to emergencies in the various technical areas," Mrs. Outten-Moncur said.

Ms Grosvenor said that a juncture like this, where The Bahamas has been affected by a storm that caused losses, the CDEMA mechanism becomes important because, as a part of that process, there is a regional response mechanism.

"The regional response mechanism really involves a number of actors (participants) and a number of procedures and plans and arrangements that really facilitate mutual assistance to a country that has been affected," she said. "It involves, also, external inputs that support it being delivered."

For example, Ms Grosvenor explained, when Hurricane Irene affected The Bahamas, CDEMA would have been monitoring the system, had constant contact with NEMA, and would have been preparing reports and information to be shared with a variety of partners. Then when The Bahamas was able to indicate areas of need, she added, CDEMA was able to identify and work with a number of partners in delivering on those needs.

"For instance, we were able to do the aerial reconnaissance over Acklins Island, Long Island and Cat Island, earlier this week," she said. "We were also able to - based on the needs that were specifically identified - send in on Saturday (August 27) a shipment of relief supplies into Mayaguana and Acklins Island, islands that were significantly affected."

"Now we are working to support the government of The Bahamas and NEMA in conducting a Rapid Needs Assessment in Cat Island, a significantly affected island in The Bahamas."

Ms Grosvenor said that the Rapid Needs Assessment is important because it gives a picture of what are the critical impacts and the critical needs, emerging from those



ERIC ROSE/BIS Photo

PLANNING: Operations Manager at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mrs. Gayle Outten-Moncur (centre), works with Technical Manager for Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency's (CDEMA) Preparedness and Country Support Ms. Andrea Grosvenor (left) and Senior Programme Officer Sarah Lionel late Wednesday evening. CDEMA was in The Bahamas assisting with Hurricane Irene response efforts.

impacts in 72 hours.

"We know that the Government of The Bahamas already has a number of people on the ground and we will also be working with them to see how we can ensure that we are also strengthening what they are doing, so that, at the end of this process, you will not only have the Rapid Needs Assessment, but you also have a detailed assessment of what the Government of The Bahamas is doing," Ms. Grosvenor said.

"That gives a good picture of how really and truly we ought to address the response and recovery efforts," she added. "That is done basically through the support of our member states."

Ms Grosvenor said that among those on the team doing the Assessment are representatives from the University of the West Indies, both the Barbados and Jamaican Coastal

Zone Units, the Pan American Health Organisation and the Jamaica Defence Force and Spatial Data Management Division.

"These are all Caribbean people coming together to help our neighbour at this time, who has been impacted by an emergency event," she said.

Ms Grosvenor said that NEMA is an intrinsic part of the CDEMA system, with an ongoing programme of partnership and response.

"For instance, when Hurricane Keith hit Belize in 2000, the Government of The Bahamas, through the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, sent a team of engineers to Belize to help build homes," she said. "That is the type of assistance that has been provided and there are several other examples."

She added that they are also working on an overall programme with NEMA, providing assistance to The

Bahamas outside of the realm of disaster response.

For instance, they are working on a project that is funded by the European Union, in the Eleuthera communities such as Spanish Wells, The Bluff, The Current and Lower Bogue. Also there are other programmes funded by the Canadian government on preparedness and mitigation.

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Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

PREVENTION: Ruth Jankee, project director for World Learning, speaks about HIV/AIDS prevention at the Cancer society.



THE GROUP'S plans were presented at a workshop yesterday.

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By JASMINE LOPEZ

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WLO has invited local NGOs to submit concept papers on HIV prevention targeted towards person in the most "at-risk" demographics.

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The HIV/AIDS Grant Solicitation and Management Programme (GSM) said that US Agency for International Development has requested these prevention projects and is using GSM to award grants to groups who meet the project requirements.

An organization may submit only one concept paper, to be submitted by September 19th.

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He also stated that a decision by successive governments of the Bahamas to "direct significant resources" towards the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS has resulted in a "dramatic fall" in the number of AIDS-related deaths in the Bahamas to an all-time low of 59 at the close of 2010.



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Felipe Major/Tribune staff

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

80-STORY GLASS AND STEEL TOWER

FINALLY, THE WORLD TRADE CENTER RISES FROM GROUND ZERO

NEW YORK
Associated Press

TEN YEARS after the 9/11 attacks destroyed the World Trade Center, an 80-story glass and steel tower is rising like a phoenix from the ashes of ground zero.

The site called a "hole in the ground" for years has cranes in the air, trains running underground and hundreds of trees planted around giant, man-made waterfalls to remember the dead of Sept. 11.

And the surrounding neighborhood — no longer just a financial district — is bursting with young families, new schools, a Whole Foods and a Barnes & Noble.

Tourists squint and point their cellphones at 1 World Trade Center, once known as the Freedom Tower.

"I'm kind of proud because I was here two weeks after 9/11 and this was a dust pit," said Larry Brancato, 59, of Wallingford, Conn., walking by ground zero. "It just shows that Americans have always had a can-do attitude."

After years of inertia, and prolonged disputes between government agencies, insurer and a developer who had just taken out a 99-year lease on the towers when they were toppled, the development of the trade center is substantial, and the tallest tower can now be seen from miles.

"People can begin to see that this is no longer a hole in the middle of New York, but a real place is emerging," said architect Daniel Libeskind, whose master plan serves as a blueprint for the site.

A memorial featuring waterfalls cascading into the footprints of the twin towers will open to the public on Sept. 12, a day after families see their loved ones' names around the pools for the first time. The skyscraper formerly known as the Freedom Tower is growing by a story a week and now stands 1,000 feet above the skyline as the tallest building in lower Manhattan. A transit station and a second office tower

also are taking shape.

As the trade center lay in smoking ruins in 2001, New Yorkers debated the future of the 16-acre superblock that the twin towers had dominated. Some wanted to rebuild the two 110-story skyscrapers exactly as they had been. Others said that out of respect for the nearly 3,000 dead, the entire tract should be a memorial or a park.

Larry Silverstein, the developer who signed a lease on the twin towers on July 24, 2001, pushed to rebuild the 10 million square feet of office space he had lost. Civic groups pushed for a more neighborhood-friendly design than two monoliths on a concrete plaza.

Competition

Libeskind, who won a competition to become the site's master planner, focused on the Freedom Tower, with an asymmetrical spire soared to the symbolic height of 1,776 feet and echoed the Statue of Liberty across the harbor. He set aside half the site for a memorial that left empty the spots where the destroyed towers stood, and set space for a performing arts center to add culture to the commerce and to the

Tensions were inevitable between Libeskind's artistic vision and Silverstein's desire for buildings that would draw tenants.

Now, Libeskind said, "the tensions are gone."

1 World Trade hardly resembles Libeskind's early drawings, but he called it "an impressive building."

Designed by David Childs, its tapering form is symmetrical but retains the spire and the 1,776 feet. To guard against truck bombs, the bottom 20 floors will be windowless, reinforced concrete covered by glass. The base will house infrastructure like generators and air-conditioning systems.

Critics warned that 1 World Trade would be hard to fill. Who would work in a symbol-



IN THIS JULY AERIAL FILE PHOTO, construction continues at the World Trade Center in New York. One World Trade Center, left, rises above the lower Manhattan skyline followed by Four World Trade Center, lower right, with the square outlines of the almost-completed September 11 Memorial at lower center. (AP)

ically loaded building at a location that terrorists had attacked twice? Former Gov. Eliot Spitzer once called the Freedom Tower a white elephant.

It's looking less like that now that Conde Nast has signed a lease to move its trendsetting magazines like Vogue, Glamour and Vanity Fair to 1 World Trade when the building opens in 2014.

Christopher Ward, the executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the trade center site, called the Conde Nast agreement "a phenomenal game changer."

"The Conde Nast deal has really jump-started interest downtown," Ward said.

Under a deal between Silverstein and the Port Authority, the authority is building 1 World Trade Center on the northwest corner of the site; Silverstein wants to build three office towers on the east side of the 16 acres. The first of Silverstein's buildings, known as 4 World Trade, was up to 48 floors this week. Silverstein says the 947-foot tower designed by Japan's Fumihiko Maki will be finished before the taller 1 World Trade, catty-cornered across the site.

The Port Authority, which lost its headquarters and 85 employees on Sept. 11, will move into the second tower rising at the site when it is com-

plete. Silverstein says other "household name" tenants will follow.

With the economy nosediving and Silverstein and the Port Authority battling over who should finance two unbuilt towers — designed by architects Richard Rogers and Lord Norman Foster — the future of those buildings looked doubtful a couple of years ago.

Market

An analysis prepared for the Port Authority in 2009 projected that there might be no market for a third tower at the site until 2030, much less the original five planned.

Silverstein and the authority agreed to a deal last year that will let Silverstein build his second skyscraper when he raises \$300 million of private equity, leases out at least 400,000 square feet and obtains financing for the remaining cost of the tower. The third building under his control — the sec-

ond-tallest in the master plan — will be built when the market supports it.

Silverstein, who is 80, wants to see all of the buildings completed in his lifetime — and he says he will. He said he could get another tower up in 2015. "And if it all works out well," he says, the last one could be up a year later.

Ward was slightly less optimistic, predicting that Silverstein's towers might be completed by 2017 or 2018.

Steven Spinola, president of the Real Estate Board of New York, said that despite the still-sputtering economy, there will be a demand for a new trade center.

The average age of New York City's 500 million square feet of office space is nearly 70. "Companies want fresh, new space," Spinola said. And tax incentives intended to spur redevelopment after 2001 make the trade center cheaper than other Manhattan buildings.

Tax breaks also fueled residential growth, and the population of downtown Manhattan below Chambers Street — the area that encompasses the trade center — has doubled since 2001.

Leasing

Tara Stacom, a vice chairman of real estate firm Cushman & Wakefield who is in charge of leasing 1 World Trade, said the building's proximity to attractive residential neighborhoods is a selling point.

Other trade center projects include Michael Arad's memorial, the museum scheduled to open next year and Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's transportation hub, designed to look like a bird in flight.

The hub will eventually include restaurants and stores, restoring one of the largest shopping centers that used to sit at the base of the trade center.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GADHAFI, IN HIDING, VOWS NO SURRENDER



LIBYAN RESIDENTS of Jamal Goubtan district in Tripoli hold a giant former Libyan flag for the cars driving under in the streets of Tripoli, Libya, Thursday. (AP)

SHOW OF DEFIANCE HOURS AFTER REBELS' DEADLINE EXTENSION

TRIPOLI, Libya
Associated Press

IN A fiery broadcast from hiding, Moammar Gadhafi warned Thursday that loyalist tribes in his main strongholds were armed and preparing for battle, a show of defiance hours after rebels extended a deadline for the surrender of the fugitive leader's hometown.

The rebels, who have been moving troops toward remaining Gadhafi bastions across Libya, had shifted the deadline for the town of Sirte in hopes of avoiding the bloodshed that met their attack on Tripoli.

"We want to save our fighters and not lose a single one in battles with Gadhafi's forces," said Mohammed al-Rajali, a spokesman for the rebel leadership in the eastern city of Benghazi. "In the end, we will get Sirte, even if we have to cut water and electricity" and let NATO pound it with airstrikes.

World leaders meeting in Paris on Libya's future after Gadhafi said the NATO military operations would continue as long as needed.

The rebels say the advance on Sirte is going well, and that their forces have already captured one nearby city. They also say they are closing in on Gadhafi, who came to power 42 years ago Thursday in a military coup that toppled King Idris.

The rebels have been hunting for Gadhafi since he was forced into hiding after they swept into Tripoli on Aug. 20 and gained control of most of the capital after days of fierce fighting.

"We won't surrender again; we are not women. We will keep fighting," Gadhafi said in a blustery tone in the audio statement, broadcast by Syrian-based Al-Rai TV. His voice was recognizable, and Al-Rai has previously broadcast statements by Gadhafi and his sons.

Gadhafi said the tribes in Sirte and Bani Walid are armed and "there is no way they will submit." He called for continued resistance, warning "the battle will be long and let Libya burn."

In a second late-night audio also broadcast on the Syrian channel, Gadhafi spoke in more measured tones and called for a long insurgency.

"We will fight them everywhere," he said. "We will burn the ground under their feet."

He said NATO was trying to occupy Libya and steal its oil.

"Get ready to fight the occupation. ... Get ready for a long war, imposed on us,"



LIBYAN BOY holding a former Libyan flag walks by a wall of paintings at Jamal Goubtan district in Tripoli, Libya, Thursday. (AP)

Gadhafi added. "Get ready for the guerrilla war."

He called Sirte "the capital of the resistance."

The rebels, who have effectively ended Gadhafi's rule, dismiss his threats as empty rhetoric.

The rebels believe he may be in one of their three key targets. The fighters, backed by NATO airstrikes, have been pushing recently toward Sirte as well as Bani Walid, 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, and the southern city of Sabha.

All three were given a Saturday deadline to surrender. While the deadline extension was officially only for Sirte, rebels said it would also apply to Bani Walid and Sabha.

Soldiers

Pro-Gadhafi forces control most of Sabha and large numbers of soldiers — including mercenaries from other African countries — are camped on its outskirts, said Abdul Awidat, a Sabha resident currently in Tripoli.

Awidat told The Associated Press that he has spoken by satellite phone with people in the southern area in the past two days who said pro-Gadhafi forces have taken up positions in buildings and are recruiting young men as fighters and handing out weapons.

"There is no information that Gadhafi or any of his senior leadership are in Sabha," he added.

Some anti-government protesters have taken over a small part of the town of Gorda, and there has been fighting in the area with several people killed, Awidat said.

He said there is no electricity, running water or regular telephone service, and medicine is running out.

In a boost to the rebel cause, the last prime minister under Gadhafi said he now supports the opposition.

Al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi told Al-Arabiya television that had had been in contact with the rebels "and we notified them that we are with the people and we are ready to serve our country in the future."

Meanwhile, Ahmed Said, an adviser to the interior minister in the rebels' interim government, said Gadhafi's foreign minister had been captured.

He did not identify him by name, but "can confirm that he is in custody." A week ago, Foreign Minister Abdul Ati al-Obeidi told British broadcaster Channel 4 that Gadhafi's rule was over.

Algeria, which gave refuge to Gadhafi's wife and three of his children this week, has indicated it will not do the same for the longtime dictator.

The Algerian newspaper El Watan reported Gadhafi had also sought sanctuary in Algeria, but the president refused to take his phone calls.

Asked Thursday if Gadhafi could be given asylum, Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci said: "I don't believe so."

In Paris, world leaders and top-level diplomats from 60 nations lined up behind the new government and focused on unfreezing billions in Libyan funds held abroad.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said NATO

will continue operations for as long as necessary to protect civilians in the North African country. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the Security Council to decide quickly on deploying a civilian mission to stabilize Libya.

"We cannot afford a failed pariah state on Europe's borders," Cameron said. "We will all lose if the Arab Spring gives way to a cynical winter of repression."

Security

Rebel leader Mustafa Abdel Jalil said Libya's new government must ensure "that we fulfill our side of the deal — we must have security in Libya, tolerance and forgiveness must be promoted, the state of law must be respected."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she was encouraged by the response she got in her meetings with Libyan opposition leaders.

"They still have a huge hill to climb," she said. "But they are working with the international community to secure both chemical weapons stockpiles as well as conventional weapons. They are taking action against extremism wherever they find it."

Russia, which had criticized the NATO operation, recognized the rebels as Libya's interim leadership hours before the talks began.

The European Union is lifting its sanctions on Libyan ports, banks and energy firms to provide resources to the interim government to help kick-start its economy, officials said.



LIBYA'S MOAMMAR GADHAFI in Sabha, Libya March, 2007. (AP)

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In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Cancer Society of the Bahamas East Terrace Centreville, P.O. Box SS- 6539, Nassau Bahamas.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Butler's Funeral Homes & Crematorium, Ernest and York Streets.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US MARKS THE FIRST MONTH IN IRAQ WITH NO TROOP DEATHS



U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS from D Co., 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, confer during a patrol outside Contingency Operating Site Taji, north of Baghdad, Iraq. August marks the first month since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that no American forces have died. (AP)

BAGHDAD Associated Press

AUGUST MARKED the first month since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that no American forces have died, according to an Associated Press tally.

Figures compiled by the AP show that no American forces died in Iraq in August either in combat or non-combat related situations, a significant achievement in a conflict that has claimed the lives of 4,474 American service members since it began.

All American forces are supposed to leave Iraq by December of this year, but U.S. and Iraqi officials have been discussing whether to have a long-term American military presence in the country.

There have been previous months during which there were no combat related deaths, but during which some people died in non-combat related situations.

The numbers come on top of what had been a jump in U.S. troop deaths for the first part of this year. In June, 15 U.S. troops died in one of the biggest losses of life for American forces in Iraq in years.

All but one of those deaths were combat related, and most came in southern Iraq, indicating the increased activity of Shiite militias in launching attacks against American forces.

Bases across southern Iraq have seen a deadly jump in rocket and mortar attacks, including the use of IRAMs, or improvised rocket assisted mortars, which are deadly short-range munitions

that can be launched from the back of a truck. American forces traveling on roads around the country have encountered an increased number of armor-piercing explosives known as EFPs, or explosively formed penetrators.

Shiite militias operating throughout southern Iraq and the Baghdad area are trying to portray themselves as driving out the Americans from the country and keeping them from trying to negotiate a long-term American troop presence here.

This summer, American and Iraqi forces operating in southern Iraq have been increasing operations against Shiite militias in an attempt to disrupt weapons smuggling from Iran, which could account for some of the drop in U.S. troop deaths.

In Maysan province, the Iraqi government has also replaced the Iraqi army and Iraqi police commanders. U.S. military officials in the province have praised both the new Iraqi army general and police commander as being more aggressive about trying to disrupt the weapons smuggling.

Maysan province borders Iran and the marshlands that straddle the border are often used by weapons smugglers who cross into Iraq from Iran and then fan out across the country.

While U.S. troop deaths have dropped, Iraq still remains a dangerous place.

Earlier this week 29 people were killed when a suicide bomber disguised as a beggar walked into a Sunni mosque in western Baghdad and blew himself up.

AFGHANS ANXIOUS ABOUT EXIT OF FOREIGN TROOPS

KABUL, Afghanistan Associated Press

IT'S BEEN a tough summer in Afghanistan: Foreign troops started leaving. The Afghan president's half brother was assassinated. Suicide bombers keep killing government officials. The Taliban shot down a helicopter, killing 30 Americans. Civilian casualties are up and many Afghans fear their nation will plunge into civil war once the foreign forces go home.

Every chance they get, U.S. officials try to reassure the Afghan people that America is not abandoning Afghanistan. "There will be no rush for the exits," America's new ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker, said when he arrived in Kabul just weeks ago.

Yet President Barack Obama's decision to pull out 10,000 troops before December and another 23,000 next year has stoked fear among Afghans convinced that the international community's commitment is coming to a close. Afghans don't share the U.S.-led coalition's confidence that Afghan police and soldiers are ready to secure the nation by 2014, and others worry the Afghan economy will collapse if foreign troops go home and donors get stingy with aid.

Those fears exist despite widespread public fatigue with the war and with the thousands of international troops forces, whose presence offends the Afghans' sense of pride and nationalism.

"Even people who have senior positions in the government or own large businesses in Afghanistan are either leaving the country or transferring assets abroad," said Ahmad Khalid Majidyar, a researcher at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington who instructs U.S. military officers about terrorism and Afghan culture and politics.

It didn't help that Obama's troop withdrawal announcement came just as warmer weather was triggering a spike in fighting between the Taliban and coalition and Afghan forces, he said. The details of Obama's pullout plan also were released just as Afghan security forces started taking responsibility for security in seven areas — the beginning of the transition that is making the Afghan public so uneasy.

Syed Salahuddin Agha, a 64-year-old former teacher in Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, said the foreign forces never should have interfered in Afghanistan.

"All the people who wanted them here will now be in grave danger from the Taliban because the Taliban have grown stronger than ever. Now, we will all have to face the aftermath," he said. "Mostly, people feel betrayed and used by the foreigners."

Many Afghans don't believe their nation's forces are ready to take the lead. Others worry that once foreign combat troops leave or move into support roles by the end of 2014, civil war will erupt and the Afghan army and police forces will splinter along ethnic lines.

"There are lots of disputes among the people and all those disputes will rise up and everybody will take revenge and kill each other. Basically a civil war will start," said Hayatullah Tawhid, a 38-year-old shopkeeper in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

"We are not happy with American forces in our country," he added. "But we don't know what will happen when they leave." History, they worry here, could be about to repeat itself.

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LANDSCAPE GROUP WINS \$2.2-\$2.3M BAHAMAR AWARD

* Comes after Florida-based preferred bidder 'withdrew'

* Winners now have 'tiger by the tail', having only 50% of original time to complete

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE Bahamas Landscape Association's (BLA) co-chair yesterday said it was "wonderful" that the Government seemed to be recognising its certification accomplishments, after his company and others won a \$2.2-\$2.3 million contract from Baha Mar when a Florida-headquartered bidder withdrew.

The \$2.6 billion Cable Beach developer had initially awarded the landscaping contract for the re-routed West Bay Street, and the road running south from the project site, to Austin Outdoor, a move that prompted an outcry from the BLA, which described it as a "slap in the face" to its bid to raise Bahamian industry standards.

However, Robert Sands, Baha Mar's senior vice-president of external and government affairs, confirmed to Tribune Business that Austin Outdoor had "withdrawn" from the bid, having initially won the contract.

"We had a number of companies that bid it, and the winner of the award withdrew," Mr Sands said. "Baha Mar awarded the contract to the second best bidder, which was a group of Bahamian landscape companies under the umbrella of Caribbean Landscape."

"That took place a few weeks ago. They have, in fact, begun work maybe three weeks ago."

Robert Myers, the BLA's co-chair and head of Caribbean Landscape, confirmed to Tribune Business that his company and their associated group had been awarded the contract "after a long delay".

He added that the contract was now "very challenging", as they had to complete work originally scheduled to last four months in just two, following the time lost in Baha Mar's negotiations with Austin Outdoor. The completion deadline had not been changed.

"We've got a tiger by the tail," Mr Myers said. "Because of the negotiations with Austin Outdoor, going back and forth, we've lost eight weeks, so we're trying to do the same amount of work in two months that was four months, so it's challenging to say the least."

He added that Caribbean Landscape bid the contract with four other BLA members initially, and "one or two" were working with it

SEE page 5B

SEVEN OIL MAJORS EYE BAHAMAS DATA

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

SEVEN "major international oil companies" are assessing seismic data compiled by a Bahamas-based oil exploration company ahead of potential joint venture negotiations, the latter yesterday saying it had invested \$35 million in a more detailed 3D survey of Bahamian waters.

Dr Paul Guwca, the Bahamas Petroleum Company's chief operating officer, told Tribune Business that the 3D survey - which will complete its data acquisition by the end of this month - would take its total investment in oil and gas exploration under Bahamian waters to \$50 million over a six-seven year period.

Declining to name any of the oil majors that had either started

* \$35m of Bahamas Petroleum's \$50m spend to date going on 3D seismic survey

* Aiming to negotiate JV partnership with oil major by year-end

* Gov't to get 25% of any oil revenue coming from Bahamas

exploring, or expressed an interest in, the data the Bahamas Petroleum Company has gathered on potential hydrocarbon deposits under this nation's territorial waters, Dr Guwca said: "We have identified major structures that we think have potential that could be significant."

"We have opened our data room to select international major oil com-

panies with a previous track record in operating offshore. We've not just identified anyone to come in; we've used what I call a 'rifle shot' approach to find those highly regarded."

"There've been seven who've either been in or expressed an interest," Dr Guwca said Bahamas Petroleum Company "expects to begin" negotiations with a potential pre-

ferred partner over an exploration joint venture in Bahamian waters in the 2011 fourth quarter.

"We hope to have that [the negotiations] completed by the end of this year. That would give them and us a year to begin to plan the well in detail," he added, explaining that the partnership would involve drilling test wells in the areas where Bahamas Petroleum Company holds licences.

"We would expect that company to be the actual operator of the well," Dr Guwca said, adding that Bahamas Petroleum Company was prepared to partner with two companies on the venture if they wanted to better spread the risk.

Exploratory oil drilling in Bahamian waters is currently on hold until the Government puts in place a sat-

SEE page 5B

SCRAP METAL DEALERS LOSE 'THOUSANDS'

* Lay-offs order of day due to export ban

* Gov't aims to have regulations ready for Parliament re-opening

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter
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SCRAP metal operators yesterday said they had lost thousands of dollars due to the Government's temporary ban on all exports, which has brought their operations to a standstill.

Sheno Ferguson, proprietor of Trinity Development and Trading Solutions, said the 90-day ban imposed on the industry has killed his business.

"It's kind of hard on everybody. No one is in a position to do anything at this time. I still have people bringing me stuff but I can't purchase it," Mr Ferguson told Tribune Business.

"A lot of guys are crying that their children have to go back to school, their kids need clothes. I can't take the little I have and purchase anything because I don't know when I can make a turnaround."

"This really has people hurting. I just have to sit it out and wait. I'm not doing anything now. This has cost me thousands and thousands of dollars. It's a great loss for everyone in the scrap metal trade. The Government should consider some type of compensation for people's losses."

Prevalis, an operator at Strachan's Auto Repair, which collects derelict vehicles, told Tribune Business the company has had to lay-off its employees due to the ban.

"We shut down temporarily," he said. "We're just waiting for the Government to lift the ban. All the persons we had, we had to lay them off. People are still bring cars to us because we have the space for them. Business has totally shut down for us."

Minister of the Environment, Earl Deveaux, said draft regulations to regulate the scrap metal industry should be ready to be tabled when Parliament reopens this fall.

Mr Deveaux told Tribune Business: "We provided a summary of the meeting we had with the dealers and made some recommendations to the Government, the offshoot of which is that the regulations to regulate the industry will be prepared and, hopefully, be ready for

SEE page 4B

EXTEND FREEPORT TAX BENEFITS UNTIL 2054, GOV'T URGED



FRED SMITH QC

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE GOVERNMENT was yesterday urged to extend Freeport's key tax exemptions from 2015 through to the Hawksbill Creek Agreement's expiry in 2054, a leading attorney arguing that the city still generated "hundreds of millions of dollars" in tax revenues and profit for the public sector.

Fred Smith QC, the Cal-

* Leading attorney says Nassau earns 'hundreds of millions in profit' from second city

* Business licence/real property tax extension a shot 'in economic arm' if granted

enders & Co attorney and partner, told Tribune Business the Government would give Freeport a much-needed "psychological injection into the economic arm" if it were to extend the city's real property tax and Business Licence fee exemp-

tions beyond their current 2015 expiry date.

Speaking after Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham again raised the question this week over whether those exemptions should be

SEE page 4B

PRIVATE SECTOR 'VERY CONCERNED' ON TAXES

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman yesterday said he was "very concerned" that new or increased taxes could be imposed on the private sector, after an international credit ratings agency said it would be impossible for this nation to "grow its way" out of its national debt woes.

Responding to Moody's downgrade of the Bahamas' economic outlook from 'stable' to 'negative', and the Wall

* Chamber chief fears burden after Moody's report will be placed on business community

* Says report pushing Bahamas to look at tax structure, as revenues not enough to pay debt

* Anemic 6% growth over last decade

Street ratings agency's assertion of this nation's low growth prospects, Winston Rolle said its report was "bringing home" the need to reform the tax system.

"It seems as if this is bringing home why we need to reform the tax structure, because the Government cannot

raise sufficient revenues to pay its debts," Mr Rolle told Tribune Business.

"They [Moody's] don't anticipate the economy growing much faster, and based on the increase in government

SEE page 4B



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BUSINESS

BAHAMIANS 'DON'T HAVE SAME WORK ETHIC OF 10 YEARS AGO'

Hotel owner says power costs and labour inefficiency major barriers to success

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

HIGH operating costs and finding quality staff are among the major challenges facing small Bahamas-based resort operators, the Corner Hotel's owner and managing director saying Bahamians "don't have the same work ethic" they did a decade ago.

Nina Maynard, who was a speaker at the first regional seminar on tourism small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Caribbean, told Tribune Business yesterday: "One of the biggest challenges we have here facing SMEs is operating costs. In terms of operating costs, I mean electricity, which is really high here, and it isn't something we can change or get around. We have all of the energy savers in our hotel and

still the electricity bill is high."

And she added: "Labour costs are another big factor, especially since Bahamians don't have the same work ethic they had say 10 years ago.

"We've been in business 20 years, and I can tell you the difference between who we started with during the first 10 years compared to the second 10 years. There is a major difference in terms of how hard they work, and how much pride they take in their work, and all of that causes your business to not be as efficient as it could be."

As for other factors impacting business competitiveness, Ms Maynard said: "Purchasing power, in terms of being able to purchase at a good price to sell at a reasonable price, and still make a reasonable profit, is another major issue. Putting heads in our bed on the Family Islands in particular, just getting people there, the accessi-

bility is difficult. The electricity is a major challenge for us and good work is a major challenge."

Ms Maynard said that some persons not wanting to stay at the major hotels may not be aware of the smaller ones that exist.

"Throughout our Family Islands and in Nassau we have hotels that are very luxurious, hotels that are budget and hotels that are in the middle, so we actually can cater to everybody's preference," she said.

"People just need to know that we exist, and I think the Ministry of Tourism is trying to make sure that happens. Our major market for our rooms from the time we opened to now has been our Family Island customers coming into Nassau to do business, come to the doctor, coming to the wedding, funerals, shopping for their children or just to get away."

MONTH IN REVIEW

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business Reporter
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INSURERS ESTIMATE \$90 MILLION TOTAL LOSSES

THE BAHAMIAN general insurance industry is likely to incur around \$90 million in insured losses as a result of Hurricane Irene, a leading executive said, with his company aiming to process "80 per cent-plus of claims" within six-eight weeks.

Patrick Ward, president and chief executive of Bahamas First, told Tribune Business that he, too, believed the level and volume of Hurricane Irene-related property and casualty claims would be below the 'couple of hundred million' that the industry paid out as a result of Hurricane Frances in 2004.

And he described as "out of left field" the assessment by a Boston-based risk modelling agency, AIR Worldwide, that the Bahamas had sustained insured losses of between \$300-\$700 million as a result of Irene - a sum more than double what was sustained in Frances.

Meanwhile, other Bahamas-based general insurers said that while the level of insured losses from Hurricane Irene would have "a significant impact" on carriers' projected 2011 profits, it would not completely wipe them out - unless another storm hit the Bahamas later in the season.

FARMING INDUSTRY DEVASTATED BY HURRICANE IRENE

HURRICANE IRENE has caused "100 per cent devastation" to the Bahamian agriculture industry, with farmers on the hardest-hit Family Islands losing entire crops.

In the wake of the storm, packing house managers and agriculture officials were on the ground assessing the damages or preparing to inspect farms on several Family Islands.

Maurice Minnis, manager of the packing house on Long Island, which was severely impacted by the storm, told this newspaper: "We have been 100 per cent devastated by the storm. The farmers here on Long Island depended mainly on bananas, papaya, plantain or cash crops for their livelihood. We lost the entire banana and plantain crops.

"We were in the peak season of banana production. In fact, my packing house right now has quite a bit of plantain, bananas and papayas that farmers salvaged. Farmers are already back in the field cleaning up. We have a team in place now and will hit the roads tomorrow to start a full assessment."



DAMAGE SUSTAINED during Hurricane Irene

\$1.84 MILLION PROJECTED IN CRUISE REVENUE LOSS

TOURISM officials projected a loss of \$1.84 million in cruise-related revenues from passenger arrivals to New Providence and Grand Bahama as a result of Hurricane Irene.

Carla Stuart, director of cruise development at the Ministry of Tourism, said the potential loss of revenue from the eight ships previously scheduled to call on Nassau might be as much as \$1.5 million in passenger spend and head tax.

Ms Stuart said the loss of 12,827 passengers in Nassau could cost about \$425,718 in head tax and \$1.4 million in spend. Freeport's potential losses, meanwhile, were calculated at 6,220 passengers, with a total of \$111,960 in head tax and \$263,354 in visitor spend for a total estimated loss of \$375,314.

BAHAMASAIR "90 PER CENT LOADS" FOR SUMMER.

BAHAMASAIR believes increased passenger confidence and increased "accountability" at the national flag carrier have resulted in heavy bookings this summer, with load factors on its Florida routes in the high 90 per cent range.

Henry Woods, the airline's general manager, told Tribune Business: "We are very pleased with the summer results so far; the loads are excellent. The load factors right now on Florida are in the high nineties.

"Bookings have been better than good; bookings have been heavy. July and August were extremely good. All of our flights are going out full and coming back full, and that will continue to the end of this month."

COPA UPGRADES NASSAU ROUTE

COPA AIRLINES has confirmed it is increasing the capacity of the aircraft servicing its Panama City-Nassau route with effect from October 1, 2011, a move the minister of tourism and aviation said has come three months' ahead of schedule.

While Copa's decision to upgrade from a 94-seat Embraer to a Boeing 737-700 had been widely expected, given the substantial demand for its direct service to Nassau, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace told Tribune Business the decision had come within three-and-a-half months of starting the route.

"Copa has agreed in less than three-and-a-half months

to upgrade the size of the aircraft, starting on October 1," Mr Vanderpool-Wallace confirmed.

"The volumes have been so strong, and the demand so strong, that they're moving from a 94-seat Embraer to a 737-700, which from Copa's viewpoint is a very wise decision. That's a part of the world, Brazil in particular, and Argentina, that is growing in the face of what is happening in Europe and the US.

"Latin America has exceeded every expectation in terms of their numbers, and that's reflected in their [Copa] upgrade of aircraft in less than three-and-a-half months, something they were expected to do at the end of the year."

MANAGER AND CO-MANAGER

Mature couple with no children to manage an Out Island Resort & Marina. Duties include managing houses, marina operations and commissary. Applicants must also have demonstrable skills and knowledge in the repair and maintenance of diesel generators, refrigeration, heavy equipment and reverse osmosis water systems. Applicants should be knowledgeable in computers and foreign language and must provide personal references and a background check.

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RENTALS REDUCE GB POWER OUTAGES 51%

- * But boost fuel surcharge
- * New plant will lower fuel usage 20%
- * Natural gas seen as best renewable option

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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Grand Bahama Power Company's rental units have driven up the fuel surcharge due to their inefficiency, the company's chief executive has admitted, despite reducing power outages by 51 per cent year-over-year during the 2011 first half.

The island's monopoly power supplier had brought in the units to provide 54 megawatts (MW) of supplemental generation to meet peak demand during the summer.

While the units had improved reliability, reducing power outages by 51 per cent over 2010 for the January to June period, Sarah MacDonald said they were not as efficient and resulted in a significant increase in fuel costs, driving up the fuel surcharge.

"Once we can stop using the rental units over the winter, and when the new plant comes online next year in the second quarter, we anticipate using 20 per cent fewer barrels a day once it gets up and running, and customers will see a decrease," the Grand Bahama Power chief executive said.

As the firm strives to improve reliability and stabilise the cost of electricity, she added that a preliminary study is leaning more towards natural gas as the best fuel alternative for the island.

"We need an alternative to oil," she the Grand Bahama Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon meeting at Ruby Swiss Restaurant.

Ms MacDonald, who was recently appointed by majority shareholder Emera to head Grand Bahama Power Company, has endured a tough start due to protests over the high cost of electricity on the island.

She said that while Grand Bahama Power Company's base rate is a consistent, regulated and cost set by the Grand Bahama Port Authority, the fuel surcharge is set every month based on fuel cost and plant efficiency. She noted that 60 per cent is attributable to fuel purchasing.

"We need to find alternative energy resources because the rate is a big issue, and one we need to address," MacDonald said.

Pointing out that oil prices are determined by what goes on in the world market, she said Grand Bahama was at a disadvantage because it was an island.

"We don't have options to take power from another grid or purchase from multiple suppliers. We are

somewhat held hostage in some ways in terms of what we can access. But alternative energy, which is a big part of the portfolio for Emera, is critical for potential in Grand Bahama," Ms MacDonald said.

She added that in 2009 Grand Bahama Power Company conducted a study testing wind speeds at various locations on the island.

The data collected showed potential for a couple of the sites that can provide wind energy to their system, she said.

"We started to integrate a resource plan in May during the study, and I met with the consultants and some experts to go over the preliminary results. What that study was meant to do is to tell us what the best choices are," Ms MacDonald said.

"So there are number of choices, whether natural gas, coal or solar energy, and these experts put those in a modelling and try to figure out the best option. We have sent them back to do more analysis on some things."

Ms MacDonald said renewable energy and green power is not going to be the full solution for Grand Bahama.

She indicated that wind and sun are intermittent. "You can't count on the wind to blow, and you can't count on the sun to shine. So...you have to make sure you power up some other units based on some kind of fuel as opposed to renewable," she explained.

"While we do know we will put some renewable in, it won't solve all the problems. I hate to make a commitment, but the initial analysis would say that natural gas is the way to go.

"The issue with that is whether we can secure it. Everybody wants to go natural gas because prices are so much better," she said.

"The other thing great about it is that we can convert some of our units to burn that fuel, which means a lot less time that it takes to build the new \$80 million plant, and it is also much better for the environment," Ms MacDonald said.

The consultants have promised to get back to her in a month with final recommendations.

"It is going to be a multi-phase plan, but you will see initial things happening as early as the first quarter of 2012," she said.

Ms MacDonald said Grand Bahama Power Company was aware of the fact that it plays a critical role in helping the island move forward.

The new \$80 million plant, she said, is expected to be completed in the 2011 second quarter.



Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Of the Shareholders and Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Phoenix Four, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at Dolce Hotels and Resorts, located at 135, Chaussee de Bruxelles, 1310 La Hulpe in Brussels.

Registration will commence at 10h30 in anticipation of a 11h30 start. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. Opening Statement from the Chairman
2. BDO/SRC Litigation Update
3. Commercial Real Estate Market Update
4. Asset Summary
5. Review of 2010 Audited Financial Statements
6. Review of 2011 Net Asset Value
7. Cash Position and Future Projections
8. Future Plans - Options for the Future
9. Review of Resolution
10. Closing Statement

Dated the 30th day of August 2011.

By order of the Board.

BUSINESS

GOLDMAN SACHS FALLS 3.5 PER CENT BANKS STOCKS LEAD MARKET LOWER, ENDING FOUR-DAY RALLY

NEW YORK
Associated Press

STOCKS FELL THURSDAY, ending a four-day rally, after regulators took action against a former Goldman Sachs subsidiary over its mortgage and foreclosure practices. Traders were also nervous that a jobs report due out Friday could revive worries of another recession in the U.S.

Goldman Sachs fell 3.5 percent after the Federal Reserve ordered the bank to review foreclosure practices at Litton Loan Servicing, saying there was a "pattern of misconduct and negligence" at the unit. Bank stocks fell more than the rest of the market as investors worried about regulatory moves against other banks. Financial stocks in the S&P 500 dropped 2.4 percent, the most of the 10 company groups that make up the index.

"There's obviously a lot of fear in the marketplace," said Ann Miletti, managing director and

senior portfolio manager at Wells Capital Management. "Right now, the market's just lacking confidence."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 119.96 points, or 1 percent, to close at 11,493.57. It rose as many as 103 points shortly after 10 a.m., when a key manufacturing report showed evidence of growth in August. Analyst had expected a decline.

The gains didn't last. By 10:30 a.m. indexes were trading mixed and stayed that way until 1:30 p.m., when the Fed announced its action against Goldman Sachs. Stocks drifted lower for the rest of the day, with bank stocks losing the most.

The Federal Reserve said there were "deficient practices" in mortgage loan servicing and the processing of foreclosures at Goldman's former Litton unit. Goldman also reached a settlement with a New York state banking regulator over Litton in which it agreed to stop controversial practices



BANK OF AMERICA Merrill Lynch traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday. Stocks fell Thursday, ending a four-day rally (AP)

such as the "robo-signing" of documents. That settlement was also announced Thursday.

Other banks followed Goldman lower. Citigroup Inc. lost 3.4 percent and PNC Financial Services Group Inc. fell 3.2 percent. Bank of America Corp., which is facing many lawsuits over its dealings in mortgage-backed securities, also fell 3.2 percent.

The regulatory actions showed that problems related to the mortgage crisis in 2008 remain far from over, said Quincy Crosby, market strategist at Prudential Financial.

Krosby also said investors were nervous ahead of the Labor Department's jobs report due out Friday.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 14.47 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,204.42. The Nasdaq composite index fell 33.42, or 1.3 percent, to 2,546.04.

The Dow, S&P and Nasdaq all had their worst August since 2001 after fears of an economic slowdown in the U.S. and debt issues in Europe put investors on edge.

Trading volume was relatively light at 4.3 billion shares. Many traders were on vacation. Low volume suggests that relatively

few investors were driving the market's gains and losses.

Rob Lutts, president and chief investment officer of Cabot Money Management, said he expected volume to remain very low until early next week, when many traders return to work after Labor Day. "That's when we'll see what's really going on," Lutts said.

SAIC Inc. fell 13.5 percent, the most in the S&P 500, after the technology company issued a full-year earnings forecast that was below analysts' expectations. The company, which provides engineering and

technology services to the military and other agencies, cited tightening government budgets.

Retailers rose after reporting strong sales last month, despite wild swings in the stock market and worries about the economy. August is an important month for back-to-school shopping, which can account for up to 25 percent of retailers' annual revenue. Macy's Inc. rose 2.1 percent; Costco Wholesale Corp. rose 1.2 percent.

About three stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange.

CBOE FUTURES TRADING VOLUME SETS RECORD IN AUGUST

CHICAGO
Associated Press

THE CBOE Futures Exchange said Thursday that it set several trading records in August, the exchange's busiest month ever.

The exchange said 1.83 million contracts exchanged hands during the month, a new record. That's up 56 percent from the 1.17 million contracts traded in July and more than five times the 291,533 contracts in August of last year. The previous monthly volume high was set in June when 1.22 million

shares had been traded.

The Futures Exchange average daily volume set a record for the fourth consecutive month in August with 79,500 contracts traded per day. That was up 36 percent from the 58,532 contracts traded per day in July, which had been the previous high, and the 500 percent higher than the 13,252 contracts traded per day during August 2010.

CFE experienced the two most-active trading sessions in its history on consecutive days during August. On Aug. 4, a day when the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 4 percent, 137,508

futures contracts were traded. That was exceeded the next day, Aug. 5, when 152,133 contracts were traded. Before August, the previous single-day high was 104,811 contracts traded on July 14.

Futures are a form of financial derivative. The contracts are agreements to buy or sell a security at a particular price on a stipulated date.

Shares of parent company CBOE Holdings Inc., which operates the Chicago Board Options Exchange, were down 52 cents, or 2 percent, to close at \$24.73.

Share your news

The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.



PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENT TO CHANGE NAME BY DEED POLL

The Public is hereby advised that I, **ANDRE WEBE TOUSSAINT** of Nassau, Bahamas intend to change my name to **ANDRE ELIJAH WALKES**. If there are any objections to this change of name by Deed Poll, you may write such objections to the Chief Passport Office, P.O.Box N-742, Nassau, Bahamas no later than thirty (3) days after the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Louise Diane Diconord of P.O.Box General Delivery, Thompsons Lane, North Palmetto Point, Eleuthera, Bahamas is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 2nd day of September, 2011 to the Minister responsible for nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-7147, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTICE

ELASTIC INVESTMENTS LTD.

VOLUNTARILY LIQUIDATED

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 137 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000 the Dissolution of **ELASTIC INVESTMENTS LTD.** has been completed, a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register of Companies.

The Date of the Completion of dissolution was the 13th July 2011.

David Thain
Liquidator

Incorporated under the International Business Companies Act, 2000 of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Registration Number 115042 B

Notice is hereby given that the above-named Company has rescinded its intention to wind-up and dissolved **VINCHEN LIMITED** and a resolution of the Directors was filed with the office of the Registrar General on 2nd September, 2011.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2011.

David George Jenner
&
Nicola Marguerite Hodge
Directors

BISX LISTED & TRADED SECURITIES AS OF:											
THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2011											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX: CLOSE 1,398.20 CHG -0.04 %CHG 0.00 YTD -101.31 YTD % -6.76											
FINDEX: YEAR END 2008 -12.31%											
WWW.BISXBAHAMAS.COM TELEPHONE: 242-677-BISX (2479) FACSIMILE: 242-323-2320											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Previous Close	Today's Close	Change	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield
1.19	0.95	AML Foods Limited	1.19	1.19	0.00	0.15	0.080	7.77	0.72%		
10.63	9.05	Bahamas Property Fund	10.63	10.63	0.00	-0.642	0.080	-16.6	0.75%		
7.50	4.40	Bank of Bahamas	6.93	6.93	0.00	0.230	0.100	30.1	1.44%		
0.53	0.17	Benchmark	0.18	0.18	0.00	-0.048	0.000	N/M	0.00%		
2.84	2.55	Bahamas Waste	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.030	0.090	90.0	3.33%		
1.96	1.77	Fidelity Bank	1.77	1.77	0.00	0.097	0.040	18.2	2.26%		
11.10	8.29	Cable Bahamas	8.48	8.48	0.00	0.245	0.310	34.6	3.66%		
2.35	2.35	Colina Holdings	2.55	2.55	0.00	0.438	0.040	5.8	1.57%		
8.50	8.33	Commonwealth Brewery	8.50	8.50	0.00	0.740	0.000	11.5	0.00%		
7.00	6.21	Commonwealth Bank (S1)	6.88	6.88	0.00	0.496	0.260	13.9	3.78%		
2.00	1.63	Consolidated Water BDRs	1.63	1.59	-0.04	0.111	0.045	14.3	2.83%		
7.35	1.31	Doctor's Hospital	1.37	1.37	0.00	0.074	0.110	18.5	8.03%		
1.77	4.75	Famguard	5.43	5.43	0.00	0.498	0.240	10.9	4.42%		
8.90	5.35	Finco	5.39	5.39	0.00	0.757	0.000	7.1	0.00%		
9.74	7.75	FirstCaribbean Bank	8.29	8.29	0.00	0.494	0.350	16.8	4.22%		
5.00	5.00	Focol (S)	5.75	5.75	0.00	0.435	0.220	13.2	3.83%		
1.00	1.00	Focol Class B Preference	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.000	0.000	N/M	0.00%		
7.35	5.50	ICD Utilities	7.30	7.30	0.00	-0.122	0.240	-59.8	3.29%		
10.80	9.80	J. S. Johnson	9.82	9.82	0.00	0.880	0.640	11.2	6.52%		
10.00	10.00	Premier Real Estate	10.00	10.00	0.00	1.207	0.200	8.3	2.00%		
BISX LISTED DEBT SECURITIES - (Bonds trade on a Percentage Pricing basis)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Security	Symbol	Last Sale	Change	Daily Vol.	Interest	Maturity			
99.46	99.46	Bahamas Note 6.95 (2029)	BAH29	99.46	0.00	0.00	6.95%	20 November 2029			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 17 (Series A) +	FBB17	100.00	0.00	0.00	7%	19 October 2017			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 22 (Series B) +	FBB22	100.00	0.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	19 October 2022			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 13 (Series C) +	FBB13	100.00	0.00	0.00	7%	30 May 2013			
100.00	100.00	Fidelity Bank Note 15 (Series D) +	FBB15	100.00	0.00	0.00	Prime + 1.75%	29 May 2015			
RoyalFidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Symbol	Bid \$	Ask \$	Last Price	Daily Vol.	EPS \$	Div \$	P/E	Yield	
10.08	5.01	Bahamas Supermarkets	N/A	N/A	14.00		-2.945	0.000	N/M	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.35	0.40	0.55		0.001	0.000	256.6	0.00%	
CFAL Securities Ltd. (Over-The-Counter Securities)											
41.00	29.00	ABDAB	30.13	31.59	29.00		4.540	0.000	9.03	0.00%	
0.55	0.40	RND Holdings	0.65	0.75	0.40		0.029	0.000	24.13	0.00%	
BISX Listed Mutual Funds											
52wk-Hi	52wk-Low	Fund Name	NAV	YTD %	Last 12 Months %	NAV 3MTH	NAV 6MTH	NAV Date			
1.5779	1.4674	CFAL Bond Fund	1.577928	3.39%	5.87%	1.548717	1.535365	31-Jul-11			
3.0160	2.9020	CFAL MSI Preferred Fund	3.0248	2.63%	3.94%	2.981382	2.952663	31-Jul-11			
1.6128	1.5289	CFAL Money Market Fund	1.6151	2.61%	4.53%	1.591803	1.580804	5-Aug-11			
2.8686	2.6730	Royal Fidelity Bahamas G & I Fund	2.6730	-5.41%	-9.79%			30-Jun-11			
13.7347	13.2291	Royal Fidelity Prime Income Fund	13.7347	2.82%	1.94%			31-Jul-11			
114.1289	99.4177	CFAL Global Bond Fund	114.0922	2.35%	13.88%	114.128861	111.469744	30-Jun-11			
118.4255	101.6693	CFAL Global Equity Fund	118.4255	2.30%	8.26%	116.580785	115.762221	30-Jun-11			
1.1749	1.0000	FG Financial Preferred Income Fund	1.1749	2.48%	5.16%			30-Jun-11			
1.1343	1.0000	FG Financial Growth Fund	1.1343	1.41%	5.17%			30-Jun-11			
1.1764	1.0000	FG Financial Diversified Fund	1.1764	2.38%	5.39%			30-Jun-11			
9.9952	9.5078	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 1	9.9433	0.98%	4.58%			31-May-11			
11.4985	10.5308	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 2	10.9652	0.78%	5.70%			31-Jul-11			
10.6813	9.4372	Royal Fidelity Bah Int'l Investment Fund Principal Protected TIGRS, Series 3	10.6013	5.75%	13.20%			31-Jul-11			
8.8564	7.8830	Royal Fidelity Int'l Fund - Equities Sub Fund	8.6507	3.01%	18.38%			31-Jul-11			
MARKET TERMS											
YIELD - Last 12 month dividends divided by closing price											
Bid \$ - Buying price of Colina and Fidelity											
Ask \$ - Selling price of Colina and Fidelity											
Last Price - Last traded over-the-counter price											
Weekly Vol. - Trading volume of the prior week											
EPS \$ - A company's reported earnings per share for the last 12 mths											
NAV - Net Asset Value											
N/M - Not Meaningful											
FINDEX - The Fidelity Bahamas Stock Index, January 1, 1994 = 100											
BISX ALL SHARE INDEX - 19 Dec 02 = 1,000.00											
52wk-Hi - Highest closing price in last 52 weeks											
52wk-Low - Lowest closing price in last 52 weeks											
Previous Close - Previous day's weighted price for daily volume											
Today's Close - Current day's weighted price for daily volume											
Change - Change in closing price from day to day											
Daily Vol. - Number of total shares traded today											
Div \$ - Dividends per share paid in the last 12 months											
P/E - Closing price divided by the last 12 month earnings											
(S) - 4-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 8/8/2007											
(S1) - 3-for-1 Stock Split - Effective Date 7/11/2007											
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BUSINESSREVIEW

Retailers report solid gains for August



NEW YORK Associated Press

AMERICANS kept shopping in August despite a month of bad news.

Besides old worries about the economy, shoppers had new troubles in August that could have kept them from heading to stores. They faced higher prices for food and clothes. Wild stock market swings fueled concerns about another recession. Then, Hurricane Irene hit in the middle of the important back-to-school shopping season.

Despite those factors, revenue in August among 26 retailers was up 4.6 percent at stores open at least a year — a key industry measure — according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. The gain is in line with the 4 percent to 5 percent that analysts predicted at the beginning of the month.

"Retailers weathered a number of storms to turn into what's expected to be a solid back-to-school and August selling season," said Ken Perkins, president of Research Limited LLC.

Retailers' revenue results are closely monitored because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity and is critical for a strong economy. Last month's gains illustrate how consumers, though thrifter now, are willing to spend on essentials, especially for their children. In August, for instance, many bought clothes and supplies for their children, giving retailers a boost during the second-busiest shopping season of the year. Merchants are hoping the momentum will continue into the critical holiday shopping season.

"Consumers are looking beyond the noise and focusing on their own needs, and to some extent that is helping the retail sector and helping the economy," said Michael P. Niemi, chief economist at the ICSC. "When you have so many of these events, the consumer seems to be de-sensitized."

Jessica Wang, a 35-year-old mother of two children, ages 5 and 8, shrugged off stock market plunges and other worries about the economy throughout August, spending about \$300 on back-to-school items. And even though she had a power outage at her home after Hurricane Irene, Wang plans to resume shopping on Thursday.

"We're back in the saddle. My daughter is chomping at the bit," the Bridgewater, N.J. resident added. "In my mind, we've been shopping under the cloud of the economy for a couple of years now. I had budgeted for back-to-school, and the crisis in the stock market doesn't affect my spending."

The results for August give a peek into consumers' moods. But many retailers, particularly ones that cater to lower-income customers, do not report monthly sales. Among them,

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer. Still, the reports are seen as a hopeful sign since many big retailers posted strong results against the odds.

Luxury chains eased worries that wealthy shoppers would pull back because of stock market turmoil in August. Nordstrom Inc., for instance, had a 6.7 percent gain, higher than the 4.8 percent increase analysts had expected.

Other retailers, like Target Corp., posted solid results despite the economy as people shopped more for back-to-school supplies and hurricane-related items. Target's revenue at stores open at least a year climbed 4.1 percent in August, topping Wall Street's forecast of a 3.5 percent increase.

Target said its monthly results, which were helped by an increase in average transaction size, also got a boost of one-half of a percentage point as shoppers in the East headed to its stores to buy groceries and other goods to prepare for Irene.

"While the pace of the economic recovery is uneven and uncertain, we are confident," said Gregg Steinhafel, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Target in a statement.

Even retailers that were hurt by some of the factors in August posted gains.

Macy's Inc. closed more than 100 stores in affected areas, including its flagship store in Manhattan where the city's public transportation system was closed ahead of Hurricane Irene. As a result, the company said August revenue was 1.5 percentage points lower than it would have been. Still, the retailer had a 5 percent gain in revenue at stores opened at least a year, above the 4.5 percent increase analysts were expecting.

"We expect the hurricane's effect on sales will be substantially offset as we move through September and the third quarter," said Terry J. Lundgren, chairman, president and chief executive in a statement.

Not everyone had gains, though. J.C. Penney Co. and Kohl's Corp., both reported unexpected declines as shoppers continued to veer toward the higher- and lower-end retailers instead of those serving the middle-of-the-road customer.

Kevin Mansell, Kohl's CEO, vowed Thursday that the chain is aggressively increasing its marketing and sharpening its pricing for the remainder of the fall season to "reverse the trend."

Gap Inc., which had long been struggling with a sales malaise, said revenue at stores opened at least a year fell 6 percent. The declines were across all its brands, including its namesake stores, Banana Republic and Old Navy. It started e-mailing 50 percent discounts on women's clothing to shoppers in the Northeast just for Thursday.

IN THIS Aug. 17, 2011 photo, the Gap storefront is seen in Freeport, Maine. Retailers are reporting solid revenue gains for August, capping what's winding up to be a solid back-to-school season despite wild stock market swings and worries about the economy. But Gap Inc. posted a bigger-than-expected drop. (AP)



IN THIS photo taken July 16, 2011, customers shop at Target store in Los Angeles. Retailers are reporting solid revenue gains for August, capping what's winding up to be a solid back-to-school season despite wild stock market swings and worries about the economy. (AP)

STORM WEATHER GETS MORE 'MOODY'

FROM page 12B

Yet, as with Irene, the Bahamas got off relatively lightly, as the Wall Street credit rating agency eschewed downgrading this nation's credit rating. With creditworthiness maintained, the Bahamas' borrowing costs on the international market will remain the same, as interest rates attached to sovereign debt issues should be unaffected.

Moody's move was likely coming for some time, bringing it closer to rival Standard & Poor's position on the Bahamas. But more important than Moody's action was the message it delivered: Limited economic growth prospects meant the Bahamas would be unable to 'grow' its way out of its escalating national debt and fiscal deficit problems, meaning new or increased taxes would likely be necessary. Problem is, increased taxes and economic growth don't go well together.

And, as reported by Tribune Business yesterday, International Monetary Fund (IMF) researchers have urged the Bahamas and other Caribbean nations to adopt a public debt targeting framework, smoothing recurrent spending over a five-year business cycle timeframe and setting a 'band' within which the debt-to-GDP ratio would remain.

"For the Bahamas, a primary expenditure consolidation of around two to three percentage points of GDP in 2011 - together with acyclical or moderately procyclical or countercyclical primary expenditure roles -

would be enough to maintain debt-to-GDP in 2015 below the level predicted for 2010 in 70 per cent of the simulated cases," the IMF paper said.

In the absence of any action by the Government, the paper forecast that the Bahamas' debt-to-GDP ratio would continue climbing over the next four years, expanding by a further 14 percentage points to hit 79 per cent in 2015. The latter figure was some 19 percentage points higher than the 60 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio projected if the Bahamas had followed its spending consolidation measures.

The blunt truth is that the Bahamas has never achieved a balance budget, at least on the recurrent side, during the 38 years in which it has been an independent nation. Successive administrations of both hues have relied on ever-increasing gross domestic product (GDP) data to keep the deficit and debt-to-GDP ratios in check. That GDP growth has not been there for several years now, robbing the Government of its best accounting trick.

The Bahamas is in a corner, no doubt about it. On the one hand it desperately needs job creation and growth momentum, both to solve is unemployment and public finance issues. Trouble is, these are in extremely short supply, and to avoid a further downgrade by Moody's the Government will likely have to raise taxes or introduce new ones.

Doing the latter may well mean less of the former, with all the attendant implications for the private sector and employment levels that entails. In other words, there are no easy options or way out for the Bahamas, unless it can find from somewhere major economic growth momentum to solve both issues simultaneously. As Rick Lowe, the Nassau Institute executive and well-known fiscal hawk has often said of the Government when it comes to the public finances: "I wouldn't like to be in their shoes."



Ride for Hope Bahamas is seeking an energetic, pro active, fun to work with, full-time administrator who will drive the organization's flagship charitable fund raising event and coordinate program support throughout the year.

The successful applicant will:

- be able to demonstrate and "wow us" with multi-level planning skills
- have the ability and willingness to be a true hands on leader as evidenced by past examples
- exhibit proficiency and confidence in the full suite of Microsoft Office programs, particularly Word and Excel
- provide evidence of aptitude with creating, working to and maintaining budgets
- be a self-starter who thinks and speaks well on his/her feet and works well with people

The Ride for Hope Administrator should have a college degree and a minimum of five years in the work force. Applications should include a letter of interest, and must be supported by a resume and two letters of reference.

Please submit application and supporting documents electronically to: Info@rideforhopebahamas.com

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"While the pace of the economic recovery is uneven and uncertain, we are confident," said Gregg Steinhafel, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Target in a statement.

Even retailers that were hurt by some of the factors in August posted gains.

Macy's Inc. closed more than 100 stores in affected areas, including its flagship store in Manhattan where the city's public transportation system was closed ahead of Hurricane Irene. As a result, the company said August revenue was 1.5 percentage points lower than it would have been. Still, the retailer had a 5 percent gain in revenue at stores opened at least a year, above the 4.5 percent increase analysts were expecting.

"We expect the hurricane's effect on sales will be substantially offset as we move through September and the third quarter," said Terry J. Lundgren, chairman, president and chief executive in a statement.

Not everyone had gains, though. J.C. Penney Co. and Kohl's Corp., both reported unexpected declines as shoppers continued to veer toward the higher- and lower-end retailers instead of those serving the middle-of-the-road customer.

Kevin Mansell, Kohl's CEO, vowed Thursday that the chain is aggressively increasing its marketing and sharpening its pricing for the remainder of the fall season to "reverse the trend."

Gap Inc., which had long been struggling with a sales malaise, said revenue at stores opened at least a year fell 6 percent. The declines were across all its brands, including its namesake stores, Banana Republic and Old Navy. It started e-mailing 50 percent discounts on women's clothing to shoppers in the Northeast just for Thursday.

IN THIS Aug. 17, 2011 photo, the Gap storefront is seen in Freeport, Maine. Retailers are reporting solid revenue gains for August, capping what's winding up to be a solid back-to-school season despite wild stock market swings and worries about the economy. But Gap Inc. posted a bigger-than-expected drop. (AP)



IN THIS photo taken July 16, 2011, customers shop at Target store in Los Angeles. Retailers are reporting solid revenue gains for August, capping what's winding up to be a solid back-to-school season despite wild stock market swings and worries about the economy. (AP)

RIDE FOR HOPE ADMINISTRATOR

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APPLY NOW

STORM WEATHER GETS MORE 'MOODY'

FROM page 12B

Yet, as with Irene, the Bahamas got off relatively lightly, as the Wall Street credit rating agency eschewed downgrading this nation's credit rating. With creditworthiness maintained, the Bahamas' borrowing costs on the international market will remain the same, as interest rates attached to sovereign debt issues should be unaffected.

Moody's move was likely coming for some time, bringing it closer to rival Standard & Poor's position on the Bahamas. But more important than Moody's action was the message it delivered: Limited economic growth prospects meant the Bahamas would be unable to 'grow' its way out of its escalating national debt and fiscal deficit problems, meaning new or increased taxes would likely be necessary. Problem is, increased taxes and economic growth don't go well together.

And, as reported by Tribune Business yesterday, International Monetary Fund (IMF) researchers have urged the Bahamas and other Caribbean nations to adopt a public debt targeting framework, smoothing recurrent spending over a five-year business cycle timeframe and setting a "band" within which the debt-to-GDP ratio would remain.

"For the Bahamas, a primary expenditure consolidation of around two to three percentage points of GDP in 2011 - together with acyclical or moderately procyclical or countercyclical primary expenditure roles -

would be enough to maintain debt-to-GDP in 2015 below the level predicted for 2010 in 70 per cent of the simulated cases," the IMF paper said.

In the absence of any action by the Government, the paper forecast that the Bahamas' debt-to-GDP ratio would continue climbing over the next four years, expanding by a further 14 percentage points to hit 79 per cent in 2015. The latter figure was some 19 percentage points higher than the 60 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio projected if the Bahamas had followed its spending consolidation measures.

The blunt truth is that the Bahamas has never achieved a balance budget, at least on the recurrent side, during the 38 years in which it has been an independent nation. Successive administrations of both hues have relied on ever-increasing gross domestic product (GDP) data to keep the deficit and debt-to-GDP ratios in check. That GDP growth has not been there for several years now, robbing the Government of its best accounting trick.

The Bahamas is in a corner, no doubt about it. On the one hand it desperately needs job creation and growth momentum, both to solve its unemployment and public finance issues. Trouble is, these are in extremely short supply, and to avoid a further downgrade by Moody's the Government will likely have to raise taxes or introduce new ones.

Doing the latter may well mean less of the former, with all the attendant implications for the private sector and employment levels that entails. In other words, there are no easy options or way out for the Bahamas, unless it can find from somewhere major economic growth momentum to solve both issues simultaneously. As Rick Lowe, the Nassau Institute executive and well-known fiscal hawk has often said of the Government when it comes to the public finances: "I wouldn't like to be in their shoes."

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Fuel for reform

FUELLING the economy is an irreplaceable job. So the concern engendered when the Bahamas Petroleum Retailers Association (BPRA) threatened to strike in a bid to draw attention to their plight was wholly understandable. Yet one wonders whether their plight has been resolved, or if it has merely been put into uneasy abeyance.

In a nutshell, the real issues are these: The pricing structure, the need for retail consolidation, the relationship between wholesalers and retailers, and the Government's involvement in the sector. None have been adequately dealt with, but instead merely kicked down the road to be addressed another day. That is simply not good enough.

True, all four players in the equation were, and still are, in a tricky position. The consumer - businesses and individuals - can ill-afford an increase in gasoline prices, as it will further deplete already dwindling incomes in the midst of a recession, thereby protracting any recovery.

Yet on the opposite are the BPRA and other petroleum retailers, who are arguing that their margins - \$0.44 per gallon of gasoline, and \$0.19 per gallon of diesel - consistently leave them in the red, unable to cover the cost of purchasing new fuel shipments let alone rent, labour costs and light bills. Maxed-out overdrafts and credit cards, and mortgages homes, were the order of the day, they complained.

The oil companies, namely Esso, Texaco and FOCOL (Shell) remained largely in the background while the strike threat and controversy raged, obviously wanting to avoid being painted as the 'bad boys', as former PLP minister of trade and industry, Leslie Miller continues to cast them.

Finally, there was the Government, which was faced with a major political dilemma, exacerbated by the looming 2012 general election. On the one hand, a gasoline strike was a major threat to its re-election prospects, given all the likely inconvenience and economic implications. Yet giving into the BPRA's demands would also set the economy back, and create numerous unhappy voters.

In the end, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham skillfully walked the middle road. While telling the BPRA's margin committee chairman point blank that any margin increases were off the table and a complete non-starter, Mr Ingraham was able to throw out a few bones to placate the retailers and avert a strike threat.

* Deregulation best way to address Bahamian petroleum sector fault lines

While dangling the bait of a potential margin increase once global oil prices came down, the Prime Minister also promised a Commission would be appointed to investigate the retailers' complaints about the unfair commercial terms being imposed upon them by the oil majors. Finally, from both the Prime Minister and minister of state for the environment, Phenton Neymour, came vague hints of deregulation.

Deregulation. Ahhhhh, that magical word for the Government opening up previously tightly-controlled, highly regulated markets to the free market and competition. They've already done it with communications, so why not the petroleum industry? Especially since Oswald Moore, the BPRA's margin committee chairman, effectively backed the idea as the key solution to the sector's current woes.

Not so fast. Recognising the thorny political implications, the Government swiftly batted any decision on the deregulation issue to the Commission, whose members have yet to be appointed, and which has no timeline by which it must report.

For deregulation would eliminate the Government-imposed price, or margin, controls imposed on the oil companies and petroleum retailers, allowing them to compete without restraint and transforming the sector from being purely a volume business. The fear, from a government perspective at least, is that if the oil companies and petroleum retailers were unleashed, gasoline prices would rise and further depress the economy, not to mention the backlash that might result from angry voters.

Yet maintaining the status quo makes no sense. In two, five, six, 10, however many years, the retailers will be back hammering at the door with the same complaints, pushing for margin increases and threatening strike action. This, arguably, represents yet again the unintended consequences of well-intentioned policy that was designed to protect Bahamian consumers and businesses.

It may have kept gasoline prices down, but this is of little use if there is no one to sell the gasoline. The retail side of the industry must become sustainable, and the only way for that to happen is to allow the retailers to compete, together with

consolidation.

The reality is that there are too many gas stations on New Providence competing for too few customers. As an example, does Esso really need two gas stations within half a mile of each other, namely Mackey Street and the Village Road roundabout? The oil majors must resist the temptation to each place a gas station wherever their rivals have one, for all that has done is create an industry which is over-retailed.

In a competitive environment, it's true that prices might possibly rise to help the retailers cover their overheads. Yet the competition will keep them keen, ensuring none get ahead of the market, and reward the more efficient gas station operators at the expense of those who price controls have kept in business.

For those transportation businesses heavily reliant on gasoline, such as tour operators, jitney and taxi drivers, a deregulated market would allow gas stations to compete for their business. Discounts might be on offer to firms who send their vehicle fleets to fill up at a particular gas station.

Fostering such an environment might also help the Government better achieve its objective of nudging Bahamians to use smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles. A huge rise in the Road Traffic Department's vehicle licence and inspection fees appears not to have cut the mustard, and a slight rise in gas prices might force Bahamians to think a bit more about transportation efficiency, car pooling and greater use of public transport. This, though, leads into a wider public policy discussion that Tribune Business will leave for another time.

Besides, if the Government really wanted to lower gasoline prices by a significant amount, it need look no further than the taxes it imposes on the industry. As a relatively small, insignificant market in the grand scheme of things, the Bahamas will always be a price taker when it comes to petroleum products, unable to negotiate discounts or preferential terms from suppliers.

Because the Bahamas does not generate the sales volumes of larger nations, and has high operating costs to boot, gasoline prices will likely remain relatively high for the foreseeable future. A major component of the per gallon price, of course, is the Government's \$1.16 flat tax plus



UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERNS: The Bahamas Petroleum Retailers Association (BPRA) threatened to strike in a bid to draw attention to their plight.

7 per cent Stamp Duty on the cost of landed fuel. Any reductions or eliminations here would go a long way but, with petroleum-related taxes accounting a significant chunk of revenues amid an escalating debt and deficit crisis, such action by the Ingraham administration is unlikely in the short-term.

Where the Government got it right was to look into the relationship between the retailers and their suppliers, an area of controversy for many years, particularly when it comes to the rents, royalties and franchise fees levied by the latter. Again, ending the current structure of price/margin controls would assist this aspect, to.

Fears that the oil majors are perfectly positioned to engage in price fixing and collusion in a deregulated environment, because the Bahamas lacks any competition or antitrust laws, have also been expressed. Such a concern is understandable, but let's not forget that as part of its Economic Partnership Agreement

(EPA) obligations that the Bahamas is supposed, by next year, to establish a competition watchdog with accompanying laws and regulations. If these have bite, and the competition body has teeth, then the antitrust issues in the petroleum industry will be taken care of.

And, rather than create another bureaucracy, Tribune Business would respectfully suggest that whatever agency is responsible for Price Controls be converted into the competition watchdog. Price controls are now obsolete, as the Bahamas is increasingly discovering in many industries.

Rather than run away, or postpone any decision for another day, the Bahamas should not be frightened to reform and make the change, after due consideration, whenever the status quo is not working. And it would do well to remember the immortal quote from the UK's 'Iron Lady', former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, who said simply: "Don't buck the markets, because they will buck you."

A BIG JOB

GRIM READING. Whatever your political persuasion may be, you would have to acknowledge that the unemployment data released by the Department of Statistics last month was not good from any standpoint. And, perhaps more troubling, it appears that few have any idea what to do about.

Predictably, the Government and opposition Progressive Liberal Party engaged in the usual round of political fingerpointing, after the Department of Statistics said the headline unemployment rate had dropped from 14.8 per cent in May 2009 to 13.7 per cent two years later, a decline of one percentage point. Ryan Pinder, PLP MP for Elizabeth, went so far as to describe it as "FNM voodoo economics at its best".

Rather than engage in politicking (perhaps a better term, where all Bahamian politicians are concerned is 'politicking', given that a general election is coming up), Tribune Business believes that Mr Pinder and his colleagues on both sides of the House of Assembly divide would be far better employed in devising ways to grow the national economy and cure our 'jobs crisis'. Employment and the economy will be two key election issues, and this newspaper will be scrutinising the contenders for specific proposals and ideas to get us moving forward again, not the usual 'airy fairy' fluff that promises the earth and delivers little.

As for the "voodoo economics" jibe, the Department of Statistics pointed out that the two main factors behind the unemployment rate decline were an increase of persons working in the informal economy, coupled with an increase in discouraged workers - those Bahamians who have simply given up looking for work.

The 34.8 per cent increase in discouraged workers to almost 12,000 was the most worrying aspect of the report. It indicates that possibly hundreds of Bahamians are in danger of losing the habit of regular work, with all the family and social implications that attend to that. The Cen-

* With thousands unemployed or not even seeking work, the Bahamas must act quickly to regain its economic momentum

tral Bank of the Bahamas summed it up best this week, with its assessment that "considerable slack" remains in the Bahamian labour market.

"The majority of the job gains over the last two years have been in the informal sector, and the number of discouraged workers was elevated by 34.8 per cent to 11,900" was how the Central Bank summed it up, echoing the Department of Statistics.

The implications are profound. The Bahamas cannot create enough jobs for the existing 25,955 Bahamians classified as the 'unemployed labour force', and 11,900 discouraged workers, let alone the 5,000 teenagers who leave high school every summer. Even assuming that around 1,500 of those continue to college or higher education (that number may be too generous), that leaves 3,500 to go straight into the workforce.

Where are they, and the existing 37,800 'jobless' Bahamians going to go? Public policymakers have long been confronted with this issue, namely growing the economy fast enough to absorb all those school leavers, but the recession has exacerbated the problem due to its impact on the existing labour force. The only conclusion to be drawn is that the Bahamas will be stuck with relatively high unemployment rates for several years to come, and will need to expand its economy at a rate much higher than has been achieved in the last decade to grow its way out of this.

As Moody's, the international credit rating agency pointed out, the Bahamian economy has grown by an anemic collective 6 per cent over the past decade. It may well need to

grow at least that rate, over a period of several years, to soak up the unemployed and discouraged workers. But the signs currently are not encouraging.

True, there was probably not much more that the Ingraham government could have done in the short-term to mitigate the recession's effects on the Bahamian economy. As a small, open economy reliant on tourism and financial services to maintain its position as a services exporter, the financial crisis and subsequent recession were bound to have a major impact on this nation. Few probably remember, but an OECD report in 2001 ranked the Bahamas as having the fourth most vulnerable economy to external shocks.

In terms of solutions, the Bahamas to date appears to have done little to look beyond its traditional growth drivers - tourism and foreign direct investment. Perhaps it has done this with good reason, as the two have served it well for decades. The last growth spurt this country enjoyed, in the late 1990s, came from renewed high levels of investment in the tourism and hotel industry, spurred by unprecedented US economic growth.

While Baha Mar is set to create some 7,000 permanent jobs when it eventually commences full operations some three years from now, that figure is less than 20 per cent of the total discouraged and unemployed workers combined. And, as several private sector figures have pointed out, there is nothing on the horizon that appears ready to generate renewed growth momentum between 2011 and 2014.

So, what's a country to do. The Bahamas must look to build upon what it has, namely tourism, financial services, real estate and foreign direct investment, while simultaneously planning for the short, medium and long terms.

Structural reform is key. Quality human capital is vital to competitiveness in the modern world, so transforming the output of the Bahamian education system - with one eye on preparing its graduates for industries this nation would like to attract - is key. How about technology-related sectors, with high-end products and the high margins necessary to offset the Bahamas' high



INITIATIVE: In July hundreds turned out to register for the Government's Job Readiness programme. The job initiative was first announced by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham during this year's budget debate in Parliament.

operating cost base?

And what about Nassau setting Freeport free to truly become the industrial and logistics capital of the Bahamas under the Hawksbill Creek agreement? Power costs are an impediment there, but it appears as if Grand Bahama Power Company may have finally found the right majority owner in Emera.

All the Government can do is facilitate the creation of an enabling environment. The elimination of bureaucracy and red tape, an end to bur-

densome and unnecessary regulations, and a 'can do' spirit in all agencies the private sector must touch would, in their own small way, go far in moving the economy forward.

But the Bahamas most move quickly. It has come a long way already, but needs the will to move beyond the status quo where necessary and challenge assumptions and traditions. It may not always be politically popular, but for the good of thousands of unemployed and those who come after them, it is essential.

INFRASTRUCTURE BANK COULD BE PART OF JOBS PACKAGE

• SEE PAGE 7B



MOBIE SHOPPING: MORE BUZZ THAN BUY SO FAR

• SEE PAGE 9B



STORMY WEATHER GETS MORE 'MOODY'

NEED TO REDUCE DEBT/DEFICIT IN CLIMATE OF LITTLE TO NO ECONOMIC GROWTH PUTS BAHAMAS IN DILEMMA

There was a late, nasty twist in the tale. Hurricane Irene was very "Moody" when she came through the central and southeastern Bahamas, and the international ratings agency of the same name also did this nation no favours when it downgraded its economic outlook. Yet both could have been far more devastating than they actually were.

Yes, August did end on some sour notes for the Bahamas, especially where its fiscal position and the economic outlook were concerned. Irene's timing could hardly have been worse in those respects, but compared to where the storm's eye had originally been projected to track the economy, as a whole, got off relatively lightly, although such a view will doubtless not be shared by residents of Cat Island, Long Island, Acklins, Crooked Island,

Eleuthera and Abaco.

As Winston Rolle, the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation's (BCCEC) chairman succinctly summed it, from a Bahamas-wide and New Providence perspective: "We've dodged a bullet. It would have been quite a different scenario had Irene struck Nassau. It would have been quite severe. We would have been reeling from this for months, and not been able to supply the Family Islands, as we would still be trying to recover ourselves."

"As much as we dance around it, Nassau is the centre of economic activity, and if what happened in the Family Islands happened to Nassau, it would have been significant from an economic standpoint. The recovery period is going to be considerably shorter than if New Providence had been impacted. It's kind of bitter and sweet, but I think we've dodged a serious bullet, and let's hope the rest of the season goes smoothly for New Providence."

General insurers were breathing a sigh of relief, estimating that total insured losses from Irene were like-

ly to be in the \$90 million range, while Wendy Craigg, the Central Bank governor, expressed optimism that the Bahamas was "still on track" to grow its gross domestic product (GDP) by 1-2 per cent in 2011, after the Category Three storm missed the main tourism and foreign direct investment infrastructure in Nassau.

Reconstruction efforts are now kicking into gear on the Family Islands, and Tribune Business hopes the damage - both physical and psychological - can be repaired in the shortest possible timeframe. But, in the medium term, Irene's greatest impact is likely to be on the Government's finances.

If the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility's (CCRIF) estimate bears itself out, the \$37 million blow to the Government might possibly be absorbed by the existing 2011-2012 Budget, coupled with the judicious juggling of already-allocated resources and expenditure reallocations.

But Irene's timing could hardly be worse for the Government, struggling as it already was with a weak

fiscal situation due to the recession. Revenues had fallen off in line with the decline in economic activity, while public spending rose in a bid to stimulate the economy and mitigate the downturn's worst effects, producing fiscal deficits consistently north of 5 per cent.

A hurricane-related shock was thus the last thing that fiscal planners wanted, given that it could throw any consolidation strategy off course. Three days' worth of revenue collection across the Bahamas were shut down as the country prepared for the storm, and the duty exemptions granted to hard-hit Family Islands, while understandable will also reduce the Government's collections. Then there is the extra expenditure required to repair docks, bridges, roads, airports and other public infrastructure, not to mention government buildings.

Thus Moody's move to downgrade the Bahamas' economic outlook from 'stable' to 'negative' could be seen as adding insult to injury where the timing was concerned.

SEE page 8B

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"As much as we dance around it, Nassau is the centre of economic activity, and if what happened in the Family Islands happened to Nassau, it would have been significant from an economic standpoint. The recovery period is going to be considerably shorter than if New Providence had been impacted. It's kind of bitter and sweet, but I think we've dodged a serious bullet, and let's hope the rest of the season goes smoothly for New Providence."

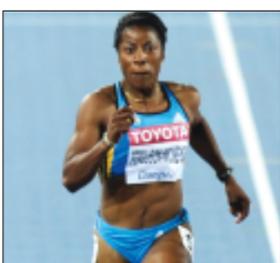
— Winston Rolle

INSIDETRAK

13th IAAF World Championships



DEBBIE BARELY GETS INTO 200 FINAL



TURN TO 2E...

MEN'S 4X4 RELAY TEAM FAILS TO QUALIFY FOR THE FINAL

TURN TO 3E...

RAYMOND HIGGS DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR LONG JUMP FINAL

TURN TO 4E...

Barry wins bronze for Bahamas' first medal

By BRENT STUBBS
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DAEGU, South Korea — From the brink of elimination in the preliminaries to a leap of acceleration in the final of the men's high jump, Trevor Barry can now add the IAAF World Championships' bronze medal to his growing list of achievements.

Yesterday, the 28-year-old leapt to a personal best (PB) of 2.32 metres or 7-feet, 7 1/4-inches to ascend the medal podium today for the Bahamas' first medal at the 13th IAAF World Championships in Athletics.

It was also just the third medal in the event. In 1995, Troy Kemp paved the way with the gold in Gothenberg, Sweden, and Donald Thomas matched that feat in Osaka, Japan, in 2007.

Thomas, who has been the king of the hill in the Bahamas since he emerged on the scene in 2007, was entered in the 13-man field after three lucky competitors, including Barry, got in based on their tied position after the first 10 automatically qualified in the preliminaries.

But Thomas never really got on track and was eliminated on three attempts at 2.25m (7-4 1/2) after clearing just the opening height of 2.20m (7-2 1/2).

But the event was Barry's to win or lose in both rounds and he chose the former. Like he did in the preliminaries when he had a clean sheet in his first four attempts until he missed all three at 2.31m (7-7), Barry cleared his first two heights at 2.20m (7-2 1/2) and 2.25m (7-4 1/2) before he passed at 2.29 (7-6), his previous best. He then surged over 2.32m (7-7 1/4) for his new PB and a



BRONZE MEDALLIST Trevor Barry (centre) with head coach Fritz Grant (left) and sprinter Adrian Griffith after Barry won the bronze in the high jump at the 13th IAAF World Championships.

temporary first-place lead. That was until American Jesse Williams and Russia's Aleksey Dmitrik both passed him when they both sailed over 2.35m (7-8 1/2) on their first and second tries respectively for the gold and silver.

Barry missed all three tries, but his progression was better than the remaining four competitors at that point to secure the bronze.

"I just came off my personal best and I got a medal doing it, so I'm pleased and happy to win the first medal for the Bahamas here," he said.

After watching Thomas bow out at 2.20m (7-2 1/4), Barry said he knew that the pressure was on for

him to step it up another notch. "I knew I was representing my country and I think I went out and did just that," he said.

On the PB, which he achieved a number of times in practice, Barry said he simply "stayed focused and kept my composure."

"2.32m (7-7 1/4) was a mental barrier for me, but this year I have been able to overcome that now. There's no turning back for me right now."

Although he won't get the medal until today, Barry said it hasn't sunk in yet that he is a World Championship medallist.

"I'm just happy. This is the pinnacle of my career. I'm just happy to have the medal," he said.

After talking online to his coach Keith Parker, who was unable to make the trip here after he got sick, Barry said he instructed him not to jump 2.29m (7-6) because he has done it so many times this year. "That was the pivotal call," Barry said. "I want to thank him for all of his advice and his coaching."

Barry, 28, said he's just looking forward to returning home sometime next week to really celebrate the feat with his family.

And although they are countrymen, Barry has finally gotten a big win over Thomas, who has beaten him in just about every senior inter-

SEE page 4E

US OPEN: SERENA, FEDERER EASE INTO THE NEXT ROUND



TURN TO 7E.

IAAF WORLDS: US WINS THREE GOLD MEDALS IN HALF HOUR

TURN TO 8E...

'WE EXPECTED MORE OUT OF THE FINAL TWO LEGS'

By BRENT STUBBS
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DAEGU, South Korea — Call it a big "mistake" by the coaching staff to save the two "big guns" in the semifinal of the men's 4 x 400 metres, causing the Bahamas another major disappointment at the IAAF World Championships for the second consecutive year.

After being disqualified in the semifinals at the last World Championships in Berlin, Germany, for running out of the exchange zone on the first leg, the team of Ramon Miller, Avarad Moncur, Andrae Williams and LaToy Williams ran three minutes and 01.54 seconds that was only good enough for fourth place in the last of two heats and ninth overall yesterday, just missing out on a golden opportunity for the team to redeem themselves.

Said head coach Fritz Grant: "We met with all of the young men who were in the pool and we had a set



GOING HARD: LaToy Williams of the Bahamas (far right) crosses the finish line in a qualification round for the 4x400m relay Thursday.

(AP)

that we felt would have gotten us through to the final, considering that they were taking the top three and the fastest two losers," said Grant,

Head coach Fritz Grant reflects on men's 4x400 relay team

who was assisted by Frank "Pancho" Rahming. "Based on how the athletes were performing in practice, how psyched up they were and how they wanted to compete, we decided to go with that team (mentioned above).

"They were fresh, they were training and the times they were running in practice, they were good times and we felt that we wanted to rest two of our big horses so that we could come back fresh in the final. But in order to get to the final, you have to make the final and we were in good contention coming down the stretch, but we were unable to keep the position."

SEE page 3E

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SPORTS

13th IAAF World Championships



ON THE RUN: Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie (*far right*) competes with Shalonda Solomon of the US (*center*) and Russia's Elizabeta Savlinis in the 200m semifinal at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, on Thursday, September 1, 2011.

(AP Photos)

DEBBIE BARELY GETS INTO 200 FINAL

By BRENT STUBBS
Senior Sports Reporter
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DAEGU, South Korea — Mark this down as the first time in her senior international career that Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie found herself on the bubble of making it through to the final of the women's 200 metres.

In what has been an unpredictable appearance so far for the Bahamas at the 13th IAAF World Championships, Ferguson-McKenzie had to wait for the last of three semifinal heats yesterday to determine whether or not she will suit up for a lane in tonight's final.

She had to battle from behind for a fourth place finish in heat two in 22.85 seconds. But at the end of the round, she just barely made it in with the eighth and final spot.

The veteran 35-year-old superstar was the only Bahamian of the three competitors entered who advanced. She will run out of lane one in the final.

"It's the first time in years that this has happened to me," Ferguson-McKenzie said. "Wow, I'm in. I'm thankful. Before the results came in, I gave it a good effort, but not good enough as far as time. But at the end of the day, I was walking away saying 'keep my head up.' I've been trying to work hard to stay in the game, but my form is not as good as 2009, but I think for me that had to do with the fact that I didn't get a chance to run a lot of 4 x 4s this year.

"Normally, by now, I would have already ran 22.4s, 22.3s and I would have been in it to win it. But I'm thankful I made the final. So I'm thankful."

Looking back at her race, Ferguson-McKenzie said in warm-ups she looked good and when she got on the track, she set it up pretty good.

"But for some reason, I had some issue getting off the curve," she said. "Usually when they leave me off the curve, I try to catch up, but you can't do that in the 200. So I need to work on that before the final."

Looking at the field, Ferguson-McKenzie said if she wants to have a fighting chance to win a medal, she will have to go through the quartet of defending Jamaican champion and current 100 silver medallist Veronica Campbell-Brown and Americans Carmelita Jeter (the 100 champion), Allison Felix (the 400 runner-up) and Shalonda Solomon.

"I think I need a miracle," she said. "I have to step my game up and see what happens."

Solomon, by the way, won Ferguson-McKenzie's heat in 22.46,



INTO FINAL: Shalonda Solomon of the US (*right*) looks up at the timing board after placing first in a 200m semifinal ahead of Bahamas' Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie.

followed by Jamaican Kerron Stewart in 22.77.

In the first heat, Grand Bahamian Nivea Smith struggled out of the blocks and had to make up some ground on the straight away for sixth in 23.03. Jeter won the race in 22.47 with Jamaican Sherone Simpson trailing in 22.88.

"It was better than my heats, but I guess it just wasn't my meet," said

the Auburn University standout.

On her start, Smith admitted that "it's something that I have to work on. But although I made up some ground (on the home stretch), it just wasn't good enough."

Smith, 21, said it's a life lesson for her and she will have to go back to the drawing board and get ready for next year's Olympic Games.

The other Bahamian competing

in the event was Anthonique Strachan. She ran in heat three and finished seventh in 23.85. The 18-year-old was never in the race. But like both Ferguson-McKenzie and Smith, Strachan tried to storm back on the home stretch but the field was already gone.

Veronica Campbell-Brown and Allyson Felix battled it out to the line with the Jamaican establishing

some territory going into the final with the victory in 22.53. Not too far behind was the American in 22.67. Ivet Lalova of Bulgaria got third in 23.03.

While Ferguson-McKenzie lived to compete in the final as the seventh fastest qualifier, Smith ended up with a No. 15 ranking. Strachan was 23rd. She declined to speak to the media after her performance.

SPORTS

13th IAAF World Championships



MEN'S 4 X 400 RELAY TEAM FAILS TO QUALIFY FOR FINAL

By BRENT STUBBS
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DAEGU, South Korea — Shocked. Surprised. Stunned. Unbelievable. Disappointing.

Those were just some of the thoughts that came to mind after watching the heart-wrenching and mouth-dropping performance of the men's 4 x 400 metre relay at the 13th IAAF World Championships yesterday.

The time posted up on the scoreboard for the combo of Ramon Miller, Avarid Moncur, Andrae Williams and LaToy Williams was three minutes and 1.54 seconds. (3:01.54). Not good enough to book a lane in the final tonight.

No season's best or personal best posted behind the Bahamas' name as they finished a disappointing fourth in the last of two heats in the semifinal that has been pushed up two days to accommodate the anticipated repeat of the Usain Bolt-led Jamaican mania as a result of the 2008 Olympic Games.

Was it the best team that the coaching staff could have assembled, considering that both national champion Demetrius Pinder and vintage Chris 'Fireman' Brown had two days from their surprising and stunning exit from the semifinal of the 400?

No doubt, it now must be an even bigger shocker for Brown, who will leave these championships without a medal after falling short in the 400, a race in hindsight that he probably felt he "coulda, shoulda" run faster to qualify.

Truth be told, the quartet assembled just simply didn't run fast enough to give him a chance or the coaching staff didn't put the right combo out there in the first place. The team that did didn't get the job done, falling one spot shy of redeeming themselves from the disqualification in the 2009 championships in Berlin, Germany.

Plain and simple. Enough said. "No comments," was what Miller had to say as he was the first to take the long and painful walk through the tunnel in the mixed zone. He even declined to speak to the local media.

However Moncur, who had a chance to give up the ghost that haunted him in Berlin where he unconsciously stepped out of the exchange zone before he got the baton which resulted in the disqualification of the team that included LaToy Williams and Nathaniel McKinney, was the first to clearly describe himself.

"We got a little behind, got stuck in traffic," said Moncur. "Can we talk later? I just find it very difficult to speak right now. Very disappointed right now. We went out



BATON CHANGE: Andrae Williams of the Bahamas (*far right*) waits to get the baton from fellow countryman Avarid Moncur (*far right top*) in a qualification round for the 4x400m relay at the World Athletics Championships in Daegu, South Korea, on Thursday, September 1, 2011.

(AP)

there and tried to execute. Unfortunately, the other teams were better today. It's very unfortunate because we really were hoping to come out with a top medal. Unfortunately, it didn't happen today."

Moncur would have gotten the baton first from Miller running out of lane eight. But cutting in on the stagger at the 300 mark, Moncur slipped into second. The team had to work between second through fourth the rest of the race.

Grand Bahamian Andrae Williams, who got the baton from Moncur in third and passed it off in that same position to LaToy Williams, had to take some time to compose himself before he finally broke his silence.

"It's unfortunate that we didn't get into the final," he stated. "I don't know. This is one of those situations that you really can't explain. I don't know what to say. I know I gave it my best. I don't know what position I was in. My head is just blank right now."

Despite not getting a chance to get back to the podium after winning a medal in 2001 in Edmon-

ton, Canada, with the gold to silver in Osaka, Japan, in 2007, Williams said they still have to give thanks to God for the time when the team rode on the glory train.

"It didn't go our way, but we have to be sober and always give thanks to God because at the end of the day, we should still give him praise in spite of what is going on. Some people might not want to hear that. But we have to stay focused and bounce back. But it is a disappointing performance."

Performance

As for LaToy Williams, he was very vocal about his assessment of the team's performance.

"It wasn't what we expected. The guys weren't as fast today," he said. "We were ready, but pretty much in the 4 x 4 relay, if you're not in front after the second leg, it's hard to catch up. Pretty much everyone is splitting the same thing as you."

"So all I could do is pretty much depend on them to give me the baton in a good place, which I did. I got it in fourth and I tried to get

out. I went out really hard. I got us in second on the back stretch. I guess what you give to the track, you can't take it back. I went out too hard. I guess that's how the cookie crumbled."

In putting the final pieces together, Williams faded down the home stretch as both Russia and Kenya's final legs propelled past him to clinch the remaining two spots behind Belgium, who ran the dynamic twin brothers Jonathan and Kevin Borlee on the second and anchor leg for the victory in a season's best (SB) of 3:00.71.

The Borlees were used, despite Kevin clinching the bronze and Jonathan settling for fifth in the 400 final.

Russia also posted a SB of 3:00.81 for second and Kenya got third in 3:00.97 for the automatic qualifying spots.

The Bahamas was left out of the picture after the first heat led by the US with 400 runner-up LaShawn Merritt on anchor pulling everybody else through.

Jamaica, resting 400 fourth place finisher Jermaine Gonzales, tak-

ing second in a SB of 2:59.13. South Africa, with double amputee leg runner Oscar Pistorius on lead off, got the third automatic spot in 2:59.21, a national record.

The two fastest losers also came out of heat one as their season's best times pushed the Bahamas out of contention. Great Britain was fourth in 3:00.38 and Germany was fifth in 3:00.68.

The Bahamas, France (seventh in the heat in 3:03.68) and Trinidad & Tobago (sixth in heat one in 3:02.47) were the only three countries out of the field of 16 that didn't improve on its season's best.

The Bahamas came into the championships having done a SB of 3:01.33 with the combo of LaToy Williams, Moncur, Michael Mathieu and Miller winning the gold at the Senior Central American and Caribbean Championships in Mexico in July.

Mathieu, still waiting to get on the track, was taken out of the relay pool as he is entered in the 200, which starts today with the heats and semifinals, the same day as the final of the relay.

'WE EXPECTED MORE OUT OF THE FINAL TWO LEGS'

FROM page 1E

After watching just about all of their opponents coming at full blast with just about all of their top athletes, Grant said it was too late to make any changes.

"The team that we had, we felt they were capable of qualifying, but they just didn't respond to the challenge," he said. "What I saw coming from the other competitors during the race, we still felt that we could have gotten through. The first two legs we thought were pretty good, but we expected more out of the final two legs and that didn't happen."

With all of the eight finalists - the United States, Jamaica, Russia, Belgium, Kenya, Germany, Great Britain and South Africa - qualifying with either a national record or season's best (US ran the world leading time), Grant said the Bahamas' chances were pretty much gone after the team didn't even come close to their gold medal performance

at the Central American and Caribbean Championships in July.

"We had a meeting with them afterwards and I think it's going to be very positive from here after," he said. "The Olympics is next year, so we have to do some things, one of which I think would have helped us more would have been to have a camp where we could really work with the quarter-milers, making sure that they were in a position where they would have been ready to run by having a few more meets and time trials to improve their sharpness."

"But the guys are holding their heads up. We are now focusing forward. This is history. There is nothing that we could do about it. It is something that we really know that we can't take anything for granted. We have to go with our big guns. Everybody has to be ready for battle. We fell short, but we will bounce back bigger, better and stronger in 2012 for the Olympics."



ANDRAE WILLIAMS can be seen following the 4x400 relay qualification in the 13th IAAF Worlds in Daegu, South Korea. The team of Ramon Miller, Avarid Moncur, Williams and LaToy Williams ran 3.01.54 seconds that was only good enough for fourth place in the last of two heats and ninth overall yesterday.

SPORTS



13th IAAF World Championships



IN FLIGHT: Raymond Higgs competes in the long jump in this file photo.

LONG JUMP: RAYMOND 25TH OUT OF 35; DOESN'T QUALIFY FOR THE FINAL

By **BRENT STUBBS**
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DAEGU, South Korea — It was his first appearance in a major international meet at the senior level and, although it wasn't his specialty, Raymond Higgs said it was quite a learning experience that he feels will propel him to greater heights in the future.

The first Bahamian to compete on the field yesterday at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics after a one-day break Wednesday, he was 12th in Group B of the men's long jump. His one and only leap of 7.72 metres or 25-feet, 4-inches was good enough to place him 25th out of a field of 35 competitors, three of whom didn't record a mark.

Higgs, the 20-year-old Grand Bahamian who prefers to compete

in the high jump, also came close to joining them after he christened his first Worlds leap with a scratch. Having gotten over the jitter-bug, he settled down to pop his legal mark.

But with the pressure on for him to produce his personal best that equalled the automatic qualifying mark of 8.15m (26-9) or finish as one of the top 12, Higgs was overwhelmed by it all and he scratched again.

"It was a good learning experience," he said. "I just have to learn from my mistakes and improve on it in the future competitions."

Before competing here at the biggest stage in the sport, Higgs completed his junior campaign by turning in an 11th place finish in the final of the long jump at the 13th IAAF World Junior Championships in 2010 in Moncton, Canada, where he also doubled up with a



RAYMOND HIGGS in Daegu.

15th place feat in the qualifying round of the high jump.

The winner of the BAAA National championship title in his hometown of Grand Bahama in July said after getting the first scratch here, the only thing on his mind was making sure he corrected his mistakes to at least get one good marker on the chart.

"The last jump, it was like a metre or a scratch, but that's just how it works sometimes," he stated. "Next time, I just have to get my run up right."

Although he admitted that he has been jumping consistently in training at the Games Village facility since he arrived here with the team on August 22, what he got in theory from the competition was that "practice is different from when you are out there with 40 people."

"Either you get it or you don't," he added.

For him, it was a lesson well learned.

The top qualifier out of Higgs' flight was Ngonidzashe Makusha of Zimbabwe with a distance of 8.11m on his third and final attempt, the same mark posted by Sebastian Byer of Great Britain on his first and only leap.

Defending champion American Dwight Philips had the best performance of the day when he landed a season's best of 8.32m (27-3 3/4) to lead the qualifiers in Group A. Itchell Watt of Australia matched the qualifying mark of 26-9 on his second attempt.

The 12th and final qualifier was Christian Tomlinson of Great Britain with 8.02m (26-3 3/4) in Group A as well.

The final qualifier out of Group B was Luvo Manyonga of the Republic of South Africa with 8.04m (26-4 1/2).

TREVOR BARRY WINS BRONZE FOR BAHAMAS' FIRST MEDAL

FROM page 1E

national meet that they competed in, including the Senior Central American and Caribbean Games and the Commonwealth Games last year. Thomas also won the national title for the past two years over Barry.

"This is the championships and you have to put your best foot forward," said Barry, who alluded to the unfortunate disappointing performance from the quarter-milers in the 400 and the 4 x 400 relay.

The only disappointment that Barry experienced was the fact that he didn't have a flag at the end of the competition to celebrate with Williams and Dmitrik as they took part in a reduced victory lap before going through the mixed zone where they were interviewed and had to participate in a press conference.

At the press conference, Williams had nothing but high marks for Barry. "I thought it was awesome. I've been jumping against Trevor for the past few years now and he's sneaked into the final and he stepped it up big time," Williams noted. "He's a fighter and I really respect that. So I'm really glad that he was able to get on the victory stand."

For his bronze-medal feat, Barry will collect a \$20,000 cheque from the IAAF. Although he made the final, Donald Thomas won't receive anything as the pay list stops at eighth place, which earns \$4,000.

The Bahamas Government provides incentives for athletes who make the Olympics or World Championships and win a medal at both. Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture Charles Maynard was not available to disclose just how much will be paid out.



DONALD THOMAS competes in the high jump at the 13th IAAF World Championships in Daegu, South Korea. He was eliminated on three attempts at 2.25m (7-4 1/2) after clearing just the opening height of 2.20m (7-2 1/2).

SPORTS



13th IAAF World Championships

'HE WAS JUST IN A ZONE THAT I NEVER SAW HIM COMPETE BEFORE'

Head coach Fritz Grant says Trevor Barry's bronze-medal feat in high jump was simply outstanding

By BRENT STUBBS
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DAEGU, South Korea — Head coach Fritz Grant said Trevor Barry's bronze medal in the men's high jump at the 13th IAAF World Championships was simply outstanding.

"If you followed Trevor closely from India at the Commonwealth Games, he was jumping extremely well and he was very consistent and focused and he had good preparation," Grant said. "He was very tough today. His approach was good and he was clearing the bar very well. He was just in a zone that I never saw him compete before."

He needed a personal best (PB) of 2.32 metres, but his progression of jumps was what made the difference as Barry was able to out-dual four other competitors on fewer knockdowns at the same height to secure the bronze. The gold went to American Jesse Williams, who had another tough battle with Russian Aleksey Dmitrik.

They both finished at 2.35m, but like Barry, Williams had less knockdowns than Dmitrik.

"He responded to the challenge," said Grant, looking at Barry's progression through the rounds. "He cleared just about every possession on his first height."

At one point, Barry actually led the competition after successfully clearing the first two heights at 2.20m and 2.25m. He passed at 2.29m and came back and continued his impressive leap to keep his score sheet clean at 2.32. But after producing his PR, Barry and the other four competitors all failed to clear 2.32. His progression was just that much better than the others.

"It was just a great performance by Trevor," Grant said.

Team manager Ralf McKinney said it was a good achievement that was well overdue.

"Trevor has been at the door knocking for a while and this is what we have been looking forward to," McKinney said.

"I know his coach Keith Parker wanted to be here. He would have been here. He bought his ticket and got his housing to be here with Trevor. I was communicating with him by e-mail and he sent the stuff that he wanted Trevor to do and I passed it on to him. It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy."

In the absence of Parker who came down with a bad fever,



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

GETTIN' UP: Trevor Barry competes in the high jump at the 13th IAAF World Championships in Daegu, South Korea. He won the bronze.

Ronald Cartwright, the field coach on the team, filled in. He too can claim some of the fame, having provided the hands on instructions to Thomas during the competition.

But nobody on the team was more thrilled by the feat than Barry's long-time friend and training partner, sprinter Adrian Griffith.

"Me and Trevor been through a lot from high school and college," said Griffith, who has since gotten over his first round disqualification in the men's 100 metres because of a false start on the first day of competition.

"We bond together and we came from so far. So I had to be out here to watch him perform. The last thing I told him was that he was going

out there to get a medal and a PB (personal best) and I was more than happy and excited for him when he cleared it. I think I was more excited than him. It was a great thing and I'm really excited for him."

Athletic

Bahamas Association of Athletic Associations president Mike Sands put another perspective on the performance.

"It's a saving grace at this point," he said. "We had some unfortunate circumstances where we expected a better showing and that didn't happen. So we are very, very happy for Trevor. First of all, he did his personal best. But what more could

you ask for when an athlete does his personal best. In the process, he got a medal, so I'm very happy for Trevor."

Despite the fact that the Bahamas had a few disappointments in events like the men's 400 and 4 x 400 relay by not getting a spot in the final, Sands said he's not one to strive on predictions.

"I'm one of those who say whoever it is, I just want them to go out there and if they qualify, then they have given their best and we have to be satisfied," Sands stated.

"When you look at the overall performances, unfortunately, persons were not up to the mark. The results will show that not all of the athletes did their personal or sea-

son's best," he added.

But in the winding days left in the competition, Sands said he's still confident of some great performances with Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie in the women's 200 final, Leevan 'Superman' Sands in the men's triple jump, Michael Mathieu in the men's 200 and the women's 4 x 100 relay team.

After Barry's performance, the Bahamas is now tied with Belgium, Spain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Latvia, South Africa, St Kitts and Nevis, Slovenia and Trinidad & Tobago for 26th place on the medal chart - all with one bronze. However, everybody except for Belgium and South Africa are tied for 30th in the placing table.

'IT SHOWS THE WORLD THAT TREVOR BARRY IS A NAME TO RECKON WITH AS A WORLD-CLASS PERFORMER'

By BRENT STUBBS
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DAEGU, South Korea — Select a meet - any meet - and the ticket is all booked for Trevor Barry.

That's one of the peaks that will come for Barry as the new IAAF World Championships' high jump bronze medallist, according to John Regis.

Now retired as one of England's greatest sprinters, Regis now serves as an agent for athletes competing in athletics. Fortunately, he has been retained by Barry to perform such duties as securing his berth in the various international meets around the world.

"I always felt Trevor was a talented individual and he showed some guts," said Regis as he came into the mixed zone at the Daegu Stadium to congratulate his client. "He missed 2.29 (7-feet, 6-inches) and jumped 2.32m (7-7 1/4) for a personal best and to get a medal, which I thought was just an outstanding performance."

Regis said the performance will now enable the 28-year-old Barry to travel the world and compete in any



ON THE RISE: Trevor Barry (right) with former sprinter John Regis after Barry won the bronze in the high jump at the 13th IAAF World Championships.

meet that he would like to earn some big bucks.

"In terms of an athlete, that gives

him massive confidence because he knows he can compete with the best in the world and be up there with

them," Regis said. "It also will allow him to get into Double League meets, World Challenge meets

rather easy now because he is a world championship medallist. It shows the rest of the world that Trevor Barry is a name to reckon with as a world-class performer."

More importantly, Regis said Barry just showed the world that "he belongs there, he has the talent, he is good enough and there is still a lot more to come."

Once he sits down with Barry before he leaves Daegu, Regis said they will look at the remainder of the season this year and decide where he wants to jump.

"Wherever he decides we will go," he said. "We will put some stuff together, but you will see him the remainder of this season in about two or three meets going out there and trying to jump high, but basically trying to jump high to be consistently with the best boys in the world."

Barry, by the way, is Regis' only client from the Bahamas. But he noted that because of Barry's work ethic and his desire to be the best, he will be looking at taking in a few more Bahamians under his wings. For now, he's going to bask with Barry in his glory as the new World Championships' bronze medallist.