

Caribbean Today

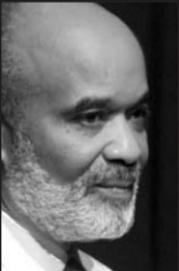
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Haiti's recently elected President Rene Prével was in South Florida last month offering hope to Haitians in the United States that the troubled state would rise again, although not overnight, page 2.



A gyrating red, white and black "congo line" near midnight in Dortmund, Germany meant only one thing: The Trinis were in the house – and in full force - at World Cup 2006, page 7.



Some 25 years after his death, superstar Bob Marley is still being bestowed with honors in lands far off from his own country. Brooklyn, New York stepped up recently to name one of its most popular streets after the reggae icon, page 17.

'DON'T GIVE UP ON JAMAICA'



~ Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller pleads with the Jamaican diaspora in the U.S. to rally around their homeland, **page 2.**

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'Don't give up on Jamaica'

~ Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller charms diaspora in official South Florida debut visit

DAMIAN P. GREGORY

Looking and sounding every bit like the seasoned politician that has endeared her to many of her homeland's poorest citizens, Portia Simpson Miller - Jamaica's first female prime minister - made a series of stops in South Florida late last month.

Her message: Don't give up on Jamaica.

In speeches that were part religious revival, part political rally, Simpson Miller spoke passionately, encouraging those from the Jamaican diaspora to be a part of the solution to the island's woes.

"The construct of Jamaica is not confined to the over 2.7 million people living within its shores, it embraces and includes another 2.7 million living overseas," Simpson Miller said.

"The fact that you (are) physically located in Jamaica does not make you any less committed to your homeland and its development," the leader reminded the audience of about 300 which gathered at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida.

"There is nothing that we set our minds to as Jamaicans that we cannot achieve. I want to assure you, I am going to working very hard to ensure when you want to return to Jamaica, you can come home and live in peace."



Simpson Miller makes her case to Jamaicans in the U.S.

Though Simpson Miller's message was delivered at what was billed as a community forum, the audience of mostly Jamaicans was not given an opportunity to ask questions of their homeland's new leader in her first official visit to Florida since taking office in Mar. 2006.

WARM WELCOME

But Simpson Miller did pose for pictures and shake hands with many who came from all over South Florida to meet the woman who made history in Feb. 2006 when delegates from her ruling People's National Party (PNP) elected her leader of their party. That decision meant she would become the first woman in the island's history to hold the Jamaica's highest political office.

Simpson Miller, 60, succeeded P.J. Patterson, who served a record-breaking four

terms as prime minister before deciding to step down.

Since taking office, Simpson Miller has seen a decline in her popularity at home in Jamaica, but polls commissioned by the Jamaica **Gleaner**, still show her leading likely political challenger Bruce Golding, leader of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), in a head-to-head match up. Elections are expected to be called by next year.

PROBLEMS

Simpson Miller's message of unity, peppered with stories of her rise from "the bowels of the working class" from rural Jamaica, resonated with many in the audience. They were won over by her homespun charm - demonstrated by going into the audience to hug and greet many of her countrymen - down-to-earth delivery, the emphatic way she hammered home her points, while evoking the "strength of a woman" mantra that was the hallmark of her successful campaign for president of the PNP.

While offering few specifics about how she would solve problems facing Jamaica, which she readily identified - including the staggering number of murders that made the island stand out for having the highest murder rate per capita in the world in 2005 - public corruption, political trib-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

U.K. Privy Council orders T&T to grant radio licence to Hindus

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - The Privy Council in London has ruled in favor of the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS), a Hindu umbrella organization which had taken the Trinidad and Tobago government to court for failing to grant the organization a radio broadcast licence.

Earlier this month the Law Lords ordered the attorney general (AG) to grant the licence forthwith.

The decision by the Privy Council has brought to an end a four-year long battle between the Maha Sabha and the government over the granting of the licence. The Hindu organization had claimed that the People's National Movement (PNM) government had deliberately discriminated against it after it granted a similar licence to a well-known PNM supporter Louis Lee Sing to start his radio station, Citadel.

In a 19-page judgment, the AG was ordered to immediately ensure the granting of a FM radio broadcast licence on an appropriate frequency to the Central Broadcasting Services Limited (CBSL), a company formed by the SDMS. The AG

was also ordered to pay the SDMS's legal costs in both the local courts and the Privy Council, an amount which will easily cross the million-dollar mark.

A release was promptly dispatched from the AG's office promising to "take immediate steps to provide the appellant" with a licence.

DISCRIMINATION

The appeal was heard before Lord Hoffman, Lord Hope, Lord Hutton, Lord Brown and Lord Mance. They commended the local courts for the manner in which it had handled the case and found it "highly regrettable that the Court of Appeal was allowed to proceed under false premises."

According to the judgment, there was "unexplained and unjustified discrimination" in the refusal to grant the CBSL a broadcast licence in favour of the Citadel Limited application, whose application had been filed long after the CBSL's.

The Maha Sabha and CBSL had applied for broad-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Gays oppose Jamaican deejays performing in the United Kingdom

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Popular Jamaican reggae artiste Mark Anthony Myrie, also known as "Buju Banton" has been prevented from performing in the United Kingdom following a petition from members of the gay community there.

Buju Banton was scheduled to perform earlier this month at the "Concorde Two" club in the English seaside resort of Brighton. However, the police refused permission for the event because of pressures from the gay community.

According to reports in the U.K. press, the operators of the club originally defended the decision to have the concert at the venue saying that

they had been promised that Buju Banton would not perform his most notorious song "Boom Bye Bye", written in 1992 when he was 18 years old. The song advocates killing gay men.

They, however, backed down fearing that holding the event would affect their licence.

There were also reports that a concert scheduled for July 29 in Britain, featuring Moses Davis better known as "Beenie Man" has been cancelled after

police raised concern over the violent and homophobic nature of his lyrics. Other dancehall stars have also been targeted by gay rights groups.



Buju Banton



Beenie Man

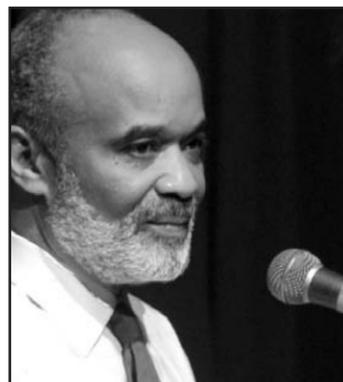
Haiti's new president makes positive start in Miami

MIAMI - Surrounded by secret service agents and police, Haiti's newly elected leader Rene Prével entered a Liberty City, Florida auditorium late last month to thunderous applause.

This was his first visit to South Florida since being chosen president of Haiti in March.

The soft-spoken, diminutive agronomist, took 51 per cent of the popular vote in an election which resulted in him replacing the hugely popular Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who left Haiti in 2004 and has been exiled in South Africa ever since.

Prével, in a speech designed to encourage Haitian Americans to remain dedicated to a country that has been beset by economic and political strife for decades, outlined many of the challenges his



Prével

newly minted administration faces as it works to forge a course for the nation of over eight million people.

"Everything cannot happen in one day," Prével told the audience of primarily Haitian nationals, in the country's native creole language.

"We need investments in the country," he added.

He said that Haiti must work to increase the number of tourists who visit the Caribbean nation. The leader acknowledged that was not an easy task given Haiti's history of violence and kidnappings that has captured international headlines.

For Haitian-born Miami resident "Marie", who said she misses her homeland daily, Prével's speech was good, but left her with more questions than answers.

"It was good to see and hear him," she told **Caribbean Today**.

"He is talking about all of these problems, but I know that they are not going to be as easy to solve as people think, but it is a start."

- **Damian P. Gregory.**



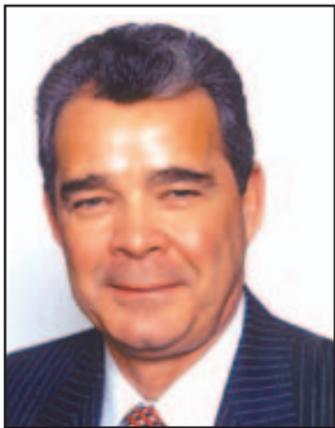
NEWS

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Hoteliers worried about crime effects on Caribbean tourism

MIAMI, CMC - Newly elected President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) Peter Odle says he will use his two-year term in office to initiate strategies to deal with the crime situation that poses a serious threat to the regional tourism industry.

"We can no longer see crime as a matter affecting just an individual location, but it has become a holistic matter in the Caribbean. We are discovering more and more, especially with the advent of the Internet, that if one country is affected by crime the entire industry suffers," he



Sanguinetti

told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** late last month.

CHA Secretary General Alec Sanguinetti said his organization would work closely with the Barbados-based Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) in the fight against crime. He said both organizations had recognized the danger being posed to the future of the industry from rising crime and were combining their resources to deal with it. He also said that for the past two years they have been able to obtain the co-operation of the Association of the Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) on the issue.

"The theme of their annual conference held in the USVI last year and in Aruba this year was protecting the tourism industry product and they were quoting statements from the World Travel and Tourism Council study commissioned by the CHA on protecting the tourism product. So they are very much aware of the need to address the problem," he said.

Sanguinetti said that police commissioners were members of the national hotel associations in the region and the CHA is holding discussions with the ACCP on an exchange of membership at the level of directors.

TIMELY DONATION

Meanwhile, tourism offi-

cials, ending their weeklong Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference (CHIC) here, welcomed a decision by the **New York Times** newspaper to donate \$1 million in advertising to reduce the impact of the new policy by the United States that its citizens require

passports to re-enter the country from visits to the Caribbean.

"It is the best example of real friends," said CTO Secretary General, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace. "They recognized that the Caribbean would experience difficulties

and came to us. It was their initiative. Imagine what will happen if other media follow suit?"

The U.S.-based newspaper said that it would print the advertisements on a "space-available basis", to boost the awareness among the U.S.

consumers that as of Jan. 1, 2007 they need a passport to return into the U.S. after visiting the Caribbean, Mexico or Canada. The newspaper prints close to 600,000 copies on a weekday and 880,000 on Sundays.



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NEWS

T&T P.M. meets U.S. vice president

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Prime Minister Patrick Manning last month held talks with United States Vice President Dick Cheney on several issues, including deportees and drug trafficking in the Caribbean.

Manning and the U.S. vice president met at the White House for about 35 minutes

according to a statement from the prime minister's office.



Manning

During the talks, special emphasis was placed on stemming the drug trafficking trade in the Eastern Caribbean and the need for the U.S. to work more closely with Caribbean countries on the issue of deportation of criminals to their shores.



Cheney

long complained that the deportation of criminals, who would have spent most of their lives in the U.S., has been a major contributor to growing crime in the region.

They also argue that the demand for drugs in the U.S. has fuelled the drug trade in Caribbean islands and therefore the U.S. needed to provide greater assistance in helping them with security.

Discussions also focused on duty access to U.S. markets for goods packaged in Trinidad and Tobago.

COMPLAINTS

Caribbean countries have

N.Y. group welcomes extradition of Guyana's most wanted man

NEW YORK, CMC - A Brooklyn-based Caribbean group has welcomed the extradition to the United States of indicted Guyanese businessman Roger Khan, calling for wide criminal investigation into his activities.

The Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) said in a statement earlier that Khan should be "punished to the fullest extent of the law possible, if convicted."

"The long arms of U.S. justice has inevitably and finally reached out and touched Roger Khan, who has been a fugitive from U.S. justice", it stated. "This gentleman is, unquestionably, a threat to U.S. national security as well as a clear and present danger to the Guyanese society".

CGID commended Surinamese law enforcement and justice authorities for their "excellent work" in capturing "this dangerous fugitive" and extraditing him to the U.S.

On June 29 Khan was deported to Trinidad by

Surinamese officials, where he was picked up by U.S. law enforcement officers on trafficking charges. He had reportedly entered Suriname illegally from Trinidad. Khan, listed as Guyana's most wanted man, was extradited two weeks after he was held in Paramaribo. On June 28 a judge in Paramaribo dropped



Khan

drugs and weapons possession charges him, and "ordered him expelled from the country."

Khan, 35, was indicted by a Brooklyn court in April on alleged cocaine trafficking charges to American destinations between 2001 and 2006. He became Guyana's most wanted man in March after the military reported the disappearance of 30 Ak-47 rifles from a depot at army headquarters.

Khan had fled to Suriname, where he was arrested on June 15 with three ex-Guyanese policemen bodyguards, and held until his expulsion from Suriname at daybreak on June 29.

More on page 26.

N.Y. court revokes Bermudian's plea

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - A Bermudian accountant accused of stealing almost \$2 million from the Bermuda government had his guilty plea dramatically revoked in New York late last month and may now stand trial instead, the **Royal Gazette** newspaper reported.

Harrison Isaac, Jr. admitted in January that he stole \$1,899,888 from a Bank of New York account, the biggest ever fraud against the Bermuda government. However, an 11th-hour court battle on the day the 35-year-old Bermudian was supposed to be sentenced saw this plea rejected instead.

Isaac had admitted a conspiracy to defraud the Bermuda government after striking a plea bargain with an agreement that he would testify at the trial of 33-year-old U.S. national Taketa Thomkins - who maintains her innocence - and would therefore not face further charges of money laundering. However, during a tense afternoon of courtroom sparring on June 27, the American government persuaded Federal district judge Laura Taylor Swain to revoke Isaac's guilty plea.

Lynn Neils, of the U.S. Attorney's Office of Southern

New York, argued that under the plea bargain it was agreed Isaac would specifically admit conspiring with Thomkins. However, Isaac actually pleaded in what his defense attorney Alexander Eisemann called an "artful crafting" of words to conspiring with "persons" - not naming Thomkins.

INEFFECTIVE PLEA

Instead of sentencing him as was planned, Judge Swain ruled that the plea agreement was unenforceable and his plea was no longer effective. Isaac worked as a management accountant in the Bermuda Accountant General's Department. He had sole access to the Bank of New York account which was set up by the Bermuda government to pay vendors in U.S. dollars under post-9/11 financial regulations.

According to the charges, Isaac made unauthorized wire transfers out of it to accounts controlled by himself or a co-conspirator in the U.S. and Bermuda between May 2003 and Feb. 2004.

On the basis of his original plea, Isaac had been said to face a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Windjammer's Anthony Bowen is Caribbean Hotelier of the Year

MIAMI - Anthony Bowen, managing director of the Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort and Spa in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, was honored by his peers late last month at the 2006 Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference (CHIC), with the 2006 Golden Conch Award as "Caribbean Hotelier of the Year".

The award recognizes superior hotel management, as well as the ability to nurture the intricate elements that lay the foundation of success, not only for a specific property, but the Caribbean hospitality industry at large. The annual tribute is sponsored by Yesawich, Pepperdine, Brown & Russell and American Express.

A native of Barbados, Bowen began his career as food and beverage manager, then assistant general manager, of the Southern Palms Hotel in Barbados. His next position was as a partner in the Silver Sands Beach Hotel. He then

moved to the Sandy Lane Hotel, as food and beverage manager and later director of operations for Pemberton Resorts. By 1986 he was a

shareholder in the Treasure Beach Hotel.

In 1989 Bowen relocated to Jamaica, having been appointed vice president of development for Ciboney Villa Resorts, Jamaica; then on to St. Lucia as general manager of the Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort. Bowen then ventured to Antigua to manage the

Pinapple Beach Resorts and was later hired to develop and open the Carlisle Bay Resort in Antigua.

He later returned to St. Lucia and the Windjammer Landing Resort as the managing director.



Bowen displays his award for the audience.

BET IT'S SOMETHING INTERESTING



The BET J booth at the Caribbean Fair, part of "Caribbean Week" celebrations in New York last month, was a hive of activity. BET J used the opportunity to strengthen its partnership with Caribbean destinations and promote "Island Lime" to a market that BET J executive Cybelle Brown, a St. Lucian, describes as both influential and underserved.

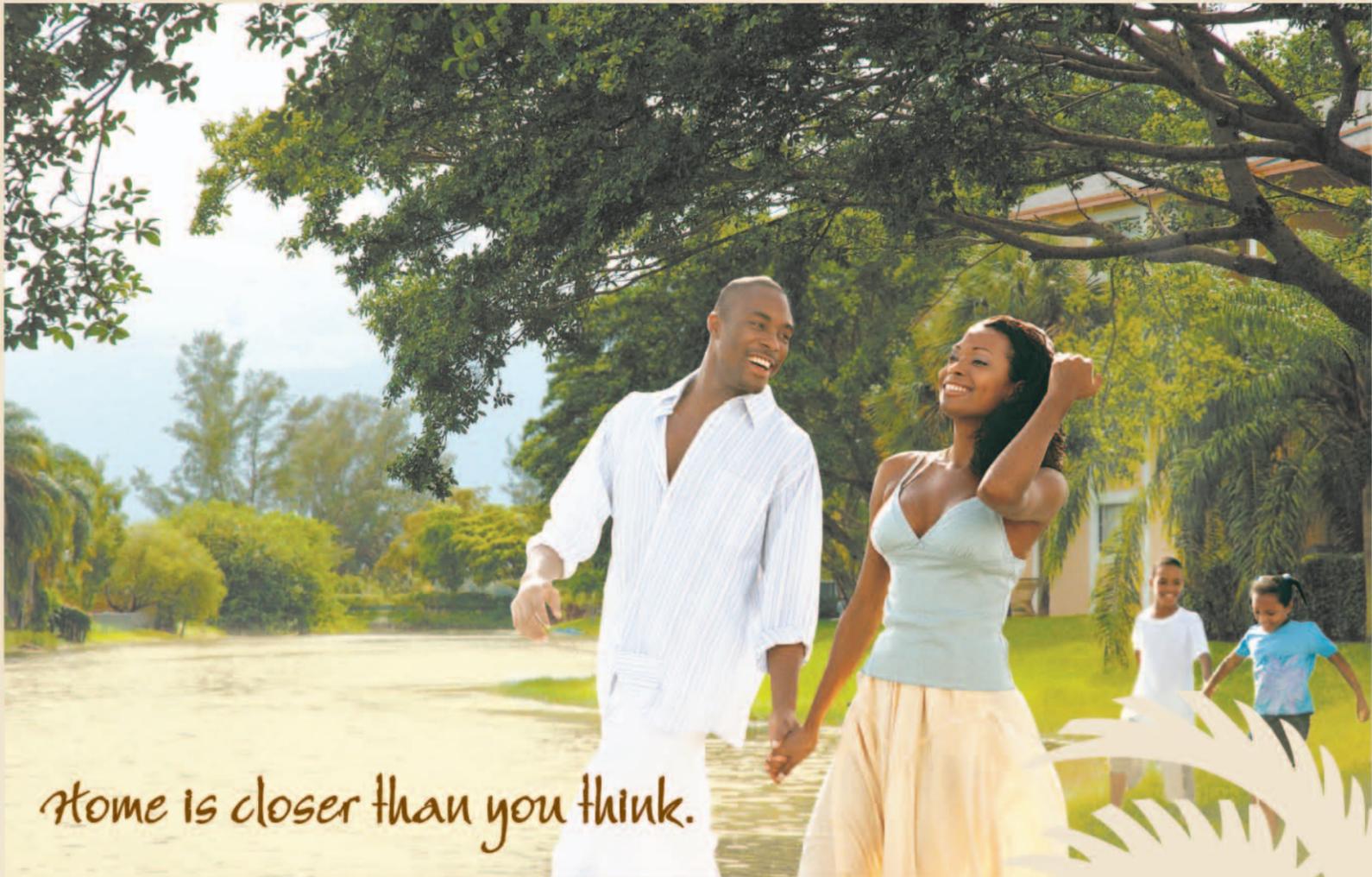
"We value the Caribbean community in the U.S., which is an influential and huge constituency," said Brown, vice president of sales and marketing for BET Digital Networks. "Yet it has not had a place to go for nostalgic programming or to learn more about what's happening the Caribbean, such as the latest music coming out of the region." She said that as the network evolves, "Island Lime" will also be the venue for economic, political and other news features.

Based on the success of Caribbean programming on the former BET Jazz channel, BET J has embarked on an entire day of programming dedicated to Caribbean music and culture, including island festival specials. "The Caribbean has been a successful part of our programming and revenue model so it's important for us to give back to the Caribbean," said Brown, who pledged BET Digital Networks' continuing commitment to helping various Caribbean organizations gain exposure on the network.



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Caribbean seeks new trade pact with U.S.

PETER RICHARDS

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries are seeking to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States even as a leading regional technocrat said the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was no longer a viable option for the Caribbean trade and economic development.

"FTAA has been on life support for some time and the prognosis is not good," said Dr. Richard Bernal, head of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM).

"While it was a viable option in existence...it is no point in putting your eggs in baskets that are not likely to be pursued by everybody else. If nobody isn't, how are we going to negotiate it," he added.

Speaking at the end of the recent prime ministerial sub-committee meeting on external trade negotiations, Bernal said there was need to move quickly to develop a "long lasting" trade relationship with Washington.

"What we discussed is whether to approach the United States for a free trade agreement. The U.S. has made clear that any new trade agreement would have to approximate a free trade," he said adding, "we are interested in making the decision as soon as possible.

"We have to think of securing our interest in the United

States on a long term basis. In addition, we want to expand the coverage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the



Bernal

Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) which is confined to trade in goods."

STALLED

Bernal said the FTAA process had been stalled for some years now and that outside of CARICOM, interest in renewing that with the U.S. has moved to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and bilateral negotiations and in addition some interest has waned because the Dominican Republic and Central America have replaced their market access with the Central American Free Trade Area (CAFTA) agreement.

Trinidad and Tobago has been pushing for the FTAA to be headquartered in Port of Spain and Trade Minister Kenneth Valley said that as far

as the Patrick Manning administration was concerned the FTAA was on the back burner.

"I believe that we could see some movement early next year," he said, noting that it had been sidetracked because of elections in Brazil and the U.S.

"Until they get past the elections, I don't think it is going to be an issue they will consider," he told the **Caribbean Media Corporation**.

He said Port of Spain had



Valley

not been pursuing the FTAA headquarters issue aggressively for the last year and a half, "but we are still watching it."

Jamaica's Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, who chaired the meeting, described the deliberations as "a good one," adding, "we discussed several important issues affecting our region."

New P.M. delivers rallying cry to Jamaicans in Florida

DAWN A. DAVIS

More than 300 Jamaicans squeezed into the grand ballroom of Hollywood's Westin Diplomat Resort last month to welcome their new Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller.

Representing the elite, the influential and the moneyed Jamaicans living in South Florida, this invitation-only crowd paid rapt attention to the Simpson Miller's every word as she delivered the "gospel" of Portia, not unlike a preacher on the pulpit.

Although her speech was measured in the beginning, the prime minister eventually warmed up, sprinkling her words with biblical verses as she urged Jamaicans in the diaspora to unite in the name of nation building.

"I come to the kingdom at a time such as this," she said. "... My faith and my god is strong."

Her plea, however, lacked

specifics, as did her mention of crime and violence, a topic at the forefront of Jamaicans' minds at home and abroad. But, her efforts to rally the crowd seemed to work as she urged Jamaicans not to "join in badmouthing your country" and to "never forget the blood running through your veins."

CAMPAIGNING

The same speech was used to motivate the 300-plus audience the following evening at a forum at Davie's Nova Southeastern University. This event, which was open to the public, brought out Jamaicans from all economic levels. Simpson Miller again used her "gospel" to her advantage, moving her South Florida constituents to the



Simpson Miller

kind of frenzy typical at a campaigning event.

"Jamaica needs a change, and I am that change," she promised, as she pleaded with Opposition Jamaica Labour Party supporters to back her, explaining "I am about the people, Jamaica and Jamaicans."

As she did the night before, Simpson Miller promised to balance the books and balance the people's lives as well. She announced an initiative to advertise Jamaica jobs in and outside Jamaica so that Jamaicans in the diaspora would also have access. Her impassioned comments about understanding the poor because of her poor background also resonated with the crowd.

With that, the audience sprang to their feet, erupting in long, thunderous applause, in honor of Jamaica's first female prime minister.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

Caribbean leaders to meet in special summit on economy

PETER RICHARDS

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – Caribbean community (CARICOM) leaders will meet in a special summit later this year to discuss the framework to further advance the arrangements for the single economy dimension of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur has said.

Arthur, briefing reporters after making a presentation to his regional colleagues attending the 27th annual CARICOM summit here, said no date or venue had yet been decided for the special meeting. But he said that in order to speed up the pace of the framework, a symposium

would most likely be held in Barbados prior to the special summit to "advance the framework establishing the single market."

Arthur, who has lead responsibility for the CSME within CARICOM, said the meeting would be sponsored by the Barbados government, the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the CARICOM Secretariat.

"We recognize that now there can be an acceleration of the pace to have that framework for the single economy ready by 2008...with the understanding that some time after we have had that additional symposium there will be a special summit of heads," he said.

Teacher on murder charge

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC – A 40-year-old school teacher, Nigel Abraham, who allegedly strangled his wife, has made his first appearance in court here.

Police said the body of 36-year-old Bernadette Abraham was discovered at her home last month, but her husband was only charged in connection with her death earlier this month.

According to the police,

the accused was charged following investigations by members of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and the findings of forensic experts.

Abraham appeared before Magistrate Patricia Mark and was not asked to enter a plea. He was remanded to re-appear in court on July 20.

U.K. Privy Council orders T&T...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

casting licences in Dec. 1999 and Sept. 2000 respectively. A search of the Companies Registry revealed that Citadel, whose directors were Louis Lee Sing and Anthony Lee Aping, had only been incorporated on Aug. 28, 2001.

Citadel applied for a licence on Mar. 13, 2001. The SDMS found this out in Aug. 2002, prompting the organization, whose application was still pending, to take legal action against the AG on the grounds of discrimination.

The judgement said there

'Don't give up on Jamaica'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

alism, and problems with Jamaica's struggling economy - her connection with the people, that saw her write a page in Jamaica's history, was evident.

"That's what we needed all along, a prime minister that will stand up for rights, and for unity, and (who is) non-political," Jamaican-born Kirk Harpaul told **Caribbean Today**, after listening to Simpson Miller speak. "We need a true, genuine prime minister."

For Jamaican-born Sharon

was a "conspicuous" failure to process the application over three years by the director of the telecommunications division.

The matter was first heard before Justice Carlton Best on Jan. 19, 2004 and judgement was given on Feb. 4. The judge held that there had been unequal treatment against the CBSL and the SDMS, but considered it unnecessary to grant an order obliging the Cabinet to give the organization a licence. He ruled that only the CBSL was entitled to relief.

Terrelong, Simpson Miller's leadership is an encouraging sign that Jamaica has brighter days ahead.

"We just want to work with her and wish her all the best," the Lauderhill, Florida resident told **Caribbean Today**, "and hope that Jamaica can be a better place that we can go home and be happy."

Story and main cover photograph by Damian P. Gregory, Caribbean Today's deputy managing editor.

FEATURE

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Trinis lead Caribbean celebration at soccer World Cup in Germany

GORDON WILLIAMS

A gyrating red, white and black "congo line" near midnight in Dortmund, Germany meant only one thing: The Trinis were in the house.

For nearly two weeks last month, thousands of fans of Trinidad and Tobago's Soca Warriors soccer team made their presence felt during World Cup 2006.

They traveled from the twin-island republic, parts of North America and Europe, and the rest of the Caribbean to celebrate their team's participation in soccer's biggest

show. Along the way they startled, engaged and embraced the wide-eyed German population not used to the Caribbean carnival spirit. And even though the Soca Warriors failed to find the net on the field, their loyal fans – face paint, flag waving and all – scored big off it.

"We're sharing in a piece of history," was how Riyad Khan, a 28-year-old who lives in San Fernando, Trinidad, explained the experience to **Caribbean Today** as he traveled by train to T&T's first game against Sweden in Dortmund.

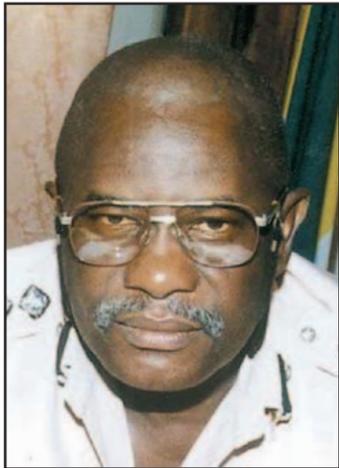
"We're here to explore

High Court steps in as Guyana wiretap controversy deepens

GEORGETOWN, Guyana - Justice William Ramlall's gag order last month prohibiting all government ministers and their functionaries from commenting or issuing statements on the so-called "tape gate"

The controversy started in February after a robust Joint Services campaign to recover 38 weapons stolen from the army's storage bond entangled some prominent businessmen and former police ranks. All are now wanted for questioning here following the discovery of the illegal weapons, narcotics and other paraphernalia at their firms or homes.

Two wiretapped tapes, allegedly containing the voice of Felix discussing sensitive national security issues with an Opposition legislator mys-



Felix

scandal has temporarily cooled the political climate here.

The scandal, which has ensnared Police Commissioner Winston Felix, had also sparked a nasty public spat between the top cop and Home Affairs Minister Gail Teixeira.

Felix, last month, applied to the High Court to quash Prime Minister Sam Hinds's decision to write to him on allegations arising from a number of controversial wiretapped conversations. He also sought and was granted an order prohibiting the prime minister from proceeding with any investigation to determine whether to advise President Bharrat Jagdeo to appoint a tribunal to probe possible wrongdoing in the matter.



Teixeira

teriously surfaced at the height of the campaign. Prime Minister Sam Hinds wrote Felix last month demanding an "immediate response" following repeated televised broadcast of the two tapes.

STUNNED

Felix told Hinds in a letter he would consult his attorneys before responding fully to his demands, but stunned the government with a sudden move to the High Court. In his affi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



A T&T fan proudly raises a banner that underscores his support for the Soca Warriors at the 2006 World Cup.

the culture of Germany and have fun; that goes without saying."

PRESENCE

Khan, who visited a few other cities including Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, Nuremberg and Kaiserslautern, was absolutely right. And judging from the massive presence of ever jumping and cheering fellow Trinins at all three Soca Warriors'

match venues – Nuremberg and Kaiserslautern were the other two – he was never alone. All harbored the dream that T&T would somehow pull through the first round or group phase of the competition, especially after a promising start, but few had entered Germany expecting the Warriors to beat established soccer powers like Sweden and England.

"I'm not looking for them to win a game," said former national youth player Carlos Lee before T&T's first game against Sweden. "But if they can tie a game that will be good."

A 0-0 draw with Sweden satisfied that appetite. It also inspired the players and fans to set their sights even higher (CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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FEATURE

Trinis lead Caribbean celebration at soccer World Cup in Germany

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

as the competition wore on. Losses to England and then

FAMILY

"We're all one big family in the Caribbean," said Jamaican Alison Taffe as she

well. Many liked the spunk of the underdog Warriors. T&T, with its population of 1.3 mil-

countries. In large cities – like Frankfurt – and small towns, Trinbagonians were spotted

the streets and stations after games, blew horns and whistles, and hugged strangers as if they were long lost friends. In many instances, the locals returned the favor as if it was the most natural trade.

"We support the Trinidadians over the Englanders," German Rainer Schuhmann said after T&T lost to England in his hometown Nuremberg. "It's Caribbean."

For two weeks in June the Caribbean had indeed made its mark in Germany.

Story and photographs by Gordon Williams, Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Trinidad and Tobago fans at the World Cup show off their true colors.



Paraguay ended those hopes, but did not totally dampen the Caribbean spirit. Many from other countries in the region showed up in Germany specifically to cheer for T&T.

waited for the kickoff at T&T's second match in Nuremberg. "I have no problem supporting Trinidad."

It turned out that view was shared by Europeans as

lion, is the smallest nation ever to play in the World Cup finals. And, of the 32 teams in this year's event, the Trini fan support and visible presence did not fall far behind other

almost everywhere, in stores, bars and train stations, even on days when the Soca Warriors were not scheduled to take the field.

They sang and danced in

High Court steps in as Guyana wiretap controversy deepens

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

davit, Felix said "it appears to me that the Government of Guyana has...has purportedly commenced invocation of the constitutional provisions to effect my removal from office."

However, this was rejected by Minister Teixeira who said the government has never called for the removal of the police commissioner.

"In fact, it has not been the administration but the Georgetown Chamber (of Commerce) and members from the Private Sector Commission (PSC) who have been repeating calls for his resignation," Teixeira said in a television broadcast.

"I would like to disclose to the commissioner of police how erroneous his conclusions are and the height of recklessness he has publicly displayed in making those unworthy claims," she continued.

The minister said that if the commissioner of police has

nothing to hide, "surely in the face of mounting public concern he would see merit in not opposing an investigation as laid out in the constitution."

Felix has consistently denied the conversations on



Hinds

the two tapes ever took place and said in his affidavit that they are clumsy simulations, edited by "phantoms who seem to have caught the ear of the government."

Meanwhile, parliamentar-

ian Deryck Bernard, of the main Opposition People's National Congress Reform (PNC/R), says he finds it alarming the security minister's first worry is about the contents of the tape and not the perpetrators who made the illegal recording.

Teixeira said since the two tapes surfaced the government had given the Joint Services an additional G\$20 million (\$100,000) for intelligence gathering; authorized the deployment of the GDF from their barracks; and enlisted international assistance in the criminal investigations. She accused Felix of pursuing an unprofessional course of action by seeking to discredit Hinds and the government by "using the courts and other technicalities to stave off an investigation into his conduct.

"By inference and by words, the commissioner of police has unprofessionally and precipitously gone to the courts prejudging the actions to be taken by the honorable

prime minister and His Excellency the President (Bharrat Jagdeo) on the basis of unsubstantiated and baseless claims against the government," she said.

'RECKLESS'

Teixeira said the police commissioner's move to the High Court is reckless and has undermined his professionalism.

But in his ruling, Justice Ramlall said Teixeira's statements were "distasteful", reminding that the constitution gives every Guyanese the right to legal redress.

The ruling is welcome respite from the boiling controversy which threatens to further tear apart this racially and politically fractured country. Guyanese now wait to see what will be the next development.

- CMC



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Street Address:
9020 SW 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33157
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PETER A WEBLEY
Publisher

GORDON WILLIAMS
Managing Editor

DAMIAN P. GREGORY
Deputy Managing Editor

SABRINA FENNELL
Graphic Artist

DOROTHY CHIN
Account Executive

SUNDAY SELLERS
Account Executive

AMANDA ECHEVERRI
Accounting Manager

Caribbean Media Source
Media Representatives
TOM JONAS
353 St. Nicolas Street, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 2P1
Tel: (514) 931-0422 • Fax: (514) 931-0455
E-mail: tom@cmsworldmedia.com

Jamaica Bureau
MARIE GREGORY
(876) 925-5640
P.O. Box 127, Constant Spring
Kingston 8, Jamaica

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VIEWPOINT

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Dads are the awesome-est

We've reached an odd place in Western history when a case has to be made for fatherhood, but here we are.

I'm a shameless "Daddy's girl" even though I'm well past the age of a "girl" and "Daddy" is 10 years in the grave. I'm even past grieving at this point and struggle sometimes to bring his face into focus.

What I have no trouble recalling is the power of his influence in my life and the utter impossibility of imagining a childhood without him. It's not that he was perfect - who is? - but he was mine. And because my mother died young, he was mostly mine for much of my childhood.

This particular happenstance is probably what led me to become a champion of fathers. If my father had died young instead of my mother, maybe I'd be a champion of motherhood, but I doubt it for this simple reason: Motherhood doesn't need a champion.

UNCERTAINTY

The sanctity of motherhood is intact and manifest, as irrefutable as the umbilical bond between mother and child. Fatherhood is something less certain. Until the advent of DNA to prove paternity, fatherhood was a bond of faith founded in trust.

She says, "The baby's yours."

He says, "I will be his father."

Unlike women, who know with inescapable certainty that they are the parent of their own child, men have had to place their faith in the integrity of their sexual partner. Thus, fatherhood was a voluntary commitment, a quintessential offering of self-sacrifice and surrender to mother and child.

His selfish interest, of course, was tied to his wish to propagate and protect his own bloodline. Even so, sticking around requires a leap of faith that borders on the mystical.

It's really rather sweet when you think about it - man surrendering his less laudable nature, tamping down his more natural inclination to play Johnny Applesed in order to mow grass on weekends and patch skinned knees for the added privilege of working hard for little credit. Fathers, in a word, are awesome.

Things have shifted a bit in recent years, you may have noticed, and "awesome" isn't a word you hear much in describing men, unless you've got some little moon-faced twit gaping at a guy's pecs or the angle of his jeans. More often

they're deadbeats, losers, rapists, murderers and abusers. Oh, and idiots. Name a T.V. dad who can tie his shoes without assistance from his far-smarter wife or kid.

EXPENDABLE

Fathers aren't only morons, they're expendable.

Today's women - armed with degrees and checkbooks, not to mention easy access to sperm banks - enjoy the social freedom to have children with or without dear ol' dad counting contractions and are increasingly opting out of the paperwork. Gone is any shame associated with having children out of wedlock.



KATHLEEN PARKER

For a visual aid, picture Angelina Jolie - goddess/mother toting her collection of global offspring with unwed Brad-Dad in tow, shuffling along like a bashful Sherpa. You get the feeling he's a bit player in the larger narrative, a cameo father with a little "f". How long before mother becomes bored with the father she thus far hasn't bothered to marry?

Obviously, celebrities occupy a demographic all their own, and celebs of Jolie-Pitt status dwell in a niche apart. Who else gets to shut down a country while they give birth? But the broader celebration of these faux-unions and love-babies creates a new storyline that trickles down to the street and gets re-enacted by the uncelebs and lesser actors among us.

Advice to Jolie wannabes: If you're going to have babies outside of marriage, it's best to have a few millions stashed in el banco. Barring that, it's best to have a father who cares that his offspring are more than the result of a random sprint around the fallopian track.

To say that children want, need and deserve to have a father seems as unnecessary as insisting that they want, need and deserve oxygen. How did we arrive at not knowing this? That some marriages aren't good enough to preserve is understood and regrettable. But why we would willingly fashion a society in which men are denigrated and fathers minimized like some useless icon is a mystery that escapes me.

The even greater mystery is that men continue to sign up for the job, to sublimate themselves to the higher charge of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

Turning the screws

Well, I have been saying for years that men cannot really cheat on women, as it is the very nature of men to stray, and deep down in their subconscious, women kind of expect it.

But when a woman who is perceived to be virtuous, respectable, domesticated and wifely, takes unto herself a lover, then men freak out. It's like they were blindsided, hit by a left hook that they never saw coming, taken completely by surprise, and that's why it upsets and hurts them so.

"I never thought that my wife would go with another man, never in my wildest dreams. All those evenings she gone to prayer meeting, and she was on her knees, but not praying."

But it's because of this foolish notion that men have, that women do not, and will not screw around, plus the fact that wives are 'property' why it mystifies them when they do.

Women have confided to me that every few months they have to go outside for a little taste of something different, even though it will not affect their relationship with their husbands.

"I wish men could understand that women have the same wanderlust that men have, but just that many are afraid to act on it. Well, I'm not."

What is interesting is that if the man found out that his woman was turning the screws with another woman, he might not be as upset as if she had it with another man. That's because a rival man has a screwdriver, enters a woman, penetrates her body, mind and soul, and men can't handle that.

EYE OPENER

The eye opening findings of a team of German



researchers reported that 53 percent of women said that they had been unfaithful to their partners, compared to 59 percent of men.

Still, the reasons why women are unfaithful are different from men. Men are driven by lust, while women usually have more complex reasons and in fact, infidelity can happen even to good people in good marriages, the research paper says. The top three reasons they say, are friendships at work, child centered marriages and intimate Internet conversations.

Now we all know how that friendship at work scenario pays out. The wife spends a whole heap of time with her boss or co-worker in the prime hours of the day, with her at her best. They are in constant contact, sharing office stuff, personal stuff and other stuff, seeing each other constantly. By the time she gets home to hubby, she is tired, worn out from the day and ready only for housework and child duties.



TONY ROBINSON

But come tomorrow, she's fresh again and ready to work with and banter with the man in the office. It's a time that she looks forward to. Naturally something is going to happen, and in no time it grows until it explodes and she turns the screws on her husband. She didn't set out to do it, but it happens.

What's even more revealing, the study unfolds, is that half of all wives turn the screws on their husbands at some point in the marriage and 90 percent feel no guilt at all. In fact they felt entitled, because they had been so unhappy in the marriage, so her turning the screws was a liberating and justifiable action.

That's another thing, this term 'happily married'. I did an informal survey, speaking individually to both parties, and many husbands professed that they were happily married, and many wives also told me that they were happily married, but to date, no husband and wife from the same marriage told me that they were both happily married. So, one man's heaven is one woman's hell and vice versa.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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World soccer stage displays T&T's crowning glory

GORDON WILLIAMS

It is not often that small nations, especially from the Caribbean, make such a positive impact on the world stage that even those who once sneered at that country eventually had to turn around, switch their thinking, and salute the "little engine that could".

"The little engine that could" is precisely what Trinidad and Tobago turned out to be at this year's World Cup soccer finals in Germany.

T&T struggled mightily to get to the final round of 32 teams, having to survive a playoff with Bahrain. And with 1.3 million people in the twin-island republic, T&T became the smallest nation ever to qualify for the big show last month.

But that was just the beginning.

When the "Soca Warriors" – the popular nickname for T&T's team – arrived in Germany no one expected them to do well in a group that included European powers

England and Sweden, plus Paraguay, a quality team from soccer-mad South America. At best, the critics said, T&T should simply try to avoid total embarrassment on the field. Forget about winning or even securing a point for a draw.

Many T&T fans, even the staunchest among them, somehow believed that as well. To them, qualifying for the World Cup was their "World Cup finals already", as one fan said. Everything else, they explained, was mere gravy. For many fans, the trip to Germany would merely represent a chance to re-locate a huge soca fete from the Caribbean to Europe.

QUIET CONFIDENCE

Yet someone failed to convince the Soca Warriors themselves. Inside the T&T camp there was a quiet confidence. T&T's crafty coach Leo Beehaker did not have a mass of high-priced soccer talent at his disposal. What he did have was a loyal group of hardworking players so passionate about their sport and country that no

one could convince them that they would not do well on the field of play.

And that, indeed, they did.

The Warriors battled to a gritty goalless draw against Sweden, succumbed to two late goals against mighty England, before showing the world that they could perform with attractive grace and style as well in a loss to Paraguay.

T&T scored no goals in their three games and earned only a point from Sweden. The team earned respect on the field, and the fans, that spirited, colorful throng which marched into Germany armed mostly with a smile and unbridled joy, grabbed a huge chunk of it off the pitch as well. Many non-Trini fans, not just from the Caribbean, embraced the march of the Soca Warriors. They cheered for them, partied with them, and cried with them when they lost.

The Trini fans in turn were on their best conduct. There has been no report so far of misbehavior by fans. If they committed any "crime", it's simply that they had way too

much fun. It was not an unusual sight to see Trinis prancing around the streets of Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Kaiserslautern and Dortmund late into the night. They drank, they sang and they danced.

Their spirit was so infectious that the Trini colors of red, white and black were being paraded around by people who could hardly tell where the twin-island republic was located, much more who was on the team. They just seemed to be having such a good time and others wanted a piece of it.

Yet when it all ended, at

the last match in Kaiserslautern, it became clear that the little nation that could had done much more than become a road party. Thousands in the packed stadium rose to applaud the valiant Soca Warriors as they left the field for the last time in the tournament. It was a salute that would have made any Trini – and anyone from the Caribbean as well – extremely proud.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



Dads are the awesome-est

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

being a father even in the face of a culture that belittles them. That's what fathers do, of course: take the grief and keep on keeping on.

Which is why we love them.

Kathleen Parker is a syndicated columnist for the Orlando Sentinel.

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Turning the screws

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

"Well, I'm glad that she's happy, at least one of us is."

SEX SEARCH

What's interesting, is that just like men, women also have sex driven affairs, for as sure as

night follows day, sex eventually dies after marriage. But hear this now, that death can be resuscitated if a third party enters the graveyard. That same sexless frumpy wife can become a raging inferno if some young stud woos and

wins her, and as for the husband, all he wants is a wink from a young lass and the force of a thousand dormant volcanoes will erupt with a cataclysmic explosion that will rock his world.

Believe it or not, low self esteem, brought on by a woman constantly doing housework and caring for children, will also drive her to turn the screws. Her husband only sees her as a wife, a mother of his children, the keeper of the house, no longer a lover. But along comes John, Big John, smooth talking lean and handsome John who reminds her how sexy and desirable she is. You'd be frightened to see how fast she flings off the apron and turns off the stove, for she's desired again, a whole woman.

Remember, women thrive on praise and admiration, just

like flowers.

This Internet thing has changed the lives of so many people and has also added fuel to the fire of infidelity. So many wives have intimate relationships on the Internet that eventually grow into the real thing. I'm sure you've heard the term cybersex, well, it's true, and many women are hooked on it. It's so easy to expose yourself and bare your soul over the Internet, especially if you're basically a shy person. After a while it gets so hot that only a consummation can cool the ardour.

But hear this now, the research says that women can actually be guilty of emotional infidelity. The therapist says that if you're married and share secrets with a close friend of the opposite sex or go out for drinks after work all the time with the same person, you are guilty of emotional infidelity.

"You can't have an intimate relationship at work and still have a great relationship at home. Even if there is no sex, it's still adultery," he says.

Well, I have been saying so for years, that women can do this emotional no sex thing and shut out the husbands in the process. After a while she won't even like her husband any more and not know it. Oh, she still loves him, because of long service and devotion, but doesn't like him very much and finds everything he does annoying and irritating. Some even focus on their children so much that they virtually cheat

on their husbands emotionally with the children, without knowing it.

BACK TO NORMAL

What's even more scary is how women can carry on affairs and act as if everything is normal at home.

Usually when men have affairs the world knows, the cliché coming home late, scent of perfume and so on. But it's different for a woman. The research paper says that there are signs that men should look for.

Men, be concerned, be very concerned if your wife suddenly demands more sex, seems unusually attentive to you, and wears her wedding ring more often than she did before.

Even so, most women who turn the screws stick to their old routine, leave for work same time, return home same time and none's the wiser. But it's what happens in between that's important. Let us not forget revenge as a motive, as many women turn the screws to get back at them. Revenge they say is a meal best eaten cold, but in this case it's hot, hot.

I have been saying it for years, that men screw around and women screw around too, but the women are better at turning the screws, plus screw-drivers are everywhere.

Take care now.

seido1@hotmail.com



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Dr. Wentworth Jarrett

Barbados calls for regional campaign

NEW YORK, CMC – Barbados Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Dame Billie Miller has reiterated her appeal for a regional campaign in the promotion of Caribbean tourism.

“I want to appeal, as I did during the years when I presided over the CTO... 10 years later, I still want to appeal to you. A regional advertising or promotional... campaign is critical,” she told a huge gala ceremony at the Governments of the Caribbean State Ball held last month at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

The ball was organized by

the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) as part of celebrations for “Caribbean Week” in New York.

The region’s tourism has to become more competitive if it is going to be world class, Dame Billie said during her acceptance speech after receiving the CTO’s highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The former CTO chair-



Miller

man, one of only two females to ever head the regional tourism organization, said many years ago a pilot campaign was instituted, with contributions from the public and private sectors, in which the Caribbean was successfully “profiled to the world.”

“We abandoned it, but I think we need to go back, where all the governments – and it is going to require political will – all the stakeholders put their money into the regional campaign to profile the Caribbean,” she said.



Bajan Odle is new CHA president

MIAMI, CMC - Barbadian hotelier Peter Odle has assumed the presidency of Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) for the 2006-2008 term.

During the closing ceremony of the 2006 Caribbean Hotel Industry Conference (CHIC), held late last month at the Hyatt Regency here, outgoing president Berthia Parle officially passed the baton to Odle.

In his inaugural address Odle said the essence of his platform would be based on “unity through consultation and communication.” He said the CHA needed to become a more effective leader in

regional tourism while strengthening its relationship with other tourism partners.

“Of equal importance we must also become more responsive to the needs of our members, underscoring the importance of upholding and advancing the diversity and representation that is the core of the association,” he said.

The new CHA president also noted his intention to tackle the issues of liberalization, regional collaboration, the cruise industry, intra-regional travel and advocacy with a unified approach.

“What is at stake is the viability of an industry that continues to attract so many



Odle

people from all over the world,” he said.

Odle, the owner and managing director of the 76 room Mango Bay hotel in

Barbados, is joined by a group of officers elected by the membership which includes Allen Chastanet of St. Lucia, first vice president; and Jeremy MacVean of The Bahamas, second vice president.



Caribbean sees rise in tourist arrivals

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - A number of Caribbean countries have seen an increase in their tourist arrivals for the first quarter of this year compared to 2005.

Figures released by the Caribbean Tourism Organization last month revealed arrivals up in Antigua, four percent; Barbados, 4.5 percent; Grenada, 13 percent; Jamaica, 15 percent; and Guyana, 19 percent.

St. Lucia, however, has experienced a 10 percent decline in arrivals for the January to March period. The decline comes despite the fact that the island has registered a significant increase in hotel rooms and airline seats.

The CTO figures also point to a 1.5 percent decline in arrivals for May 2006, despite the fact that tourism officials have been reporting an increase in arrivals for the

St. Lucia Jazz Festival, which took place in May.

There was an overall decline of eight percent for arrivals in St. Lucia during the January to May 2006 period, the CTO report indicated.

Tourism officials here told the **Caribbean Media Corporation** that they were still assessing reasons for the decline.



Ritz Carlton looks to set up hotel in St. Lucia

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - The international hotel chain Ritz Carlton is making plans to set up a hotel in the south of St. Lucia.

This was confirmed late last month by Tourism Minister Phillip J. Pierre and President of the St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association (SLHTA) Allen Chastanet.

Pierre told CMC on June 30 that a letter of intent had been signed between the developers, an Irish-based group and officials of Ritz

Carlton in the presence of several industry officials.

“The contract is now being finalized to break ground on a property in the southern town of Vieux Fort which will be branded to Ritz Carlton,” Pierre said.

GOLF

Chastanet disclosed that discussions were also being held on the designing of a championship 18-hole golf course by a leading international group of developers.

“This is excellent news for the destination because anytime you can attract a brand as prestigious as Ritz Carlton, it is a great acclaim for the destination and would bring a lot to the table,” Chastanet said.

He said the Ritz Carlton was one of several hotel operators and developers currently setting up shop in St. Lucia, most of which will be opening in time for next year’s Cricket World Cup.



Caribbean seeks delay of U.S. passport plan

NEW YORK, CMC - Caribbean tourism officials are pushing for a further delay to the United States plan to implement passport requirements for American citizens.

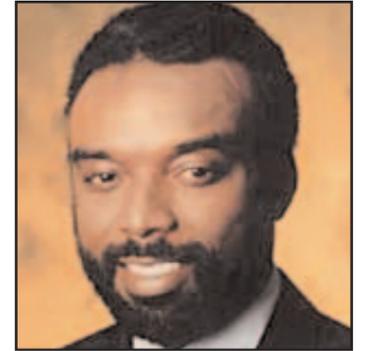
The plan, which is due to take effect on Jan. 1 next year, will make it mandatory for all Americans returning home from the Caribbean and other countries in the Western Hemisphere to have a passport to enter their country.

But Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, secretary general of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), said that the region would be at a disadvantage if the passport law were enforced next year. Vanderpool-Wallace said regional tourism officials have been meeting with senior U.S. officials in the Caribbean who have agreed to press the Caribbean’s case in Washington.

“The reason for a further postponement must be that the pick up of new passports by U.S. citizens has been nowhere near the numbers that we would like to see,” he told journalists gathered here for the closing of “Caribbean

Week 2006” last month.

Regional tourism officials, working through the Caribbean Community Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) and Caribbean ambassadors in Washington, successfully argued against the original implementation date of Jan. 1, 2006, saying it put the



Vanderpool-Wallace

region at a disadvantage since Americans returning from Mexico and Canada by air would not need a passport before Jan. 1, 2007.

Those returning from the two U.S. border states by land have been given an additional year, and will require a passport by Jan. 1, 2008.



Caribbean nationals allowed free movement during CWC

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – Caribbean nationals, as well as visitors to the region, will be able to move freely throughout the countries between January and May next year as the region is converted to a single domestic space for the 2007 Cricket World Cup (CWC).

This move is part of a \$13 million security plan agreed on recent by Caribbean community (CARICOM) leaders during their summit here. The plan will include the nine countries hosting cricket matches in addition to Dominica.

Barbados’s Deputy Prime Minister Mia Mottley said persons who would be traveling intra-regionally would not have

their passports stamped upon entry even though they would still be required to submit an immigration form “largely because there is other information on it.” She said there would also be a common CARICOM visa and the 10 countries (nine host countries and Dominica) have agreed that for the period Jan. 15 to May 15, the common CARICOM visa will be the visa they will adhere to. The visa requirement is for 46 countries and will be issued from Aug. 15 this year. Britain will issue those visas to countries where there is no diplomatic representation by CARICOM.



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FOOD

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Escoveitched fish fit for a Caribbean king

Fish is a Caribbean favorite, and not just because the islands are surrounded by the sea. It's all

in the preparation, which can turn simple seafood into a culinary delight.

This month we feature a

longtime favorite in the region – escoveitched fish, that tangy, spicy delight that makes your mouth water just thinking

about it. And now that the summer is here, maybe Caribbean households will find the time to get this tasty dish going for family and friends.

The recommended fish for this delicious feast are snapper, jack, king, cutlass, sprat and goat.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 lbs. fish sliced in 1/2 thick slices
- 4 teaspoons black pepper and 4 teaspoons of salt combined



- 2 or 3 limes or lemons
- 1/2 scotch bonnet pepper cut in strips or 1/2 teaspoon dried tabasco pepper
- 2 cups cane or malt vinegar (white or brown)
- 1/2 cup oil for frying
- 1 teaspoon pimento seeds or whole allspice
- 2 large onions sliced
- 1/2 teaspoon whole black pepper grains

METHOD

Wash fish thoroughly in water to which juice of the limes or lemons has been added. Dry thoroughly.

When absolutely dry, coat the fish both sides with the combined salt and black pepper and set aside on paper towels.

Heat oil in frying pan to boiling point and fry fish on both sides until nice and crisp. Set fish aside in a deep Pyrex dish or other bowl.

In a saucepan combine vinegar, sliced onions, peppers, pimento seeds,

whole black pepper grains, and bring to a boil. Simmer until onions are tender and remove from fire and cool. Pour over fish and leave steeping overnight.

Note: If sprats or goat fish are used, do not slice.

Edited from Nevis1.com



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FEASTING AT 'FOOTBALL'



- Gordon Williams photograph

A hard-working journalist covering soccer's World Cup 2006 in Germany took time out at the stadium's media center in Dortmund last month to sample the day's special menu offering, the "Tobago style rice dish". Later that day, June 10, Trinidad and Tobago played Sweden in the Soca Warriors' opening match. The result was a 0-0 draw, but for this scribe the Caribbean meal was definitely a winner.

H E A L T H

www.caribbeantoday.com

Government rejects calls for condoms in Jamaica's prisons

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - A call by the Ministry of Health here for the distribution of condoms in prisons has been turned down by the Ministry of National Security, which has responsibility for prisons.

The decision was made during a meeting that was held late last month involving officials of the ministries of National Security and Health and the Department of Correctional Services.

Security Minister Dr. Peter Phillips called the meeting after prison authorities reported that prison inmates were restive following reports that Health Minister Horace Dalley had endorsed a call for condoms to be given to pris-



Phillips

oners.

The idea of condoms being distributed to prisoners has been put on the table and rejected several times. Nine years ago, then Commissioner

of Corrections Colonel John Prescod made the proposal, which led to riots at the St. Catherine and Tower Street adult correctional centres, resulting in 16 inmates being killed and 40 others being injured.

In 2001 the Health Ministry said it had no immediate plan to issue condoms to prison inmates to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. Then acting Chief Medical Officer Deanna Ashley said the ministry and prisons service officials were developing a program of education, training and better care for both inmates and warders in response to a rise in HIV/AIDS cases in the prisons.



Notice

MORALITY

Meanwhile, Dr. Raymoth Notice, who worked for years as the doctor at the St. Catherine Adult Correctional Centre, hit out at the Security Ministry for what he said was its backward thinking on the

issue. He said the Security Ministry should allow the Health Ministry to make the decision on what is a major medical problem in the prisons.

"Is it immoral to save lives? It is more immoral to watch men die? I think what needs to happen is that the entire health care in the prisons needs to be managed by a responsible Ministry of Health," he said

According to Dr. Notice, the distribution of condoms in prisons would not be an endorsement of homosexuality, instead it would be dealing with the reality of what takes place in correctional institutions around the world.



Tips for childproofing your home

Home may be where the heart is, but it's also where steep stairs, fragile glass, sharp objects, scalding water and dangerous toxins lurk.

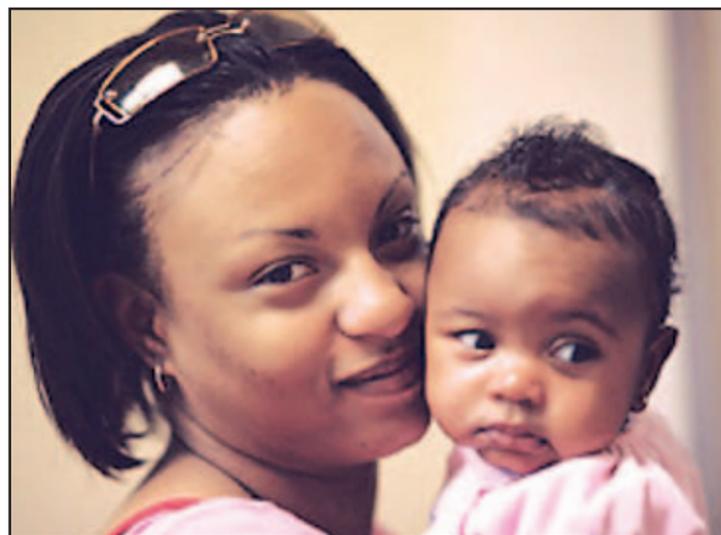
An adult knows how to avoid such hazards. A baby or small child, however, is oblivious to them.

Author Vicky Lansky, author of "Practical Parenting Tips", offers some helpful hints on how to make your house a safe environment for your children.

The Kitchen - Your kitchen is rife with hot liquids, poisonous substances and jagged utensils. Children tend to be curious, so take precautions. "Lock up everything you can," Lansky says. "You can use safety locks, a yardstick, bungee cords or even a dog collar. Just clamp down cabinets and doors so only adults can open them."

- Turn all saucepan handles to the rear of the stove, and remove the stove knobs or use knob covers. While you're at it, move all cleaning supplies out from under the sink.

- When you're cooking,



Children need parents to protect them in the home.

use a kitchen timer. A child can easily distract you, and if you don't have a reminder, a fire can result.

- In addition, have your child use paper cups instead of breakable mugs. If a glass still breaks, clean the mess up at once, and use a damp paper towel to pick up small shards.

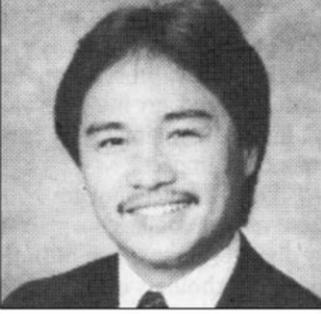
The Bathroom - The bathroom has even more dangers than the kitchen does. Again, make sure that all cabinets and drawers are locked.

Never leave medicine or cleaning supplies out. Remember that mesh baskets in the shower are good for keeping shampoo, razors and other hazardous items out of kids' hands.

- When bathing your infant, do not leave her alone for a second. You may even want to take the phone off the hook so you will not be distracted.

- Keep a key or tool just

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)



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AIDS committee upset over Belize army's position on HIV/AIDS testing

BELMOPAN, Belize, CMC - The National AIDS Commission (NAC) says it is disappointed at the position adopted by the Belize Defence Force (BDF) regarding the mandatory HIV/AIDS testing of recruits.

Late last month BDF medical officer Dr. Irvin Gabourel defended the practice, but NAC Chairman Dolores Balderamos-Garcia said the National AIDS policy specifies that mandatory testing should not be used as a basis for excluding persons from working and that includes employment in the BDF.

"This is actually the

policy of the land, both the workplace and the National HIV/AIDS policies," he said.

He said while the policy has not "been passed into law, but a policy leads to the next steps of making the amendments and adjustments to the legislation.

"We have to start with the policy framework and if as a country we have a policy of not forcing testing or not having mandatory testing, then we have to call on all partners to abide. And this is why we felt it necessary, not to be quarrelsome or argumentative or any-

thing, but we felt that if there is one policy in the country, we have to promote that policy without exception.

"Because if the BDF can say, well you know because our soldiers have to be fit and they have to do rigorous exercise we don't want anybody with HIV within in the Force, and so you screen people out.

"Then the Coast Guard might come up and say we can do that or some other agency or non-governmental organization might jump up and say, if the BDF can do it, so can we," he said.

Balderamos-Garcia said he was not against organizations that require high physical activity not having the responsibility to carry out medical tests. But he insisted it would be "irresponsible of the National AIDS Commission to ever suggest that.

"Naturally there has to be proper medical tests for various kinds of employment. I mean everybody, women have to do our pap smear, we have to do our breast exam, and men have to do their P.S.A. test for prostate cancer.

"Screening does need to take place to maintain people's good health, but the point we want to make, focussing specifically on HIV and AIDS, is that in and of itself, the HIV status in and of itself should not be the reason to screen somebody out of an employment," the NAC chairman said.



Hospital ship to provide heart surgery for T&T's children

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Minister of Health John Rahael has announced that a hospital ship, visiting Trinidad and Tobago soon, could provide heart surgery to as many as 80 children with heart problems.

Rahael said the ship will visit in late July and stay for six to eight weeks. He said Cabinet agreed to the visit of the DSS Anaesthesia II, a hospital ship owned and operated by a European relief agency because of the benefits it offers to the country.

Noting that some heart surgery required by children cannot be done in Trinidad, he said: "Now with the advent of this vessel and a team from Sweden that will be coming down, that is paediatric surgeons, we are hoping to eliminate that waiting list."

While the ship operates as a charity and would not be charging for the costs of its



Rahael

personnel and surgical operations, Rahael said the visit involved "other budgetary costs" to the tune of TT\$400,000 which would be paid by the government.

The ship has 150 surgeons who cover 200 different medical specialties. It has 18 operating theaters and 250 patient beds.



Tips for childproofing your home

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13) outside the bathroom in case a child locks herself inside. It's not a bad idea to remove the doorknob altogether until your child is old enough to handle the lock.

Doors, windows and stairs - You can buy devices that will childproof windows or allow them to slide open only a few inches. It's a good plan to put decals at eye level on glass doors and windows to remind children that they are solid objects.

- Attach a bell to a window or door. This will notify you if your child has succeeded in opening them.

- You can also place an old sock over door handles. Adults will be able to exert enough hand strength to twist

the knob, but small children will not be able to.

- A swinging gate at the top of the stairs has become a common sight in houses with newborns. A second gate at the bottom of the stairs is even better.

"If you have any doubt about how safe your house is, just get down on the floor and crawl around," Lansky says. "You'll be amazed to discover objects that your baby can choke on, sharp edges on furniture and many things that can easily snap off or tip over. You can never do too much to make your home safe for your child."

Edited from Meadowbrook Press



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT)

Applications for volunteers are now being accepted by the CITT Nominating Committee. Currently, there are three vacancies in Commission District 6, 7 and 8. Applications will be accepted countywide for all Commission Districts and will remain on file for two-years should an additional vacancy become available. The CITT is a 15 member board that monitors, oversees, reviews, audits and investigates the implementation of the transportation and transit projects listed in the People's Transportation Plan and all other projects funded in whole or in part with the surtax proceeds. Members serve without compensation for a four-year term. The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, will make their appointment to the CITT. Applications may be obtained online at www.miamidade.gov/citt or by calling 305-375-3481. All applications must be received by the Clerk of the Board, at 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 17-202, Miami, FL 33128, no later than Monday, July 31, 2006, by 4 p.m.

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New York street renamed after Bob Marley

NEW YORK, CMC – The legend of Bob Marley now has a permanent home in Brooklyn, New York.

The bustling stretch of Church Avenue, between Remsen Avenue and East 98th Street, has been co-named Bob Marley Boulevard.

“I think this will be historically significant,” said Jamaican Michael Russell, chairman of Community Board 17 in Brooklyn, who worked with other board members to push the initiative.

“This is a significant development for the

Vincentian artistes protest against music piracy

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, CMC - International recording artiste Kevin Lyttle was among a number of local singers and producers who staged a demonstration against the piracy of their music late last month.

The demonstration came two days ahead of the carnival celebrations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“The issue is that we are not collecting any revenue at all because the pirates are collecting the stuff and selling them even before we could get the chance to put them on the street,” producer Adrian Bailey said.

He said the protest was the first in a series of public awareness exercises intended to curb the practice even as he accused employees of some radio stations leaking promotional copies of artistes’ music to pirates.

“We put them on the radio for promotional purposes and somehow they get out of the radio station and go straight to the person selling on the street,” Bailey said, adding: “That’s not right. That is illegal.”

He said artistes had, over the years, complained and provided evidence to the police but the perpetrators were released without being charged.

“At this point in time we are seeing a number of vendors and it seems to be legitimate and persons coming into St. Vincent think this is legitimate stuff so they can buy.”

Bailey said it was important for the authorities to take “these people off the street because it is illegal.

“We have identified from particular radio stations persons, who have been doing it. I even found evidence against

one radio station and the police picked up that person and subsequently let (him/her) go.”

CHEAP

Bailey said pirates could afford to sell bootlegged music cheaper because of a lower cost of production.

“Like everything else, the brand name stuff is more expensive than the knock off stuff,” he said. “They (pirates) didn’t have any cost to start with. All they had to do was buy some CDs and get the stolen stuff from the radio station or wherever and put it on CD.



Bob Marley's son Rohan, center, displays the Brooklyn street sign in honor of his father, alongside Jamaica's Consul General to New York Basil K. Bryan, right, and New York City Councilman Charles Barron.

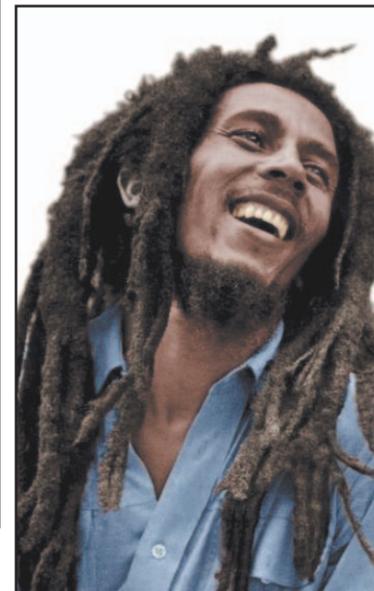
Caribbean community. They will relate to it quite easily.”

Renaming Church Avenue would pay a “fitting tribute to this musical genius, this humanitarian, this giant in this part of New York City that is known for a preponderance of Caribbean nationals,” Russell added.

Known worldwide, Marley's music embodies political repression, artistic insight and political awareness.

“His music proves inspirational and life-changing,” said Russell, an administrator with New York City's Human Resources Administration.

“In the Third World, his impact goes much further and resonates not just among Caribbean natives, but natives



Marley

of Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America.”

Russell said to rename Church Avenue would help to revitalize businesses in and around the avenue's arteries.



Lyttle

“It is illegal to sell stolen property. If they want to sell legitimate stuff please approach the producers. We will definitely want to assist you and support you.”

Culture Minister Ren Baptiste last month warned pirates to stop the practice, adding that her ministry was prepared to help artistes in seeking redress.

“I am making my final appeal to individuals to remove those CDs from your shelves wherever you conduct your trade,” the minister said.



CARIBBEAN TODAY

FESTIVAL OF FOODS

Caribbean culture has influenced the world in many ways over the years, from the exotic beauty of the islands and people, to the pulsating rhythms of their music - reggae, soca, salsa and merengue.

Now, Caribbean food is beginning to play a new and vibrant role in how the world views this region, from jerk pork to curry chicken, fried plantains, fried yuca, cracked conch to flying fish, from mango chutney to guava jelly.

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www.caribbeantoday.com ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Florida art center designated a Major Cultural Institution

HOLLYWOOD, Florida – The Broward County Board of County Commissioners, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council, last month designated the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood as a Major Cultural Institution (MCI).

The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood is one of five MCIs in Broward County. Other Broward MCIs are the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, Museum of Art, Museum of Discovery and Science, and the Opera Guild of Fort Lauderdale.

“This is a landmark day in the history of the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood and is the culmination of an effort over many years involving many dedicated people who deserve many thanks,” said the center’s Executive Director Joy Satterlee in a press release. “I also want to thank the Broward County Commission for supporting the arts in Broward County and for recognizing those institutions that strive every-day to deliver high-quality, interesting and informative visual and performing arts programs to the widest possible audience.”



The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, which is housed in the historic Kagey mansion, was recently named a Major Cultural Institution in Broward County, Florida.

ASSET

“The Art and Culture Center of Hollywood has long been an asset to the City of Hollywood as well as Broward County, and it’s no wonder that it has become the city’s first designated Major Cultural Institution,” said Hollywood Mayor Mara Giuliani.

“This distinction further

illustrates how Hollywood has truly become a ‘City of the Arts.’”

Founded in 1975, the Art and Culture Center of Hollywood has a free annual Ocean Dance event annually on Hollywood Beach that has featured such notable performers as Mikhail Baryshnikov and his White Oak Dance Project. It played

a key role in Hollywood being awarded a \$5 million grant from Broward County for construction of the city’s ArtsPark, co-sponsors of music and drama programs

along with the City of Hollywood’s Parks and Recreation Department at a number of community centers, and co-presents along with the Broward Education Communications Network a distance learning visual and performing arts series for all Broward County students. It also oversees programming at the Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center and offers complimentary admission to its galleries on the third Sunday of most months. On the same day, the center hosts “Family Day”, where children and their caregivers may participate in a fun, hands-on visual arts activity at no charge.

MCI designation requires achieving a high level of artistic or cultural endeavor in the community and institutional support.

For more information, visit www.artandculturecenter.org



Reggae Sumfest set for Montego Bay, July 16-22

“Reggae Sumfest”, the annual summer jam held in Jamaica, will kick off on July 16 in Montego Bay.

The 14th edition of the musical event, which runs through July 22 this year, is scheduled to feature a combination of reggae and hip hop. Among the artistes down to perform are Damian “Junior Gong” Marley, Rihanna, Lady

The best of dancehall will be on tap July 19 at the “Top Ranking” show, featuring the likes of Yellowman, who will receive an award for his contribution to the music. Beenie Man and Bounty Killer take the stage the following night during “Stormfront”. The “Ignition” concert is scheduled for July 20.

The summer festival will climax with “The Summit” on July 22. Rihanna and Jr. Gong will help bring an end to the event, which is being spon-

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MILES AHEAD IN REGGAE MUSIC



Rihanna

Saw, Beres Hammond, Buju Banton and Mr. Vegas. Top hip hop artistes like 50 Cents and G-Unit have also been listed for the week-long show. The opening night will feature the new free Vibe Island Beach Party and the fashion treat “Reggae on the Runway”.

The following day is “Mad Mondays Mobay” which promises an art and craft street fair, food and music.



‘Jr. Gong’ Marley

sored by Red Stripe, the Jamaica Tourist Board, Air Jamaica, Digicel and Ocean Spray, as well as media partners, the Jamaica Observer, CVM TV and Fame FM. For more information, log on to www.reggaesumfest.com



LOCAL

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If you must go, then you should know

...Rules for U.S. aliens thinking about emergency travel

Often aliens from the Caribbean living in the United States are summoned to return to the region on short notice. It may be to attend to a death in the family or other emergency situations.

For those aliens who are not sure of their status in the U.S. and wish to complete emergency travel to the Caribbean, it is important to know what U.S. law allows, especially regarding re-entry into the U.S.

The following is information obtained from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assist aliens who may be faced with the possibility of making emergency travel:

Before leaving the U.S. on an emergency, aliens should determine if they require a travel document to re-enter the country. There are several types of travel documents that aliens (including legal permanent residents) must obtain if they wish to re-enter the country after travel outside of the U.S. The following examines re-entry permits, advance parole and refugee travel documents. To apply for any of these benefits, use Form I-131. A summary is provided below. For further information on the purpose of these documents and eligibility requirements, please refer to 8CFR.223.1.

CAUTION

Due to recent changes to U.S. immigration law, travel outside of the U.S. may have severe consequences for aliens who are in the process of adjusting their status, extending their nonimmigrant stay, or changing their nonimmigrant status. Upon return, these aliens may be found inadmissible, their applications may be denied, or both. It is important that the alien obtain the proper documentation before leaving the U.S.

Admission into the U.S. is not guaranteed. In all cases, the alien is still subject to immigration inspection at a port of entry to determine whether the alien is admissible into the country.

Under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, aliens who depart the U.S. after being unlawfully present in the U.S. for certain periods may be barred from admission, even if they have obtained Advance Parole. Those aliens unlawfully present in the U.S. for more than 180 days, but less than one year, and depart voluntarily before the start of removal proceedings are inadmissible

for three years; those who are unlawfully present for one year or more are inadmissible for 10 years.

Aliens who have concerns about admissibility should contact an immigration attorney



If you enter the United States illegally, like these people seen crossing the Mexican/U.S. border, you are unlikely to be granted a re-entry permit if you must leave the U.S. for an emergency outside the country in the future.

or an immigrant assistance organization accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals before making foreign travel plans.

RE-ENTRY PERMIT

Lawful permanent residents (LPR or green card holders) use re-entry permits to re-enter the U.S. after travel of one year or more. For LPRs' returning to the U.S., re-entry permits are generally valid for two years from the date of issuance of the re-entry permit. The LPR should apply for this benefit before leaving the U.S.

Conditional residents use re-entry permits to re-enter the U.S. after travel of one year or more. For conditional residents returning to the U.S., re-entry permits are generally valid for two years from the date of issuance of the re-entry permit or until the date the conditional resident must apply for the removal of conditions, whichever comes first. The conditional resident should apply for this benefit before leaving the U.S. The bureau does not extend re-entry permits. See Section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A re-entry permit does not guarantee admission into the U.S. Aliens with re-entry permits are still subject to the inspection process at the port

of entry. It is also important to note that travel outside of the U.S. for more than one year will under most circumstances break the continuous residence requirement for later naturalization purposes. Travel for

grant status and have or obtain a valid K-3/4 nonimmigrant visa before applying for readmission to the U.S.

Refugees and asylees who have applied to adjust to permanent resident status under

were refugees or asylees to return to the U.S. after travel abroad. The refugee or asylee should apply for this benefit before leaving the U.S.

In some cases, immigration officials may issue travel documents to refugees or asylees who are physically outside of the U.S. See 8CFR 223.2(b)(ii)

The Secretary of Homeland Security may allow any alien applying for admission to the U.S. temporary parole into the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. This benefit is granted sparingly, on a case-by-case basis.

The alien must file Form I-131, Application for a Travel Document, complete with supporting documentation, photos and applicable fees. This form can be downloaded from the DHS's "Forms and Fees" page. See the application for specific filing instructions.

FILING FOR RE-ENTRY

If the alien is a permanent resident or conditional resident, he or she must attach:

- A copy of the alien registration receipt card; or
- If he has not yet received his alien registration receipt card, a copy of the biographic page of his passport and the page of his passport indicating initial admission as a permanent resident, or other evidence that the alien is a permanent resident; or
- A copy of the approval notice of a separate application for replacement of the alien registration receipt card or temporary evidence of permanent resident status.

FILING FOR ADVANCE PAROLE

An alien in the U.S. and applying for an Advance Parole document for him or herself must attach:

- A copy of any document issued to the alien by U.S. immigration officials showing present status in the U.S.;
- An explanation or other evidence demonstrating the circumstances that warrant issuance of advance parole.
- If the alien is basing his or her eligibility for advance parole on a separate application for adjustment of status or asylum, he or she must also attach a copy of the filing receipt for that application.

• If the alien is traveling to Canada to apply for an immigrant visa, he or she must also attach a copy of the consular appointment.



section 209 of the Immigration and Nationality Act may travel outside the U.S. on a valid Refugee Travel Document and do not need to apply for advance parole.

Aliens in the U.S. should, prior to departure, obtain advance parole in order to re-enter the U.S. after travel abroad if they have:

- Filed an application for adjustment of status, but have not received a decision from the USCIS;
- Hold refugee or asylee status and intend to depart temporarily to apply for a U.S. immigrant visa in Canada; and/or
- An emergent personal or bona fide reason to travel temporarily abroad.

Applicants who are the beneficiary of a private bill and applicants who are under deportation proceedings must file to the Department of Homeland Security, 425 I Street, NW, ATTN: Parole and Humanitarian Assistance Branch, Washington, D.C. 20536

Aliens in the U.S. are not eligible for advance parole if they are:

- In the U.S. illegally;
- An exchange alien subject to the foreign residence requirement;

REFUGEE TRAVEL

A refugee travel document allows people who are or once

Miami Dade College donates supplies to Caribbean schools

In 1995, Miami Dade College (MDC) history professor Dr. Morris Johnson, right, traveled to South Africa for eight weeks to work on a doctoral dissertation. He encountered an educational system in deplorable condition. Some schools were burned while others had windows missing and a few were riddled with bullet holes.

Upon his return to the United States, Dr. Johnson decided that something should be done. Thanks to the generosity of Miami Dade College North Campus students, Dr. Johnson donated basic school supplies such as backpacks, paper, pencils, books and dictionaries to needy children in countries such as South Africa, Brazil, Tonga, Fiji and Trinidad.

This year, he is donating book bags filled with scissors, paper, pencils, calculators and books to students in The Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The first set of donations were shipped to The Bahamas late last month and is to be followed by donations to the Dominican Republic in July and Haiti in September.

"It may not seem to be much, but when you go into a school where there is barely any equipment at all and you drop off three suitcases full of supplies, everyone is grateful," said Dr. Johnson, who has been teaching at MDC's North Campus for 30 years. "We really make an impact. It is truly rewarding to provide the supplies."

Donations this year came from MDC North Campus students in history and social environment classes. Anthropology professor Robert Moorman also asked his students to donate. The students' donations filled two rooms. One of Moorman's students, Maritza Marquez, collected 80 book bags full of school supplies and eight world globes.

"It was a lot of work," said Marquez, a 30-year-old nursing student at the North Campus. "The garage in my house was full."

Anyone interested in making donations may contact Dr. Johnson at 305-237-8111.



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PASSPORTS

The National Passport Information Center (NPIC), the United States Department of State's single, centralized public contact center for U.S. passport information, is offering a toll free service and has expanded its service availability/options.

Persons with questions or need status checks on pending passport applications can call **1-877-487-2778**. Customer service representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Automated information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For e-mail access, visit: npic@state.gov Website of passport and other international travel information is available at travel.state.gov

'GREEN CARD' FILING

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that aliens must mail applications to renew or replace permanent resident cards, commonly known as "Green Cards", directly to the

Los Angeles Lockbox.

The Lockbox is a processing facility used by USCIS to accelerate the collection of applications and petitions. The announced change allows the agency to improve the processing of Form I-90 (Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card) by electronically capturing data and images and by performing fee receipting and depositing from one central location, rather than at the local district office, service center, or application support center (ASC).

Aliens filing a Form I-90, regardless of their state of residence, must mail those applications with an application fee of \$185 and a biometrics fee of \$70 to one of the following addresses:

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS) deliveries:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, P.O. Box 54870 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0870;

Or for non-USPS deliveries (e.g. private couriers):

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Attention: I-90, 16420 Valley View Ave., La Mirada, CA

90638

Applicants should not include initial evidence and supporting documentation when submitting the Form I-90 to the Los Angeles Lockbox.

Applicants will receive a notice for a biometrics processing appointment at an ASC and will submit their initial evidence during that appointment.

Applicants will receive their biometrics appointment in the mail.

CRISIS HOTLINE

Multi-lingual counselors are available to respond persons suffering from stress or needing help with housing, food, child care, caring for teens or other similar problems.

Call 211 from a regular telephone or **954-537-0211** from a cellular.

The free service is being offered as part of Broward County's helplines.



B U S I N E S S

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Caribbean enjoys success attracting foreign investment ~ IMF

WASHINGTON, CMC - Countries in the Caribbean community (CARICOM) have enjoyed relative success in attracting foreign investment, says an International Monetary Fund (IMF) working paper.

According to the paper, released late last month, investment as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) is relatively high from a global perspective in many countries in the region. It said the region has experienced a significant amount of public sector investment and foreign direct investment (FDI), particularly in the tourism sector, over many years. Despite this, it said growth in GDP had been "disappointingly low" for many Caribbean countries. The paper suggested that this has resulted from greater emphasis on public investment than on private investment.

"For example, there may be few linkages between the foreign-owned capital stock, such as resort hotels, and the domestic economy," the paper said. "Alternatively, there may be crowding out of domestic private investors."

GROWTH

The study, conducted on seven CARICOM member states - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago - said that private domestic investment (PDI) could prove to be an important factor in unlocking growth.

"If PDI were to increase, then the returns to capital spending by public agencies may also increase," it said. "PDI could also improve the linkages between the domestic economy and foreign-owned

capital."

The working paper said public policy should focus on the cost of capital as a means of raising PDI, stating that across the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), corporate tax policy may be regarded as "opaque and highly discretionary".

It said it likely penalizes domestic investors at the expense of foreign investors through the distribution of "inefficient tax concessions".

The paper said investment-to-GDP ratios in the larger CARICOM countries - Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago - are close to the middle-income average of 20-25 percent. But for the smaller ECCU countries, the ratio is much higher, it said.



Barbados on drive to increase foreign business, investment

NEW YORK, CMC - Barbados is seeking to increase foreign business development and cultivate additional investment, says Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) Chief Executive Officer Anthony Sobers.

Sobers said while tourism continued to be the primary economic driver, Barbados hoped to become the premier international business center in the region. He said the country, already home to more than 7,600 transnational companies, offered a "well-developed" financial services sector, comprised of banking, insurance and trusts businesses.

As part of its thrust in the United States, the BIDC last month hosted a major business symposium at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in midtown

Manhattan here. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs Mia Mottley outlined Barbados's policy towards foreign investment at the event.



Mottley

"Barbados offers many competitive advantages to companies looking for practical, efficient expansion solutions, and the symposium gives us a dynamic format to share this with potential investors," Sobers said. "The government provides several tax incentives, training grants and subsidized industrial space to help offset start-up costs for foreign businesses.

"Close geographic proximity and cultural similarities also are advantages for U.S. companies, which are better able to manage time zone differences and establish well-managed command centers close to home," he added.

Additionally, Sobers said Barbados boasts one of the Caribbean's most technologically advanced infrastructures and a highly skilled workforce.

The conference, entitled "Managing Global Expansion - Utilizing Near-shore Strategies and Tax Treaty Networks", featured presentations on selected topics, including global sourcing solutions, leveraging tax treaties and maximizing returns on investment.



Changes to foreign earned income and housing exclusions rules

OSCAR I. ALFONSO & MICHAEL ROSENBERG

In general, the income tax rules of the United States provide that a citizen or resident of the U.S. be subject to tax on his or her worldwide income.

In order to promote foreign trade and to place U.S.

citizens residing and working abroad on equal footing with their foreign counterparts, the U.S. Congress enacted a tax law which allows, in general, certain U.S. citizens employed in foreign countries to elect to exclude from gross income for U.S. tax purposes up to a specific amount of their "foreign earned income" and to

exclude certain amounts related to "foreign housing cost."

This law has been blessed in the past by many U.S. employees working abroad because of the positive impact such law had on their U.S. income tax obligations. This blessing might be about to change, since on May 17,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

Choppy seas ahead for CARICOM single market

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - While the Caribbean Single Market (CSM) ship sets sails with all booked passengers on board, an early forecast suggests choppy seas ahead.

The six remaining states which agreed to be part of the CSM, which signed on earlier this month, and representatives from government, the private sector, academia and civil society left three days of discussion on the regional initiative in Barbados recently satisfied that they were singing from the same hymn sheet, but are acutely aware that the real work of dealing with some residual issues remains.

The main bone of contention appears to surround the classification of countries as More Developed and Less Developed, a classification which is largely expected to determine access to the Regional Development Fund (RDF), which has been devised to assist disadvantaged countries make adjustments to effectively participate in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The early indication that it will not be smooth sailing came from Barbados Prime Minister Owen Arthur, the man with lead prime ministerial responsibility for the CSME, who, following the discussions in Barbados, said the



Arthur

present categorization of countries into MDCs and LDCs could not work.

According to that classification, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, Belize and Barbados, which signed on to the CSM in January, are designated as MDCs, while Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) - Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines - which were scheduled to sign on this month are classified as LDCs.

CONTRADICTION

This classification, however, does not bear any relevance to the countries' per capita income which places Antigua near the top with a per capita income in 2004 at \$10,213 being designated as a LDC, while Guyana, with a per capita of \$1,042 and Belize, with \$3,727 are designated as MDCs.

"So," says Arthur "the country with one of the highest per capita incomes is located in the OECS and is designated as an LDC, not based on any economic criteria, but based purely on issues of geographical location and we have a situation where two countries with the lowest per capita are designated as MDCs.

"Antigua has one of the highest per capitans, so its citizens are among the richest, but they are also the lowest taxed, so we are going to have a very important difficulty in CARICOM, in my judgement, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

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St. Vincent reports improved economic performance

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, CMC - The Dr. Ralph Gonsalves-led government is reporting "improved" economic performance during the first five months of this year notwithstanding concerns raised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) about the high wage bill, high poverty rate and the almost EC\$1 billion (\$370 million) national debt.



Gonsalves

Gonsalves, who is also minister of finance and economic development, told journalists late last month that total revenue and grants had increased from EC\$132.4 million (\$49.03 million) in 2005 to EC\$156.6 million (\$58 million) this year. Revenue during the five-month period this year amounted to EC\$150 million (\$55 million), an improvement over the EC\$129.8 million (\$48.07 million) reported in 2005.

At the same time, total expenditure was \$EC\$166.4 million (\$61.63 million) this year compared to EC\$153.7 million (\$57 million) last year.

There was also an improvement in the current account balance with figures of EC\$13.1 million (\$4.9 million) this year moving from a deficit of EC\$3.1 million (\$1.15 million) last year.

"So that you see there is an improvement in the financial position of the central government. I should point

out that in relation to borrowings we haven't really gone on the market to borrow yet," he said.

While acknowledging concerns raised by the IMF, the prime minister told journalists that the country was not beholden to the international financial institution.

"I want to make the point

clear. The IMF does not run this country," he said. "We listen to the IMF; where their ideas are ideas which we consider reasonable to adopt we adopt them and call them our own. If we disagree we say we disagree."



Changes to foreign earned income...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

2006, the U.S. president signed a tax bill, which will increase the tax burden of these foreign-based U.S. employees.

The purpose of this article is to summarize the general provisions of this law and alert the reader of the effect the new changes in the law might have on these employees.

REQUIREMENTS

There are certain requirements a U.S. citizen has to satisfy in order to be able to avail the provisions of this law. First, the citizen must be considered to have a "tax home" in a foreign country. Generally, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has considered that a taxpayer's "tax home" is the location of the taxpayer's principal place of employment. Once it is established that the individual has a "tax home" in a foreign country, the individual must also satisfy either the "bona fide residence test" or the "physical residence test".

Whether a citizen of the U.S. is a "bona fide resident" of a foreign country or countries requires an analysis of all the relevant facts and circumstances, since such term is not defined by statute. Some of the factors that courts have considered to make such a

determination are the taxpayer's intention, the establishment of a home temporarily in the foreign country for an indefinite period, the assumption of economic burdens and payment of taxes to a foreign country, and the treatment of the taxpayer's income tax status by his employer. This list is not an exhaustive list, and while some factors may carry a heavier weight than others, all must be viewed collectively in the determination of whether the taxpayer satisfies the "bona fide residence test".

On the other hand, under the "physical presence test", a U.S. citizen would be considered a "qualified individual" if such individual is present in a foreign country or countries during at least 330 full days during any consecutive 12 month period.

This test is more subjective than the "bona fide residence test", since the statute only requires physical presence in a foreign country for the requisite period of time, rather than the need of the individual to objectively establish residency. For purposes of the "physical presence test," the 12 month period may begin with any day, the 330 days need not be consecutive and a full day is a continuous period of 24 hours.

DEDUCTIONS

Once it is determined that the individual is a "qualified individual" by satisfying the "foreign tax home" requirement and by satisfying either the "bona fide residence test" or the "physical presence test", such individual may elect to exclude, up to a certain amount, the sum of his foreign earned income and his foreign housing costs from such individual's gross income. Here is where the new law kicks in. Even though the new law increases the maximum amount a qualified individual may exclude by increasing the former \$80,000 annual limit to \$82,400 for the year 2006, it also provides new guidance for the computation of the U.S. tax liability on the non-excluded amount that will usually subject such non-excluded amounts to higher U.S. income tax rates.

In addition, the new law places a cap of \$11,536 on the amount such individuals are going to be able to deduct as foreign housing expense, which deduction under the former law was not limited. These changes in the law could translate to thousands of dollars in additional taxes to many U.S. employees working in foreign countries.

In the future, these changes in the law are expected to have not only a detrimental effect on U.S. employees working abroad, but also on the U.S. employer. Thus, it is extremely important that U.S. employees and employers that may be affected by this new law consult with competent U.S. tax counsel to determine the effect such change in the law might have in their future U.S. tax obligations.

Michael Rosenberg is a shareholder and Oscar I. Alfonso is an associate with the Coral Gables law firm of Packman, Neuwahl & Rosenberg and can be reached at 305-665-3311



British Airways to increase winter flights to Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - British Airways (BA), the only airline currently offering direct service between Bermuda and the United Kingdom, is to step up its winter service on that route up to five flights a week.

The airline has announced a 25 percent increase in the number of seats available on the route, which comes following its now daily service during the summer months, which began at the end of March.

"This increased winter schedule, which is a commitment of more than 2,200 seats a week between Bermuda and London, underscores the

importance of the route for British Airways," said Robin Hayes, B.A.'s executive vice-president for the Americas.

He was visiting the island



recently to offer his congratulations to district Manager Philip Troake, who retired from the company on Friday after 41 years service.

The expanded winter schedule is the largest since the dedicated route started 16 years ago, and will offer all four classes of service onboard a Boeing 777 aircraft.



Choppy seas ahead for CARICOM single market

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21) if the citizens of Barbados, the second highest taxed country in the region, are supposed to take their tax resources and send them to a country in the region that is among the highest per capita income with its citizens being the lowest taxed."

Arthur says it is because of issues such as these that regional heads, once the CSM is fully in place, will have to sit down and devise a new classification based on the reality in the islands.

"It can't be that you want to exclude Antigua from being able to access the

resources of the fund, but it has to be addressed in terms of our getting a new perspective on the designation of countries as disadvantaged countries and not as LDCs for the purpose of accessing the RDF.

"Because how else would you justify a situation where the richest country with the lowest rate of tax gets grant financing from the poorest country with the highest rate of tax?" the prime minister said.

NEW FORMULA

He says the new formula will also have to take into

consideration the circumstances of countries, for example St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which lost its traditional preferential markets and also stands to lose government revenue as a consequence of signing on to the CSM.

Notwithstanding the difficulty, Arthur is, however, confident that all states, including those in the OECS, can sit down and work out a formula that is acceptable to everyone.



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SPORT

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Soca Warriors shine at soccer's World Cup

GORDON WILLIAMS

Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean's lone representative at the 2006 World Cup finals, made an early exit from soccer's biggest event last month, but not before leaving a memorable mark, displaying true regional grit and spirit to earn respect and even admiration from all who flocked to the competition in Germany.

Rallying against the gloomy predictions by odds makers, who figured the Soca Warriors would be easy pickings for the game's elite, and playing in front of thousands of colorful supporters who made the trip to the tournament, T&T opened with a surprising 0-0 draw against Sweden in Dortmund on June 10, then followed with another courageous performance in a 0-2 loss to England in Nuremberg five days later.

T&T ended its Group B schedule with a 2-0 loss to Paraguay on June 20 in Kaiserslautern to finish the competition with one point, not enough to advance to the second round as one of the top two teams from the group.

HEARTS WON

But the Soca Warriors won in so many other ways. Against Sweden, they defended stoutly for 90 minutes to keep a clean scoring sheet; and although the European powerhouse missed several

...Team gets grant from T&T gov't

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - The government has delivered on its promise to grant TT\$1 million to each member of the Soca Warriors squad following the performance of the team in the Football World Cup in Germany.

Sports Minister Roger Boynes made the presentation at the VIP Lounge at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port of Spain on June 30.

Pledging government's commitment to assist the team for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, Boynes said it was necessary to set aside funds early enough to facilitate necessary training sessions, both locally and abroad, as well as friendly matches with other nations.

CHALLENGE

Meanwhile, Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation Senior Vice-president Raymond Tim Kee expressed surprise that the cheques had been prepared so quickly

scoring chances, T&T was by no means outclassed.

"We had our eyes wide open," T&T's coach Leo Beenhakker said cheekily after the Sweden game. "Don't blame us if they didn't score a goal."

Beenhakker, however, conceded that T&T did not



Yorke

match up well against their Group B rivals, which, in addition to the two European teams, also included Paraguay from South America.

"We recognize that we don't have the talent and quality of the opponents," he explained.

RESPECT

But that did not scare T&T leading up its next match against England. The Soca Warriors battled gamely until England scored two late goals to win the match and avoid the embarrassment of being held by a nation of merely 1.3 million. The result left many convinced of the vastly

given that Prime Minister Patrick Manning only made the promise on June 24. Tim Kee appealed to the players to seek professional financial advice as "\$1 million could evaporate in a quick time" and he warned them to beware of "fancy cars as they depreciate every day."

He also issued a challenge to the corporate sector to invest in sporting events beforehand and not after the fact, as money was needed to ensure the comfort of players, coaches and assistants before major events.

Each of the 24 members of the Soca Warriors squad received TT\$1 million, comprised of \$750,000 in units from the Unit Trust Corporation and \$250,000 in cash. Captain Dwight Yorke, who came out of retirement to lead the team, was rewarded with \$1.25 million, made up of \$1 million in units and \$250,000 in cash.

improved quality of soccer coming out of the Caribbean.

"They have gained respect because people don't expect to bash them," said England reserve goalkeeper David James, whose father lives in Jamaica. "(T&T) have drawn against Sweden, which is a tremendously talented side; they've pushed England to the last 10 minutes."

Captain Dwight Yorke, who played professional soccer for years at top clubs in England, was elated by the positive impact made by the Soca Warriors from the beginning of the competition.

"It's a very proud moment," he said after the Sweden match, "for me, my family and country."

In the final group game T&T stumbled again, this time to South American team Paraguay. A goal in each half sunk the Soca Warriors' slim hopes of advancing to the tournament's Round of 16. However, that did not dampen the euphoria felt by Trini fans, which had been ignited by the twin island republic's qualifying playoff win against Bahrain long before the first ball was kicked off in Germany.

"It's great to be the smallest nation to qualify (for the World Cup)," said Riyad Khan, a Trini who made the trip. "It's a dream opportunity to travel to Europe and participate in the biggest sporting event in the world."

And in the process the Soca Warriors captured the hearts of millions of soccer fans worldwide as well.

Gordon Williams is Caribbean Today's managing editor.



The Bahamas rescues Caribbean Volleyball Champs set for Aug. 20-27

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC - The Bahamas Volleyball Federation (BVF) is stepping in to host the 11th Caribbean Volleyball Championship (CVC) this summer after Barbados was forced to decline staging the competition.

The unavailability of the international venue Wildey Gymnasium foiled the Barbados bid effort to stage CVC 2006, and the event - set for Aug. 20-27 - has now been shifted to New Providence, The Bahamas.

It is hoped that 12 countries will field men's and women's teams, including The Bahamas and defending champions Barbados.

Other invited countries are Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, Martinique, the United States Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles.

At a press conference late last month to announce the country's hosting of the championship, the BVF President Don Cornish said it was crucial to step in as hosts of the CVC - held every two years - in order to maintain the integrity of the sport in the Caribbean.

"Usually there would be a bidding process but at this (late) stage of the game it is a matter of understanding that

we need to have the championships to continue the qualification process for all of the teams in this zone," Cornish said.

PAN AM QUALIFIER

This CVC is a qualifying series for the North, Central and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation (NORCECA) Championships that lead to the Pan American Games.

There are also efforts to ensure the participation of Haiti and Jamaica, which had announced their withdrawal because of financial problems.

The Bahamas Sports Minister Neville Wisdom urged government

agencies and the private sector to support the championship, which will cost approximately \$200,000 to stage.

"The funds that we are going to be able to give are limited and we will need cooperation from the government agencies and the private sector. I communicated with the chairman of Caribbean Volleyball body to ensure the participation of Haiti and Jamaica. These countries' participation will bode well for the success of these events," said Wisdom.



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Caribbean Today

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Health concerns in lead-up to Cricket World Cup 2007

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Health management systems in some Caribbean countries are not yet up to the task of managing the influx of cricket fans and officials expected for next year's ICC Cricket World Cup, according to the man leading a key Caribbean community (CARICOM) health committee.

Barbados Minister of Health Dr. Jerome Walcott, chairman of the region's committee of ministers of health and other health officials, told journalists that while preparations in some areas were on track, other areas needed urgent attention.

He said while countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Barbados were generally on track and seemed to be moving ahead with their plans to host the increased number of visitors expected for the tournament, deficiencies in the health sector in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean (OECs) were evident.

UNSOLVED

The minister identified the surveillance for infectious dis-

eases, adequate emergency facilities, the training of paramedics and provision of ambulances, port health, liquid and solid waste disposal, and



Walcott

preparing for possible threats such as avian flu as some of the unresolved problems.

"There is a need for proper and upgraded emergency facilities in the host countries. A number of countries had said this initially, but we thought this was not happening quickly enough," he said, noting that this was the message he delivered to CARICOM's Cricket Prime Ministerial Sub Committee

recently.

"For example, in St. Lucia and St. Kitts, which are quite advanced in terms of their stadia, now you realize that in terms of the provision of emergency health care, that they now need to have an overlay and incorporate health facilities in some of the completed stands that they've overlooked in terms of emergency centers for spectators," Walcott explained.

DISEASE

In terms of monitoring infectious diseases, Walcott said there was a possibility of diseases which were not endemic to the region being brought in.

"CAREC (Caribbean Epidemiology Centre) has been working with some of the countries to develop a program in terms of strengthening the laboratories to be able to identify infectious diseases," he said, noting that member countries would be required to contribute up to \$100,000 towards building capacity in this regard.

Caribbean not ready, says tourism expert, page 25.



Former St. Lucia P.M. wants single maritime space in OECs

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - Former St. Lucia Prime Minister Dr. Vaughan Lewis has called for the revival of an initiative to create a single maritime space within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECs).

He said this would make the sub-region more attractive to investors and visitors and would give the tourism industry a major boost by simplifying immigration procedures within the sub-region.

The Trinidad-based University of the West Indies professor, who currently heads a Caribbean community (CARICOM) technical working group on governance, said the move is vital for the sub-region now that most of the OECs countries had turned to tourism as the mainstay of their economies following the demise of the banana and sugar sectors.

Dr. Lewis said the sub-region should now move towards the creation of a larger tourism space with the development of a single maritime zone stretching from St. Lucia to Grenada. This, he said, would facilitate the movement of persons in the area by having them clear immigration in one territory rather than in all member states.

"When a yacht for instance arrives in St. Lucia it will be cleared by the local immigration and then be free to move through the other territories both by sea and land without having to go through customs/immigration in the rest



Lewis

of the area," he explained.

He said within such a zone people would have freedom of movement allowing investors greater latitude in developing new products.

VARIETY

He added that the proposed single maritime zone tourism could give the region's tourism greater variety.

"What small size does in some respects is that it reduces the diversity and the variety that people look for in tourism

and so the wider space will create that variety and so working towards making a maritime or sea space for tourism would be an important objective," he said.

The idea of a single maritime zone for the OECs was first mooted prior to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. The initiative was then placed on the back burner as the sub-region sought to address its own security concerns.

Dr. Lewis said it was time to revive the initiative, noting that the same way the OECs created a single economic space for banana production in the Windward Islands, the same needed to be done for tourism.

"This is the way to go if we are going to be in a position to take advantage of the revenue tourism can bring from the scale of the operation," he said.

The OECs earlier this year announced that it will pursue the branding of the sub-region as a joint yachting destination and create a company to collectively negotiate with cruise lines. The plan was approved by OECs tourism ministers when they met for their annual general meeting in March.



Liat's new boss unveils plan for troubled carrier

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - Leeward Islands Air Transport's (LIAT) newly appointed Chief Executive Officer Mark Darby has unveiled an ambitious plan to take the financially strapped regional air carrier out of the red by the end of 2007.

Darby, an Englishman with more than two decades of experience in the airline industry who has taken up office at LIAT's Antigua headquarter, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation** that his first order of business would be to reshape the carrier's network in an effort to reverse its financial fortunes.

"For the rest of the year we will be having a very good look at the route network, where we operate, when we operate," he said. "I am not sure we are offering flights to people at the times they want to travel to destinations where they really want to go.

"Quite often we've got a flight at say six o'clock in the morning, our competition is flying five minutes later to exactly the same destination and both of us are flying half full. That just doesn't make any sense, so we need to be more selective about when we fly and bring some sense to the market," Darby added.

NO CUTS

Darby, who helped to manage the creation of Air Arabia, a low cost carrier in

the Middle East, said he had no immediate plans to cut staff but would be strengthening LIAT's marketing thrust, as the carrier was previously too reactive, rather than proactive in the areas of sales and marketing.

"The concentration will be very much on the revenue generating side rather than looking at ways of cutting staff. I think there is plenty to do in terms of getting the sales and marketing efforts of the airline together much more effectively," the new CEO added.

SETTLEMENT

He said prolonged negotiations with the airline's pilots would continue with the hope of reaching an amicable settlement as soon as practicable.

"We are in actual discussions with the pilots," Darby explained. "We already had a number of discussions and those will continue until we reach a satisfactory conclusion for both parties. Clearly the airline is struggling financially, it has been for many years. We want to work with them to see how we can improve the airline and pay them the rates of pay they aspire to.

"I am not saying we are going to give them a blank check. We haven't got the money to do that so we have to look at creative ways of reaching an amicable settlement," he added.

Nigerian barred from practicing law in St. Lucia

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - An African immigrant who falsely claimed to be an attorney-at-law has been barred from practicing law here.

A court ruled that Leonard Ogilvie who practiced law here for three years until apprehended by police in March while trying to leave the island, is not a legitimate member of the legal profession.

Several civil cases involving the controversial Nigerian were heard during the case and while he won one, Ogilvie lost all the others.

In a case he brought against the state for detaining him illegally for too long, government lawyers conceded that he had been held for 14 1/2 hours more than the 72 hours legally allowable. For this Justice Albert Redhead

ordered that Ogilvie be paid EC\$7,500 for the distress he suffered.

UNFIT

In yet another case brought by the attorney general and the Bar Association, seeking his removal from the roll, the judge agreed that Ogilvie was unfit to be registered as a lawyer in the state.

The judge noted that in all his years on the bench he never came across "as brave a defendant who sought to become a lawyer by lies, deceit and false documentation."

He noted that not only is Ogilvie not a lawyer, but he also failed his exams as proven by documentation submitted to the court.



R E G I O N

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Jagdeo outlines security plans for upcoming Guyana elections

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - The Guyana government has outlined its pre and post-elections security strategy designed to prevent violence which marred the last three polls here.

President Bharrat Jagdeo said the security forces will be fully mobilized to deal with any situation which threatens the polls, set to be held this year.

"We will ensure that training is done urgently to rehearse all the scenarios likely to be encountered during the elections period,"

Jagdeo said while addressing the annual conference of army officers late last month.

VIOLENCE

Urban violence rocked the 1992, 1997 and 2001 polls which were also characterized by Opposition party allegations of massive voter irregularities resulting in rejection of

the results and the filing of an elections petition in the courts in 1997.

"To regain and inspire the confidence of the public we would never rest satisfied until



Jagdeo

we have eradicated from our midst the criminal gangs and successfully confronted organized crime in all of its manifestations in Guyana," Jagdeo told the officers.

The 2006 general and regional polls have been rescheduled from May to September following a constitutional amendment by the

governing People's Progressive Party (PPP) government. The main Opposition People's National Congress Reform (PNC/R) is challenging the amendment in the courts.

Touching on the disappearance of 33 Russian-manufactured AK-47 automatic assault rifles and five pistols from the army's Camp Ayanganna headquarters in the capital in February, Jagdeo said "the failure to recover them have also added to uncertainty about public safety."

Said Jagdeo: "Crime exerts an unacceptable price on national development, particularly in the context of the newer manifestations of crime, such as internationally organized narco-trafficking, alien and small weapons trafficking, kidnapping and terrorism.

"Additionally, the increased resources needed for fighting crime calls for more attention to developing strong alliances to confront the challenge."



Caribbean not ready to host Cricket World Cup ~ Parle

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC - Former President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) Berthia Parle says with only eight months to go before the start of Cricket World Cup the region is still far from prepared to host the event.

She added, however, that she is expecting the region to rise to the challenge to pull off the tournament.

"On the issue of whether we are ready, I don't think so. Will we be ready? We better be, otherwise we will have some serious problems," said Parle who recently completed a two-year term at the helm of the regional tourism body.

Speaking here on her return from the recently concluded Caribbean Hotel Industry (CHIC) conference held in Miami, Parle said that there was still a lot of work to be done if the region is to accommodate the hundreds of visitors expected in the region for the event. She said that the



Parle

preparation for the World Cup then returns would be guaranteed, and there was generally a feeling among Caribbean people that the event would generally provide huge returns.

"We need to continue to educate our people because the feeling on the ground is that a lot of people are going to get rich overnight and make millions of dollars and it ain't going to happen," she said.

"So I am firmly of the view that there are going to be many disappointed locals and governments as well," she added.

Scores of locals and business interests have been renovating their houses and establishments to be in a position to host the many visitors seeking accommodation for the six-week event.

Cricket World Cup begins in Mar. 2007 with an opening ceremony planned for Jamaica.



issue of additional accommodation was still to be resolved as most of the hotels were already booked outside of reservations for the games. In addition, travel within the region still has to be worked out both in the context of availability of transport and arrangements by the immigration departments to handle the influx of visitors.

RETURNS

Parle added that the perception among people in the region was that once an investment was made in

Opposition M.P. to give pay rise to charity

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC - Opposition Member of Parliament Michael Dunkley said he would donate any increase in his salary to charity as controversy continues to rage over rises approved by the House of Assembly.

Dunkley, the United Bermuda Party's (UBP) deputy leader, said he felt "extremely uncomfortable" about the pay increases and that it was "outrageous" that the Bermuda government was now attempting to "ram the legislation through."

The pay increases, which will see Premier Alex Scott's pay package leap a massive 80 percent to \$200,000 a year, were passed by the House in June with support from all government M.Ps. The UBP voted against the bill which will also see full-time ministers getting \$150,000 a year and part-time ministers \$100,000.

SURPRISE

But in a surprise move on June 27, government Senate

leader Larry Mussenden, who is also the island's attorney general, again deferred any debate by the 11 senators on the hikes which will now go before the Upper House in two weeks' time.



Scott

Dunkley said he believed the increases would eventually be rejected by the Senate, but added: "I

will tell you that I will not accept it.

"If it goes through my increase will go to a charity and at that time I will let people know what charity just so people can see that I really did donate," he told the **Mid-Ocean News**.

Dunkley told the weekly newspaper that he believed some of his party colleagues were also willing to hand over any increase in income to charity.



Former T&T Senate president dies at 72

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - Ganace Ramdial, a former president of the Senate has died of a massive heart attack. He was 72.

Ramdial died earlier this month after being admitted to a nursing home on June 28 when he complained of feeling sick. He was treated but returned to the facility on June 30, after which his condition worsened.

He died on July 1 in the presence of his wife Gloria, sons Garvin, Gary and other members of his family. Ramdial was being treated for inflammation of the pancreas, but doctors told his relatives that he suffered a massive heart which was the cause of death.

Ramdial was a close friend of former Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday, who was instrumental in his appointment as Senate president on Nov. 27, 1995. Ramdial was re-elected to the position on Jan. 12, 2001.

Ramdial, an attorney-at-law, was called to the bar at Inner Temple in the United Kingdom in 1963. He was also a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in the United Kingdom and served on the boards of several public and private sector companies during his long and distinguished career in this country's financial sector.



Jamaica, ACS collaborate on tourism development plan

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - The Jamaican government is working along with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) on a plan to measure the progress of the region's tourism industry in achieving sustainable development.

Tourism, Entertainment and Culture Minister Aloun Ndombet-Assamba made the disclosure while speaking in the House of Representatives late last month.

"This involves the development of a methodology with common goals for measuring

the impact of sustainable development. The indicators will allow public/private sector agencies to gauge and monitor the tourism sector's progress," Ndombet-Assamba said.

She indicated that the project, which is funded by the Foreign Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, seeks to identify, prioritize and assess pilot destinations in ACS member states that will become part of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean (STZC).



Dome of volcano collapses

BRADES, Montserrat, CMC - The dome of the Soufriere Hills Volcano collapsed late last month sending pyroclastic flows down eastern side of the island and ash clouds to just over 12,000 in the air.

Scientists at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) said the ash plume was blown north-west by prevailing winds with most of the ash falling into the sea. However, some ash fell in the Salem and Woodlands areas and residents were asked to wear ash masks.



Soufriere Hills Volcano

increased the alert level from level three to level four when, the earthquake swarm which had died off previously, returned (June 29) afternoon”.

The statement said that various parts of the island had to be closed.

The Soufriere Hills Volcano roared to life in 1995 after years of being dormant. In May, the lava dome of the volcano collapsed causing mud flows and surges along the north-east flank of the island.

An official statement issued on June 30 said that “the authorities had earlier

IDB provides loan to Guyana for citizen security program

WASHINGTON, CMC - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) says it has approved a \$19.8 million loan to Guyana to support a citizen security program that will engage police and local residents in preventing crime and violence in the country's most populated regions.

The program, which seeks to help Guyana arrest the rise in violent crime and insecurity it has suffered in recent years, will strengthen the Ministry of Home Affairs and modernize the Guyanese Police Force (GPF), the IDB said in a statement. It said it would also promote social development in disadvantaged communities in Regions IV and VI of the country.

The IDB has financed citizen security programs in Colombia, Chile, Honduras, Nicaragua and Uruguay.

A key part of the program

will be the establishment of a “crime observatory” to monitor trends in crime and violence and collect data and information the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the GPF need to plan, implement and evaluate citizen security policies, strategies and programs. It will finance technical assistance, training and computer hardware and software to create the information system and to support the development of staff of MoHA's policy and research unit. It will also promote improvements to the ministry's overall administration and performance.

The GPF will receive support for training in crime investigation and detection, information management, case management, recruit training, neighborhood policing, and human rights. Resources will be provided to build and equip a crime labo-

ratory and training facilities, remodel police stations and develop a new urban traffic management plan.

IDB said the program would also help the GPF improve its internal organization and administration, including planning, budgeting, accounting, auditing, human resource management and procurement. It will also assist the police in developing partnerships with communities.

Participant neighborhoods will receive support for violence and crime prevention services they will choose from a menu of alternatives on the basis of their assessment of their own community's needs, the IDB added.

The IDB loan is for 40 years, with a 10-year grace period. Interest rates will be one per cent a year during the first decade and two per cent a year thereafter.

Suriname expels Guyana's most wanted man

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, CMC - Fugitive Guyanese businessman Roger Khan was late last month deported to Trinidad and Tobago where he was reportedly arrested and transported to Miami to stand trial on drug trafficking charges.

This has, however, sparked a fuss by his lawyers who claim that his legal rights have been violated as he was “kidnapped” and sent off to the United States.

Local law enforcement authorities reportedly made the decision to expel Guyana's most wanted man because he had entered Suriname illegally from T&T. Around 6 a.m. he was escorted by three heavily

armed policemen and put on a flight to Trinidad where he was met by U.S. law enforcement officers.

In April he was indicted by the Eastern District Court in Brooklyn for cocaine trafficking between 2001/2006.

MAJOR STRIKE

Tom Walsh, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Suriname said: “I can only confirm that the U.S. submitted a formal request on June 19 for his provisional arrest on charges for cocaine trafficking to the United States.”

He further noted that Khan's arrest by Suriname police was a “major strike against narco-trafficking.”

Khan's Surinamese lawyers, however, are stunned by the dramatic turn in events.

“We are investigating what actually has happened. Only the prosecutor general could give us the answers. That is why we sent him two letters asking him to explain to us what has occurred,” said Gerold Sewcharan one of Khan's two lawyers.

Depending on the response of the prosecutor the lawyers said they will decide what their next steps will be.

“My client was kidnapped since he was taken away without any legal procedure to justify that,” Sewcharan added.

Dominica seeking to end dispute with Venezuela over Bird Island

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC - The Dominica government has announced that it is looking to bring an end to the issue of the ownership of Bird Island.

Dominica and Venezuela have agreed to set up a commission which will look at the boundaries of the island to determine its ownership, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced at a press conference late last month. He, however, did not give details about who would make up the commission and its terms of reference.

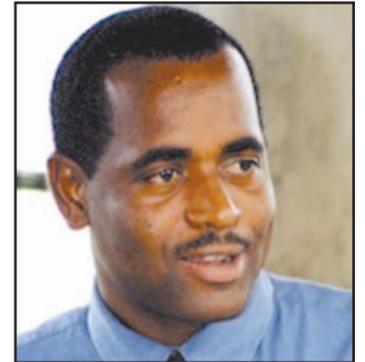
For many years Venezuela and Dominica have battled over ownership of the small island located 70 miles west of Dominica and 340 miles north of the Venezuela mainland.

Said Skerrit: “The international community recognizes Venezuela's sovereignty over Bird Island. This is a fact and this is enshrined in treaties and everything.”

“The United States, Great

Britain, Canada, U.K., France all these countries recognize Venezuela's sovereignty.”

The Dominica leader said



Skerrit

his country will not get involved in a debate with Venezuela, noting that his government has engaged the government of the South American country to look at ways to bring the matter to a close in the best interest of affected states.

Grenada minister wants more CSME education

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - A government minister in Grenada is not satisfied that there has been enough public education here on the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Elvin Nimrod said while some efforts have been made to educate Grenadians on the regional economic initiative, much still needs to be done.

“I must agree that we in CARICOM (Caribbean community), including Grenada, could have done much more at this point to educate the population on the implications of the CSME. But we still have done a great deal,” Nimrod said.

He said the Division of Trade has so far conducted 51 education sessions with various non-governmental organizations and other entities, including the Opposition, on the pact which will allow for the free movement of goods, services, capital and labor throughout member states.

UNCONVINCED

However, Opposition Member of Parliament Peter David said that the man-on-the-street is still not convinced

about the reality of the single market and the impact it will have on his life.

“I must say that the vast majority of the Grenadians in my view, though, are aware that there is something called CSME that is about to come into our lives, they are not



Nimrod

sure about the impact it's going to have,” said David.

The six members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) were expected to sign the instruments of accession to become members of the single market component of the CSME during the CARICOM Heads of Government Summit in St Kitts, scheduled for earlier this month.

R E G I O N

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CARICOM official calls for full labor movement across region

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC - The Caribbean community's (CARICOM) main advisor on free movement says regional states should push towards full movement of labor within the region as soon as possible.

Steven McAndrew, the free movement specialist at the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Unit, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation** it was time to remove restrictions which prevented any worker in a regional state from seeking employment in another state.

"We need to understand that we have implemented a regional market of which a regional labor market is an integral part, so we cannot continue to distort the market by only granting free movement to a limited category of persons," he said late last month.

McAndrew said after observing the workings of the regional free movement initiative, which was introduced in some states in advance of the

official implementation of the single market aspect of the CSME in January this year, he was convinced that fully opening up the regional labor market would not result in persons flooding any of the territories.

He said 3,500 skilled national certificates have been issued so far, with Barbados absorbing the majority of persons, followed closely by Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. Over 97 percent of the certificates issued were to university graduates, he added.

"If you look at the 3,500 certificates which were issued up to (June 28), you cannot say there has been a flooding of skilled nationals because the numbers are very, very low if you take into account that it has been in operation for a number of years.

"I think these numbers are proof that there would be no flooding because one of the major fears people have about free movement is that certain member states will be

flooded but the evidence so far is not supporting this at all," McAndrew added.

PROBLEMS

The CARICOM official said while there were a few problems in some states, the free movement aspect was operating without any major hiccups.

"There have been some teething problems in some member states, but we are working with those member states in order to solve the problems which have arisen but generally the free movement has operated very well," he said.

Currently artistes, musicians, university graduates, media workers and sports persons are eligible for free movement but the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development recently submitted a proposal for nurses, domestics and teachers be added to the category of persons moving freely.



IDB and CDB to fund Caribbean disaster prevention initiative

WASHINGTON, CMC - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has announced the launch of a disaster prevention initiative in partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to help mitigate the effects of disasters in the Caribbean region.

An IDB statement said President Luis Alberto Moreno and CDB President Compton Bourne met in Barbados late last month with national disaster coordinators from 18 Caribbean states to review and discuss approaches on financing in anticipation of disaster events.

International partners, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the World Bank, which are active in promoting disaster risk management, also

attended the meeting and "signalled their renewed commitment to helping the region reduce its vulnerability to natural disasters", the IDB stated.

"Moreno and Bourne highlighted the importance of protecting people's livelihoods from the economic and financial disruptions associated with natural disasters", the statement added.



Bourne

In his first official visit to the Caribbean, Moreno also formalized the IDB's partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) in support of disaster risk management in the tourism sector.



Grenada approves CARICOM legislation on single market

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - The Grenada Senate has approved legislation clearing the way for the island to join the regional single market.

However, an Opposition senator says a huge gap still exists between the leadership of the country and the population on the regional economic pact, which will allow for the free movement of goods, services, capital and labor across participating states.

The single market is the first phase of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

Passage of the Revised Treaty of

Chaguaramas Bill came ahead of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) summit in St. Kitts and Nevis earlier this month. The six members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), including Grenada, were expected to join the pact then.

In January the single market came into operation with Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago the first to join. However, OECS leaders held out, pending the creation of a regional development fund, which would cushion smaller states within the 15-member CARICOM bloc, as they

opened their borders. The fund has since been established and government leaders were expected to approve its terms at their summit.

AWARENESS GAP

Meanwhile, Senator Arley Gill said that while the National Democratic Congress supports the single market there are concerns about the lack of involvement of the local population.

"I am saying that in Grenada I see a gap between the leadership of the country and the mass of the Grenadian people, in terms of the CSME, in terms of the integration process," Gill told the Senate on June 30 during debate on the bill.

"I am saying that if we're going to have a successful implementation of this process there is need for a deepening in the relationship between the political leadership in the region and the people."

Tourism Minister Senator Brenda Hood said despite problems the single market offered many opportunities, especially for lesser-developed countries.

"I think sometime we feel that changes can be very negative, but I think we have to use it to our advantage," Hood said.



Divided Opposition party fires two legislators

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC - The executive of the embattled main Opposition United National Congress (UNC) has replaced two senators and had also adopted a motion aimed at removing its political leader Winston

ed the motion at a meeting on June 28. That faction, which is known to be supportive of former chairman and party leader Basdeo Panday, has been accusing Dookeran of not attending meetings and carrying out parallel activities. Dookeran, speaking at a public meeting of his group, said that when he took on the responsibility of political leader "I received a number of calls urging me to go forward.

"And when I heard...of the sad deliberations on the part of the executive, and the attempts and decision to deal with me, and to deal with me by moving a vote of no confidence in me, I know that the hearts of the people are with me and you are the only ones that can provide that confidence.

"People have already lost confidence in the executive. How can we...allow a group like that to move such a motion," he asked, insisting "I will continue..."

The executive had also announced that it had decided to replace Caroline Seepersad-Bachan and Sadiq Baksh, the party's organizer. Dr. Shastri Moonan and Raziah Ahmed have since been named to replace them.

Both Baksh and Seepersad-Bachan have

appeared on the platforms of Dookeran, and Baksh sarcastically told reporters that the executive had committed political suicide and "may their souls rest in peace." But Persad-Bissessar, a UNC deputy leader, told reporters that she had turned down an invitation by Dookeran to join his faction within the executive.

Persad-Bissessar said despite the motion of no confidence against Dookeran, the executive was not booting him out of the party.



Warner

She said the executive will move to convene a series of meetings islandwide to discuss the issue with the final meeting taking place on Aug. 13.



Persad-Bissessar

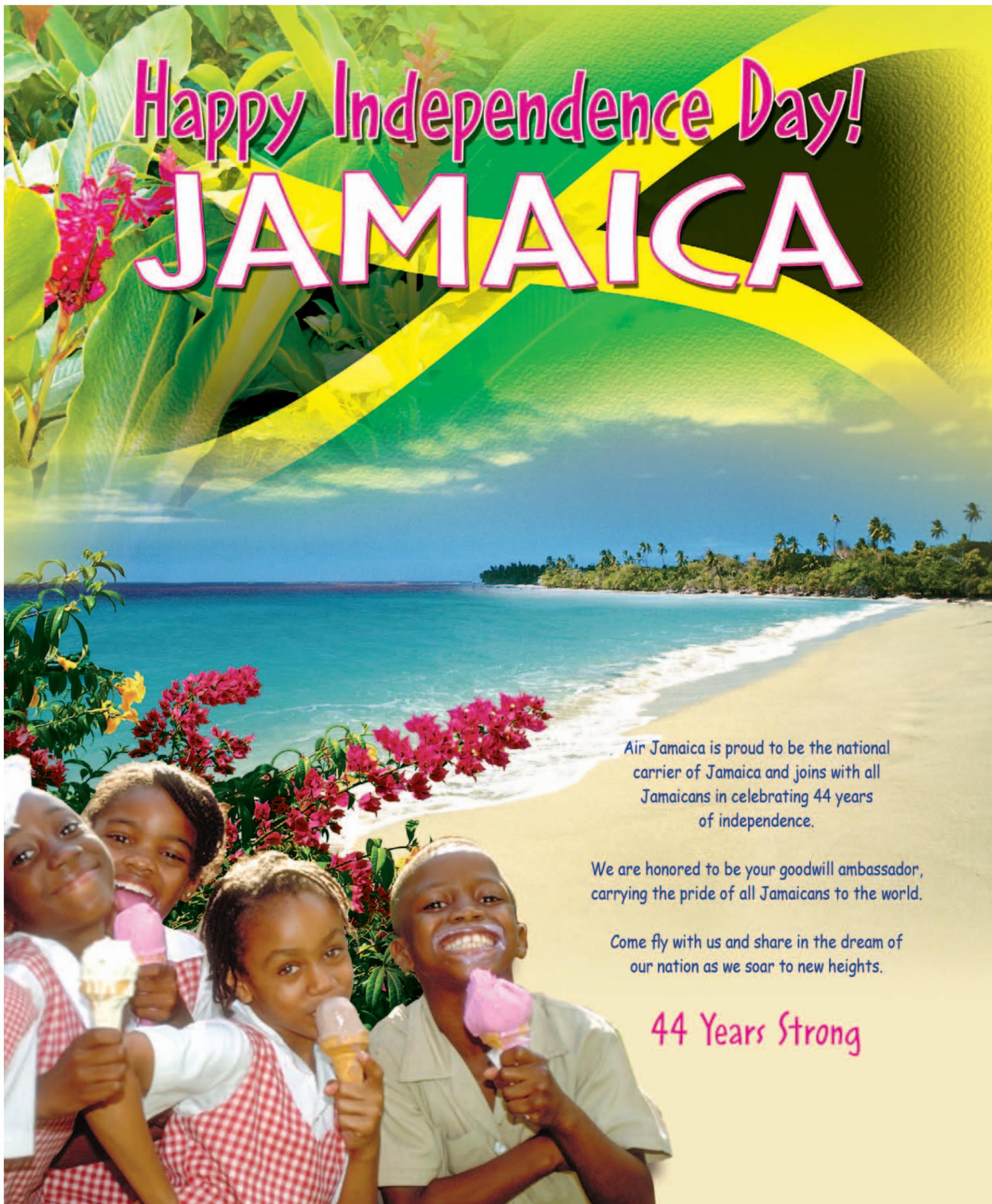
Dookeran from his post.

But in an immediate reaction to the decision late last month, Dookeran, a former central bank governor, said that he had no intention of allowing the "cabal" within the divided executive to stop his plans of wanting to "build a better country for all."

Dookeran was not present when the faction of the executive, including Opposition Leader Kamla Persad-Bissessar and FIFA Vice President Jack Warner, adopt-



Hood



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