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THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE



A High Court judge in Jamaica has declared vacant, the seat in Parliament held by

Shahine Robinson of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party. The reason? Robinson was not qualified to be elected since she was allegedly a citizen of the United States, page 3.

United States President Barack Obama has issued a presidential statement proclaiming June as Caribbean American Heritage Month, underlining the massive contributions of Caribbean Americans in strengthening the fabric of U.S. culture, page 11.



The trials of two top Jamaican entertainers, Buju Banton, left, and Bounty Killer have been pushed back. Banton, currently in a Florida jail, will now face the court on drug trafficking charges in September. Bounty Killer, who is on marijuana-related charges, will face the resident magistrate in Jamaica on July 7, page 17.



JAMAICA UNDER SIEGE

~ An order to extradite Christopher "Dudus" Coke to the United States late last month set off violent clashes between security forces and people in several areas, including the West Kingston constituency of Prime Minister Bruce Golding. More than 70 people were killed. Golding survived a "no confidence" motion from the Opposition, but the fallout from the incident is being felt far and wide. See related stories on [pages 2, 7, 8 and 15.](#)

A LESSON IN STARTING OVER

~ The January earthquake that hit Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince not only caused severe damage to infrastructure and killed thousands, it has forced some of that Caribbean nation's children to move to the United States to continue their education, page 6.



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Jamaica's P.M. survives Opposition's 'no confidence' motion

~ Fallout from 'Dudus' Coke extradition affair continues to haunt Golding

KATHY BARRETT

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) used its majority in the Parliament to defeat a motion of no confidence against its leader and Prime Minister Bruce Golding over his handling of the extradition affair of a man wanted in the United States on drug trafficking and gun running charges.

Legislators with the main Opposition People's National Party (PNP) had filed the motion on June 1, but the government defeated it by a 30-28 margin.

The motion had been prompted by a statement Golding made to Parliament last month in which he said he had sanctioned the JLP to engage a United States-based law firm Manatt, Phelps and Phillips to lobby Washington on the extradition issue.

Earlier this year, Golding had told Parliament that the government was unaware of any moves to lobby the U.S. authorities on the matter.

'CONTEMPT'

Opposition Leader Portia

Simpson Miller categorized as "barefaced contempt," the prime minister's statements to Parliament on the issue.

"We have a devalued prime minister in a devalued nation," she said. "There is only one remedy. It must be met by the sanction of removal by a vote."

The PNP said that Golding had still not spoken the truth about the engagement of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips and that he should be condemned "for his suppression of the truth, which amounted to deception being practiced on the Parliament and the people of Jamaica, and which has resulted in continuing damage of Jamaica's name in the international arena."

Simpson Miller said Golding corrupted both the justice and governance system of the country and that his actions had destroyed Jamaica's reputation and had brought the Office of the



Simpson Miller

Prime Minister into disrepute.

"It is an unforgivable violation, which is punishable by resignation...we may not win this motion but we know that history will absolve the People's National Party," she said.

"We have a devalued prime minister in a devalued nation" – Simpson Miller

"The fate of the resolution is in the members of this House. My fate is in the hands of God" - Golding

DAMAGE

Anthony Hylton, the Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs and foreign trade, said the prime minister's actions have compromised his ability to lead the Caribbean community (CARICOM) at a time when Jamaica is due to accept the chairmanship of the 15-member regional grouping in July.

Former National Security Minister Dr. Peter Phillips said every "contortion" was now being used to prevent the

prime minister from paying the political price over his handling of the extradition matter.



Golding

Prime Minister Golding said that he had accepted responsibility for his actions and described as "careless," arguments that he had caused

the deaths of nearly 100 people late last month when he said that the arrest warrant for Christopher "Dudus" Coke had been signed.

"The fate of the resolution is in the members of this House. My fate is in the hands of God," Golding said.

The security forces have

been engaged in an operation with gunmen loyal to Coke, 41, the reputed leader of the notorious "Shower Posse" gang who faces life imprisonment in convicted of the charges in the U.S.

The authorities have said that 73 people have been killed during the operations in West Kingston by the security forces. Up to press time Coke had not been detained.

The extradition issue involving Christopher "Dudus" Coke plunged Jamaica under a state of siege last month. Caribbean Today looks at the fallout on pages 7 and 8.

- CMC

Court dismisses T&T man's deportation appeal

BOSTON, Massachusetts - A Trinidad and Tobago national's bid to get relief from a conviction in order to save himself from deportation has been dismissed by a Massachusetts Court.

District Judge Rya W. Zobel late last month ruled that detainee Kevon D. Walker, who is being deported following a conviction in a Connecticut state court for sexual assault and endangerment of a minor, must first

exhaust all available state remedies before appealing to Massachusetts District Court for relief.

Further, ruled Zobel, the district court has no power to overturn a deportation order under the REAL ID Act of 2005.

Up to press time Walker was confined at the Suffolk County House of Correction. He served jail time for the sexual assault and endangerment to a minor conviction,

but now complains that, after his arrest, no one informed him of his right to contact the consulate of T&T. He claims that this failure violated his right to consular assistance and rendered his guilty plea invalid. Walker also maintains that his plea was invalid because his counsel failed to inform him that his guilty plea could lead to removal.

- CaribWorldNews

Persad Bissessar sworn in as T&T's P.M.

Kamla Persad Bissessar, leader of the United National Congress (UNC), was sworn in as Trinidad and Tobago's new prime minister late last month following victory by the UNC-led "People's Partnership" coalition.

A statement from the UNC noted that the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) had confirmed the results of the general elec-



Persad Bissessar

tions, "which now constitutionally clears the way for the swearing in of the prime minister and the attorney general".

On May 24, the coalition copped 29 of the 41 seats at stake to seal its win and to oust the incumbent People's National Movement (PNM), led by Patrick Manning, from government.

Trinidadians in the United States welcome new prime minister, page 4. Former P.M. steps down as party leader, new P.M. names Cabinet, page 22.

U.S. secretary of state to visit Barbados

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton is to pay a one-day visit to Barbados on June 9.

U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary Philip J. Crowley said Clinton will "meet with leaders of Caribbean nations" in Bridgetown. He said the visit is the last leg of a tour to Latin America and the Caribbean, from June 6-10, which will also take Clinton to Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

The announcement came late last month, shortly after the United States and the Caribbean launched a "new chapter of engagement" here. During the historic U.S.-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) dialogue, U.S.

Attorney General Eric Holder said the outbreak of violence in Jamaica underscored the importance of maintaining strong security in the region.

"This new initiative is an important step forward in addressing our shared concerns, advancing our common interests, and strengthening our collective commitment to protect our citizens from crime, violence, trafficking, and terror," said Holder, the son of a Barbadian father, at the inaugural one-day event.

"The situation in Jamaica reminds us all just how important this work is."

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U.S. citizenship costs Jamaica's ruling party seat in Parliament

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – A High Court judge has declared vacant, the North East St. Ann seat held by the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) parliamentarian Shahine Robinson. Justice Roy Jones made his ruling on May 31.



Robinson

The motion to have Robinson removed from her seat was brought by Manley Bowen, the Opposition

People's National Party (PNP) candidate in the 2007 general elections. He had argued that Robinson was not qualified to be elected since she was also a citizen of the United States.

According to the ruling, Robinson was not qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives under the Jamaican constitution and as a result the election of Sept. 3, 2007 in North East St. Ann is “null and void and of no effect and the seat is declared vacant”.

Bowen had asked the court to declare the PNP's candidate Oswet Senior Smith as the duly elected M.P. of the

constituency.

Lawyers representing Bowen had gone to the courts to strike out Robinson's defense after she missed the May 7 deadline by Chief Justice Zalia McCalla for full disclosure.

The ruling also states that Robinson did not appear at a pretrial review and did not

comply with an order for directions made on April 14. The pretrial hearing was set for May 31, but neither Robinson nor her lawyers were present.

Robinson, who is likely to appeal the ruling, has expressed shock at the ruling. She told reporters she was unaware of the May 31 court date.

“The date for trial was set for June 7. I stand on the side of the law and I have all intention of turning up for the trial on the 7th of June,” she added.

Prior to the ruling, the JLP controlled 32 of the 60 seats in Parliament.



U.S. ends military mission in Haiti 'humanitarian presence' continues

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Five months following the deadly earthquake that devastated Haiti, the United States military relief mission to the French-speaking Caribbean country officially ended on

“coordination cell” in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, which will continue to coordinate U.S. Department of Defence efforts with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)



U.S. troops have helped Haiti following January earthquake.

June 1.

U.S. military officials said that the Joint Task Force (JTF)-Haiti mission, known as Operation Unified Response, has ceased operations.

“Although JTF-Haiti will officially stand down on June 1, the hard work and effort put forth by our service members to set conditions for Haiti's future success does not end with us,” said the mission's commander Major General Simeon Trombitas.

He said the Miami-based U.S. Southern Command (SouthCom) will maintain a

Office of the Response Coordinator and the United Nations mission to Haiti. Trombitas's predecessor, Army Lieutenant General Ken Keen, said the effort was a collaboration between the U.S. and international agencies.

“We could not have done our mission, however, without the collaborative support and interaction with the Government of Haiti, MINUSTAH (United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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U.S. Coast Guard interdicts, repatriates 28 Haitian migrants

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Coast Guard said crew members from its cutter Theti recently repatriated 28 Haitian migrants to the northern Haitian city of Cap Haitien.

In a statement issued late last month, the Coast Guard said that “watchstanders” at its District 7 Command Center in Miami received a report of a 30-foot vessel tak-

ing in water 35 miles east of North Miami Beach, Florida.

“An HU-25 Falcon aircraft crew was launched from Coast Guard Air Station Miami, and the cutter Chantelaur was diverted to respond to the distressed vessel”, it stated.

“The crew of Chantelaur arrived on scene and safely embarked 28 Haitian migrants”, it added. “The

vessel subsequently sank.

“Once aboard Coast Guard cutters, all migrants receive food, water, shelter and necessary medical attention”, the statement continued.

The U.S. Coast Guard said it has interdicted 583 Haitian migrants, fleeing their homeland, since Oct. 1 last year.



U.S. ends military mission in Haiti: ‘humanitarian presence’ continues

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Haiti), other agencies of our government, especially Department of State and USAID, and numerous NGO’s (non-governmental organizations) – all of whom were dedicated to helping the people of Haiti recover from this disaster,” he said.

‘PRESENCE’

The U.S. military, however, said it will continue providing a “humanitarian presence” in Haiti.

It said, for the next three months, 500 National

Guardsmen will begin construction projects in Haiti, as part of “New Horizons,” an ongoing U.S. humanitarian exercise to South America and the Caribbean, which will help to build schools, clinics and community centers. SouthCom said the naval amphibious ship, USS Iwo Jima, will also make a stop in July in Haiti to provide medical care as part of a previously scheduled visit to the Caribbean.

SouthCom also said it will fund \$13 million in disaster preparedness and humanitarian assistance projects to help.

Meanwhile, former U.S. President Bill Clinton left Haiti on June 1, following a visit to further boost the impoverished country’s recovery from the Jan. 12 massive earthquake. It was Clinton’s first visit to Haiti since named co-chair of the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Committee that oversees billions in aid to the country.

Aid experts say Haiti needs about \$11.5 billion for its decade-long rebuilding initiative.



Trinidadians in U.S. welcome new P.M.

NEW YORK - Trinidadian Americans have reacted with glee to the historic election in their homeland of the country’s first female Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar.

Brooklyn, New York-based journalist and media consultant, Glenda Cadogan told **CaribWorldNews** that she woke up on May 25 proud to be Trinidadian. Cadogan welcomed the election of the first female prime minister in the oil rich Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, seeing it as a “progressive” step in the history of her country.

“I wish her the best and want her to succeed,” said Cadogan. “She needs to succeed for a whole lot of reasons – not just for Trinidad and Tobago but for the region.”

Fellow Trinidadian American Hazra Ali also lauded the win by Persad-Bissessar and the People’s Partnership.

“We are so very happy with the result,” said Ali. “I think her being the first woman is good for the country and the Caribbean. The country needs pragmatism and a softer hand right now.”

RACE ISSUE

Ali like Cadogan insisted that the race of the newly elected prime minister should not be an issue, since at the

end of the day, she is first and foremost Trinidadian. That observation was shared by another Trinidadian American, Horace Morancie, who said he believes that new leader will “not fall into the race trap.”

“I think she will do alright,” said Morancie, insisting that he too is thrilled at the historic win.

“I feel great. I had said way back once she put together that partnership that she would win and that’s what happened and I hope the promises she made will be kept and it will be better for the country,” he added.

The Trinidadian community leader has a challenge for Persad Bissessar: “I would love to get her up here for a town hall meeting to meet nationals of Trinidad and Tobago here and friends of T&T.”

Persad Bissessar and the coalition of the People’s Partnership swept to power in Trinidad and Tobago on May 24, winning 29 of the 41 seats. Incumbent Patrick Manning and the People’s National Movement suffered a massive loss, retaining only 13 of their initial 26 seats.

- *CaribWorldNews*



U.S. approves billions in aid to Haiti

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Senate Foreign Affairs Committee has approved \$2 billion to help Haiti reconstruction program following the Jan. 12 devastating earthquake.

The legislation directs the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to devise a “comprehensive rebuilding and development strategy” for Haiti. It also calls for the appointment of a senior coordinator to oversee U.S. policy towards the impoverished, French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country.

The bill, which initially sought \$3.5 billion for reconstruction efforts in Haiti over five years, has been scaled back to \$2 billion over two years. It now goes to the full Senate and the House of Representatives for approval.

“While the original legislation was written to demonstrate our long-term commitment to Haiti by authorizing funding for five years, the

amendment introduced by Senator (Richard) Lugar addresses valid concerns,” said Democratic Committee Chairman John Kerry.

The proposed legislation comes as a number of aid experts last month called on U.S. lawmakers to expedite efforts to Haiti where the earthquake killed 300,000 people and left more than a million others homeless.

“There has been progress in many arenas – just not enough and not fast enough,” Mark Schneider, a Haiti expert and former U.S. official who coordinated the response to Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

In March, U.S. President Barack Obama had asked for \$2.8 billion for emergency relief and reconstruction efforts for Haiti.



Kerry

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Jamaican receives prestigious community leadership award in Florida

Marlon Hill, Jamaican Diaspora Advisory Board representative to the Southern USA, has received the inaugural Ruth Shack Community Leadership Award for his impact on community building in the areas of philanthropy and charitable support in South Florida.

Hill was the first recipient awarded under "Leave A Legacy", a community program of partnership for philanthropic planning of Miami-Dade. The award will be given annually to a resident of Miami



Hill

Dade County, under age 40, who embodies the qualities for which Ruth Shack was best known – leadership, ethics, dedication and service to Miami Dade.

Shack is the recently retired president of Dade Community Foundation, one of Florida's largest philanthropic organizations and a program established in 1967 to

implement and enhance, promote and educate charitable planned giving and philanthropy to the general public.

Upon her retirement, "Leave A Legacy", in conjunction with the Dade Community Foundation, established the Ruth Shack Community Leadership Award to ensure that her legacy continues to define excellence in leadership and civic duties in South Florida.

EMERGING LEADER

Described as one of the emerging leaders of the South Florida business and professional community, Hill, a partner with Miami law firm Delancyhill, was honored for his role in the community.

"It is a special honor to receive this recognition in the name of Ruth Shack. It epitomizes her essence and core values of leadership, ethics, dedication and service," Hill said after accepting the award.

Hill has become actively involved in civic leadership in South Florida. He is one of the inaugural fellows in the Dade Community

Foundation's Miami Fellows Initiative, a leadership program; a member of the Florida Bar Entertainment, Arts, Sports and Law Section, and a past president of the Caribbean Bar Association in Florida. He also serves as a member of the board of directors for Florida Association

for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA), Miami Parking Authority and the Miami Light Project.

Hill has been an advisory board member to the Jamaican Diaspora Southern USA since June 2006. He serves the Florida Caribbean Students'

Association (FCSA), an organization for which he was a founding member in 1990 while a student at Florida State University (FSU).

Hill was born in Kingston, Jamaica and is a graduate of St. George's College there.



Door-to-door Census 2010 visits begin

About 635,000 census takers across the United States have started to go door to door to follow up with households that either didn't mail back their 2010 Census form or didn't receive one.

An estimated 48 million addresses will be visited through July 10.

"America's had a very successful first half of the 2010 Census, where more than 72 percent of the nation's households mailed back their census forms," U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves said. "But achieving a complete and accurate census requires us to now go door to door to count all the remaining households we've not heard back from."

If a 2010 Census worker knocks on your door, here are some ways to verify that person is a legitimate census taker:

- The census taker must present an identification badge that contains a Department of Commerce watermark and expiration date. The census taker may also be carrying a black canvas bag with a Census Bureau logo.

- The census taker will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the local census office phone

number for verification, if asked.

- The census taker will only ask you the questions that appear on the 2010 Census form.

- The 2010 Census taker will not ask for Social Security number, bank account number or credit card number and will



Census takers must show proper identification.

never solicit for donations or contact you by e-mail.

VISITS

In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each housing unit address to count possible residents. This includes leaving notifications of the attempted visit at the house or apartment door, in addition to trying to reach the household by phone to conduct the interview or

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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Starting over: Student victims of Haiti's earthquake resume education in U.S.

JUDITH HUDSON

The island of Haiti is the poorest in the hemisphere. The people, majority of whom are poverty-stricken, have seen many disasters over the years, whether it is the rise in unemployment or political infighting.

However, for 17-year-old Talia Pilorge, life in Haiti was close to perfect. A child of privilege, Pilorge's days began with ballet classes and ended with shopping. Therefore, on Jan. 12 when a catastrophic earthquake hit south of the capital of Port-au Prince, Pilorge's world was shaken and she awoke to the poverty and degradation of her beloved Haiti.

"The earthquake gave me a wake up call," Pilorge said. "I thought every one in Haiti lived the way that I did. I was shocked."

Pilorge is one of 50 Haitian students who relocated to Miami, Florida following Haiti's worst earthquake in two centuries. She, along with the other students, now reside with family and friends and attend the Felix Varela Senior High School.

After the earthquake, many of the schools in Haiti were destroyed or closed. Some of the students who could afford to leave did so,

opting to finish their education in the United States. For many it meant leaving their parents behind and living in a foreign country.

NEW

Pricilla Chalmers, 16, who is now living with her sister while she finishes her education, said that life in the U.S. was new to her.

"There are more students here," she said. "The classes are bigger and some kids have their own group of friends."

Chalmers said that although things were different, it did not take her long to adjust. The other Haitian students who attended the school helped and she was able to make a quick transition.

Connie Navarro, principal at Felix Varela Senior High, said that the students were accepted at the school for humanitarian reasons and because they have families living in the West Kendall area of Miami.

"I came here as a refugee many years ago," Navarro said. "We will accept the students if they have someone to stay with."

Navarro said that the school helps the Haitian students cope and feel at home by providing the same French classes and curriculum that they would be getting at their



Haitian students, victims of January's earthquake, have found reasons to smile in the U.S. From left, Oksana Constant, Ad-ham Izmary, Christian Landrin, Natalia Kolbjornsen, Laetitia Hollant, Karim Constant and Samantha Schutt.

school in Haiti. The teachers also help the students apply for scholarships to American universities.

GOING BACK

Yet despite the favorable treatment, not all the students want to remain in the U.S. Hans Bijou, 15, said that when he finishes high school, his desire is to return home.

"I am happy to be here," he said. "I am grateful for everything and to everyone who is helping us, but I want to attend university in Haiti."

Patricia Schutt, 16, said

that she intends to transfer to Felix Varela Senior High from her high school in Haiti next year. However, the earthquakes sped up the process. She also finds American education different, but not difficult. And, like Bijou, she is not sure whether or not she will attend university in America.

"It's a decision I will have to make with my parents," Schutt said.

All of the students express their gratitude to the people who reached out to help them.

"We are eternally grateful to the government, Ms. Navarro and the West Kendall community," Bijou said. "They (all) went out of their way to make us feel at home."

Regardless of whether the Haitian students complete their education in the U.S. or elsewhere, they all agree that their primary aim is to eventually return to Haiti and rebuild.

Judith Hudson is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Door-to-door Census 2010 visits begin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

schedule an in-person interview.

"If a census taker knocks on your door, please help by providing the basic information required for the census," Groves said. "Your answers are strictly confidential. There are just 10 questions on the form and it should only take about 10 minutes to complete."

Census takers will go to great lengths to ensure that no one is missed in the census. After exhausting their efforts to do an in-person interview with a resident of an occupied housing unit, they will seek out proxy sources - a neigh-

bor, a rental agent, a building manager or some other knowledgeable person familiar with the housing unit - to obtain as much basic information about the occupants as they can.

Some households will receive a visit even though they may have mailed back their form. If the form arrived too late to be processed before non-response follow-up packets were sent to one of the 494 local census offices, the household occupants must still be interviewed when the census taker arrives.

Households that didn't receive a form by mail, including those that pick up their mail from post office boxes,

will be visited by census workers as part of the follow-up plan. The Census Bureau doesn't mail forms to post office boxes because responses must be associated with a specific residence location, not the post office box location.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in America and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to apportion Congressional seats to states, distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to tribal, state and local governments each year, and to make decisions about what community services to provide.



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~ Jamaica under siege in 'Dudus' Coke affair

Security forces will continue operations in West Kingston ~ Golding

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC – Prime Minister Bruce Golding says 47 guns and more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition have been seized by the security forces during their operations to arrest Christopher “Dudus” Coke, wanted in the United States on drug trafficking and gun running charges.

In a statement to Parliament on June 1, Golding, who has come under increasing pressure to resign as a result of his handling of the extradition issue, said that 73 people had been killed when the security forces came under fire from gunmen loyal to Coke when they sought to execute the warrant for his arrest.

Up to press time the security forces had not been able to apprehend Coke, 41, the reputed leader of the notorious “Shower Posse” gang, despite the operations in the volatile West Kingston area that also includes Tivoli Gardens.

Golding told legislators that the government deeply regrets the significant loss of lives and that “proper investigations will be carried out to determine the circumstances in which so many persons were killed and, in respect of each instance, whether it was justified in law.” He said that the public defender has established an office in Tivoli Gardens to receive complaints and reports, record statements and conduct appropriate investigations.

“The public defender is also in the process of engaging independent forensic pathologists to observe the conduct of autopsies as part of his investigations. The government has assured him that the required resources will be provided to cover the cost of these and such other initiatives he decides to undertake.”

Golding said the government is also considering whether or not there is a need for a commission of enquiry.

“The security operation has left the law-abiding citizens of West Kingston traumatized, some of them bitter and angry. I ask them to



Golding

understand that the efforts that must be made to root out criminal elements that have embedded themselves in these and many other communities will, at times, be traumatic,” he said.

“Gunmen who no longer flee when the security forces approach but confront them with vicious firepower must, themselves, be confronted with the full force of the law.

The time for equivocation is over.

“The security forces were and remain instructed to take all possible precautions to avoid loss of life or injury, especially to innocent citizens. The investigations being carried out will help to determine the extent to which that objective was achieved in this particular operation,” the prime minister said.

THANKS

Golding thanked the residents of West Kingston for their support given to the security forces during the operation, noting “the operation is still continuing and the security forces have been able to stabilize the area such that residents are once again able to go about their business subject, of necessity, to random security checks.

“The police and military are maintaining a strong presence in the area and will, at the appropriate time, transition to normal community policing mode. A police post is being established within

Tivoli Gardens and will provide a hub for building a new, positive relationship between the residents and the security forces.”

The prime minister said that a team of investigators from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is conducting surveys to assess the damage or loss suffered by householders as a result of the operation and efforts will be made to provide assistance to them. He said clinical psychologists and social workers will also be deployed to provide counseling to those who are still traumatized, especially children and the elderly.

“Painful as this operation has been, it marks a turning point and the prospect of a new era of re-socialization and re-integration of the communities of West Kingston,” said Golding. “It will require considerable effort and goodwill. It will require the support of state agencies, private sector, church community and non-governmental organizations. It

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Jamaica violence shows need for strong U.S.-Caribbean security ties ~ Holder

NELSON KING

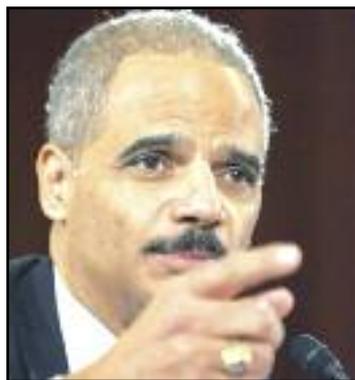
WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States Attorney General Eric Holder says the recent outbreak of violence in Jamaica underscores the need for strong security ties between the U.S. and its Caribbean partners.

Addressing the launch of the Caribbean-United States Security Initiative here on May 27, Holder said “this new initiative is an important step forward in addressing our shared concerns, advancing our common interests, and strengthening our collective commitment to protect our citizens from crime, violence, trafficking, and terror.”

Holder, the son of a Barbadian father, also welcomed the meeting as an opportunity to launch a new chapter in U.S./Caribbean engagement.

“The situation in Jamaica reminds us all just how important this work is,” he said. “Today, we offer our condolences to the Jamaican people. And we mourn the loss of the citizens and law enforcement officials who have been killed in connection with recent attempts to apprehend Christopher Coke for extradition.

“As the Jamaican government seeks to uphold the rule of law, the United States stands in support of its efforts to ensure public safety and to combat drug trafficking and other criminal activity and we honor our brave law enforcement partners for their service, sacrifice, and commitment



Holder

to the cause of justice.

“As we continue to monitor events in Jamaica, let me assure each of you that this effort is a top priority, not only for the Department of Justice, but also for the Departments of State, Homeland Security and Defense. And we are all proud to call you our partners,” he added.



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your family and our community to go further. Don't worry, the form is short and totally safe, go ahead, do it for all of us.



United States
Census
2010

~ Jamaica under siege in 'Dudus' Coke affair

Town hall meeting draws mixed reaction from Jamaicans in Florida

MIAMI GARDENS, Florida - Attorney Wayne Golding, a Jamaican who lives in Orlando, Florida, said Jamaicans in the diaspora would like to be part of the solution in helping their homeland recover from the present unrest.

Golding was among dozens of concerned Jamaicans who participated in a community forum held on May 26 at the Holy Family Episcopal Church here.

The meeting was a collaborative effort by the Jamaican Consulate General in Miami and the Jamaican Diaspora Southern USA to update

nationals on the current situation in West Kingston, Jamaica since Prime Minister Bruce Golding authorized the signing of extradition documents for Christopher "Dudus" Coke to be sent to the United States to face criminal charges.

The forum also provided an opportunity for persons to voice their concerns. Among the more than 200 participants, Dr. Joan Muir, a Fort Lauderdale psychologist, expressed her commitment to sharing in the solution of the nation's economic development, even beyond the pres-

ent circumstances in West Kingston.

HOPEFUL

Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Marlene Malahoo Forte, who participated in the discussions, said she was hopeful that Jamaica would recover from this period.

"Jamaica is not unique to the problems it was currently facing," she said, "but we are committed to doing the best we can to restore order to the society."

Sen. Malahoo Forte called

for support from all Jamaicans and urged nationals in the diaspora to avoid being part of the chorus seeking to discredit Jamaica. She discussed efforts to restore law and order to the affected areas, regulations governing the period of public emergency, the establishment of the media center to provide information on joint police and military operations and anti-crime legislation to come in effect.

The senator said she recognized the fears that Jamaicans in the diaspora had for the safety of their families

and friends at home. Despite the anger and disappointment expressed by many at the meeting, the minister of state also challenged the audience, claiming that the process of nation building was the responsibility of all Jamaicans.

Attorney Dahlia Walker-Huntington assured the minister that the nationals in diaspora were Jamaica's greatest ambassadors.

"We have put our hearts and souls for support of our country," she said.

However, Elonia Jarrett, a retired Jamaican national residing in Hollywood, Florida, said she felt encouraged at the outcome of the meeting.

"I was happy to receive accurate information and updates from official sources," she said. "That cleared away some of the concerns that we had for our people at home."

- Edited from JIS report.



Jamaicans in N.Y sad, embarrassed over violent homeland troubles

NEW YORK - Jamaicans overseas have expressed sadness and shame at the turn of events in their homeland after thugs shot at cops and attacked police stations in Kingston, Jamaica last month, forcing the ruling Jamaica Labor Party government to declare a state of emergency.

"We are embarrassed first and foremost as Jamaicans and mad that the situation has been allowed to reach this stage," Patrick Beckford, the New Jersey-based Northeast Jamaica Diaspora advisory board chair told **CaribWorldNews**. "Its all on government's shoulders now for dithering for nine months on the extradition order (for Christopher "Dudus" Coke)."

Beckford also questioned why Prime Minister Bruce Golding publicly announced the signing of the order instead of letting the courts handle the process. And he speculated whether the public announcement of the extradition order was a signal to the garrison of Tivoli Gardens and



Coke

West Kingston.

"Everyone is upset that it has reached to this stage," added Beckford. "People are mad."

Jamaican national and New Jersey resident Monica Laloo also questioned why the judicial process was not allowed to run its course on the extradition issue and why the P.M. intervened. She also wondered "if this state of emergency was to give garrisons time to prepare against legitimate forces?"

"He (Golding), sacrificed

country for party politics which is not acceptable for people of Jamaica. Calling for his resignation is the right thing to do as he has sacrificed a whole nation for one person who now have us held at ransom," added Laloo.

'CRYING SHAME'

Jamaican New Yorker Andrea Bullens founder of CLM TV, called the turn of events a "crying shame." "Jamaica is in a sad state," she said. "What are we saying to the rest of the world?"

Bullens, like Laloo, also decried both major political parties for engaging with dons in garrison politics over the years, a situation that both nationals agreed has brought the country to this current stage in its history.

The Jamaican government declared a state of emergency at 6 p.m. May 23, hours after thugs, believed to be loyalists to alleged "Shower Posse" leader Coke, shot up and fire-bombed police stations.

"The threats that have emerged to the safety and security of our people will be repelled with strong and decisive action," Golding said afterwards.

Coke, 40, also known as Michael Christopher Coke, Paul Christopher Scott, Presi, General, President, Dudus and Shortman, was charged in the U.S. last August with conspiracy to distribute marijuana and cocaine and conspiracy to illegally traffic in firearms. If convicted on the narcotics charge, he faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, as well as a fine of up to \$4 million or twice the pecuniary gain from the offense. He also faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison on the firearms trafficking charge, and a fine of up to \$250,000 or twice the financial gain.

- Edited from **CaribWorldNews**



Security forces will continue operations in West Kingston ~ Golding

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

represents the hope, not just of West Kingston, but of many other communities across the island and, indeed, the hope of Jamaica."

The prime minister insisted that the operation carried out in West Kingston involved more than an effort to execute a warrant of arrest on Coke.

"That may have been the catalyst but it is more than that. It is the beginning of a concerted effort to dismantle the aggressive criminal net-

works that have embedded themselves in communities in many urban areas and even in some rural communities," Golding said.

"It is a campaign that will be sustained and intensified. It is a campaign that will target criminal gangs wherever they exist, irrespective of their political alliances or whether they have any such alliances.

"There are credible indications that the crime bosses and their followers, in West Kingston and elsewhere, perhaps for the first time, are

shaken. They must not be allowed to return to complacency. This effort must be sustained. It may be a long haul but there must be no letting up."

He said that his administration will seek approval for the six anti-crime Bills including anti-gang measures which are intended to be part of a new Organized Crime Act.

"Rooting out the criminal networks and changing the culture of garrison politics cannot be achieved purely by law enforcement efforts,"

Golding explained. "That is a necessary part of the process but it has to be accompanied by a program of transformation to fill the space now occupied by dons and crime practitioners, to provide for the people in these vulnerable communities a new pathway of hope and opportunity.

"The state must reassert both its authority and responsibility in these communities. But it must be a helpful - not hostile - state," he added.



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Public wants American immigration reform...now

Despite the foot dragging by the Obama administration, as well as Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the Senate, it is still obvious that the American public wants fair comprehensive immigration reform.

And don't just take my word for it. A new poll from the Associated Press and Gfk Roper Public Affairs and Media, confirms this fact.

According to the poll, close to 50 percent of Americans believe it is a bad thing that the Obama administration had not yet passed a comprehensive immigration bill as promised during his campaign speeches. The support comes despite the racist Arizona immigration law, which will allow police to interrogate anyone they suspect to be an illegal immigrant and detain them if they can't produce legal papers.

Just nine percent of Americans polled thought the fact that the federal government had yet to step in and solve the immigration problem was a good thing.

The poll clearly proves that the public particularly wants to see a path to citizenship made available to the 10-

plus million undocumented migrants living in the U.S. Fifty-nine percent in the same poll favored "providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens" compared to 39 percent who were opposed.

URGENT

The numbers prove what advocates and immigrants have been saying for a long time – that we urgently and desperately must fix the immigration woes of this country in order to bring the millions out of the shadows and create a sense of security and order.

Lawmakers cannot continue to drag their feet while the Obama administration continues to push the issue back on to the back burner. The time for immigration reform has to be 2010 – not next year, not in the president's second term, not after the November election, but now!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



FELICIA PERSAUD

The harsh wages of sweet sin

Women often make strange selections in their partners, and what it does to them can prove fatal, as domestic violence rears its ugly head.

But what about those women who already have a man but still want another, knowing fully well that the consequences can be dire, even dying? Is dying to commit adultery worth dying for?

There was this big uproar a few months ago when the world news carried the story of this South Korean television and movie star who admitted to committing adultery and was almost flung in jail for years. After much wrangling and public outcry, they gave her a suspended sentence. That episode has rekindled the debate about whether adultery should be punishable by law and so harshly too.

Well, let's stick a pin and leave no stone unturned, or even cast any, for that punishment pales in comparison to what occurs in some cultures. For adultery, women are stoned to death, or at times executed by sword. In other cases they are imprisoned for life, tarred and feathered, have their heads shaved, publicly flogged, made to wear a scarlet letter and other means of punishment. All this has been going on from bible days, but still, adultery continues.

But why should there be punishment for adultery? That movie star lady in Korea explained that she was in a loveless marriage and met someone else. Should that reason justify her actions?

VOWS

Still, there are vows that were taken when people got married, so should they now discard and ignore those vows, just because they fell out of love for whatever reason? The vows should not be a shackle, some may say. And what about the cases where adultery is committed just for the sake of fun?



Look how many married couples, still in love, dabble in a little dalliance now and then, but still go home to their loving spouses! Let's face it, having severe laws and punishment to curtail adultery is ludicrous.



TONY ROBINSON

As for us, people who love to love other people's spouses, there wouldn't be enough prisons and there certainly wouldn't be any debate about capital punishment for adultery. Just substitute the word thief for adulterer and my point is made.

Adultery is sweet, or people would not do it, even when faced with harsh and dire consequences, including dying.

WHY DO IT?

But why do women do it, knowing that they can be put to death, if not by a court of law, by their husbands when they find out? Yes, for some strange reason, men do not like it when their wives commit adultery, even though they themselves are active, ardent adulterers. Losing your life for this sin may come not only

from a court of law, but from an enraged spouse. And still, they take the chance.

Statistics show that almost 70 percent or more of married couples commit adultery, while others lie about it, or think about doing it.

Just check out the main reason for divorce, infidelity, then check out the many short term hotels and weekend trysts and you'll see what I'm talking about. Adultery is alive and doing quite well.

But should people, bound by law or by the church, be made to suffer in celibacy in a marriage that has lost its luster and its love? Should a woman who knows that her husband has a mistress for many years, and has ignored her for as long, not also take unto herself a lover? Should a husband who suffers from 'lock shop' from his wife, not get any sex for years, not be allowed to get it elsewhere?

Divorce, you may say, but it's not so easy, plus some churches do not allow or recognize it, so the spouses are forced to remain bound and live separate celibate lives as they waste their years away. And also, what about people who have been apart for countless years, but still not divorced, should they not be

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Meek: Counting on key Caribbean support in U.S. Senate race

Kendrick Meek is the Democratic Party's frontrunner in a three-man race for the United States Senate seat vacated by Mel Martinez in Florida. His opponents are Florida Governor-turned-independent Charlie Crist and Republican Marco Rubio. Meek has represented Florida's 17th Congressional District (which includes a large Caribbean constituency) as congressman since 2002, after succeeding his mother Carrie Meek who retired. He took time out of his campaign schedule to speak with Dawn Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.

Question: You have given up your congressional seat in Florida's 17th district to run for US Senate, why is that a good move?

Answer: I will be able to help Floridians in not only South Florida, but the entire state of Florida. The fact that I have represented a diverse population in the past will help me represent all of Florida. I am very excited about it because I feel this is a great opportunity for the Caribbean community to come out and show their support for a candidate that understands the issues that are facing the CARICOM coun-

tries; that have worked with a number of members of the Caribbean community through tough issues such as hurricanes, issues that are facing Haiti and the Grand Bahamas.

Q: A large number of the population in your former congressional district are Caribbean Americans. How important are they in this race? How do you plan to reach them?

A: The Caribbean community is very important to our campaign. We reach out by talking to publications like yours, using the contacts that we have built over the years with the Caribbean community. And, the fact that I represent the 17th Congressional District, which is Dade and Broward counties, we have been interfacing with the leadership of the Caribbean community. I know that my track and my mother's track record will help us persevere through this process.

Q: You are in a three-way race with the now independent Charlie Crist and Republican Marco Rubio, who has been endorsed by (former Florida Governor) Jeb Bush. Realistically, what

are your chances of winning the seat? Should we trust the polls?

A: We shouldn't look at the polls right now because today is not Election Day. We are going to be able to have a stronger showing in the polls as we continue to climb up the ladder, and making sure that we not only reach out to all Floridians, but that our grassroots campaign takes charge. I am really enthusiastic about what we have done. We qualified by petition through getting over 140,000 signatures to place my name on the ballot, which help build relationships with organizations that historically we did not have relationships with.

Q: Several Haitian Americans are now vying for the 17th Congressional District seat. What do you think are their chances?

A: There are quite a few people running in that race and it's too early to tell. But the majority of candidates are good choices.

Q: Have you received any endorsements from any of Caribbean groups such chambers of commerce, bar associations?

gration reform, that is what is needed.

Q: Do you have any concerns about the strength of the Tea Party movement and their wish to defeat Democratic incumbents.

A: I am not concerned about the Tea Party movement. I am just concerned about representing Floridians and getting voters out to vote for me to become the next United States senator.

Q: You traveled to Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. What can you do as senator to help bring humanitarian and economic relief to this Caribbean (country).

A: We have to make sure the international community continues to invest in the recovery of Haiti. At the International Donors' Conference a number of people stepped up to assist. It's an ongoing effort that is going to take place for a number of years, and Florida will play a major role in that recovery because we know that if Haiti fails, as it relates to the recovery effort, then Florida will feel the first effects of that failure.

A: We are working hard to make sure that we are able to get the endorsements in the future and endorsements of individuals who are respected in the business community, and throughout the general community.

Q: Caribbean nationals are among the many undocumented immigrants in this country who would like to change their status, but are afraid of the unforgiving laws. What is your stance on immigration reform?

A: I am a strong proponent of comprehensive immigration reform. We want to make sure that we fight hard on behalf of people that are paying taxes in this country and making sure that everyone play by the same rules. It's important for our economy that we pass the comprehensive immigration reform and for the security of the nation.

Q: You (are) against the controversial Arizona immigration law that many think is discriminatory. Why did you (go) against it and what is the alternative?

A: I am against it. The alternative is comprehensive immi-



Public wants American immigration reform...now

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Immigrants should not allow their votes to be taken for granted any longer. If recent results are any indication, then many incumbents could be at risk in November as the public is showing it is fed up with Washington as is. For too long immigrants have

been scapegoated and now they face the risk of being criminalized and profiled in many states ready to follow Arizona's lead as a fix to the problem that the federal government refuses to address.

The time to keep up the push and raise your voice for the voiceless is now. Let's all join the campaign to urge

President Obama and the U.S. Congress to act now for immigrants and fix this problem once and for all.

Felicia Persaud is founder of CaribWorldNews.com, CaribPRWire and Hard Beat Communications.



The harsh wages of sweet sin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

allowed to commit adultery? Speak to any adulterous couple, and many will profess undying love for each other as they explain and justify their actions.

IRONY

And then, what if your wife has a lesbian lover, is that also adultery? Do men who buy prostitutes or have sex with farm animals commit adultery? The fact is, adultery is here to stay, and no punishment, even pain of death, is going to stop it. In fact, the irony is, adultery itself is often punishment enough, as the emotional turmoil and guilt

that goes with it often leads to major stress.

The wages of sin is death, it's said, but I beg to lower the wages of adultery and be a little more lenient and understanding.

Each case should be judged on its own merit. In fact, it shouldn't even reach courthouse as there shouldn't be laws against it.

People are dying for this 'sin' and in some countries, the law takes it literally. The wages of this sin is harsh, but it should be lowered. What do you think?

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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Obama praises immigrants as U.S. marks Caribbean American Heritage Month

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States President Barack Obama has issued a presidential statement proclaiming June as Caribbean American Heritage Month.

“Our nation is linked to the Caribbean by our geography, as well as our shared past and common aspirations,” he said.

“During National Caribbean American Heritage Month, we pay tribute to the diverse cultures and immeasurable contributions of all Americans who trace their heritage to the Caribbean.”

Obama said that throughout U.S. history, immigrants from Caribbean countries have come here seeking better lives and opportunities.

“Others were brought against their will in the bonds of slavery. All have strived to ensure their children could achieve something greater and have preserved the promise of America for future generations,” he added.

HONOR

Jamaica to take center stage at ‘Caribbean Week’ in N.Y.

Jamaica is expected to spice up the “Big Apple” during the upcoming Caribbean Week in New York, June 6-12.

The weeklong event falls during Caribbean Heritage Month, and Jamaica kicks off its celebrations with the arrival of the Jamaica Lightning Bolt clipper yacht in New York on June 3, followed by participation in a series of events supporting Caribbean Week.

Jamaica’s Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett and Director of Tourism John Lynch are scheduled participate in many of the special activities.

“Jamaica is proud to celebrate Caribbean Heritage with our diaspora throughout the New York area,” said Lynch recently. “We are excited to begin the celebration with the arrival of Jamaica Lightning Bolt which has for the last year been a competitive force in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. We also look forward to participating in the annual Caribbean Week events to share Jamaica’s unique culture, impressive tourism offerings and abundance of airline seats available to New Yorkers this summer.”

Jamaica is expected to be featured on the CBS Early Show on June 7. The New Kingston Band will perform

The president said that his administration would also honor the “bonds of friendship between the United States and Caribbean countries” during the month.

In paying particular tribute to Haiti, Obama noted that this year’s devastating earthquake “has brought untold grief” to the Haitian American community, many of whom “continue to mourn the loss of loved ones as they help rebuild their homeland.

“(Caribbean Americans) strengthen the fabric of our culture, and we are proud they are part of the American family” – U.S. President Barack Obama

“These families and individuals remain in our thoughts and prayers,” said Obama, stating that the U.S. has “proudly played a leading role in the international response to this crisis, which included vital contributions from countries throughout the Caribbean.

on the television show.

The Allied Awards Luncheon is scheduled for June 11 where the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), in association with the Caribbean Tourism Organization, will present two distinguished tourist industry individuals with awards of excellence for their efforts to market the Caribbean as a top region for travel. The presentations will be made during the Caribbean Tourism Organization/ Caribbean Hotel Association Allied Luncheon and Awards Presentation to be held at The Helmsley Hotel. The JTB will present both the “Marcia Vickery-Wallace” and “Marcella Martinez” awards to honor significant achievements in sharing the Caribbean experience with the world.

The Caribbean Travel and Cultural Fair is slated for 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 12. Jamaica will be one of the featured Caribbean destinations during this celebration at the North Plaza at Lincoln Center. Patrons at this free event will be able to view destination exhibits, Caribbean performers, artisans and chef demonstrations and tastings. Visitors can also attend a wedding at the fair, during which Jamaica will present the lucky bride

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)



Obama addresses the Caribbean community during his visit to Trinidad last year.

- File photograph

“As Haiti recovers, we will remain a steady and reliable partner,” he said.

TRIUMPH

The president said that in June, the U.S. celebrates the “triumph of Caribbean

Americans, a diverse community that encompasses many nationalities and languages.

“They have become leaders in every sector of American life while maintaining the varied traditions of their countries of origin,” he

said.

In addition, Obama said Caribbean Americans enrich America’s national character “and strengthen the fabric of our culture, and we are proud they are part of the American family. “Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2010 as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month,” he said.

“I call upon all Americans to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans with appropriate ceremonies and activities,” he added.



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Caribbean American fashion hits South Florida on June 20

More than 50 models are expected to take the runway and display the styles of designers from several Caribbean islands during this month's Caribbean American Fashion

Show in South Florida.

The show, hosted by the McKenzie Model Agency, will be held June 20 at Renaissance Hotel, 1230 S. Pine Island Road in Plantation. Showtime is at 8 p.m.

This year's program will feature the swimwear fashion edition, along with a collection dresses, pants, jackets, boots, bags and other accessories. Models will also display body art using body paint.

"This year's event will bring a new meaning to sexy, one can expect to be mesmerized, awe struck and completely entertained," said Maurice Tucker, president and chief executive officer of SynJen Magazine, Vibezz TV

and Hype Radio.

Entertainment will be provided by Jon Saxx. Tickets available at www.phashionshows.com.



Spirit of 'Rum & Rhythm' in N.Y.

NEW YORK - Caribbean cuisine and rums, the spirited beat of island music and a live performance by two-time Grammy award-winning singer Caron Wheeler, who composed and sang lead on Soul II Soul hits "Back to Life" and "Keep On Movin'", are among the scheduled highlights for Caribbean Week in New York's Rum & Rhythm event, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 10 at the Roseland Ballroom, 239 W. 52nd St. in Manhattan.

"We're excited to feature not only Caribbean flavors and incredible rums at this year's Rum & Rhythm, but also to have Grammy winning songstress Caron Wheeler as a true honor," Sylma Brown, acting director, North America, for the Caribbean Tourism Organization, said in a recent press release announcing the event.

"We're looking forward to bringing a taste of the Caribbean to New York, and we hope it encourages our people to plan a trip to the Caribbean to receive the full experience."

Guests are being invited to sample the sweet-flavored rums served up by the region's top 'mixologists', savor the enticing Caribbean cuisine with Dutch, English, French and Spanish influences, and dance to live musical performances by Wheeler, dancers from the St. Lucia Folkloric Association and the Danza Fiesta Group from Puerto Rico, and Steel Pan music by Andre Phillips Musical Productions.

Guests must be age 21 and older to attend. For ticket information, visit www.caribbeanweekny.com or call 212-635-9530.



Fewer Caribbean nationals visit U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Fewer Caribbean nationals on non-immigrant visas travelled to the United States last year, the latest Department of Homeland Security data analyzed by **CaribWorldNews** show.

The data, released last month by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), show that some 1.2 million Caribbean nationals arrived in the U.S. in 2009, compared to some 1.4 million in 2008.

Antigua and Barbuda had 18,743 last year, a decline from the previous year when there were 22,649 visitors to the U.S. The Bahamas also registered a decline, dropping to 282,172 in 2009 compared to 332,571 in 2008.

The same was true for Barbados, which sent 65,434 visiting non-immigrants in 2008 compared to 57,993 last year. The Dominican Republic also had a big drop, down from 276,511 in 2008 to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

Jamaica to take center stage at 'Caribbean Week' in N.Y.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

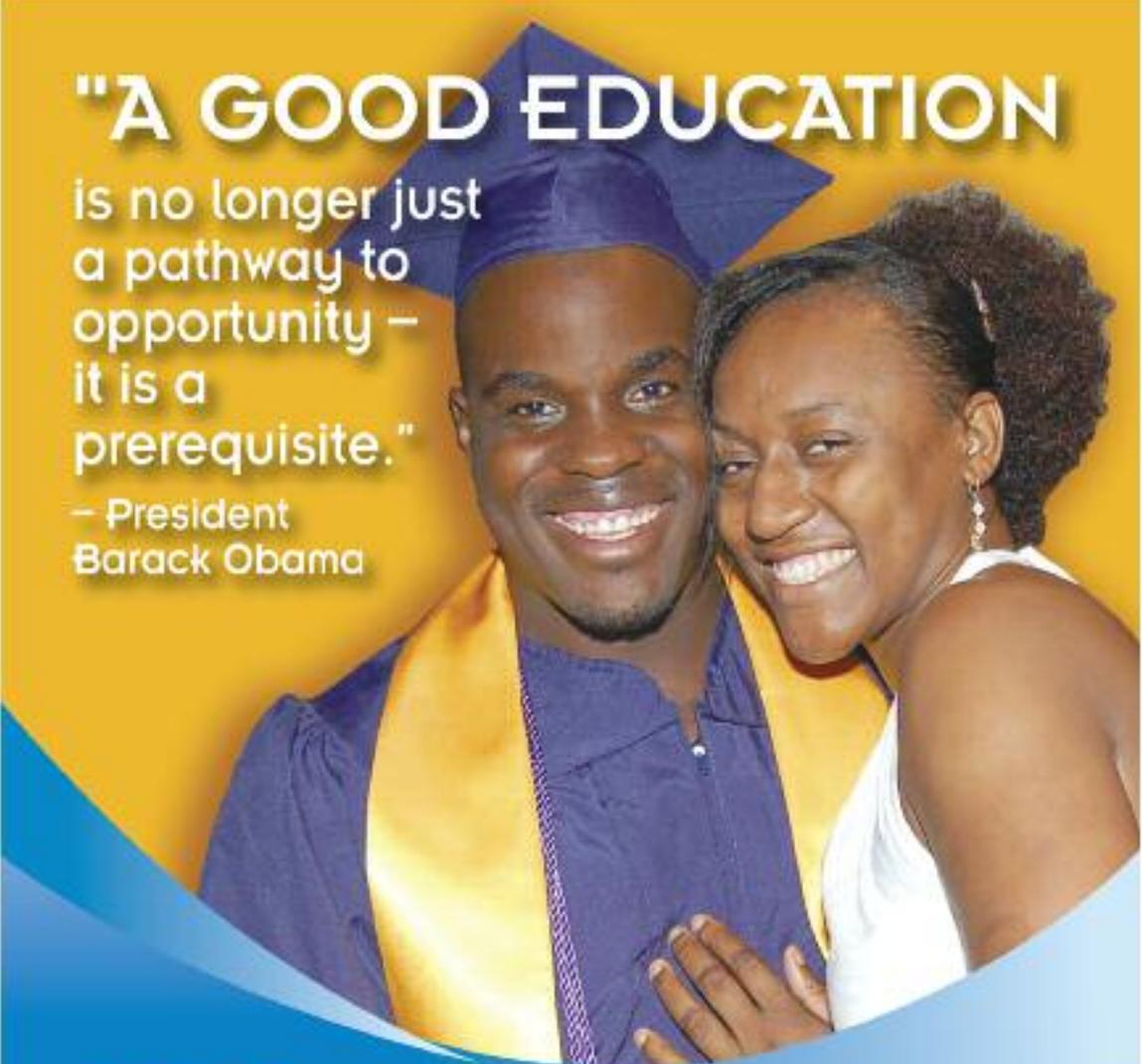
and groom with a wedding gift commemorating their special day.

In 2006, June was officially declared "Caribbean American Heritage Month" by United States President George W. Bush to celebrate and honor Caribbean culture as well as pay tribute to the

significant contributions Caribbean Americans have made to the U.S. Since then the month has been renamed Caribbean Heritage Month by the Institute of Caribbean Studies, which prepared the bill sponsored by U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee.



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Rising up: U.N. archive focuses on heroes, victims of Haiti earthquake

NEW YORK - Amelia Shaw lost colleagues and friends in an instant on Jan. 12 when an earthquake toppled the headquarters of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

Now she and other U.N. staffers are completing an ambitious project that they hope will go some way to memorializing the event.

Thousands of photographs, film clips, audio files and other documents taken in the aftermath of the disaster have been compiled and indexed by the U.N. on a digital archive that is now avail-

able to the public through a website. The Haiti Oral History and Visual Archive as it is officially known is the result of a decision by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to record for posterity what Shaw notes sadly was a "historic event for the Organization – definitely by far its largest loss of life."

It includes interviews with rescue workers, images from the disaster zone and raw footage of U.N. staff trying to help Haiti get back on its feet.

IMPACT

Registering 7.0 on the

Richter scale, the quake killed an estimated 300,000 people, including 101 U.N. staff, most of them working for the U.N. peacekeeping mission known as MINUSTAH. Shaw, a television producer, was four-and-a-half months pregnant and standing in her office in an annex to MINUSTAH's headquarters building in the capital, Port-au-Prince, when she felt the building suddenly shake just before 5 p.m. on Jan. 12. She and a nearby cameraman were soon thrown to the ground by the force of the quake.

"We spent the next 10 to

12 hours at the site. Everybody was trying to pull the rocks away and help out. It was just the longest night," she recalled.

With the help of four other staff members and three volunteers, as well as technical assistance, Shaw has spent the months since the quake painstakingly arranging the archive so that users can easily find the materials they are searching for. The archive went online May 28, two days before the International Day of U.N. Peacekeepers is marked. In the months ahead, more items – the tally is already up to

around 7,000 – will be labeled and indexed and made available.

"This has been a very meaningful project for me as it has everything to do with the fact that I was there," Shaw said, adding "many of the people that I lost were friends.

"This has given me a wonderful opportunity to feel like I was doing something concrete and getting something positive out of the tragedy," she added.

- CMC



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)
250,368 in 2009.

DECLINE

Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica also showed a decline in the number of its nationals who visited the U.S. Haiti's visitors were down from 115,591 in 2008 to 103,601 in 2009 while Jamaica's decline was down to 252,663 last year compared to 281,353 for the previous year. T&T also registered a drop

from 177,916 in 2008 to 173,660 in 2009.

The decline for St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada was small, but a drop anyway. Grenada had a drop-off from 11,773 in 2008 to 11,069 last year, while St. Kitts and Nevis saw its visitors to the U.S. decline from 15,761 to 13,243 last year.

The number of St. Lucian nationals who visited the U.S. plummeted from 19,458 in 2008

to 17,573 last year, while St. Vincent and the Grenadines registered a slight drop from 14,545 in 2008 to 14,076 in 2009.

UPSWING

However, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Suriname and Guyana registered a slight upswing. Dominica sent 5,855 visitors to the U.S. last year compared to 5,821 in 2008, while Suriname saw its visitors to the U.S. grow to 7,851 last year, up from

6,926 in 2008.

Guyana also saw an increase in arrivals from the South American nation to the U.S. with 25,985 in 2009 compared to 24,862 in 2008.

During 2009, there were an overall 163 million non-immigrant admissions to the U.S., according to DHS workload estimates. The leading countries of citizenship for resident non-immigrant admissions to the U.S. in 2009 were Mexico, India and Japan.

Non-immigrants are foreign nationals granted temporary entry into the U.S. The major purposes for which nonimmigrant admission may be authorized include temporary visits for business or pleasure, academic or vocational study, temporary employment, and to act as a representative of a foreign government or international organization, according to the DHS.

- CaribWorldNews



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Caribbean suffering from mayhem in Jamaica ~ Chastanet

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC - The deadly unrest in Jamaica is creating a major public relations crisis for the Caribbean, according to St. Lucia's Tourism Minister Allan Chastanet.

Chastanet, a former chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that the region's tourism product is suffering from the television pictures of burning buildings, soldiers engaging gunmen in street battles and coffins containing bodies being splashed

across the globe. He said when visitors speak of coming to the Caribbean for a vacation, Jamaica is among the first set of countries that come to mind.

Chastanet said tourists view the Caribbean as a group of countries that are connected and "there are some people that are not able to differentiate one island from another."

The security forces in Jamaica have been engaging gunmen loyal to Christopher "Dudus" Coke, who is wanted in the United States on drug



Chastanet

trafficking and gun running

charges. The authorities said that 73 people have been killed during the operations, but Coke, 41, the reputed leader of the notorious "Shower Posse" gang, remained at large up to press time.

REVENUE LOSS

Jamaican tourism officials reported that since the violence began late last month, the island has lost an estimated J\$350 million (\$4 million) in revenue.

Chastanet said the Jamaica situation underscores the need for a regional

tourism marketing development fund.

"It's sad to say that we have not been able to reach a consensus on how to raise the fund. We may have to go back to the situation where we will create a brand and countries may voluntarily agree to participate," he explained.

"The reality is that a lot of budgets have been cut, and at a time when we should have been trying to find resources so that we could move forward, we are cutting."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

St. Lucia rides wave of Caribbean's fluctuating tourism fortunes

Last month, St. Lucia hosted its 19th annual jazz festival, which Minister of Tourism Allen Chastanet said was created to fill the visitor gap during the "off season". Dawn Davis, a freelance writer for *Caribbean Today*, caught up with the minister to discuss St. Lucia and other issues related to Caribbean tourism. The following is an edited version of that interview.

Question: What are hotel occupancy rates like during at this time and is it a predictor for tourism arrivals in the medium and long term?

Answer: All the hotels are completely full. Only two countries have had double-digit growth for the first quarter of the year, and that's St. Lucia and U.S. Virgin Islands. Four islands have had single-digit growth and the rest of the Caribbean has had negative growth. I know a lot of people think all this is happening by accident, but the strategies we have adopted have really been paying off and I think St. Lucia is really poised for a take-off. But it requires the support of everyone.

Q: You worked with Air Jamaica as vice president of marketing for a number of years. How do you feel about the sale of Air Jamaica to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago?

A: It's a real shame because I think Air Jamaica presented a huge opportunity for Jamaica. I know the government of Jamaica has lost a lot of money and the people of Jamaica have put a lot of money into it. When Air Jamaica was taken over by (Gordon) "Butch" Stewart there were very little flights coming into Jamaica. When Air Jamaica started growing, it got a lot of U.S. carriers to go in, and that can't be lost.

Today, Jamaica has a very sustainable product. The last time I was in Jamaica I was so impressed with the infrastructure, the new airports are phenomenal, the new highway systems, really makes Jamaica much more accessible and I think a lot more people have been coming to Jamaica as a result.

Q: Will the sale of Air Jamaica have any effect on St. Lucia's tourism numbers?

A: It will not affect our tourism. Air Jamaica left St. Lucia almost two years ago and it was a huge loss. We lost almost 130,000 seats and we worked very hard to replace those seats. Caribbean Airlines is a great airline, but they have really been focusing on the diaspora and the local market; they have not really been very much in the tourism market. It's something I would like to see hopefully change in time.

Q: There has been talk of Caribbean Airlines merging with LIAT, the small regional Antigua-based carrier, perhaps as a first step in creating one single major Caribbean airline. What are your thoughts on that?

A: Unfortunately, I think that is something that is going to happen. The difficulty here is that the Patrick Manning-led (former Trinidad and Tobago) government...indicated that if there are going to be mergers they will have to go through the same painful process that BWIA and now Air Jamaica is going through, which is a complete restructuring. I want to say that I really appreciate the work that the staff are doing at LIAT, so any of my comments really have nothing to do with their work etiquette and the passion they have for the airlines. But, it's really looking at the bigger picture in terms of the growth



The majestic Pitons of St. Lucia

of the region. LIAT needs to be restructured. It's very difficult when you see decisions like wrong booking systems, bad scheduling...It will be a very painful process.

If LIAT does not agree to the restructuring we would like to see Caribbean Airlines coming to the region as its own entity. The government of St. Lucia, from early days, has indicated that it would very much welcome Caribbean Airlines into St. Lucia. And, it's an airline that we would very much like to work with, particularly on the Barbados-Trinidad route, and even up north.

Q: What can we expect for next year's St. Lucia jazz?

A: We are looking at some new logistics here on Pigeon Island. Clearly, we will have to enter into some discussions with the National Trust in

terms of some of the other ideas we have. Once we get past that, we are going to have discussions with the prime minister and the minister of finance in determining how big we are going to make the 20th anniversary...

Q: Pigeon Island is a National Heritage site, how do you ensure the safety and integrity of the site?

A: We have a 19-year track record with the National Trust. The fact that this relationship has lasted so long says a lot about the working relationship between the two organizations. I am very happy with the work the trust has done here. If one looks back at how much money we have spent in having to setup the venue every year, which is somewhere between \$500,000 to \$800,000 per year...I think that's where the collaboration

can be taken to another level. It's fair to say the jazz festival is here to stay and now maybe we should look at how we can make more permanent investments here...The trust, its participation into the economic development of this country, is enshrined in the institutions of St. Lucia.

Q: Any plans for other kinds of music festivals?

A: We have a new tag line for the Tourist Board, "Live the Legend". So, we've been playing with the idea of creating a legends concert series, which would specialize in the different genres and we would bring some of the music legends. These are the discussions we will be having with the National Trust to make sure they share the same vision.



Trade secrets: Enjoy a worry-free vacation by avoiding tricks, scams

Summer is an exciting time. Kids are out of school, and families and couples are planning their much-anticipated vacations.

Experts say the odds are in your favor that you will have an incident-free trip. However, despite how minimal the possibility is of something going wrong, sometimes crime and violence do occur. With the right information and safety precautions, you will know just how to react and where to turn to for help should a critical situation arise.

The Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department suggests you beware of these types of scams and follow certain travel safety recommendations.

COMMON RIP-OFFS

Pick-pockets - Be aware of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar territory. Pick-pockets generally use guises and accomplices to distract you while relieving you of your valuables. Keep your valuables secure to your body. Consider purchasing a money belt that can be worn beneath your clothes to hide your cash, credit cards and passport.

Currency exchanges - If you need to exchange money, know what the current rates are before you leave the coun-

try. It gives you the power of determining if you're being ripped off. Use the services of licensed establishments. Do not exchange money with individuals on the street who may not give you valid currency, or worse, might rob you.

You should generally avoid currency exchange booths in popular tourist destinations, such as airports and train stations, because they do not offer the best exchange rates. Instead, favor local banks and sometimes hotels. There are always exceptions, though. Some hotels do offer bad rates. At least, if you know the rate ahead of time, you can make a money-saving decision.

Telemarketing travel fraud - Exercise caution before responding to a sales pitch about a great, bargain-priced vacation getaway. The pitch may come in the form of a phone call, letter, email or flyer. However, more often than not, there are strings attached. You may not get everything that was promised to you or you may have to sit through presentations that last for hours. You might also fall victim to a scam that defrauds consumers out of millions of dollars each month.

Buying or selling time-shares - Research the company you will be doing business



Tourists are prime targets for pick-pockets.

with. Contact the Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department, Better Business Bureau, state attorney general, and the local consumer protection agency in the state where a seller or reseller is located.

Ask if any complaints are on file. Don't act on impulse or under pressure. Study the paperwork outside of the presentation environment and, if possible, ask someone who is knowledgeable about contracts and real estate to review it before you make a decision. Ask about fees and timing. It's preferable to do business with a reseller that takes its fee after the timeshare is sold. If you must pay a fee in advance, ask about refunds. Get refund policies and promises in writing.

CONSUMER SMARTS

If you're traveling to a foreign country, check the United States Department of

State's website to see if they have posted any safety alerts. Prior to your departure, familiarize yourself with the local laws of your destination country, and determine where the U.S. consulate offices and embassies are located.

Use a current-edition travel guidebook. You can easily check one out from your local library or buy one at the store. It's good to have one on hand because the establishments listed have already been checked out by a travel professional. Such books even warn you about particular dangers in certain areas.

If you're using a travel agent, make sure the individual and/or company are

licensed to operate. Ask family and friends for recommendations.

Consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance. Trip cancellation insurance reimburses you for prepaid, nonrefundable expenses - such as airline tickets - if you are forced to cancel a trip due to an unforeseen emergency. Shop around for the best prices and terms. Read the fine print and examine the types of cancellation reasons covered by the contract. Check the expiration times and dates for seeking reimbursements. Read exclusion clauses carefully. For instance, most policies do not cover preexisting health conditions.

Consider purchasing travel health insurance. Even if your health insurance will reimburse you for medical care that you pay for abroad, health insurance usually does not pay for medical evacuation from a remote area or from a country where medical facilities are inadequate. Consider purchasing a policy designed for travelers, and covering short-term health and emergency assistance, as well as medical evacuation in the event of an accident or serious illness.

For additional consumer tips, or to check the complaint history of a company, file a complaint or ask consumer-related questions, visit the Miami-Dade Consumer Services Department website at www.miamidade.gov/csd or call 305-375-3677.



Caribbean suffering from mayhem in Jamaica ~ Chastanet

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

Chastanet said countries that have been pumping money into the industry despite the global recession are likely to among those benefiting most when the crisis ends.

"While we may not see the benefits in the next year

and a half, but as soon as the world's recession starts coming to an end, the people that would have done that kind of ground work would be the ones to benefit immediately," he added.





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Top names for St. Kitts Music Festival

A combination of top entertainers from the Caribbean and North America, representing a variety of musical styles from reggae and soca to R&B and hip hop, will be among the attractions at this year's three-day St. Kitts Music Festival.

The 14th annual staging of the festival will be held from June 24-26 in Basseterre. Infamus, will lead the local-born talent on show. He will be joined by other Caribbean acts like the veteran Third World Band, Ky-Mani Marley, Bunji Garlin and Fay Ann Lyons-Alvarez.

The international contingent will feature 10-time Grammy winning singer, producer and songwriter Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds of the United States.

"I am truly excited about being a part of a very exceptional Music Festival!," said Edmonds in a recent press release. "This will be my first visit to St. Kitts and I am looking forward to exploring as much of the island as time will allow, experiencing the unique Kittitian hospitality and performing for everyone at the festival."



T&T-born actress earns 'Peer of England' honor

LONDON, Britain – Trinidad-born actress, Floella Benjamin, has been made a Peer of England, according to the List of Dissolution Honors and Working Peer released here late last month.

Although known initially for her work on television in both acting and production, she has been honored for her charity and academic achievements. She was nominated for the peerage by the Liberal Democrats.

Benjamin was born at Pointe-a-Pierre in Trinidad on

Sept. 23, 1949 and moved to England 10 years later. She made her name initially in stage shows, such as "Hair" and "Jesus Christ Superstar", and appeared in various television plays. But she is known best as a presenter of children's television programs such as "Play School" and "Play Away".

Her autobiography, "Coming to England", her 20th publication, was published in 1997.



JAMAICA ROCKS 'EXOTICA'



Some of Jamaica's most gifted fashion designers brought island heat to Atlanta, Georgia during last month's "Exotica" A Caribbean Fashion and Cabaret Event hosted by A Fashion Affair, Inc at the Holiday Inn Select. Tamara Christie, second from right, Jamaica Tourist Board's business development manager for Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas, was on hand to help over 500 fashion savvy consumers in attendance plan an exciting Jamaican getaway and provide information on the upcoming summer events in Jamaica. Christie was joined by, from left, Miss Jamaica World 2005, Terri-Karelle Griffith; Assistant to the Manager of Ocho Rios Atlanta, Inc. Susan Thé; Director of A Fashion Affair, Inc. Norma Martin; and Miss Jamaica World 2009 Kerrie Baylis. Proceeds from the event went towards repairing youth centers, neighborhood outreach programs, and providing scholarships and training for youth in the Atlanta community.

Justice delayed for top Jamaican entertainers

The criminal trials of two top Jamaican entertainers have been pushed back,

Buju Banton, who has been in a Florida, United States jail since last December awaiting trial on drug trafficking charges, has been moved from this month to September.

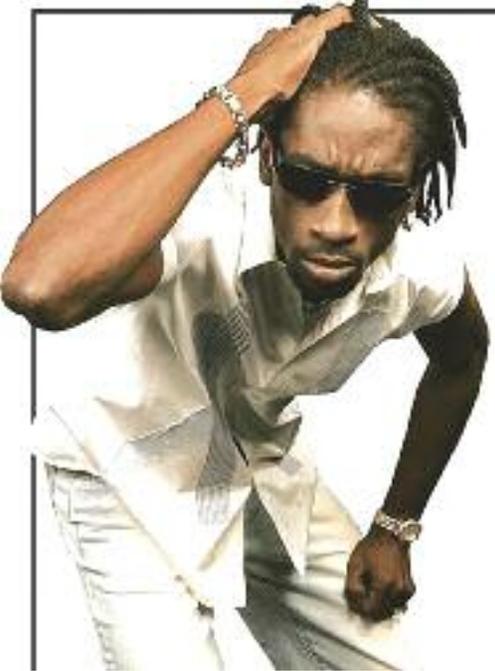
Meanwhile, the case of Bounty Killer, who is facing marijuana-related charges, is scheduled for the court next month in Jamaica.

According to law enforcement, Banton, whose real name is Mark Myrie, was involved in a conspiracy to traffic more than five kilograms of cocaine. He was originally scheduled to stand

trial in Tampa, Florida on April 19. That date was later changed to June 21. Now the case is scheduled to begin sometime in September.

smoking last October. He has been charged with smoking and possession of marijuana. The deejay has denied the charges.

However, Bounty Killer is also due in court on June 29 on a charge of assault. He allegedly attacked his girl-



Buju Banton

Bounty Killer

Bounty Killer, real name Rodney Price, will face a Resident Magistrate's Court on July 7. He was allegedly found in possession of marijuana after police noticed him

friend in March. He is also facing a charge in the Gun Court for unlawful wounding and illegal possession of a firearm following a Sept. 2007 incident involving an off-duty policeman.



Jamaica at 48

On August 6, 2010, the island of Jamaica marks the 48th Anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation.

Caribbean Today invites the business community in Jamaica and the United States to celebrate this significant milestone.

OUR INDEPENDENCE SUPPLEMENT! Jamaica at 48 ~ to be published in July 2010, will pay tribute to Jamaica's history, culture, growth and development including the achievements and global contributions of a remarkable people.

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ON YOUR MARKS



In mid-May Audrey Marks arrived in Washington D.C. to take up her post as Jamaica's ambassador to the United States and permanent representative to the Organization of American States (OAS). She will assume responsibility for Jamaica's relations with the U.S. and will hold the distinction as Jamaica's first female envoy to the U.S. and the OAS. During a visit to the OAS, Marks stopped to view a statue of Jamaica's National Hero Marcus Garvey. A career entrepreneur, Marks has founded and operated numerous businesses, including Paymaster (Jamaica) Ltd.

CITIZENSHIP SESSION

Legal permanent residents interested in becoming United States citizens are being invited to attend a "Citizenship Information Session" at **7 p.m. June 7** at La Casa Del Senior, 12950 S.W. 128th St., Suite 6, Miami, Florida.

Topics to be discussed include the naturalization process; the naturalization interview, using the new test; and rights, responsibilities and importance of U.S. citizenship.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

Homeowners facing financial hardship are being invited to attend a free Foreclosure Prevention Clinic from **6 p.m.**

profit sponsors expected to attend include the Miami Gardens Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce), Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida, The Collective Banking Group, Inc., and the Housing Finance Authority. The Ad Valorem Title Agency also assisted in organizing the event.

Seating is limited.

Homeowners are encouraged to make reservations by calling **305-751-5511**. The clinic will have specialists fluent in both Spanish and Haitian creole.

SAFETY FAIR

Get tips on keeping you and your family safe at home and away during a "Keep Your

Family Safe:

Emergency Preparedness at Home and Away Safety Fair" this month in downtown Miami, Florida.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System, in partnership with the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine's Calder Medical Library, will present the fair from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 17** at the Main Library, 101 W. Flagler St.

The fair will commemorate National Safety

Month. Information and resources on home safety, senior safety, child safety, food safety and household and chemical safety will be available.

Representatives from Miami-Dade Public Library System, the Calder Library, the National Safety Council, the Miami-Dade Police Department, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, Miami-Dade County's Extension Office and McGruff the Crime Dog will be on hand to answer safety-related questions.

For more information, call **305-375-2665** or visit www.mdpls.org.

CONFERENCE POSTPONED

The Jamaican Diaspora Convention 2010, which was scheduled for **June 14-17** at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, has been postponed.

The decision for the postponement was taken after consultations with key stakeholders locally and abroad. Further consultations will be undertaken to determine the new date.



to **9 p.m. June 8** at the Miami Shores Community Center, 9617 Park Dr. in Miami Shores, Florida.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, City of Miami Gardens Councilman Andre Williams, and the Village of Miami Shores organized the event to provide homeowners the opportunity to speak with their lenders or Neighborhood Housing Services specialists that can help save their homes or sell it through short sale rather than lose it to foreclosure.

Participants must bring the following in order for specialists to assist them fully: driver's license; Social Security or tax identification card; bank statements from the past two months; 1040 Federal Income Tax Returns from 2008 and 2009, along with W-2 forms; any additional bills and letter supporting financial hardship; and mortgage documents, default notices, summons, and/or similar statements.

Invited lenders include GMAC Mortgage, Countrywide Financial, Bank of America, Chase, Citi and Wells Fargo. In addition, non-

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Experts predict busy Atlantic Hurricane season

MIAMI, Florida - The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says it is predicting an "active to extremely active" hurricane season this year for the Atlantic Basin, which includes the North Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico.

According to NOAA's Seasonal Outlook, produced in collaboration with scientists from the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the U.S. Hurricane Research Division (HRD), there is a 70 percent probability of 14 to 23 "named storms", with top winds of 39 mph or higher. This includes eight to 14 hurricanes, with top winds of 74 mph or higher, "of which three to seven could be major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5, with winds of at least 111 mph)", Seasonal Outlook reported.

"If this outlook holds true, this season could be one of the more active on record," said Dr. Jane Lubchenco, U.S. under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator.

"The greater likelihood of storms brings an increased

risk of a landfall. In short, we urge everyone to be prepared," she added, noting that the outlook ranges exceed the seasonal average of 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.

STORMY OUTLOOK

NOAA said expected factors supporting this outlook



are upper atmospheric winds conducive for storms and warm Atlantic Ocean water. It said sea surface temperatures are expected to remain above average, where storms often develop and move across the Atlantic. Record warm temperatures – up to four degrees Fahrenheit above average – are now present in this region.

NOAA said since 1995, the tropical "multi-decadal signal has brought favourable

ocean and atmospheric conditions in sync, leading to more active hurricane seasons."

Eight of the last 15 seasons rank in the top 10 for the most named storms, with 2005 in first place with 28 named storms, it said.

"The main uncertainty in this outlook is how much above normal the season will be. Whether or not we approach the high end of the predicted ranges depends partly on whether or not La Niña develops this summer," said Dr. Gerry Bell, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

"At present, we are in a neutral state, but conditions are becoming increasingly favorable for La Niña to develop," he added.

NOAA scientists said they will continue to monitor evolving conditions in the tropics and will issue an updated hurricane outlook in early August, just prior to what is historically the peak period for hurricane activity.



CARICOM seeks international support for binding pact on climate change

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC – The Caribbean community (CARICOM) is urging Finland to support the region's position for a legally binding agreement on climate change during the 16th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (COP-16) scheduled for Mexico later this year.

CARICOM Deputy Secretary-General Lolita Applewhaite said that as the global community prepares to participate in the Mexico meeting, CARICOM was keen on "strengthening its voice and its partnerships with like-minded states to advocate its position on issues critical, not merely to its continued development, but to the very survival of its people."

"In this regard, we view the pursuit of a legally binding agreement to address climate change as the most fundamental responsibility of our generation," Applewhaite said, as she accepted the credentials of Mikko Pyhala, Finland's Plenipotentiary Representative

to the Caribbean community, recently.

"For us in CARICOM, it is more than unacceptable that the global community should walk away from the negotiating table in Mexico, without a legally binding agreement. More specifically for us, it is a threat to our very survival."

"Climate change and the related phenomena of bleached coral and ruined marine life, coastal erosion, rising sea levels and flooding, are not collateral damage that we can accept..."

BACKING

The deputy secretary general said that the region was also looking to Finland for other support "including our efforts to implement resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly to protect the Caribbean Sea as a

special marine environment."

She said also the global economic crisis had severely affected the Caribbean where some of the countries "have been additionally disadvantaged by their inability to access concessionary financing due to the process of graduation consequent on their classification as middle-income countries, a process which ignores their vulnerability."



Applewhaite

Haiti, U.N. plan for worst case scenario

NEW YORK - The United Nations says the humanitarian crisis triggered by January's earthquake in Haiti could worsen with the onset of this year's hurricane season, which experts have warned could be severe.

As a result, the U.N., along with its partners, is preparing for a worst case scenario.

"This is a country acutely exposed to hurricanes at the best of times," said Sarah Muscroft, head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Haiti (OCHA).

"With so many people still so vulnerable after the recent earthquake, a serious hurricane this year could be devastating. We are therefore planning for a worst-case scenario," she added.

Contingency plans being designed include the dedication of 24-hour humanitarian rapid response teams in case of rain or hurricane-related incidents in sites where those who lost their homes as a result of the earthquake on Jan. 12 have settled in the capital Port-au-Prince, according to OCHA.

The rest of the country, where poverty is extreme and

infrastructure poor, also remains acutely vulnerable, especially areas still recovering from Hurricanes Fay, Gustav and Hanna, which between them killed over 800 people in the space of a month in 2008.

The hurricanes also devastated large areas of the country.

PREPAREDNESS

Other preparedness measures by humanitarian agencies currently under way include the pre-positioning of two million emergency food rations in 31 locations across Haiti by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the U.N. said.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has a permanent emergency task force on standby and is pre-positioning emergency items in 10 towns and cities, and shelter agencies are working to ensure sufficient emergency shelter materials are available.

Hurricane mitigation work in camps following technical assessments is also ongoing to reduce vulnerability to flooding and rains.



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Peter A. Welley,
Publisher

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BUSINESS

Credit credentials: Security lessons in managing your money

STEVE ROSEN

Make peace with your money.

What to make of that phrase: a Nintendo Wii game, a smartphone application? Perhaps lyrics from an old Pink Floyd song?

Try a new online tool that could make it easier for young credit card holders and borrowers to manage their money. It's found at Zendough.com, a fee-based resource that was officially unveiled recently by a unit of TransUnion, the giant credit-reporting company.

Zendough is being billed as the first product to combine a consumer's credit reports and score, debt-management tools and identity theft protection in one place. Hence, the zen-like phrase: Make peace with your money.

"Our goal is to provide consumers with information

and safeguards needed to control their credit use and spending," said Heather Schneider, Zendough's education director.

The service costs \$14.95 per month (\$179.40 a year) after a free seven-day trial.

WORTH

Is it worth it?

I recently had the opportunity to test-drive Zendough and was impressed with the identity-theft safeguards and the one-stop-shop approach. Along with detailed information on your finances, including a debt-to-income ratio, there are graphics that show you if you're on track financially or veering into trouble.

Users open an account by inputting personal information and quickly getting snapshots of their finances.

The Web program has three main sections:

- "My Credit" -

Zendough provides you with a credit score and lets you easily identify and correct inaccuracies on your credit report. Zendough offers what it calls your VantageScore, which is between 501 and 990. It's not to be confused with your FICO score, which is what credit agencies use in evaluating your creditworthiness. But the VantageScore gives you a sense of how you're managing debt.

- "My Identity" - This section details your risk of identity fraud. If your Social Security number is turning up too often in databases, Schneider said, you'll be given advice on what to do to prevent theft. Zendough also alerts you when your identity may have been compromised and connects you to a case manager.

- "My Accounts" - Here you'll find a detailed listing of your credit accounts. Most telling is seeing your credit card usage in graph format and



People can get overwhelmed managing their money.

debts categorized in a pie chart.

The bottom line: Before committing money, carefully check out the Web site and other similar services (some of which are free). But if you think your teenager or young adult is already showing signs

of flaking out with debt, this product might be just what the Zen doctor ordered.

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Caribbean Marketplace 2011 set for Montego Bay, Jamaica

Caribbean Marketplace 2011, the annual event where regional hoteliers network with businesses from around the world, will be held at the new Montego Bay Convention Centre from Jan. 16-18.

The event, which follows the "All Tourism, All Caribbean, All Business" theme, will be presented by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA), Jamaica Tourist Board, MasterCard and Virgin Holidays.

"We believe that Caribbean Marketplace 2011

will be even stronger as tourism officials, hoteliers and tour operators gather to plan the recovery of tourism to our region," CHTA President Enrique De Marchena Kaluche said at a recent press conference announcing next year's event.

"Unlike many events, where participation decreases during tough times, we need Caribbean Marketplace now more than ever before. The less than optimal state of our industry should actually have a positive effect on attendance for Caribbean Marketplace.

"For our hoteliers, we rely on the support of our tour

operators in order to capture the largest possible share of the market. At the same time, the tour operators need to engage our hotels with lucrative contracts that will help us all profit during these tough times.

"At the end of the day, the business we receive during this difficult period will be determined by our willingness to work with each other to maximize our marketing of the region. Caribbean Marketplace is all about how we can market the Caribbean, both together and independently," he added.




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By the way, doctor: Is there a solution for watery eyes?

DR. MARK HATTON

Question: I am 63 and have tears running down my face at odd times. Most of the information I've found on the Internet is about infants with blocked tear ducts. Can you provide some information about tearing in adults?

Answer: Watery eyes are a common problem for adults, and there's often an effective way of treating them.

First, a little background. Your lacrimal glands, which are located above the eye at the edge of the eye socket, are continually making small amounts of tears at a steady rate. Blinking helps spread the moisture over the front of your eyes, creating a clear, protective film that keeps the eye from getting irritated by dust and dirt and helps fend off infections.

But once the fluid has served its purpose, or if there's too much of it, an ingenious drainage system gets rid of the excess. Tiny tear ducts connect the inside corners of the eyes to the inside of the nose.

Blinking helps pump the fluid away from the eyes, down the duct, and into the nose.

Watery, or teary, eyes develop when more fluid is produced than can be drained away; essentially, it's a plumbing problem.

FOUR ISSUES

People who seek medical attention for watery eyes usually have one of four problems. Sometimes the openings to the tear ducts close up even if the ducts themselves are open. Ophthalmologists call this punctal stenosis. This usually can be fixed in a matter of minutes with a procedure that requires only local anesthetic.

Often, though, the problem is a blockage farther down the tear duct. Tear duct blockages can be a side effect of some of the drugs used to treat cancer, such as docetaxel, a commonly used treatment for breast cancer. A facial injury can also cause the tear duct to become blocked.

However, most blockages of the tear duct don't have an identifiable reason - it just happens. Usually this occurs in women after menopause.



The basic notion is to repair the drainage system by creating a little passageway around the blockage.

A third reason for watery eyes is, ironically, dry eyes. If the tear gland doesn't provide enough moisture on a constant basis, the eyes dry out, become irritated, and cause the gland to overcompensate, producing a gush of tears that floods the eye. Many conditions cause dry eyes, and sometimes the underlying condition itself can be treated.

But often it's a matter of treating the dry eyes themselves. The over-the-counter "artificial tears" products often work quite well. But if they don't, one alternative is an eye drop version of cyclosporine, the immunosuppressive drug that transplant recipients take to reduce the chances that the new organ will be rejected. In the eye, cyclosporine has a powerful anti-inflammatory effect that can help cases of dry eye that aren't amenable to other treatments.

Finally, people can develop a watery eye if the lower eyelid is lax and droops away from the eye. When this happens, the tears are not pumped into the tear duct, but instead accumulate on the surface of the eye. This condition is easily fixed by tightening the eyelids surgically.

Most causes of watery eyes can be fixed. Talk with your ophthalmologist. He or she will likely refer you to an oculoplastic specialist - an ophthalmologist who has done additional training in eyelid and tear duct surgery.

Dr. Mark Hatton,
Ophthalmic Consultants
of Boston.
Tribune Media Services.



U.S. provides \$100M more for Caribbean HIV treatment

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, CMC - The United States is providing an additional \$100 million to Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries to combat the deadly HIV virus over the next five years.

Karen Williams, charg e d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy here, and CARICOM Deputy Secretary General

Ambassador Lolita Applewhaite last month signed the agreement to extend the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

A statement issued by the embassy noted that the funds will be available this month and will focus on programmatic cooperation in prevention, laboratory strengthening, strategic information, capacity building, and sustainability.

"As the region with the second highest rate of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world, second only to Sub-Saharan Africa, the United States recognizes that a regionally targeted program for the Caribbean could directly meet critical public health needs and support the outstanding work already

ongoing in the region to combat this disease", the embassy stated.

LEADING CAUSE

"The AIDS epidemic continues to be a leading cause of death among Caribbean adults age 25-44 years of age and has left nearly a quarter of a million Caribbean children

orphaned".

A similar signing took place in Suriname, Barbados and the

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), with Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Bahamas and Jamaica joining soon.

PEPFAR was launched in 2003 to reduce the incidence and limit the spread of HIV/AIDS while assisting persons living with the disease. Washington reported that the program has so far treated more than two million infected persons as well as providing care for over 10 million. It has also prevented an estimated seven million new infections.



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DEFEATED: Manning steps down as PNM leader after election

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Former Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Patrick Manning has resigned as leader of the People's National Movement (PNM), three days after he led it to defeat in the May 24 general elections.

PNM Chairman Conrad Enill said that the party will hold a special convention on June 27 to elect a new leader and that in the interim Diego Martin West representative Dr. Keith Rowley, one of the longest serving PNM legislators, will act as Opposition leader in the new Parliament. Enill told reporters that the General Council, which met on May 27 to discuss the 29-12 defeat in the general elections, had accepted Manning's letter of resignation.

In his letter, Manning said he would "give support to the new leader" and Enill said that the council thanked him for his 23 years as leader of the 54-year-old political party. Manning called the general elections more than two years ahead of the constitutional



Manning

deadline, but the PNM lost 14 of the 26 seats it held in the last Parliament. The People's Partnership, an amalgam of five Opposition parties and trade unions, swept the PNM out of office on May 24 and in

the process also provided T&T with its first female head of government in Kamla Persad Bissessar, the leader of the main Opposition United National Congress (UNC).



New T&T Cabinet sworn into office

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Four days after leading the People's Partnership coalition to victory in the May 24 general elections, Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar revealed her 26-member Cabinet team.

In making the announcement, the newly installed prime minister said the team possesses diverse skills and expertise. She also sought to warn ministers that they should neither become "aloof" nor accept mediocrity.

"This is not about us, it is about the people, they have the power to dismiss us," she said, warning also that "there is no room for arrogance" and no "time for personal agendas."

Among those taking the oath before President George Maxwell Richards was the Vice President of the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) Austin "Jack" Warner, who is also chairman of the United National Congress. He was sworn in as minister of works and transport, while former head of the T&T Defence Force, Brigadier John Sandy, was named national security minister.

Errol Mcleod, the former president of the powerful Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU), was named minister of labor, small and macro enterprise development. Winston Dookeran, former Central Bank governor and leader of the Congress of the People (COP) party, was sworn in as minister of finance, while former independent Senator Mary King was given the portfolio of planning, economic and social restructuring and gender affairs.

Controversial former High Court Judge Hubert Volney was sworn in as minister of justice, while attorney Prakash Ramadhar was named minister of legal affairs.

Dr. Rupert Griffith, former speaker of the T&T Parliament, was named minister of tourism, while the new minister of sports and youth affairs is the former national swimmer and talk show host Anil Roberts.

The newly created Ministry of Tobago Development has been handed to Vernalla Alleyne Toppin, the successful Tobago Organisation of the People (TOP) candidate, while Nizam Baksh, a long serving legislator, has been named minister of community development.

Stephen Cadiz is the new minister of trade and industry, while the minister of energy and energy affairs is Carolyn Seepersad Bachan.

Former Mayor of Chaguana Surujrattan Rambachan is the minister of foreign affairs, while Dr. Roodial Moonilal is the minister of housing and the environment.

Vasant Bharath, who was not considered among the candidates to contest the elections, has been sworn in as the minister of food production, lands and marine affairs, while Chandresh Sharma is the minister of local government.

Former calypso monarch Winston "Gypsy" Peters, is the minister of arts and culture, while the minister of public utilities is Emmanuel George.



NEW SLATE

Following is the full list of members of the new Trinidad and Tobago Cabinet:

- **Prime Minister and Minister of Information and Communication** – Kamla Persad Bissessar
- **Attorney General** - Anand Ramlogan
- **Minister of Finance** - Winston Dookeran
- **Minister of Works and Transport** – Austin "Jack" Warner
- **Minister of Education** – Dr. Tim Goopeesingh
- **Minister of Justice** – Hubert Volney
- **Minister of Legal Affairs** – Prakash Ramadhar
- **Minister of Labor, Small and Macro Enterprise Development** – Errol Mcleod
- **Minister of Housing and Environment** – Dr. Roodial Moonilal
- **Minister of Trade and Industry** – Stephen Cadiz
- **Minister of Arts and Culture** – Winston Peters
- **Minister of National Security** – Brigadier John Sandy
- **Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs** – Carolyn Seepersad Bachan
- **Minister of Foreign Affairs** – Surujrattan Rambachan
- **Minister of Public Administration** – Nan Ramgoolam
- **Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education** – Fazal Karim
- **Minister of Public Utilities** – Emmanuel George
- **Minister of Health** – Teres Baptiste Cornelius
- **Minister of Food Production, Lands and Marine Affairs** – Vasant Bharath
- **Minister of Planning, Economic Social Restructuring and Gender Affairs** – Mary King
- **Minister of Local Government** – Chandresh Sharma
- **Minister of Tourism** – Dr. Rupert Griffith
- **Minister of Peoples and Social Development** – Dr. Glen Ramdharsingh
- **Minister of Community Development** – Nizam Baksh
- **Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs** – Anil Roberts
- **Minister of Tobago Development** – Vernalla Alleyne Toppin



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"We cover your world"

Guyanese pair star for U.S. in cricket win over Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda, CMC – Guyanese all-rounders Steve Massiah and Lennox Cush starred with bat and ball as defending champions United States put a major dent in Bermuda's World Cricket League Americas Region Division One tournament title hopes with a comfortable six-wicket victory early this month.

Unbeaten Canada remained on course to lift the trophy as it notched up its fourth straight victory, crushing by 10 wickets inside nine overs thanks to the exploits of teenager Hiral Patel, while the Cayman Islands lost a close match by 13 runs to

Argentina.

Off-break bowlers Massiah and Cush shared six wickets as Bermuda struggled to 188 for nine after being sent in at the National Sports Centre and then Massiah blasted 67 and Cush made 22 not out to help steer the U.S. home with 20 balls to spare.

RECOVERY

Bermuda recovered from losing Fiqre Crockwell with only one run on the board as fellow opener Jekon Edness (26) and Stephen Outerbridge, who struck six fours in his 48, produced a second-wicket stand of 76, but Massiah, who finished with

two for 39 from 10 overs, struck two vital blows by removing Outerbridge and skipper David Hemp for eight.

Cush then tightened the screw by bowling danger man Janeiro Tucker for 17 and having former skipper Irving Romaine caught for 34 on the way to finishing with figures of four for 30 from 10 overs.

The U.S. lost Jamaican Carl Wright for 11 with the total on 28. But a second-wicket stand of 113 between Sushi Nadkarni and number three Massiah took the game away from Bermuda.



Jamaicans in star-studded field for July 3 Prefontaine Classic

EUGENE, Oregon, CMC – World and Olympic sprint champion Shelly Ann Fraser has been confirmed for July's Prefontaine Classic, the sixth meet of the lucrative IAAF Diamond League series.

The 23-year-old Jamaican will headline the women's 100 at the July 3 championship which will make its debut as a member of the glitzy Diamond League.

Fraser has emerged as one of the outstanding sprinters in recent times, snatching gold at the Beijing Olympics two years ago and repeating

the feat at the World Championships in Berlin last year.

Fraser scored a win at the Ostrava Golden Spike late last month, beating Bahamian Chandra Sturup into second.

Jamaican Kerron Stewart, the world championship silver medalist, will also be present along with compatriot Sherone Simpson, silver medalist in Beijing and two-time reigning Olympic 200 meters gold medalist Veronica Campbell-Brown.



Bolt withdraws from N.Y. grand prix meet

NEW YORK – Injury has forced sprint sensation Usain Bolt out of this month's Adidas Grand Prix, the fifth meet of the multi-million dollar IAAF Diamond League.

The double Olympic and world sprint champion is suffering with inflammation of his tendon and has had to opt out, organizers of the June 12 meet announced after the 23-year-old had communicated his decision on May 31.

"I developed a stiffness in my Achilles tendon last week and sought medical attention," Bolt said in a statement.

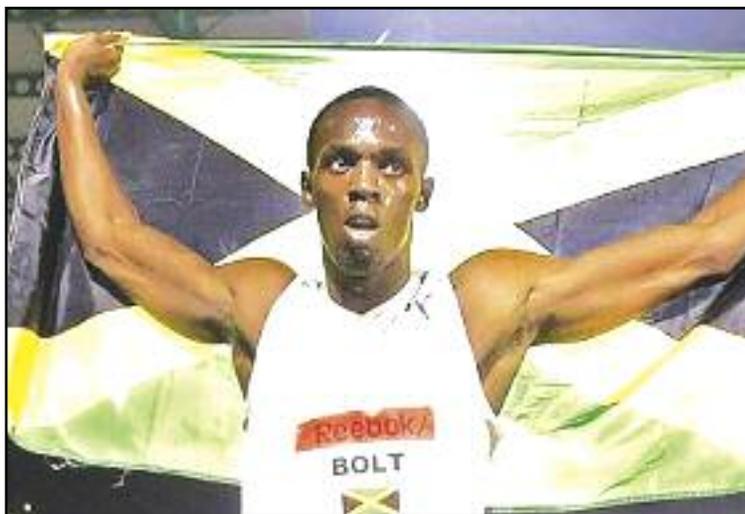
"After careful consultation with Dr. Hans Müller-Wohlhahrt at his clinic in Munich, I have been advised to take a two to three week break as a precautionary measure to avoid risking further damage.

"Regrettably I will have to miss the IAAF Diamond League meeting in New York on Saturday, June 12. I am well aware of the disappointment for the fans in New York and around the world, but I hope to return to New York as soon as possible."

BLOW

Bolt's withdrawal is a massive blow to organizers as the long-striding Jamaican is currently the hottest commodity in professional sport. The world record holder in both the 100 and 200 meters, Bolt has already set tongues wagging this season with impressive showings on the IAAF circuit.

He opened his international season with a world-leading time 9.86 seconds in the 100 meters at the Colorful Daegu Pre-Championships Meeting in Daegu, South Korea last month and posted



Bolt displays the Jamaican flag after winning in New York a couple years ago.

an impressive 19.76 seconds in the 200 meters on his Diamond League debut in Shanghai.

"I know I echo the wishes of all New York area track fans when I say that we wish Usain a speedy recovery and

look forward to welcoming him back next year," meet director Mark Wetmore said.

The event, scheduled for the Icahn Stadium, is expected to see 26 Olympic and world champions taking part.





We deeply regret to announce the passing of
Dianne Elizabeth Keen Binger,
who died on May 29, 2010 (August 19, 1962 - May 29 2010.)

Leaving behind: Roger Binger - husband, Natasha Binger - daughter,
Nicholas Binger - son, Yvonne Keen - mother, Judith Keen - Bingham - sister,
Dr. David Keen - brother, Richard Keen - brother, Gillian Keen-Walters - sister

Funeral service will be held Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 2p.m. at the
First Baptist Church of Ft Lauderdale
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