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JAMAICA

Jamaica's Independence Day is on Aug. 6. This month Caribbean Today's annual "Salute to Jamaica" feature focuses on the island and people, including its efforts to re-open for business and pleasure during the COVID-19 pandemic, pages 1B-12B.

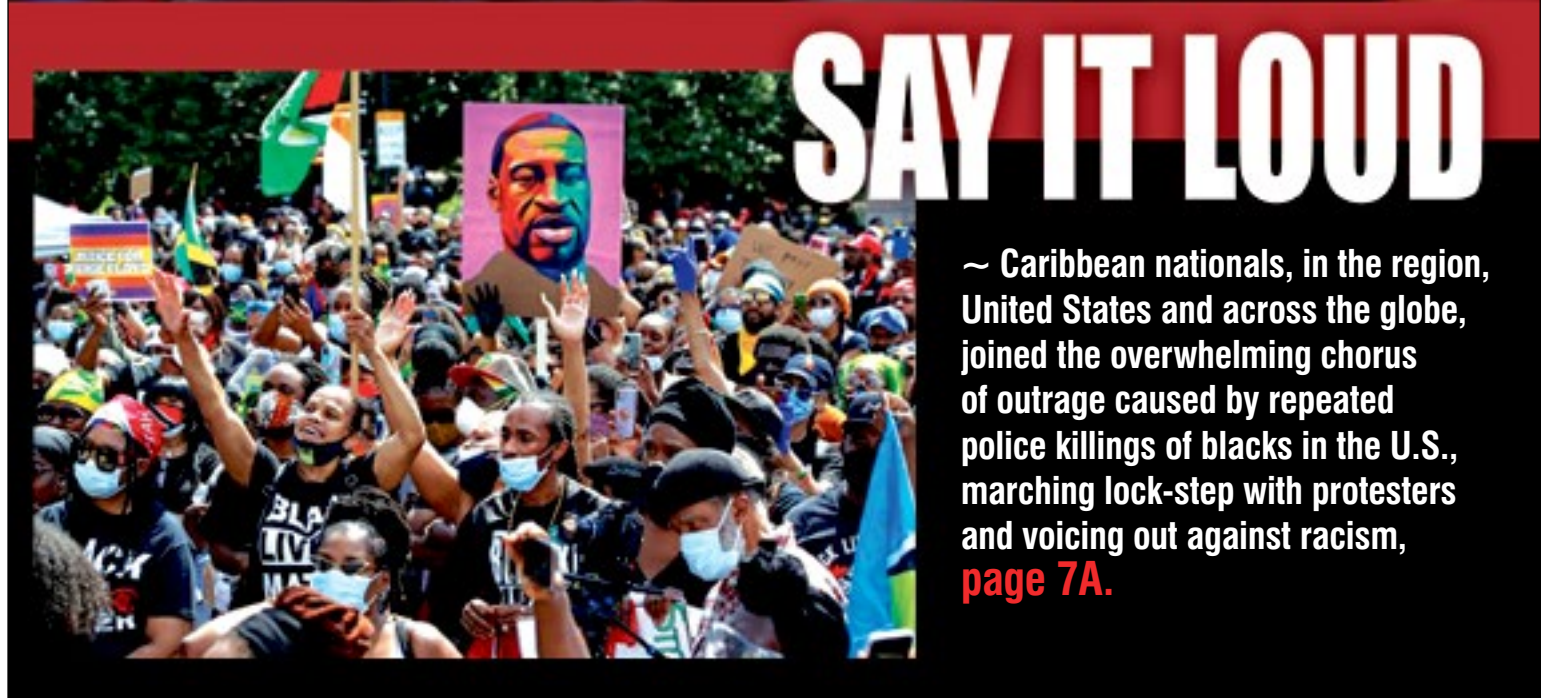


Retired Army General Colin Powell, son of Jamaican parents who he said came to the United States on "banana boats," has stepped into the political spotlight, leveling scathing criticism at Donald Trump, calling the U.S. president a liar and chastising him for anti-immigration policies, page 5B.



SWEET DREAMS

~ Thousands of Caribbean-born children brought to the United States illegally and recipients of DACA are among those who have been spared deportation - for now - by the highest court in the United States. Celebrating "Dreamers" can breathe a sigh of relief, **page 8A.**



SAY IT LOUD

~ Caribbean nationals, in the region, United States and across the globe, joined the overwhelming chorus of outrage caused by repeated police killings of blacks in the U.S., marching lock-step with protesters and voicing out against racism, **page 7A.**

INSIDE

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NEWS



COVID-19 HELP: U.S. offers new funding initiative to Caribbean

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries have been urged to respond “positively” to a United States initiative that would allow regional countries to access funding from international financial institutions as they recover from the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the outgoing CARICOM chair, told the 20th special virtual meeting of CARICOM leaders that she had received correspondence earlier this month in her capacity as CARICOM chair from Washington on the issue.

Mottley said that the letter, signed by the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin, provides, for the “first time, ... a significant

and bold initiative and opportunity to be able to work together with our partners within the hemisphere to see how best we can blunt the consequences of COVID-19 as we go forward.”

She said in the letter, it was made “absolutely clear” that Washington had committed itself and had developed a multifaceted framework that it believes will help the region address the immediate humanitarian needs as well as the long term recovery.

“Indeed, in the letter, it goes on to state specifically, first if requested, the United States would support temporary access to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development just for COVID-29 related



Pompeo

assistance for the Bahamas and Barbados, the two Caribbean graduates from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

“Let me say that we have been making and arguing this case for over two years and we have made it more recently again in all of our correspondence to the heads of the international financial institutions and to the

heads of governments across the entire global community in the Americas, in Europe, in Asia.”

ACCESS

Mottley said the Caribbean had been saying that, at the very least, those countries in the region that have been graduated from access to concessional funding from the World Bank ought to be given access now, largely because the needs in a pandemic or the needs coming out of a hurricane “require that they have access to concessional funding that will allow us to meet the most urgent demands of survival first and then thereafter to begin the journey of transformation.”

She said the U.S. has, in its correspondence, “made it very clear that for this period of time that both countries, Barbados and The Bahamas should be able to access concessional funds from the World Bank going forward.

“Similarly they have also

added that we will not object on the basis of income classification to borrowing by members of the Inter-American Development Bank to assist with economic or health recovery efforts,” Mottley said, adding “this is also substantive for us and this is what we were asking for.”

According to Mottley, the U.S. also indicated that “to address immediate liquidity needs, the United States has leveraged its leadership at the IMF to support a total of US\$1.7 billion in new emergency funding for Caribbean countries – Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have benefitted from emergency IMF funding to address humanitarian and economic ramifications of COVID-19) pandemic.”

- Edited from CMC.

Jamaican cops arrested in U.S., suspected of cocaine possession

Four Jamaican police officers were last month arrested in the United States and charged with illegal drug possession.

According to a story published by the Jamaica **Gleaner** on June 26, the cops were nabbed during U.S. law enforcement operations in the cities of Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina. The arrested officers were reportedly

assigned to the western section of the Caribbean island.

The operations were reportedly conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

According to The Gleaner, three of the officers arrested were identified as constables Shermain Latoya Gooden, Dremar Graham and Trevonne Davidson. Another

officer, who was not named, was reportedly returned to Jamaica and taken into custody.

The Gleaner story, which had not been confirmed by **Caribbean Today** up to press time, indicated that “The actions of three of the constables caused suspicion, and a subsequent search turned up contraband believed to be cocaine.”

U.S. nets \$118M from drug bust in Caribbean Sea

MIAMI, Florida – The United States Coast Guard busted drug smuggling operations off the coast of Costa Rica worth more than \$118 million last month.

The operation, led by the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Vigilant, occurred during a 40-day tour of the western Caribbean Sea that included joint anti-narcotics operations with the Honduran and Colombian militaries.

According to coast guard officials, the Vigilant’s Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron helicopter crew intervened on two suspected drug boats, shooting out the engines and disabling the vessels.

The Coast Guard’s 7th District Petty Officer Third Class Brandon Murray said that, along with a third vessel, the busts yielded about 6,800 pounds of cocaine, with an estimated wholesale value of \$118.3 million.

The operation was part of an enhanced counter-narcotics efforts by the U.S. military in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific Ocean.

OPEC offers help as U.S. tightens Cuba restrictions

HAVANA, Cuba – The government of Cuba has thanked the Organization of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC) for supporting the economy of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean nation, even as the United States continues to tighten its restrictions against the island.

Since 2002, when the first

agreement was signed between Cuba and the OPEC Fund for International Development, the organization has granted 15 government concessional loans for the implementation of projects in different provinces, aimed at upgrading irrigation systems, rehabilitating electrical networks and water and

sewerage systems, seven of which are currently underway.

OPEC was founded in Sept. 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq. It is made up of 13 countries in Africa, Asia and South America, which hold 43 percent of the world’s oil production and 81 percent of the world’s reserves.

Caribbean American wins N.Y. Assembly primary

NEW YORK – Caribbean American Diana Richardson scored a resounding victory in a primary election race for New York Assembly.

Richardson, daughter of Aruban and St. Martin immigrants, earned over 70 percent of the votes in Assembly District 43.

The assemblywoman was challenged in the primary for the district, located in the heart of the Caribbean community in Brooklyn, by African American Jesse Hamilton, a former N.Y. State Senator. Richardson defeated Hamilton by 43 percentage points.

“The results of this primary show that when the people elect a true blue Democrat, who is out there every day helping working people, who isn’t afraid to stand up to the real estate developers, big money interests and machine politics, they want to see that work continue,” Richardson said.

She said she had co-sponsored a long list of bills to increase police accountability and end police brutality.



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Supreme Court decision hurts undocumented Caribbean nationals seeking U.S. asylum; threatens deportation

Undocumented Caribbean nationals in the United States, who are seeking asylum in the country, are now more vulnerable to speedy deportation following a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court last month.

In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court said U.S. government officials could remove undocumented immigrants without that decision being subjected to a challenge in federal court.

The high court's ruling affects immigrants seeking asylum, a path to live in the U.S. not usually taken by undocumented Caribbean nationals, most who arrive in the country legally, but stay beyond the time allowed by the government in violation of American law.

Caribbean nationals are not listed among the top 10 countries where asylum seekers originate. However, more than 10,000 from the Caribbean and Latin America sought resettlement in the U.S. between Oct. 2018 and April 2019, according to analysis of U.S. State Department statistics done by the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

STEPPED UP

However, the administration of President Donald Trump has stepped up its scrutiny



Alito ruled in favor of expedited removals.



Sotomayor fears decision may damage due process.

of persons seeking asylum since 2017, cutting the flow of those admitted to the U.S. The administration is also seeking a similar rule that would apply to all undocumented Caribbean and other immigrants in the U.S. who lived less than two years in the country continuously. So far that move has been blocked by a federal judge.

Undocumented immigrants picked up by U.S. law enforcement within 100 miles

of a U.S. land border, within two weeks of arrival, are subjected the court's ruling. Undocumented Caribbean nationals seeking asylum in states including California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, which shares a border with Mexico in the south, could be among those vulnerable to expedited deportation. If they're apprehended by U.S. law enforcement authorities, and seek asylum, they would face an immigration judge, who will decide if they are in danger of torture or death in their country of origin. They could then be sent home without further hearings.

LOW BAR

"If courts must review credible-fear claims that in the eyes of immigration officials and an immigration judge do not meet the low bar for such claims, expedited removal would augment the burdens on that system," stated Supreme Court Judge Samuel Alito, who wrote the majority opinion, although only five of the seven signed on to his views.

The Supreme Court's decision resulted from a case involving a Sri Lankan seeking asylum. It received swift backlash from immigration advocates, who called the ruling a "devastating blow." According to Lee Gelernt, a lawyer, which argued the case for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), "Every person within U.S. territory is entitled to due process" and the court's (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4A)

U.S. deports ex-Haiti paramilitary leader wanted for murder, torture

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, the former paramilitary leader of the Revolutionary Front Armed for the Progress of Haiti, was arrested on his arrival here June 23 from the United States on murder and torture charges dating back to the 1990s.

Constant arrived here along with 24 other deportees, even as Prime Minister Joseph Jouthe said he was still hoping Washington would not deport Constant, whose death squads terrorized supporters of the ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

He has also been blamed for more than 3,000 assassinations, rapes and tortures.

Constant was convicted in absentia in Haiti with 14 other people for the massacre of Raboteau in 1994. Justice Minister, Lucmanne Delille, said then that Constant, whose paramilitary group had changed its name to the Haitian Front for Advancement and Progress (FRAPH), would be immediately imprisoned on his return to Haiti if the government had failed in its efforts to prevent his deportation.

ACCUSATIONS

Human rights groups have accused Constant of killing and torturing Haitians when he became leader of the FRAPH



Constant

after Aristide was removed from office in a coup in 1991.

When Aristide returned to power in 1994, Constant fled to the U.S. and was ordered deported in 1995, but allowed to remain because of instability in the French-speaking Caribbean country.

He was arrested in 2006 and later found guilty of fraud and grand larceny. In Oct. 2008, Constant was sentenced to at least 12 years in prison for his role in a \$1.7 million mortgage fraud scheme.

Constant has repeatedly alleged that he was on the payroll of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and he is being made a scapegoat. He also said he believed he would be killed upon his return to Haiti.

- Edited from CMC.



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NEWS



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Caribbean American congresswoman leads new initiative to tackle racial disparities in U.S.

NEW YORK – Caribbean American Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke is leading a new congressional initiative aimed at tackling racial disparities in the United States.

Clarke, daughter of Jamaican immigrants and vice chair of the House of Representatives' Energy

Commerce Committee, said she is collaborating with U.S. Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Chair Robin Kelly in focusing on race.

Clarke who heads the newly-launched Racial Disparities Working Group, told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** the initiative seeks to "raise

awareness and find solutions to racial inequity.

"The working group is housed under the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction and addresses racial disparities within the health, communications, technology, energy, consumer protection and environmental sectors," said Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York.

'DISADVANTAGED'

"People of color in America are disadvantaged every single day in countless ways, and yet the root causes are not always obvious nor are they clear how to fix," Clarke said.

She added that "as founder of the newly-unveiled Racial Disparities Working Group, we will focus on uncovering these causes and finding solutions to what can often be non-obvious reasons why Black and brown people are at a disadvantage compared to our white counterparts.

"Our country is ready for change; we are seeing it from coast to coast and the Racial Disparities Working Group will help uncover reasons, so we can bring forward real solutions for the racial inequality that America is hungry to fix."

Clarke said the working group will offer a slate of "targeted, data-driven legislative strategies" to improve outcomes for impacted populations by raising awareness and taking action through, among other things, roundtables, virtual town halls, field hearings and briefings.

REALITY

Kelly said COVID-19 has



Clarke

highlighted "the harsh reality of racial health disparities and inequities in America," adding that the formation of this working group is "a long overdue step toward Congress recognizing, addressing and eliminating these disparities that have existed for too long."

Currently, as the U.S. continues to suffer from the COVID-19 global pandemic, Clarke said the Racial Disparities Working Group's first focus will be to study how and why COVID-19 has devastated communities of colors at higher rates than white communities.

She said this task will include demographic data reporting and collection; the availability of resources like personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators for health care centers serving minority and underserved communities – including community health centers and safety net hospitals – the physician shortage for minority communities; and general medical staffing throughout communities.

- Edited from CMC.



Supreme Court decision hurts undocumented Caribbean nationals seeking U.S. asylum; threatens deportation

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3A)

decision "fails to live up to the Constitution's bedrock principle that individuals deprived of their liberty have their day in court, and this includes asylum seekers.

"This decision means that some people facing flawed deportation orders can be forcibly removed with no judicial oversight, putting their lives in grave danger," he added.

Sonya Sotomayor, one of

the two judges who opposed the decision, along with Elena Kagan, said the court's ruling could lead to unfair treatment for non-U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants, including those from the Caribbean, in the future.


"Taken to its extreme, a rule conditioning due process rights on lawful entry would permit Congress to constitutionally eliminate all procedural protections for any

non-citizen the Government deems unlawfully admitted and summarily deport them no matter how many decades they have lived here, how settled and integrated they are in their communities, or how many members of their family are U.S. citizens or residents," noted Sotomayor.

- Gordon Williams



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Caribbean American lawmaker wants Confederate officers names off U.S. bases



Clarke wants the name of this military base, among others, changed.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke has re-introduced legislation in the United States House of Representatives calling for the re-naming of military bases and other property named after Confederate leaders.

Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican immigrants who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, New York, said the legislation requires all

U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) property that is named after Confederate leaders to be re-named within a year.

With heightened awareness about and desire for change around racism in America, Clarke said the legislation, called “The Honoring Real Patriots Act”, was re-introduced from her 2017 legislation of the same name – this time with 30 original co-sponsors.

EVIDENCE

“Our country is at a

crossroads to move forward from our racist, troubling past by making actual changes, which is why I’ve taken legislative action in introducing ‘The Honoring Real Patriots Act’ to re-name property that’s been glamorizing Confederate leaders,” Clarke told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** last month. “Instead, we must memorialize the true patriots, those brave men and women who fought for our country, not against it,” she added.

Clarke said legislation would require any military installation or other property under the jurisdiction of the DOD, that has been named after any individual who took up arms against the U.S. during the American Civil War or any individual or entity that supported such efforts, to be changed within a year. Military bases, streets and buildings are examples. She said future property would also be required to abide by this naming

convention.

In response to the U.S. military publicly stating its openness about changing the names of military bases, U.S. President Donald Trump has tweeted his support of and commitment to maintaining military bases named after Confederate generals.

- Edited from CMC.



T&T general elections Aug. 10

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has announced that general elections will be held here on Aug. 10.

Rowley told Parliament earlier this month that he had advised President Paula Mae Weekes “to dissolve this Parliament at midnight tonight (July 3)... (and) that Nomination Day will be Friday, July 17.

“I wish all my colleagues a safe happy, enjoyable, productive campaign and I look forward to seeing all of them somewhere in Trinidad before the next Parliament,” Rowley told legislators.

In the last general elections, held in 2015, Rowley led the



Rowley

People’s National Movement to a 23-18 victory over the then People’s Partnership administration of Kamla Persad Bissessar.



Dominica wants end to U.S. sanctions against Venezuela

ROSEAU, Dominica – Dominica has called for an end to United States trade and economic sanctions against Venezuela, claiming Washington’s measures were also affecting the Caribbean nation’s development.

Senior Minister Reginald Austrie, speaking at a ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of the PetroCaribe agreement between Dominica and Venezuela late last month, said the sanctions were also affecting the ordinary Venezuelan.

Petrocaribe is an oil alliance involving 18 Caribbean member states. The alliance was founded on June 29, 2005 in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, with then President Hugo Chavez offering the other member states oil supplies based on a concessionary financial agreement.

The U.S. has imposed sanctions on Venezuela as it seeks to unseat President Nicolas Maduro in favor of Opposition Leader Juan Guaido. But while the U.S. and its allies have been claiming Maduro had rigged the last presidential elections. Russia, China and Cuba are among countries that are backing the socialist head of state.

FAVORED

“I would like to issue a call for the immediate end to the economic sanctions against Venezuela,” said Austrie, who was deputizing for Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit at the ceremony.

“The Venezuelan people are hurting badly and normally when sanctions are imposed as a means of achieving political gains, the people are the ones who suffer.

“Venezuela is too rich in



Austrie

its resources for the people of Venezuela to be suffering because of the sanctions imposed on them.”

Austrie said under the PetroCaribe scheme, Dominica has received free housing, and improved health care and education systems.



Bahamas rolls out new app to help potential visitors



The app offers a guide to the attractions.

The Bahamas is offering a new, free, mobile app, which its Ministry of Tourism & Aviation believes will provide an easy route for consumers planning a visit to the Caribbean nation.

Key features of the app being promoted by the ministry includes, downloadable island guides, flight charter request processing and recommendations based on the user’s geo-location within The Bahamas.

It also highlights current deals, **Bahamas.com** blog posts, an interactive map and suggests top activities for adventure, relaxation and romance.

The Bahamas consists of 16 major islands, each offering a unique, tropical experience. Promoters of “The Islands

Of The Bahamas” app said it features downloadable guides for each island that include details and booking resources for hotels, activities, events and transportation.

They also highlight current weather and so-called must-experience destinations and activities on each island.

Overall, The Bahamas has over 700 islands and cays. It lies 55 miles off the coast of Florida. For more information on The Bahamas, visit **www.bahamas.com**.

For Caribbean Today’s special feature on The Bahamas, turn to page 17A-19A.



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REGION



Opposition wins Anguilla's general elections majority

THE VALLEY, Anguilla – The main Opposition Anguilla Progressive Movement (APM) last month's general elections in this British Overseas Territory.

APM won the June 29 elections by securing seven of the 11 seats, according to the preliminary results released here.

Among the casualties is Premier Victor Banks, whose Anguilla United Front's (AUF's), won four seats. Banks, 72, was defeated by 27-year-old Dianne Kentish Rogers, the 2018 Miss Universe Great Britain.

In a statement posted on its website, the APM said "a new story in Anguilla's history has been written. The story of change has begun ... It's your time now. Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for your support, your faith and your hope. Thank you for embracing our vision, and marching right beside us in this journey. We ask for your continued support and faith, as our work has just begun."

PARTICIPANTS

An estimated 11,950 voters were eligible to cast ballots and the Central Electoral Office (CEO) said 32 candidates representing the two main



Webster

political parties and 10 independents had contested the poll.

Under the electoral system here, voters elect seven members in single-member constituencies by first-past-the-post voting and four at-large members elected from the entire island by plurality at-large voting. Voters may vote for up to four candidates in the at-large seats, which replaced four appointees.

The victory for the APM, led by Dr. Ellis Webster, is a reversal of the 2015 general elections, when Banks led his AUF to victory by winning seven seats and the APM, which was recently formed, failing to win a seat.

- Edited from CMC.



Ruling Team Unity returns to power in St. Kitts/Nevis with 'resounding victory'

The coalition of Team Unity, led by Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris, was returned to power in St. Kitts and Nevis following last month's general elections in the Caribbean nation.

The coalition, which includes Harris's People's Labor Party (PLP), the People's Action Movement (PAM) and Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM), scored a "resounding victory" by winning nine of the 11 seats.

The CCM won all three seats on the island of Nevis. Harris comfortably won his Basseterre Constituency Number 7 seat. He was sworn in as prime minister for a second term on June 7.

"I promised I would not let you down and promised the administration that I would lead will not let down the people of

St. Kitts and Nevis," Harris said.

PRAISE

He praised the performance of his government, which he claimed led to the coalition's victory and noted that the general elections were a consensus on how the population wanted the country to be run..

"Our performance really lived up and indeed some will say surpassed the promise we had made," Harris said.

"(On June 6) we the people of St. Kitts and Nevis made history again as the first coalition government in the federation to return after an election with an increased majority."

Dr. Denzil Douglas, leader of the Opposition St. Kitts-Nevis Labor Party (SKNLP), won his St. Christopher Number 6 seat.



Harris, left.

However, Dr. Douglas, said the elections had been "hijacked in large measure by the many irregularities and anomalies that took place."

Up to press time he had refused to concede the polls were "free, fair and free from fear."



Muslim leader's son charged in plot to 'de-stabilize' T&T ~ cops

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Police have charged Fuad Abu Bakr, leader of the New National Vision (NNV) political party, with several crimes, following his arrest last month as persons protested the killing of three people by police.

Bakr is the son of Muslim leader Yasin Abu Bakr, who in 1990 staged a failed coup here.

According to media reports, the NNV leader had been slapped with three counts of assaulting a police officer at a Black Lives Matter (BLM)

protest near the United States embassy earlier in June.

In relation to the June 30 protests, Bakr was charged with using violent language to provoke persons to commit a breach of the peace and breaking the COVID-19 regulations that prevents more than 25 people gathering at any one time.

Bakr was arrested while doing a live video of the protest action here that Police Commissioner Gary Griffith and National Security Minister Stuart Young said was well

orchestrated and aimed at de-stabilizing the country.

At least one person, a woman, was killed during the protest on June 30 and the police said they had foiled a "well-orchestrated plan to de-stabilize the country" and arrested 72 people.

- Edited from CMC.



Fuad Abu Bakr

Bermuda to get first female, black governor

HAMILTON, Bermuda – Bermuda will get its first female and first black governor later this year.

Government House last month said Rena Lalgie, who is married with two children, will succeed John Rankin in December.

Lalgie, who is currently director of the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation in the United Kingdom Treasury, said in a statement that she is "immensely



Lalgie

proud" to serve Bermuda as its first female governor.

"I am conscious that this announcement is being made in challenging times," she said.

"As Bermuda looks to the future, I will work in earnest with the elected government, through the exercise of my duties, to support and promote the island's strengths and resilience," she said, adding that "my family and I are looking forward to contributing fully to life in Bermuda as we get to know the people and culture."





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SAY IT LOUD!: Caribbean nationals join anti-racism fight in U.S., elsewhere

GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean nationals, in the region, United States and across the globe, have joined the overwhelming chorus of outrage caused by repeated police killings of blacks, marching lock-step with protesters and voicing out against racism.

In the U.S., where more than four million Caribbean nationals reside, they have been visible on the front lines of the latest confrontations between the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and law enforcement, which erupted across the nation following the May 25 death of African American George Floyd in Minnesota and continued for several weeks.

The protests in major cities, demanding police reform, accountability and supported by 74 percent of people in the U.S. according to a mid-June **Washington Post** poll, feature flags and songs from the Caribbean. Prominent nationals in the U.S. and elsewhere have publicly condemned what many believe are systematic racist attacks on blacks.

Caribbean nationals have



The Jamaican flag was prominent at Brooklyn, New York protest.

also staged their own events against racism. In mid-June, for example, a “Caribbean Americans For Justice” protest march was held in New York, home to the largest Caribbean community in the U.S.

“This event will demonstrate Caribbean American solidarity

with African Americans and other Americans who reject police brutality, racism and injustice,” Rickford Burke, president of the Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID), an organizer of the event, was quoted by the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** as saying.

PARTICIPATION

Caribbean nationals’ presence has been prominent in states such as Florida, Texas, California, New Jersey, New York and Georgia. Several online forums, to discuss the

issue of racism, have also been staged by Caribbean American organizations, using Caribbean American Heritage Month as a platform to vent their views after public events scheduled for June were shut down by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“A lot of Caribbean people went and walked with the Black Lives Matter protesters,” Andrew Sharpe, president of the Massachusetts-based Authentic Caribbean Foundation, told **Caribbean Today**. “They’re very upset about police brutality and racism ... People are outraged and are venting their feelings.”

Retired U.S. Army General Colin Powell, whose parents were from Jamaica, also chimed in about the protests, criticizing President Donald Trump for his rhetoric and actions towards people of color, including immigrants, and describing how those views have irritated observers overseas, including the Caribbean.

“They see that these are demonstrations that are justified and not to be criticized,” Powell told CNN last month (see related story on page 5B). “... I’m the son of immigrants. I wouldn’t be here if my parents couldn’t come here on banana boats in the 1920s. This is America. This is who we are.”

REGION

The reaction to events spilled into the Caribbean,

where nationals from there have been among victims of police violence in the U.S.

Last month, people gathered in St. Lucia’s capital to participate in a BLM rally, demanding accountability for police killings. The rally was not authorized by the government, although Prime Minister Allen Chastanet said he supports anti-racism protest. The parents of Botham Jean, a St. Lucian gunned down by a police officer in Texas in 2018, attended the rally.

“My son suffered as a result of the color of his skin,” Jean’s mother Allison told the rally. “... So it touches my family, it touches my country, it touches my church and therefore we must stand in solidarity with George Floyd and the several lives lost at the hands of police or white supremacists in the United States.”



Burt

Prime Minister Mia Mottley assured Barbadians “that whether it is a march or not, this country is not going to support behavior that in any way reflects unfair treatment, discriminatory treatment or unconscious bias.”

Bermuda Prime Minister David Burt warned his government would be seeking

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8A)

Caribbean nationals in Britain mark National Windrush Day

LONDON, England – National Windrush Day was observed here on June 22 for the second consecutive year.

The event commemorates the day in 1948 when the Empire Windrush ship first arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex, southeast England, carrying Caribbean migrants to help fill jobs in Britain. The day pays tribute to the contribution of Britons of Caribbean origin who were later detained or deported as illegal immigrants.

“Today offers an opportunity to express the debt of gratitude we owe to that first Windrush generation,” said Prince Charles.

“... I dearly hope that we can continue to listen to each other’s stories and to learn from one another. The diversity of our society is its greatest strength and gives us so much to celebrate.”

RIGHT

The British government has said it is determined to “right the wrongs” of its treatment of those migrants and that Interior Minister Priti Patel and Bishop Derek Webley will chair a cross-government working group to address the scandal.

In honor of Windrush Day, Prime Minister Boris Johnson reportedly met the bishop and representatives of the British Caribbean community. The newly-launched working group is aiming to bring together stakeholders and community leaders with government officials to address the challenges faced by the Windrush generation and



Windrush

their descendants.

However, Wendy Williams, author of a report into the Windrush scandal, is warning there is a “grave risk” of similar failures happening again if the government does not implement its recommendations.

IMPACT

An estimated 500,000 people now living in the United Kingdom, who arrived between 1948 and 1971 from Caribbean countries, have been called the Windrush generation. They were granted indefinite leave to remain in 1971, but thousands were children traveling on their parents’ passports, without their own documents.

Changes to immigration law in 2012 meant those without documents were asked for evidence to continue working, access services or even to remain in the U.K.

A report concluded the Home Office had shown “ignorance and thoughtlessness” on the issue of race when some people were incorrectly told they did not have the right to be in Britain.

- Edited from CMC.



Daniella Levine Cava

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 8



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FEATURE



SWEET DREAMS: U.S. Supreme court grants relief for Caribbean DACA recipients

GORDON WILLIAMS

Thousands of Caribbean-born children brought to the United States illegally are among those who've been spared deportation - for now - by the highest court in the land.

The U.S. Supreme Court last month ruled that recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), known as "Dreamers", can continue to receive benefits that come with the program, including education and employment, and cannot be immediately sent back to their country of birth.

The court's judges blocked an attempt by the administration of President Donald Trump to end DACA, which was first implemented via executive order by his predecessor Barack Obama in June 2012.

The decision, however, does not mean a lifetime pass for DACA recipients. The court stated the Trump administration did not follow the proper legal procedures, violating the Administrative Procedure Act by ending the program without consideration to the harm it may

cause the recipients. "We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are proud policies," explained Chief Justice



DACA supporters celebrate victory at the highest court.

John Roberts, who joined the majority in the 5-4 decision. "... We address only whether the agency complied with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action That dual failure raises doubts about whether the agency appreciated the scope of its discretion or exercised that discretion in a reasonable manner."

TRY AGAIN
The Trump administration could try again, at a later

date, to shutter DACA. The U.S. Congress, meanwhile, could pass legislation making DACA legal. However, it is unlikely Republicans, who currently make up the majority in the U.S. Senate, or the Republican president would green light it into law. Public opinion polls generally show the majority of Americans favor keeping DACA from deportation. It is estimated it would cost more than \$6 billion to replace deported DACA recipients in the U.S. workforce. Dozens of major U.S. corporations have also supported DACA. Tech giant Apple, for example, said it employs close to 500 Dreamers and was "glad" the Supreme Court ruled in DACA's favor.

BENEFITS
Close to 700,000 undocumented immigrants currently benefit from DACA. To qualify, they must have entered the U.S. before age 16 and not be older than 31 when the executive order was signed in 2012.

Most DACA recipients are from Mexico and Central America. However, close to 10,000 were born in the Caribbean. Jamaica has the

most with more than 2,600, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) statistics released 2017.

DACA recipients were usually taken to the U.S. without their consent. Yet they now call the U.S. home and are allowed, among other benefits, to attend school, get jobs, buy homes and receive a driver's license, as long as they do not commit crimes.

They also pay taxes and many are currently on the frontline as healthcare workers in the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), which has infected more than two million and killed over 120,000 in the U.S.

Dreamers, however, do not have a direct path to U.S. citizenship.

VICTORY
Last month's Supreme Court decision was claimed as a major victory for DACA recipients, who had been placed under a dark cloud of uncertainty by the Trump administration and threatened with deportation.

Trump, who is up for re-election in November, had promised in 2017 to end DACA, which his administration claimed was a result of presidential overstep by Obama. The court's decision drew the president's anger.

"Do you get the impression

that the Supreme Court doesn't like me?" Trump stated on **Twitter** after the decision was announced.

Where are DACA kids from?

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in 2017 released a list of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients based on country of birth. The majority come from Mexico and Central American countries. The following is list of those from the Caribbean:

- Jamaica - 2,640
- Dominican Republic - 2,430
- Trinidad and Tobago - 1,930
- Guyana - 980
- Belize - 820
- The Bahamas - 300
- St. Lucia - 270
- Haiti - 150
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines - 140
- Barbados - 100
- Antigua and Barbuda - 80
- British Virgin Islands - 40
- Turks and Caicos - 30
- St. Kitts and Nevis - 30
- Cayman Islands - 20
- Bermuda - 20
- Montserrat - 10.

SAY IT LOUD!: Caribbean nationals join anti-racism fight in U.S., elsewhere

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A)

to pass laws that dismantle remnants of racism.

"I hope that all the white persons who are supporting and saying black lives matter and we have to end racism will not complain when there is legislation brought to this House to address issues of structural racism in this country," Burt said.

FAR AWAY

Caribbean outrage also echoed in Europe. Jamaican-born Paulette Simpson, executive director of The Voice, a leading black newspaper in the United Kingdom, lashed out against racism.



Simpson

"We have a society that is not equal and there is a certain group of people, namely the black people, who are not treated fairly," Simpson said in a radio interview last month, "(and)

are not having equal access that everybody should have."

The Caribbean's cricket ambassadors also pledged to support BLM during their current tour of England.

"There needs to be equality and black people must feel as though they have a presence in this world," captain Jason Holder told **Good Morning Britain** last month.

As they expressed horror at Floyd's death, Caribbean nations admitted the issue of law enforcement brutality was also a problem in the region.

"While I join other world leaders in condemning this and other human rights injustices I am also sensitive and extremely concerned by similar injustices here in Jamaica," said Jamaica Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Most street protests in the U.S. appeared peaceful. Some were marred by looting, vandalism and violent clashes with law enforcement. Trump lashed out at protesters, calling them "thugs."

However, the U.S. Embassy



- Photograph courtesy of Jerry George

The parents of Botham Jean address Black Lives Matter rally in St. Lucia.

in Trinidad and Tobago said it embraced the "peaceful expression of solidarity" expressed by T&T citizens who protested Floyd's death.

Meanwhile, Caribbean Americans criticized law enforcement officers who have attacked protesters, calling for

police reform.

"We must continue to apply pressure to disrupt business as usual at police departments across America," U.S. Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, daughter of Jamaican immigrants, told the CMC.

Caribbean Americans also

spoke against clampdown in cities across the U.S. aimed at curbing protest marches, including curfews in places such as New York.

"This is neither the right moment nor the right process for imposing one," said Jumaane Williams, New York City public advocate, whose parents are Grenadian.



Herrera

"... This is another example of black and brown communities asking for aid and receiving police."

Colors, of another kind, also left an indelible mark on the protests. Cadix Herrera, an artist from the Caribbean community nation of Belize, was part of a team that drew an iconic mural where Floyd died in Minnesota.

"We wanted to make sure his name was remembered," Herrera told reporters.

BSO Initiatives A LOOK INTO THE IMPORTANT WORK BSO HAS BEEN DOING TO BETTER SERVE AND PROTECT THE BROWARD COMMUNITY

Promoting from Within
Sheriff Gregory Tony has promoted more than 400 people from within the organization; more than half of these promotions have been women. BSO now has the most diverse command staff in the agency's 105-year history.

Accountability & Transparency
Sheriff Gregory Tony has made significant changes to build public trust. He appointed new members to the Professional Standards Committee, established a Use of Force Review Board, and implemented racial equity and implicit bias training programs.

Serving the Broward Community
Sheriff Gregory Tony has implemented progressive community policing initiatives and has made the distribution of LETF funds more fair and equitable.

Training and Preparedness
Sheriff Gregory Tony has expanded BSO's training division and course curriculums to reflect today's public safety priorities.

Recruiting
Sheriff Gregory Tony has formed a new Recruitment Unit to ensure we are hiring the most diverse and qualified applicants to join our team and has expanded youth mentoring programs.

School Safety and Technology
Sheriff Gregory Tony has worked diligently to improve the safety of our schools with the establishment of our Real Time Crime Center.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL OF THESE INITIATIVES, VISIT WWW.SHERIFF.ORG/SHERIFFTONY Follow us @browardsheriff

Remembering black, immigrant men killed by police in U.S.



Gurley's funeral is one of many.

Like many, it was horrifying to watch the life of another black man – George Floyd - squeezed out of his body – literally – by a member of “America’s Finest”. And in a pandemic no less!

But the harsh reality is, that since I moved to the United States in 1996, I have lost count of the number of black and Latino men and immigrants killed by police without genuine cause. They leave behind a growing list of heartbroken mothers and family members whose hearts are forever pierced and whose tears, if combined, could fill an ocean.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

Feb. 4, 2020 marked 21 years since Guinean immigrant Amadou Diallo was murdered in the Bronx, New York by police in a hail of 41 bullets as he stood on his stoop and reached for his wallet. He was just 23 and would have turned 44 this September.

On May 23, 2003, unarmed Burkina Faso immigrant Ousmane Zongo was shot four times by a New York Police

The harsh reality is, that since I moved to the United States in 1996, I have lost count of the number of black and Latino men and immigrants killed by police without genuine cause.

Department (NYPD) officer during an undercover counterfeit raid at a warehouse. The NYPD later admitted Zongo had nothing to do with the counterfeiting.

On July 24, 2009, homeless Sudanese immigrant Jonathan Deng was killed by cops in Iowa City, Iowa.

PLEADING

On Sept. 25, 2012, Guinean immigrant Mohamed Bah was shot seven times - and once in the head - by the NYPD inside his home. Mohamed's mother Hawa Bah had called 911 for an ambulance for her son, who was in physical and emotional distress. NYPD officers arrived first. Reportedly, despite Mrs. Bah pleading with them not to, Emergency Services Unit officers forced their way into her

son's apartment - against NYPD protocol and without a warrant - with guns drawn and shot him eight times, killing him.

On Nov. 20, 2014, U.S.

To make matters worse, the city argued in court that because Lopez was an undocumented immigrant, he wasn't protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Virgin Islands national Akai Gurley, 28, was fatally shot by a NYPD officer who was patrolling stairwells in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)'s Louis H. Pink Houses in East New York, Brooklyn.

On Mar. 1, 2015, Cameroonian immigrant Charley “Africa” Keunang was killed by cops in Los Angeles, California's “Skid Row”.

On June 14, 2015, Sudanese immigrant Deng Manyoun was killed by cops in Louisville, Kentucky.

HOMELESS

On April 25, 2015, a homeless, unarmed Haitian immigrant, David Felix, was shot to death by two veteran NYPD detectives. He was an aspiring fashion student and loved world history.

In Sept. 2016, a Ugandan immigrant, Alfred Olongo, 38, was shot several times by police responding to a call for emergency psychiatric aid.

In Southaven, Mississippi, just before midnight on July 24, 2017, police killed undocumented immigrant, 41-year-old Ismael Lopez, after knocking on the door of the wrong house – while answering a domestic violence call – and opening fire. To make matters worse, the city argued in court that because Lopez was an undocumented immigrant, he wasn't protected by the U.S. Constitution.

These are just a few immigrants shot and killed by police across the U.S. in recent years as the list gets longer and the protests last for a short time, while the beat simply goes on. Until the next time

This I have learnt as an immigrant, is part of the reality of life in America for people of color.

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is publisher of NewsAmericasNow.



CARIB Comments

criticizes the actions of Donald Trump, the 45th president the United States, for his actions during the anti-racism protests that engulfed the nation.

can continue to be carried out” - New York Attorney General Letitia James celebrates a court victory against the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump that prevents the practice of arresting Caribbean and other immigrants in and around New York state courthouses in a manner that interferes with the state's administration of justice.



• “The battles that we need to be facing are not battles that may be fought in the United States' elections in November.

The battles that we need to be facing are the battles that stop our young girls and young boys from wanting to go and buy bleach and use bleach on their skin as if something wrong with the pigment of the skin in which they're born” - Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley responds to people demanding she speak out on racial issues in the United States.



• “By declaring himself the ‘law and order President’ 45 has dug deeper into the open wounds that have plagued this nation since its founding and has long since abdicated any responsibility he has regarding the moral leadership of the nation” - Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke



• “How do you expect us to pay that 25 million dollar debt ... at a time when we cannot even pay salaries and wages?”

- Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne responds to a United States official's demand the Caribbean nation repays a loan. Browne claims the U.S. has threatened to withhold assistance to his country's defense force if the loan remains unpaid.



• “We shall create the modern history in St. Kitts and Nevis by making the example of the best managed small island state. That is my pledge and that is my commitment” - Dr. Timothy Harris, after he was returned as prime minister of St. Kitts and Nevis last month.



• “All New Yorkers — immigrant or not — can sleep better tonight knowing justice

• “One of the things that could play in our favor is the fact that there are no crowds, so you don't have that Barmy Army bellowing at you and inspiring the home team” - chief West Indies cricket selector Roger Harper believes playing England in three Test matches, without fans in the stands due to COVID-19 precautions, can help the visiting Caribbean team perform well.



“We have to respect the sovereignty of nations – of every nation in the world” - Congresswoman Yvette Clarke calls for other nations, including the United States, not to interfere in Guyana's election results.

- Compiled from various sources.



PANDEMIC: Time for blacks to decide they're done dying

ROGER CALDWELL

There are few statistics in the United States on how many black people have died as a result of the novel coronavirus.

There is a high chance everyone knows someone who has died.

Everyone is walking around with a broken heart and dying will become a part of living during the pandemic epidemic.

Everything that is bad comes to blacks first in disproportional numbers. Our healthcare outcomes are the worst in the country, which is no surprise. In addition, recently more police and white men are using black people as target practice.

There has been a rash of killing of black men and women in the last few months, and police have killed us as if they were going to a lynching. In the majority of these incidents the primary person was black men or boys who were unarmed and killed with a large number of rounds of bullets.

‘OPEN SEASON’

In attorney Ben Crump's book, entitled “Open Season”, he explains how the justice system is killing black people in and out of court. With a bullet or a lengthy prison sentence, the U.S. is killing black people and justifying it legally. The justice system has legalized genocide

against black people.

“Police shooting and killing black males is all but a centuries-old American tradition among law-enforcement in the U.S. But the fact that this apparent rite of passage is still thriving in 2020 and only seems to be gaining momentum and not slowing, should give any American citizen pause as an increasing number of black people – especially males both young and old – continue to be added to a growing list of victims with what seems like a new shooting every week,” says the staff at News One.

Black mothers know that at their male sons' birth they are branded as a suspect by the system. In the last three years, black males killed by the police have been ignored by the mainstream media as if things were changing. But black people know the truth. There were more black males being killed

and News One has documented, in the last two years, 80 black males who have died by the police.

In Georgia, recently a young black man, 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, was jogging on Feb. 23, and a former police officer and his son allegedly followed him and shot and killed him. This story received national and international coverage.

MORE KILLINGS

More police killings are starting to surface around the U.S. in the last two months.

In Indianapolis, Sean Reed was shot and killed. In Kentucky, Breonna Taylor, a black woman, was shot and killed in her apartment early in the morning.

In Houston, Adrian Medearis was shot and killed. There appears to be a new one every two or three times a week. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A)

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VIEWPOINT



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MONEY MADNESS: What's love got to do with it? Turns out, a lot

What do ladies put on the front burner, love or money?

After all, with the right guy who splashes lots of cash around, she can have a wonderful life. That's why some women will opt for money over love any day.

Many women skew their sentiments and desire towards money rather than love. Even with all the sweet lyrics in the world, what is he going to give her for Christmas or where is he going to take her for New Year's Eve?"

Even as he spouts the words "Baby I love you," she thinks "Brandsmart, Rooms to Go and Macy's having a big sale and I need new stuff."

NETWORK

Women network, and they love to be able to boast to their friends what their men bought them or where they took them. Love alone can't buy them presents or take them to a fine restaurant.

The plain, cold truth is, women are hardwired to spend money. Even when they're not shopping, they still go to

the mall and browse around to window shop. They just can't help it. That's why sales are geared towards women, as the merchants see them as prime targets.

Shopping releases endorphins in the brain that stimulates their pleasure receptors making them feel ecstatic. Women can get excited just by shopping, but men do not have that capability, except when buying a new flat screen TV. Basically, men hate to go shopping.

So, in many cases, love has no chance against money.

TOXIC

That's why so many women remain in toxic relationships, just because of what they can get from the man - the nice house, social standing, great car to drive. All compensate for



TONY ROBINSON



the lack of love. Even the abuse they will endure, as long as the money is flowing.

For that very reason many young, attractive women will get involved with an undesirable man who has no other appeal

but strength of cash. Enter the well-off old guy with the fancy townhouse and shiny SUV and see how quickly she "falls in love" with him.

Women do love, but they also crave security and new

things to play with. As Tina Turner sang, "What's love got to do with it?"

Love is great, but it's not the greatest adhesive for relationships. Statistics have shown that the main cause for divorce is money worries. Even with the love that held them together in the early stages, the lack of money proved to be their undoing.

Most women would never admit to the choice, but in reality it's the money that makes the mare run and the filly fed. It's easier to fall in love with a man who's well off than a poor schmuck who has no money.

In the sparring session, race or conflict, money conquers love. Money wins hands down.

seidoIyard@gmail.com

'NET CONNECT: Making #DigitalCaribbean a reality for years to come

TAHSEEN SAYED

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Digital technologies – the Internet and other tools to collect and share information digitally – are spreading rapidly.

The share of world population using the Internet more than doubled to around 50 percent in 2017, from 20 percent in 2007.

This trend is even more evident in developing countries.

This means that individuals, firms and governments are more connected than ever and anyone with an Internet connection can

access a virtually unlimited amount of information – and information is power.

Digital technology is a great equalizer, providing a range of opportunities both academic and economic. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the essential role of digital technologies in keeping the world connected during an almost entire global lockdown. This has served as a wake-up call to embrace the digital agenda and embrace it fast.

RELIANCE

Regardless of country

income levels, governments have increasingly relied on technology to provide quick financial relief to households and individuals who lost income and livelihoods during the lockdown.

In addition to enabling quick outreach to citizens during emergencies such as the current pandemic, the use of digital technologies for payments also improves their efficiency and decreases their cost.

The potential of digital technologies extends well beyond payment systems and can transform every sector of the economy. There are wide-

ranging benefits of digital technologies – during a crisis or during normal circumstances. They also show that country size doesn't matter. Small states, such as those in the Caribbean, have a unique opportunity.

The Caribbean can become a digital leader, opening new economic sectors to diversify the economy, create jobs and boost future growth.

VISION

Working towards this vision, four countries in the eastern Caribbean, with the OECS Commission, have launched the first-ever large-scale digital transformation program with World Bank financing. This is also the first regional digital economy project for the World Bank.

The \$94 million Digital

Transformation Project aims to lay the foundations for an inclusive digital economy in the eastern Caribbean by increasing Internet access, digital banking, online public services and digital skills. The dream of the Caribbean becoming a technology hub for the region can become a reality and leverage its competitive advantage of an educated English-speaking population near North American markets.

The Caribbean has been a world leader in many spheres. It is time for it to take the lead in the digital arena to create a #DigitalCaribbean.

- Edited from CMC. Tahseen Sayed is the World Bank country director for Caribbean countries.

PANDEMIC: Time for blacks to decide they're done dying

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9A)

In North Carolina, a deputy was fired after leading an armed vigilante mob to target the wrong black teen's home. This happened around 10:30 p.m. and local police were called to stop the invasion.

Armed white national groups have decided that they are taking the law into their own hands, and they are preparing for a war. With President Donald Trump supporting violence and expecting more Americans to die as a result of coronavirus, black people are first on the list.

"Once again our community is being subjected to an intentional and diabolical disregard of black lives. As soon as it became clear that black people are disproportionately

dying from this pandemic, states have begun to ease their mandatory safety precautions at the behest of armed protestors. It seems now that our country is no longer all in this together," said Derrick Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the NAACP.

The NAACP has put together a new movement for black people- "WE ARE DONE DYING". We must do better as a community and a people, and it must start by us deciding that we are done dying.

Roger Caldwell is a freelance contributor. His views expressed above do not necessarily reflect those of Caribbean Today.

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OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Jamaica welcomes residents, visitors after lockdown ~ Some travelers willing, others take wait-and-see during COVID-19

GORDON WILLIAMS

Jamaica last month declared itself open for business - and pleasure - following an extended lockdown caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

The nation closed its doors to travelers in March to counter the spread of the virus. But that effort, though recognized early as successful by several outside observers, also meant cutting off visitors and nationals from entering. That cost the country heavily in areas such as tourism revenue, the economic lifeblood of the Caribbean nation.

However, starting June 1, Jamaicans overseas were allowed to return to their homeland. By June 15, the country also opened its doors to visitors.

Everyone entering the island, however, is now required to follow precautionary government protocols, including submitting online information prior to leaving for Jamaica and subjecting themselves to COVID-19 testing before and/or on arrival in the island,



- File photograph

Flights are returning to Jamaica.

plus possible quarantine. The government also warned that travel to Jamaica may be barred

if the protocols are not followed. "The travel authorization is not required to book your

flight to Jamaica," explained Prime Minister Andrew Holness last month. "It is, however, a

requirement at check-in and boarding, and the airlines will not allow passengers to board without presenting their travel authorization."

'LIFEBLOOD'

The move to re-open was welcomed by the tourism industry, which employs 130,000 Jamaicans locally and impacts another 120,000 in various industries.

"Tourism is the lifeblood of our local economy, and with the help of international experts and a dedicated task force, we have developed protocols that allow us to safely re-open our borders," Donovan White, Jamaica's director of tourism, noted in recent press release from the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB).

According to White, Jamaica's re-opening should come without major hitches in the tourism industry and the nation's residents are ready to ensure that is so.

"We are confident that as we re-start our economy, Jamaicans will work together to ensure a safe, secure and seamless experience for our tourism workers, their families and visitors, while preserving the authentic experiences travelers seek when they visit our shores," he said.

The Jamaica government said it has co-operated with various international institutions to ensure the protocols preserve the health in the country. Among those are other governments in the Caribbean and partners such as the World Travel & Tourism Council, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Bank, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and development finance banks.

CAUTION

Despite re-opening

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4B)

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CULTURE SWAP: U.S. seeks Jamaican teachers to help American students

Jamaican teachers are being hired to tutor students in the United States over the Internet.

The project is an initiative by the Embassy of Jamaica in Washington, D.C. and Community Scholar, Inc., a U.S.-based non-profit organization. The focus is to increase the test scores of U.S. students.

“We believe that building a community around each student will promote a culture of learning which in turn creates a sustainable environment where students can grow academically,” explained Robert St. Cyr, executive director of Community Scholar, Inc.

“Our target group are second through eighth grade with math and English being our primary topics. We will add additional subjects, including geography, science, history, music in the

new school year to provide a more rounded experience for students.”

St. Cyr said the program “was created to address the achievement gap between black and white students that persists within the United States.

“We chose these grade levels because divergence of academic proficiency begins primarily in elementary schools and widens in subsequent grades. In addition, a mix of volunteers and paid staff are used to tutor individual students and small groups.”

SELECTION

St. Cyr said students are grouped with other students with similar levels of proficiency as determined by teachers in their respective schools. The use of Jamaican teachers, organizers believe, will benefit both sides.



St. Cyr

“Recruiting teachers from Jamaica is a strategy designed to help communities both in Jamaica and the United States,” St. Cyr said.

The Washington, D.C.-

based organization sought the assistance of Jamaica’s U.S. Ambassador Audrey Marks to secure suitable Jamaican teachers for the program. She backed the co-operation.

“We support this initiative as a model of collaboration that is very fitting for the current virtual lifestyle environment while creating a socio-economic opportunity in our education industry, utilizing technology and the well-known expertise of Jamaican educators,” Marks said.

St. Cyr also expects the

cultural exchange to benefit participants from both nations. Students, he said, will get individualized attention as they are not placed in grades, but are met where they are academically. The program is also hoping to build self-confidence among students, improve listening skills and encourage family participation.

The teachers should also get a boost in multiple ways, according to St. Cyr.

“Because teachers will be interacting with students from (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B)

Workforce training program aims to bolster tourism recovery

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica is hoping its workforce training program will bolster tourism following the damage to the industry caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The free online programs, offered by the Jamaica Centre for Tourism Innovation (JCTI), in partnership with the National Restaurant Association, the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute, University of the West Indies Open Campus and HEART National Service Training Agency, is training more than 8,000 tourism workers over a 12-week period, according to the government. It is scheduled to run through this month.

Courses were designed to enhance the skills of hospitality workers, deliver internationally recognized certifications and educate the workforce on the new health and safety protocols that were rolled out with the June 15 re-opening of the island’s tourist industry.



- File photograph

White says “Jamaica’s extraordinary workforce has been essential to our success as a sought-after vacation destination.”

IMPORTANCE

“Jamaica’s extraordinary workforce has been essential to our success as a sought-after vacation destination,” Donovan White, Jamaica’s director of tourism, was quoted as saying in a recent press release.

“We applaud the more than 8,000 individuals who took

advantage of the online training program. We appreciate the training these workers have undergone to enhance their competitiveness and ensure they’re ready to meet the new demands of the travel industry.

“Travelers will appreciate the special focus and extra attention Jamaica’s hospitality workers place on service delivery in the context of the new post-COVID health and safety protocols.”

Workers were allowed to choose from 11 online courses and obtain certifications that include guest room attendant, laundry attendant, certified banquet server, hospitality supervisor, restaurant server and hospitality law.

“Jamaica has an educated and highly trained workforce and these courses provide a great opportunity for these valuable workers to re-tool and upskill,” Carol Rose Brown, director of JCTI, explained in the release.

To learn more about Jamaica’s re-opening, visit www.visitjamaica.com/travelupdate.



Jamaica’s flag is number one

Jamaica’s national flag was named the winner of the recent World Cup of Flags 2020, a global online competition on the social media platform Twitter.

Jamaica earned the majority of the 29,193 votes (50.7 percent) in the final, beating South Africa (49.3) into second. There were 64 elimination rounds and voting spanned six weeks.

Jamaica’s flag is black, green and gold. It was hoisted in the country on Aug. 6, 1962, when Jamaica was officially given Independence from Britain.

The gold in the flag represents the sun’s beauty.



Flying high

Green signifies the land, hope and the nation’s agricultural resources. Black is for the strength and creativity of the people.



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SALUTE TO JAMAICA

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BACK IN BUSINESS: Embassy re-opens embassy in U.S. capital

Jamaica's embassy in Washington, D.C. has been re-opened.

The embassy, located at 1520 New Hampshire Ave. in the United States capital, had been closed for the past three months because of the city's lockdown due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The embassy will now be open between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

According to Audrey Marks, Jamaica's ambassador to the U.S., the embassy will be gradually ramping up services and will be moving back to full normal operations. Bilateral and multilateral meetings to support Jamaica's COVID-19 recovery program are now the embassy's top priorities, she added.

WALK-IN

However, the consular section will not be open to the



Marks

public for in-person applications until July 15. During the period when the section is not opened for in-person applications, the ambassador said existing applicants will still be allowed to collect passports/documents.

All applications and documents are to be mailed or placed in the mail drop area until the section is opened for in-person applications.

An appointment-based system, for managing walk-in applicants, will be available for every 30 minutes, beginning at 10 a.m., with the last appointment taken at 12:30 p.m.

The ambassador said walk-in applicants are encouraged to carry fully completed application forms, along with pertinent documents, including passport size photographs for necessary verification.

Up to six persons will be allowed in the waiting area at any given time and they will be required to wear a mask. Only one applicant will be allowed in the interview room. If the applicant is a minor then one parent or guardian will also be allowed.

All persons visiting the embassy are required to wear a mask.



Consulate General office in Miami re-opens

The Consulate General of Jamaica in Miami, Florida has re-opened its office to the public following a shutdown caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

In compliance with City of Miami Order and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines, it is mandatory

that only an allotted number of persons be present in the office space at any given time.

The consulate has implemented an appointment system on its website to schedule visits to the office Monday to Friday from 9:15 a.m. to noon each day. The website is available at www.jamaicacgmiami.org.

Persons who wish to renew their Jamaican passport online are being encouraged to utilize the process at the Passport, Immigration, Citizenship, Agency (PICA) website at www.pica.gov.jm. Only applicants who have renewed their passports after 2001 can be facilitated on this platform.



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DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

What you should know before going to Jamaica

Jamaica is now open to travelers. However, the government has implemented safety protocols to protect its nationals from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The following are some of the guidelines:

- Persons traveling to Jamaica will need to secure a Travel Authorization before checking in at the airport. To apply, travelers must complete a questionnaire online at www.visitjamaica.com. The airline will need this approval before travelers can check in and the Travel Authorization will be required before travelers can land in Jamaica.
- Travelers to Jamaica will need to undergo a COVID-19 PCR/swab test on entry to the island - Jamaican nationals and visitors.

- Any person who returns a positive test for COVID-19 will be quarantined in a government approved facility at the traveler's cost. Travelers are encouraged to travel with health insurance.

- Results from the swab test, done at international airports with the cost borne by the Jamaica government, will generally be available within 24 to 48 hours. During that time, travelers will be required to stay in place at home or at their hotel.

- Accommodation facilities, which have earned the COVID-19 Protocol Compliance certificate, will be allowed to accept visitors. The list of COVID-19 Protocol Compliant facilities is updated at www.visitjamaica.com.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Jamaica welcomes residents, visitors after lockdown

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B) optimism and safety precautions, Jamaica is still expected to suffer massive loss of revenues due to the absence of tourists, especially those from North America and Europe, who traditionally visit the island, especially during the winter months which overlapped the shutdown.

At least 20,000 had reportedly applied for entry to Jamaica through mid-June since the online procedure began in April. At least 500 - Jamaicans and visitors - reportedly landed in the island from the United States on June 15, more than 5,000 by the end of the month.

However, reports indicated that 14 people - all traveling from the U.S. - tested positive for COVID-19 in one 24 hour period after the island's re-opening.

There were also mounting stories about frustrations at Jamaica's ports of entry as travelers were subjected to lengthy delays caused by COVID testing and obtaining results. When the U.S. reported a massive surge of COVID-19 infections late last month, the Jamaica government was forced to alter its protocols.

Starting July 1, Holness explained, U.S. residents - from so-called COVID-19 hotspot states such as Arizona, Florida, New York and Texas - who want to enter Jamaica on July 10 or after will be required to test for the virus before arriving or they may not be allowed entry. Non-residents of Jamaica will be required to upload test results for Jamaica government access before they travel.

"As of July 10, persons visiting Jamaica from the declared high-risk areas will be required to present their PCR test," Holness explained during a

June 29 virtual press conference, as the volume - and pressure - to process visitors mounted.

It's not clear, however, if the regular flow of travelers will still go to Jamaica in the coming months. The U.S. had recorded more than 2.5 million COVID-19 infections by the end of June, with some 130,000 deaths.

Meanwhile, many Jamaicans have expressed caution over leaving their American homes due to the still lingering threat of COVID-19.

"Right now, the response is that people want to go to Jamaica," said Earl Forbes, a New York-based travel agent in mid-June, "but it's wait-and-see."

WORTHWHILE

However, some Jamaican nationals who normally return home believe it is worthwhile to continue that tradition.

Jamaica, up to press time, had recorded close to 700 infections and about a dozen deaths. That's mild when compared to places like the U.S. Jamaica's efforts to contain COVID-19, which has infected more than 10 million and killed over 500,000 worldwide, has been viewed as admirable.

Yet COVID-19 or not, Jamaicans openly admit they feel comfortable in the Caribbean island they still call "yard", especially since the virus is having more damaging impact in places like the U.S.

"People want to go home," said Garfield Haughton, a Jamaican living in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

"They just look at it like the U.S. has so many cases of COVID-19. So they'd like to be in their home space in Jamaica. People are trying to go home."

Jamaica appears willing to welcome them.



SALUTE TO JAMAICA

CELEBRATING 58 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

POWELL'S POWER: Ex-U.S. Army general blasts Trump's leadership

Retired Army General Colin Powell, son of Jamaican parents who he said came to the United States on "banana boats," has stepped into the political spotlight, leveling scathing criticism at Donald Trump, calling the U.S. president a liar and chastising him for anti-immigration policies.

New York-born Powell, whose mother Maud Arial and father Luther Theophilus Powell arrived from in the U.S. in the 1920s, accused Trump of conduct dangerous to the U.S., "drifting away from" America's constitution, dividing the nation and alienating America's foreign allies.

In an interview last month with Jake Tapper, on CNN's "State of the Union", Powell, reportedly a registered Republican, also said he did not vote for Trump in 2016 and will support his opponent, Democrat Joe Biden, in the November presidential election.

Powell's blistering reaction followed statements by several senior retired military personnel bashing Trump's leadership. However, the four-star general's disapproval came long before the president became embroiled in multiple crises, including the current novel coronavirus pandemic, employment downturn and nationwide anti-racism protests following the brutal death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers, which sparked nationwide public protests.

PRESSURE

The events have put Trump under increasing political pressure, especially after the president backed a plan to use the U.S. military to stop protesters last month and allowed law enforcement officers to attack



Powell

- File photograph

protesters with tear gas and rubber bullets so he could get a photo opportunity in Washington, D.C.

Powell first underlined his disapproval for Trump when he launched racist attacks on his predecessor in the White House.

"When I heard some of the things he was saying it made it clear that I could not possibly vote for this individual (in 2016)," Powell explained.

"The first thing that troubled me is the whole birthers movement. The birthers movement had to do with the fact that the president of the United States, President Obama, was a black man. That was part of it.

"And I was deeply troubled by the way he (Trump) was going around insulting everybody.

Insulting gold star mothers, insulting (late U.S. Senator) John McCain, insulting immigrants and I'm a son of immigrants. Insulting anybody who dared to speak against him.

"And that is dangerous for our democracy and it's dangerous for our country."

BELITTLING

Powell, 83, who served four U.S. presidents in various capacities, including secretary of state and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Trump has diminished the reputation of the U.S., among its allies and enemies, belittling the nation in the eyes of those observing his actions.

"And so, the world is listening and what are they hearing?" Powell asked Tapper. "They're hearing this 'we don't like immigrants. We don't want them here. Let's kick 'em out'. We're hearing that we don't like so many of our ethnic people."

He also blamed Trump for alienating U.S. allies.

"We have done things that have offended just about everybody in the world," Powell explained. "Our friends are distraught with us. We are down on NATO. We are heading our troops out of Germany. We've done away with our contribution to the World Health Organization. We're also not happy with the United Nations and just about

everywhere you go you'll find this kind of disdain for American foreign policy that is not in our interest and we have to get on top of this."

METHODS

Trump's often authoritarian methods of leadership is not the way a democracy should work, Powell explained, and are not consistent with conduct under the U.S. constitution.

"This is not the way the system is supposed to work and until the president realizes he needs to understand the constitution, understand restraints on him and his authority, and talk openly with his military authorities about what is the right thing to do, and not fire them when he doesn't get the answer he wants," Powell said.

Under Trump, Powell explained, "our moral standing has been demonized by not only what the world is thinking, but just looking at us," especially during the protests over Floyd's death.

"They're looking at these demonstrations. They see that these are demonstrations that are justified and not to be criticized," Powell said. "They see that 'George' as the president called him (George Floyd) was murdered, and the president comes out and says well 'George is looking down from heaven and blessing what I'm doing.' How can you expect anybody to believe things like that.

"That's the kind of language we see coming from overseas and the overseas clients that we have, our friends, and some of our adversaries, are looking at how we are taking care of our people.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6B)

GG dumps British ceremonial medal after public backlash

Jamaica's Governor General Sir Patrick Allen will abandon use of a British ceremonial medal after public outrage claiming the image it bears was offensive.

The British insignia the Order of St. Michael and St. George, which is worn by the head of state, depicts a white man - said to be a triumphant archangel - with his foot on the neck of a black man, who is deemed to be Satan.

Late last month, Sir Patrick, who represents the British empire, declared in a statement he would no longer wear the medal. He has also directed his staff to review "all insignias and iconography associated with the Office of The Governor-General that may be considered radicalized or culturally inappropriate."

MESSAGE

Sir Patrick has also sent a message to the Chancellor of the Order of St. Michael and St. George "requesting a revision of he image used on the medal, and recommending that it be 'changed




Order of St. Michael and St. George.

to reflect an inclusive image of he shared humanity of all peoples."

The medal has traditionally been bestowed on and worn by governors general across the Commonwealth, who have been knighted by the queen of England. However, the insignia has recently been compared to the killing of George Floyd, the African American man who was killed in the United States by a white police officer who placed a knee on his neck.

The order was founded on April 28, 1818 and named in honor of two military saints, St. Michael and St George.






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SALUTE TO JAMAICA

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'I DO': Pegasus launches hotel wedding deals during COVID-19

The Jamaica Pegasus in Kingston has launched "Intimate I Do's", new wedding packages designed for couples to tie the knot safely during COVID-19.

Under terms of the new packages, wedding parties are limited to 10 participants. Ceremonies can extend for a maximum of two hours, with couples joined at an outdoor setting within the hotel's gardens before retiring to one of its indoor banquet rooms for the reception.

"COVID-19 has caused all of us to pause many aspects of our daily lives, but it can't stop love," Nicola Madden-Greig, group director of marketing and sales for the hotel, noted in a recent press release.

"Our Intimate I Do's wedding package enables lovers to tie the knot in style and in accordance with the latest health and safety protocols. The result



Garden wedding setup.

is a wedding day that guests and newlyweds will most certainly never forget."

Jamaica Pegasus Intimate I Do's wedding packages carry a fee of \$250 for the wedding ceremony. Reception fees start at \$30 per person, with final costs subject to change based on menu selections. Add-on optional décor packages are also available.

Jamaica Pegasus

is also offering savings on accommodations for honeymooners.

For more information, the hotel at 876-926-3691 or visit www.jamaicapegusus.com.

- Photographs courtesy of The Jamaica Pegasus/Courtleigh Hospitality Group.



Abe Issa gets new post at Romance Holidays

Abe Issa has been named president of sales and marketing for Island Romance Holidays Inc., parent company of Couples Resorts in Jamaica.

Couples Resorts is a collection of four adult-only, luxury, all-inclusive resorts in Jamaica. Two resorts are located in Negril and two in Ocho Rios. They combine for 950 rooms. In this new role.

Issa, who joined the Jamaican family-owned business in 2012, will be responsible for all sales and marketing activities for the company across the United States, Canada and Europe. He has served as chief operating officer for the company for the last five years, overseeing the operation of the four resorts.

"I sincerely value this opportunity and look forward to

continue working with our team towards growth and greatness, despite the challenges ahead," Issa was quoted as saying in a recent press release by the company.

Couples Resorts Jamaica operates Couples Tower Isle and Couples Sans Souci in Ocho Rios, and Couples Negril and Couples Swept Away in Negril.



Jamaicans mark 'Diaspora Week'

June was Caribbean Heritage Month, and Jamaicans in the United States found special reasons to celebrate.

The Jamaica Northeast Diaspora, USA, marked 2020 Diaspora Week June 14-20 featuring events organized virtually in partnership with organizations and individuals. The theme of week was "Unity and Resiliency", acknowledging the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the call for equal rights and justice in response to the death of black people in the U.S. at the hands of law enforcement.

According to Dr. Karren Dunkley, Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) Northeast, USA representative,

"This is a week of action. The goal of the week is to bring the Jamaican diaspora together to address strategic areas of community and nation-building. These areas include sustainable development, economic development and empowerment, health, education, and faith-based. The week also examines challenging issues, including domestic violence, and provides a forum to share resources such as the summer food feeding program."

Among the people scheduled to participate in the week's events were Dr. Dunkley; Alison Wilson, consul general of Jamaica, New York; and Jamaica Senator Don Wehby.



POWELL'S POWER: Ex-U.S. Army general blasts Trump's leadership

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B)

Are we insulting everybody? Are we going after immigrants? They don't understand this.

"I'm the son of immigrants. I wouldn't be here if my parents couldn't come here on banana boats in the 1920s. This is America. This is who we are. I don't understand."

CRITICAL

According to Powell, the U.S. has arrived at a critical juncture under Trump's leadership. The president's dishonesty and his ability to evade accountability is also worrying.

"We are at turning points," Powell said. "I mean, the Republican Party, the president, thought they were sort of immune. They've done mostly anything they wanted. And, even more troubling, the Congress would just sit there and not, in any way, resist what the president is doing."

"And the one word that I have to use, with respect to what has happened in the last several years, is the word I would never have used before, and never have used with any of the four presidents I've worked for, he (Trump) lies. He lies about things. And he gets away with it because people will not hold him accountable."

Powell said Trump has not been good as the leader of the U.S.

"I think he has not been an

effective president," he said. "He lies all the time. He began lying the day of inauguration ... about the size of the crowd that was there."

RESPONSIBILITY

However, whether or not Trump returns to the White House will be entirely up to the American people, whom Powell believes must not shirk their responsibility.

"Every single American has to sit down, think it through and make a decision on their own," he said. "Don't listen to everybody out there. Don't read every newspaper. Think it through, use your common sense and say 'Is this good for my country?' before you say this is good for me."

Powell, who also criticized Trump's handling of the coronavirus and relations with the "four enemies" of the U.S., China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, found humor in the fact that he received three Electoral College votes in the 2016 presidential elections, good enough to place him behind Trump and runner-up Hillary Clinton, even though he did not campaign for the office.

"That's true," Powell told Tapper. "I had to read it in the newspaper and I called my wife. 'Can this be so?' ... It was amusing."

- Gordon Williams



CULTURE SWAP: U.S. seeks Jamaican teachers to help American students

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B)

different backgrounds, they will be able take those experiences back to their classrooms in Jamaica to add to their academic experience," he said.

"The ability to work remotely presents an economic

opportunity for teachers in Jamaica especially with the limitations the pandemic places on in-person interactions.

"This is a unique opportunity for students and teachers alike."



**The Honorable
Barbara J. Jordan**
Miami-Dade County
Commissioner
DISTRICT ONE



Congratulations on 58 Years of Independence!

The residents of Miami-Dade County join all Jamaicans, locally and abroad, as they celebrate their Independence. Let us all observe this milestone as Jamaica marks its 58th year of self-governance. Let's take a moment to rejoice and reflect on a country that has produced world renowned music composers, legendary sports figures, great literary artists, distinguished physicians, and record-breaking aviators.

Congratulations on this special day and best wishes for continued prosperity in the years to come!

Barbara J. Jordan

SALUTE TO JAMAICA

CELEBRATING 58 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Legendary umpire admits mistakes, backs new technology

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Jamaican Steve Bucknor has admitted making mistakes during his outstanding international umpiring career, which caused him sleepless nights.

Now Bucknor is endorsing the International Cricket Council's (ICC) use of technology in officiating, urging others who still doubt that move to do the same.

"Now, thinking about when I was umpiring and the mistake was made out there and I gave a batsman out who was not out and realizing I had made a mistake, it took me a long time to fall asleep that night," he told **Starcom Radio's** Mason and Guest last month.

"Now you can fall asleep quickly because the correct decision is eventually given and once that decision is given, I've made a mistake but the correct thing was done later on and the batsman would've continued his innings."

IMPROVEMENT

The introduction of technology has enhanced the officiating of the game, Bucknor believes.

"I am not certain if it (technology) is affecting the confidence of umpires, but I know it has improved umpiring," said Bucknor, who stood in 128 Tests and 181 one-day internationals before retiring 11 years ago.

"It has improved umpiring because there was a time when we were saying that the batsman



Bucknor, left, listens to Tendulkar during the 2005 Eden Gardens Test.

was so-called playing down the line and therefore he's not going to be given out leg before, and the technology is saying that the ball is hitting (the stumps) and if the ball is hitting then you have to give him out.

"So we learn from technology and the umpires who do not enjoy having technology around I would hope they would re-think because technology is good for the game."

CONTROVERSY

The umpire Decision Review System (DRS) was introduced on a trial basis 11 years ago. By then Bucknor had retired as an umpire. Designed to enhance officiating, the DRS has attracted much controversy,

and the ICC has continued to tinker with the system since its subsequent full introduction in an attempt to enhance its effectiveness.

Under the current regulations, batting and fielding teams are allowed to review dubious umpiring decisions at least twice per innings. Technology such as "snicko", which uses sound to determine edges and "hotspot", which utilizes imaging to also determine edges, have also been introduced by the ICC.

Bucknor said the level of the current technology allowed officials the luxury of correcting mistakes in real time.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8B)

Jamaica's poverty rate declines

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Jamaica recorded a 40 percent drop in the poverty rate in 2018, the lowest in a decade.

This was disclosed by Minister of Finance and the Public Service Dr. Nigel Clarke in a statement to Parliament last month.



Clarke

"In 2018, the poverty rate was 12.6 percent, a decline of 6.7 percentage points relative to 2017," he said. "... This is the lowest rate of poverty since 2008."

Noting that the figures are contained in the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, Clarke said this decline may be attributed to an increase in real gross domestic product (GDP), increase in employment, increase in the proportion of households in the lower quintiles that received remittances, as well as a slowing in the rate of inflation.

DRIVERS

Clarke said in 2018, Jamaica's economy recorded a GDP growth rate of 1.9 percent, the sixth consecutive year of growth and the highest annual growth rate in 12 years.

The minister pointed to several factors for the improvements.

"The out-turn for 2018 also marked the first time that Jamaica's GDP level surpassed

the levels recorded prior to the global financial crisis," he pointed out.

In addition, he noted that the mining and quarrying industry grew by 33.8 percent relative to 2017, which represented the strongest growth rate of the mining sector since 1989. Further, the agriculture industry, after a contraction in 2017, which was due to widespread flooding, rebounded to expand by 4.1 percent in 2018.

Additionally, Clarke explained that the construction industry recorded a growth rate of 3.3 percent.

Also, remittance inflows in 2018 rose to \$2,345.8 million, compared with \$2,305.3 million in 2017.

In addition, as at July 2018, the net number of persons employed increased by 10,300 to 1,222,600, compared with July 2017.

- Edited from CMC.



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SALUTE TO JAMAICA

CELEBRATING 58 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Caribbean Airlines to resume regional, international flights out of Jamaica

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – The state-owned Caribbean Airlines (CAL) plans to resume its regional and international operations this month on a phased basis out of its hub in Jamaica.

The airline, like many others worldwide, was grounded as countries closed their borders to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that has killed more than 500,000 and infected in excess of 10 million others worldwide.

In a letter sent to customers, CAL thanked them for “bearing with us during what has undoubtedly been an extremely challenging period.”

“We empathize with everyone whose families and travel plans may have been affected by restrictions imposed to mitigate the spread of the virus. I am pleased to let you know, starting July 6, Caribbean Airlines will be resuming international and regional scheduled flights, on a phased basis, out of our Jamaica hub,” the letter signed by the Caribbean Airlines



The region's airline is ready to take off.

Chief Executive Officer Garvin Medera noted.

DAILY

Medera said initially, the airline will be providing daily flights between Kingston, Jamaica and New York; weekly flights between Kingston and Toronto, Canada on Wednesdays, starting July 8. He said that this is to be increased to twice weekly with an additional service on Sunday, starting from July 19.

CAL will have twice weekly flights between Kingston and Bridgetown,

Barbados, on Mondays and Fridays. Medera said as the regional countries slowly begin to open their borders, CAL was looking forward to expanding its schedule further.

“Later in July, we plan to re-open our network from Antigua and Barbados to regional destinations, as well an additional service to New York out of Montego Bay,” Medera added.

Caribbean Airlines said it lost more than \$14 million between Mar. 23 and April 30.



JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS



Jamaican American Kai-Zoe Flowers was named eighth grade class salutatorian last month at Our Savior Lutheran Church & School in Plantation, Florida. Flowers has chosen to attend Archbishop McCarthy High School located in Southwest Ranches, Florida. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Our Savior innovated with a drive-thru graduation ceremony.

N.Y. jerk fest re-set for 2021

The 2020 Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival New York will now be held next year.

According to the producers, the annual food festival was postponed due to concerns over the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). It will be held July 25, 2021.

“As we continue to experience the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety

of our fans, employees, vendors, exhibitors, and our corporate partners are of paramount importance,” Richard Lue, festival director, stated in a recent press release.

For more updates on the event, held annually at Roy Wilkins Park in Queens, visit www.jerkfestivalny.com.



Legendary umpire admits mistakes, backs new technology

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7B)

“What it does is if you make a mistake, the mistake can be corrected on the field,” Bucknor said.

INCORRECT

Bucknor twice infamously gave India’s legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar out when the replays showed the decision to be incorrect.

The first incident was a leg before wicket decision at Brisbane, Australia on India’s 2003 tour. The second was a catch at the wicket two years later against Pakistan in Kolkata.

“It is human to err and Tendulkar was given out on two different occasions ... these were mistakes,” Bucknor conceded.

“I don’t think any umpire would want to do the wrong thing. It lives with him and his

future could be jeopardized.

“Once in Australia, I gave him out leg before wicket and the ball was going over the top. Another time in India it was caught behind when the ball deviated after (passing the) bat, but there was no touch on the bat.

“But it was at Eden Gardens and when you are at Eden Gardens and India is batting, you hear nothing because 100,000 spectators are making noise. You can hear nothing, nothing whatsoever.

“Those were the mistakes and I was unhappy about them but I am saying the human is going to make mistakes and accepting mistakes and moving on from there is a part of life.”

- Edited from CMC.



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SALUTE TO JAMAICA

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GREAT SCOTT!: A Jewel elected Georgia Circuit Court judge for Atlanta area

Jewel Scott was last month elected Superior Court judge, Clayton County Circuit for the Atlanta Metro area in Georgia, the first Jamaican to achieve that post.

Scott's victory received praise from Audrey Marks, Jamaica's ambassador to the United States.

"We salute you, as an outstanding example in both your personal life and in your professional life, creating history in so many of your endeavors, including as the first



Scott

woman and first Caribbean-American District Attorney for

Clayton County," a statement from Marks read last month.

Marks congratulated Scott for a resounding win, defeating a "formidable incumbent with 59 percent of the votes.

"That is a powerful statement about the regard and esteem with which you are held in your county."

ACHIEVEMENTS

Scott attended Manchester and Montego Bay high schools and the University of the West Indies in the Caribbean, which Marks claims prepared her for her "achievements" in the U.S.

"We also celebrate you as a special daughter of our educational system," Marks

noted. "... On behalf of the government and people of Jamaica at home and in the diaspora, I wish you every blessing and God's guidance as you take your seat in the Superior Court of the Clayton County Circuit, Atlanta, Georgia."

Jamaica's Consul General in Miami R. Oliver Mair said Scott had been a trailblazer throughout her career in the legal profession.

"You are blazing a path for others to follow," Mair was quoted as saying.

Scott is a former Jamaica honorary consul in Atlanta, Georgia, serving from 2014 to 2018. A widow, she is the mother of two sons, Lee Jr. and Christopher, and two grandchildren.

She said she enjoys dancing, entertaining and "some good old-time Jamaican cooking."



Jamaican gets Green light to oversee IFC's operations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has appointed Jamaican Judith Green regional manager for the Caribbean.

Green will oversee operations in the English-speaking Caribbean, plus Haiti and the Dominican Republic, IFC's hub where she will be based.

The financial institution based here is a member of the World Bank Group.

"IFC's role in the Caribbean is important now more than ever and I look forward to working with our long-term partners and forging new relationships to support the development of the region," Green said, adding she aims to "lead IFC's operations to provide private sector investments that drive sustainable growth, as well as leveraging our advisory services to improve the investment climate and support regional governments capital expenditure programs through the successful structuring of public-private partnerships."

EXPERIENCE

Green will also manage IFC's relationships with regional governments, donors and private sector stakeholders. She takes over the position from Luc Grillet, previously senior manager for Central America and the Caribbean, who was recently appointed chief operations officer for Latin America and the Caribbean. He will be based at IFC headquarters here.

The IFC said Green has worked as head for the English-speaking Caribbean since 2016, expanding IFC's operations in the sub-region.

"As country manager, she will play a critical role in building our portfolio, developing new investment and advisory opportunities for IFC and enhancing our impact in the cluster of countries," the organization noted.

"Specific focus will be provided to promoting financial inclusion for SMEs (small medium enterprises) and women entrepreneurs and working hand in hand with the private and public sector to provide solutions for the region to improve infrastructure and



Green

public services through public-private partnerships."

In announcing Green's appointment, Gabriel Goldschmidt, IFC's director for Latin America and the Caribbean, said "Judith brings tremendous professional experience and a deep knowledge of the Caribbean market.

"Through her leadership, we look forward to continuing our strong track record in the region, serving our clients and creating new markets and opportunities where they are needed most."

INVESTMENT

As of Feb. 2020, IFC's committed investment portfolio in the Caribbean stood at nearly \$900 million, covering a broad range of sectors, including financial markets, infrastructure, information and communication technology, manufacturing and services, and education.

This includes about \$200 million mobilized from partnering institutions.

Green previously worked with IFC from 2011 to 2013 as a senior investment officer in Jamaica before joining the Ministry of Finance and Planning as a member of the Economic Program Oversight Committee, where she headed the government Coordination and Implementation Unit.

She also has capital markets and corporate banking experience, having held senior management positions in RBC Bank Jamaica Limited, Citigroup Global Markets Inc. (New York), and Citibank N.A. Jamaica.

- Edited from CMC.



NAJASO elects new officers, plans to re-brand, re-launch

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Dr. Joyce El Ali, newly elected president of the National Association of Jamaican and Supportive Organizations (NAJASO), plans to re-brand and re-launch the diaspora organization to respond to the changing needs of the community.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the association recently, Dr. El Ali told the members "it is time to re-assess NAJASO's performance and develop plans and programs geared toward re-introducing its relevance and attractiveness to existing and potential members.

"We must reset NAJASO's trajectory for attaining a sustainable future. We must review where NAJASO has been and where it is heading. This administration must seize the opportunity to create a new path for NAJASO and modernize its structure, its focus and its

engagement efforts.

"We need to find new ways of reaching prospective members," she added. "We need to be prepared to change the structure of NAJASO by acknowledging that what worked almost five decades ago may not work going forward. Consequently, we must be prepared to work hard at developing plans and programs aimed at rebranding and relaunching NAJASO."

CONTRIBUTION

Over the years, the organization has contributed scholarships to students at the University of the West Indies, organized medical missions to Jamaica and contributed to early



El Ali

childhood projects in St. James, St. Catherine and Kingston.

Recently, NAJASO contributed \$11,000 to Jamaica's COVID-19 Telethon "Together We Stand", plus an additional \$2,000 earmarked for meals to children in depressed areas of Jamaica.

The other new NAJASO board members are: Dr. Richard E. Constable, chairman; Rick Nugent, executive vice president; Janice Wisdom, executive secretary; Derrick L. Harvey, treasurer; and Beverly Morrison, recording secretary.

NAJASO was launched 47 years ago by former Jamaican Ambassador to the United States Alfred Rattray, who believed there was a need to bring all the Jamaican organizations in the United States under one umbrella.



Former C.G. John P. Atkins dies in Florida

John P. Atkins, a former Jamaica consul general in the United States, died last month at his South Florida home after long illness. He was 78.

Atkins served as Jamaica's consul general for the southern U.S. for eight years before his retirement from the diplomatic service in Aug. 2002. He joined the Jamaica's Foreign Service in 1989, when he came to the Miami Consulate as deputy to former Consul General Marie Wray.

Atkins was appointed consul general in 1994, when he succeeded then Consul General Ambassador Madge Barrett. During his tenure, he focused primarily on the immigration and deportation areas of his consular duties. Along with other Caribbean diplomats of the Florida Consular Corp, he was instrumental in giving recognition to the Consular Notification System, which obligates municipal police offices in South Florida to

immediately report to the respective consulates the arrest and detention of nationals of those respective countries.

Vance Carter, vice consul at the Miami consulate, who worked closely with Atkins on immigration matters, spoke of his strength of character and his dedication in serving the interests of Jamaican nationals abroad.

Atkins also served as vice dean to the Florida Consular Corp. Beverly Ford, who served as Jamaica's honorary consul to Texas under his directorship, praised him for serving his country with loyalty and commitment.

In his relationship with the communities, particularly those in South Florida, Atkins worked with churches, especially denominations with large Jamaican populations. He also maintained relations with South Florida based community associations, with the main objective being the interest of

nation building in Jamaica in health, education, culture and trade and investment.

CAREER

A former Jamaica senator and trade union leader, Atkins began his career in industrial relations, serving as assistant island supervisor with Jamaica's National Workers Union (NWU) (1974-89). At NWU, he worked under the tutelage of former Prime Minister Michael Manley. As senator, Atkins was helped formulate proposal for the Maternity Leave with Pay Law (1978).

Consul General, R. Oliver Mair, who currently holds the office, praised Atkins for his years of service and commitment to Jamaica.

Atkins is survived by his wife Shirley, sons Patrick, Peter, Sean, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and other extended family members.



SALUTE TO JAMAICA

CELEBRATING 58 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Jamaican running for Miami-Dade County commissioner promises 'new day'

DAWN A. DAVIS

Jamaican-born Marlon Hill, a prominent attorney in Miami-Dade County, is running for county commissioner in District 9.

With the Aug. 18, 2020 primary elections approaching, Hill, a Miami-Dade resident since 1985, shared his local connections in a virtual town hall meeting June 17.

"I rode my bicycle to Miami Southridge Senior High School, worked diligently, worked part-time at Cutler Ridge Mall and earned a partial scholarship to Florida State University," he explained.

"At Miami Southridge and Florida State University I found a supportive system pushing me to excellence in every regard. But, I knew I would return to my hometown in Miami-Dade County."

That return, Hill explained, was mostly fueled by his drive to improve his community.

"For far too long South Miami-Dade County has been neglected," he said. "We must do better ... District 9 residents, it's time for a new day."

PRIORITY

Community violence plaguing District 9 is among the top issues Hill said he plans to tackle if elected. He favors programs that support and re-train young black men involved in crime.

Hill's law firm received a grant that helped establish a law academy at Brownsville Middle School, which he believes can be a model that can be replicated throughout the county.

"We can show our kids how they can shape the legal system as opposed to being a part of the legal system," he said. "We need to do more for young black men, and to support the single mothers that are carrying the burden for them as well."

In a time when white policemen are being increasingly charged with killing young black men and more revelations of police brutality and injustices against people of color are surfacing, Hill called for legal reform, especially of Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law which allows justifiable use of force.

"We are done dying!," he said. "We are done dying! We need to take a look at a full criminal justice reform of our entire system where any black person, black man is dying for unnecessary reasons."

"We will have to work with our state officials to change this law. And also look totally across the board with regard to criminal



Hill

justice reform to ensure that we continue to breathe and stop dying."

OVERSIGHT

Hill said he would support funding for a civilian oversight board of the Miami-Dade County Police Department. The board, he added, would have to be closely scrutinized and should have subpoena powers. This, he said, help build trust between

citizens and police.

Hill's response to the groundswell to defund the police and redirect money to mental health, drug treatment and youth services invokes citizen involvement.

"We definitely need to re-imagine our relationship with the police department," he explained. "Citizens must get involved with the budget process."

"The budget process is going to be coming down the pike in August/September. Budgets reflect priorities. Budgets reflect values, the values of South Miami Dade County."

"We want more support for our kids, we want more support for our seniors. We are approaching a period when COVID-19 is really going to put a strain on our budget and there are going to be some tough choices we will have to make. And some of those tough choices may land at the door of the police department and other departments as well, as we re-evaluate what our priorities are and what our values are and what we need as a community."

COVID FIGHT

Concerned about the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in Miami-Dade, Hill said as commissioner he would establish a pandemic and emergency disaster task force in the county to foster communication between the various communities. He said he has been going door-to-door in District 9, delivering face masks to the most vulnerable as he shares his belief in the connection between public health and the success of the economy. Hill sees small businesses as key to economic recovery.

As a small business attorney for the past 24 years, Hill explained he has counseled hundreds of small business owners in the county. He stressed that providing more technical, financial and community support to these businesses would drive the economy of South Miami Dade. Part of his strategy for stimulating growth is to convene a cross section of business

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11B)

Jamaican woman joins race for Miami Gardens mayor

Jamaican-born Lavern Deer is a mayoral candidate for Miami Gardens in South Florida.

A resident for more than 30 years, the political hopeful said she is ready to tackle issues of concern and change the negative perception of her beloved city.

"There are six priorities going into this," Deer told *Caribbean Today*. "Number one is crime. Working in Broward (County), I hear a lot of people call my city Murder Gardens. I take offense to that."

"Yes, we have a crime issue, but murder is not the number (one) crime in the city. It's theft and larceny. So, you look at the root cause to see why this is such a big issue. You look at families; you look at what is happening in the homes; you look at poverty; you look at the lack of jobs and housing."

Deer also spoke about the large population of elders and veterans in Miami Gardens, underscoring their security is also a top issue in her platform. How red light cameras process infractions is another key problem she plans to tackle.

"So, job creation, youth development, housing affordability, crime reduction, the red light camera processing, elderly affairs — these are my top six platform priorities," Deer said.

READY

However, running for political office was once the furthest thing from her mind. Although asked a few years ago, Deer insisted she was not ready. Prodded again in Aug. 2019, Deer decided to take the leap.

"Knowing that I have a heart for my community, for the



Deer

people, and youth more so than anything else, I said I can do this," she explained.

"I prayed about it and got confirmation, and I put my ticket out there ... The question people would ask is why do you want to run, you are not a politician, you're not an elected official. And that's exactly why I chose to run, because I am not a politician. I am actually a service woman. I serve the people, I am a leader with a vision and a purpose."

She said it's her passion for youth development and education that first got her noticed. Deer began coaching soccer teams at local clubs and later became involved in the Caribbean American Soccer Association.

In 2012 she founded the Jamaica International Female Football Development Inc (JIFFD), an organization aimed at fostering development of female soccer players through education, health and wellness, and training. Her advocacy helped Jamaica become the first Caribbean country to qualify for

the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2019.

Deer's work on behalf of young people in the Caribbean and South Florida also led to work with local legislators. That resulted in the Florida Department of Education implementing policy to teach human trafficking education in schools. The genesis of her advocacy, to fight for others, Deer said, is her Caribbean heritage.

"Jamaican professional boxer George Leslie 'Bunny' Grant was my uncle," she explained. "So,

when I look at my history I see that advocacy, and the fighting spirit is in my blood ... That drive from my roots, my background, knowing that we are strong-minded fighters, all of that has pushed me."

INSPIRED

Deer has cemented key relationships, particularly from those who have inspired her to run for office. She cites Shirley Gibson, the first mayor of Miami Gardens, as one leader who motivated her, and former Florida Senator Maria Sachs.

"I admire Maria Sachs because she was also advocating for human trafficking awareness and prevention," Deer said.

"When I did my first press conference at the state capital, she was there. She embraced me. She shared with me her passion for the cause and her fight for it. And to this day, that one meeting has led to her endorsing and supporting me publicly."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11B)

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Democratic incumbent leads race for New York seat in U.S. Congress

The daughter of Jamaican immigrants appears on course to again represent the Democratic Party in the race for a seat in the United States Congress.

Following an unofficial count in the June 23 primary elections for the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District seat in Brooklyn, New York, incumbent Yvette Clarke held a commanding lead over her rivals with all 532 precincts reporting in the district, although absentee voting had not been fully counted.

She faced four challengers, but up to press time had amassed 37,106 votes (62.3 percent) in the poll. Her closest challenger was Adem Bunkeddeko, the

son of Ugandan refugees, who came just less than 2,000 votes to unseating Clarke in the Democratic Primary two years ago, with 10,647 (17.9 percent).

New York City Councilman Chaim Deutsch received 5,622 votes (9.4 percent), followed by Isiah James 5,576 votes (9.4 percent) and Lutchi Gayot 605 (one percent).

ADVANTAGE

According to analysts, even if Bunkeddeko does well with the absentee ballots, it is unlikely he will be able to dethrone Clarke, given her 44.4 percentage point advantage up to press time.



Clarke

"I'm exceedingly pleased with the level of political participation in the district and really grateful for the turnout of the voters in support of my

re-election," Clarke told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) the day after the primary.

"We're looking forward to a resounding victory once the results have been qualified. I want to thank the people of the 9th District who continue to trust in my leadership."

The official results of the primary were expected no later than the end of June.

Clarke, whose Jamaican-born mother Una is a former New York City Council member, is seeking her eighth consecutive two-year term in the U.S. Congress. If she wins the New York primary, she is expected to face a Republican challenger in

the November election.

Clarke has served as the chair, co-chair and/or founding member of several committees and caucuses in the U.S. House of Representatives, including the Homeland Security Committee, Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, Medicare for All Caucus, Small Business Committee, Congressional Black Caucus Immigration Task Force and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She's also been vice-chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

- Edited from CMC.



Lauderdale Lakes mayor touts accomplishments, promises improvement

DAWN A. DAVIS

Jamaican-born Hazelle Rogers is touting the success of her administration in dealing with major issues that have propped up in Lauderdale Lakes, the South Florida city she serves as mayor.

In a June 29 virtual "State of the City 2020" address, Rogers praised Lauderdale Lakes for its resiliency and preparedness, including its response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"COVID-19 has changed the landscape of life as we know it," she said.

She recalled the Mar. 1 mandate from the federal and state governments to shelter at home, which was followed by her own response aimed at getting support for Lauderdale Lakes residents and the challenges encountered.

"On March 12th I declared a state of emergency with a focus on ensuring that our city was qualified for emergency funding from the federal and state governments," Rogers explained. "We are now being forced to work through the Broward League of Cities for our rights to administer our fair share of federal dollars. Lauderdale Lakes, we are



Rogers

prepared for that challenge."

DECISIONS

Rogers said difficult decisions had to be made mandating restrictions to preserve the safety of city residents, visitors and business owners.

She said Lauderdale Lakes installed plexiglass at service counters, distributed personal protective equipment to staff and instituted six-feet-apart working areas. The aim is to re-open to stimulate economic growth while ensuring safety.

"We continue to be focused

on our economic recovery," said Rogers. "However, health safety will be a priority."

According to Rogers, Lauderdale Lakes submitted 15 projects for funding from the 30-year countywide surplus transportation tax and was approved for funding in cycle one. These money, she explained, will be used for plans including traffic maintenance programs, the Northwest 50th Avenue improvement project, Westgate Community roadway, sidewalk re-pavement and repairs, and citywide drainage improvement.

Rogers also claimed Lauderdale Lakes has maintained a strong financial status over the past few years, with a healthy fund balance ranging from \$10 million to \$13 million. In addition, she said, increasing property values, based on new high quality developments in the city and collaboration with the business community, especially since the pandemic, has been her focus to rebuild successfully.

STRATEGY

"We are aggressively redefining strategic initiatives as a result of the corona pandemic," Rogers said.

"Focusing on safety and financial stability, providing virtual programs for summer school, and ensuring the wellbeing of seniors and our Alzheimers families. We are focused on funding received by all agencies to ensure that services are being received by our residents."

In fiscal year 2020, Lauderdale Lakes applied for eight grant opportunities. The city was awarded two. Others are pending. The city's partnership with the Greater

Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Broward College, according to Rogers, will create educational and employment opportunities.

STIMULATE

The roadway improvement project on one of its critical transportation corridors, Northwest 31st Avenue, is estimated to cost estimated \$1.4 million. With assistance from the Lauderdale Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency, it is expected to stimulate the city's economy and boost property values.

Rogers implored residents to stand together to rebuild the local economy and families. She also said Lauderdale Lakes "will remain intolerant of police brutality and racism," but "must prepare for the opportunities that the death of George Floyd will create in communities."

"Resiliency is not numbness," said the mayor. "Resiliency is experience. It's life. It's falling. It's getting up."

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



Hill on the rise

Marlon Hill has qualified for the ballot in the race for Miami-Dade County commissioner District 9.

Through mid-June, Hill had raised more than \$335,000 in campaign funds leading up to the Aug. 18 election.

District 9 is located in southwest Miami-Dade County. It's the largest geographic district of the 13 in the county. Dennis Moss served as commissioner before he termed out.



Jamaican running for Miami-Dade County commissioner promises 'new day'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10B) leaders in South Miami Dade to discuss the tools needed to grow. Part of that plan would involve re-routing bus routes across the county to make it easier for residents to get to and from work.

However, for change to happen said Hill, citizens must be committed to action.

"For the next 60 days it's

very important that you as citizens remain engaged," Hill said. "It's very important that you get involved in the process. Register to vote, vote by mail."

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



Jamaican woman joins race for Miami Gardens mayor

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10B)

Having worked as campaign manager for the then Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness (now Broward County mayor), Deer saw in him commitment to his constituents. That moved her.

"He never stopped, he just kept working," she said. "And, he always emphasized: my people, my people, my people when he spoke about his constituents. He not only asked questions of business leaders, he held them accountable to ensure that they put minorities at the forefront when seeking contracts. He made sure that when the county was allocating funds, they understood the generic makeup of the constituents of his city."

Deer explained that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, of the estimated 110,001 residents in Miami Gardens as of July 1, 2019, 71.6 percent are black or African American, 26.8 percent Hispanic or Latino, while 24.5 percent are white. Native Indian, Asian, native Hawaiian and mixed race make up smaller percentages. Knowing the city's make-up is key when assessing today's issues.

"Statistics have shown that black and other minorities are most affected by the negative effects of COVID-19," she said. "Knowing that Miami Gardens is majority black and Hispanic means that is one of my biggest concerns. So, the first thing I did was reach out to the vice mayor of the city to find out what

the city is doing to ensure that our people understand and are protecting themselves."

Deer's advocacy helped classify residents even further. She participated in 2009 census committee meetings, along with Jamaican-born Lauderdale Lakes Mayor Hazelle Rogers, and was among those who petitioned for the census to have an individual line on the form so individuals can identify themselves more specifically. This entry would allow individuals to write in the country where they were born. As a result, the 2020 Census has implemented this change.

Written by Dawn A. Davis, a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.





*Taste a
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'Cops', Inner Circle's 'Bad Boys' theme song pulled from U.S. television



Lewis

The long-running television reality show "Cops", which

featured the popular theme song "Bad Boys" by Jamaican reggae

band Inner Circle, has been cancelled.

Paramount Network last month shut down "Cops", which was first aired in 1989 and shows police officers working, as demonstrations sprung up across the United States protesting brutality by law enforcement.

"Cops" is not on the Paramount Network and we don't have any current or future plans for it to return," a Paramount Network spokesperson noted in a statement released on June 9.

Paramount Network (then known as Spike TV) had broadcast the show since 2013,

after it ran for 25 seasons on Fox.

Originally, Paramount said it was temporarily taking "Cops" out of its lineup "out of respect for the families of George Floyd and others who have lost their lives." Floyd died in Minneapolis on May 25 after police officers knelt on him. His death sparked the massive protests.

POPULARITY

While "Cops" has been criticized for showing officers pursuit and questionable treatment of suspects, the theme song "Bad Boys", known for its tantalizing bass line, has retained its popularity over the years. It's catchy lyrics have also found

favor with millions, especially the chorus: "Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do? Whatcha you gonna do when they come for you?"

Jamaican Ian Lewis of Inner Circle wrote "Bad Boys" and played bass on the cut. Last month, he reflected on the song, its popularity and impact to **Rolling Stone**.

"Thirty years. How many groups in the world can say they have a song that the world knows, but what is not understood is the essence of the song," he told the publication. "It was used in the context of 'Cops', but if they listen to the (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12A)

'Fire In Babylon' represents Caribbean at int'l film festival

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries represented in Brazil have submitted a film in this year's virtual Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) Film Festival, scheduled to be held via **You Tube** this month, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade here.

The CARICOM ambassadors in Brazil have entered the film "Fire in Babylon", which tells the story of the rise of the legendary West Indies cricket team against the social and political background of the day.

"It is as much a film about the character, the courage, and the history of the people of the Caribbean as it is the story of one team overcoming the odds to make history," said Barbados Ambassador to Brazil Tonika Sealy-Thompson, who initiated this joint regional approach.

Significantly, the CARICOM entry will be screened on the GRULAC BRASIL Youtube Channel at 18:00 EST on July 4.

This year's GRULAC Film Festival will be held online because of the global coronavirus



Movie highlights unity against the world.

pandemic. All film entries can be watched free online at the GRULAC BRASIL Youtube Channel.

Sealy-Thompson said she envisions the new online platform will not only allow for more access, but would also provide a forum for conversations across the Caribbean community and dialogue with the larger GRULAC family.



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Jamaican choreographer sues JayZ, Beyoncé

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Dr. L’Antoinette Stines, founder and lead choreographer of Jamaican dance group L’Acadco, has filed a lawsuit against American music superstars Jay Z and Beyoncé for her work on their 2018 album “Everything is Love”.

In court documents filed here last month, Stines is reportedly suing the couple for copyright infringement and violation of her right to publicity, plus damages. Reports are that Stines also wants writing credits and monetary compensation.

Stines claims the couple took her work and used it on a key portion of the track “Black



Jay Z, left, and Beyoncé

Effect” without giving her any credit or money. She said the experience had left her feeling “artistically raped.”

Stines also told the court that the couple reached out to her in Mar. 2018 seeking local dancers to perform in a promotional video for a tour.

In court documents, Stines said that after finding local dancers, she did a recording and was told that it would only be used for promotional purposes. She said she signed a contract giving them permission to use it, but instead it ended up being used on a key portion of the track.

- File photograph

- Edited from CMC.



BRIEFS

Entertainers protest

Several well known Caribbean entertainers reportedly participated in anti-racism protest marches across the United States sparked by the death of George Floyd by a police officer.

Among them were Spice, a dancehall artiste from Jamaica, who marched in Atlanta, Georgia. Other entertainers from the region made their concerns public through social media, including Koffee, Gramps Morgan of Morgan Heritage and Billy Mystic of Mystic Revealers.

Caribbean artist helps create

iconic mural

Belizean Cadex Herrera was one of three artists who created the iconic mural in Minnesota paying tribute to George Floyd, the African American whose death at the hands of police on May 25 sparked international protests against racism.

The mural, on a wall in Minneapolis at the site where Floyd died, has received worldwide attention. Greta McLain and Xena Goldman worked on the piece along with Cadex.

A photograph was prominently displayed at funeral services honoring the deceased man. According to Cadex, whose

nation is part of the Caribbean community, the artwork was made to honor Floyd’s memory.

‘Sunsplash’ canceled

“Reggae Sunsplash”, the popular music festival held annually in Jamaica, has been canceled due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The festival was scheduled for July 12-18. Organizers said the cancellation was done after consultation with various government agencies.

- Compiled from various sources.



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Book explores black American experiences defining a race

• **TITLE:** We Were Never Intended to be Citizens — But We Are!

• **AUTHOR:** F. Richard Hurley

• **REVIEWED BY:** Dawn A. Davis

the markers that give this book relevance.

Today, as the United States goes through civil unrest as a result of abuse and murder perpetrated by racist police, the book can serve as a reminder for people of color that what is being seen and experienced is a continuation of the strategy developed by one class to oppress another race of people. Hurley’s book reminds us that is no longer acceptable.

DISENFRANCHISE

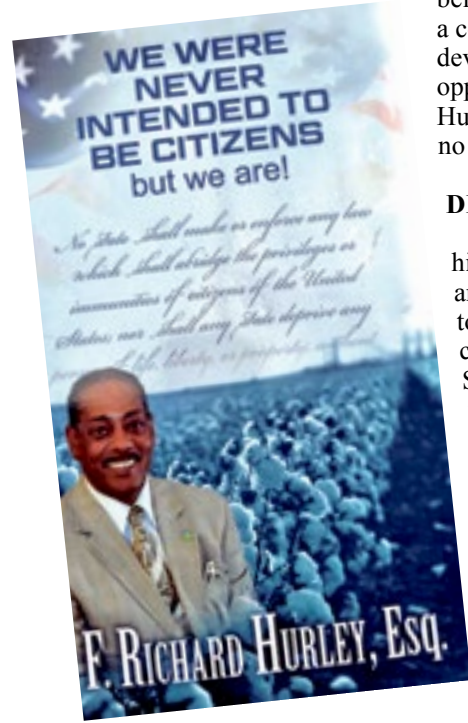
The author highlights the history of federal actions and laws that were created to disenfranchise people of color. For example, the Dred Scott decision of 1856 that freed some, ruled that blacks, free or enslaved, were not citizens of the U.S.

Well documented with images of the period, readers are reminded of harsh truths that marked U.S. history. This was also the era when black people rose against oppression through marches, freedom rides, sit-ins, protests and prayer. Some gave their lives for the cause, as Hurley explains.

Out of the carnage many rose to prominence. Hurley celebrates them too. Yet he warns African Americans not to fall into the trap of taking on identities created by the dominant class. He cautions against images African Americans paint of themselves in the media, television and films.

The final page sends a clear message. Juxtaposing photos of the 45th U.S. President Donald Trump and his predecessor President Barack Obama, Hurley declares “45 still won’t accept the fact that former President Obama is a citizen, but he is!”

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



More a visual history than textual, “We Were Never Intended to be Citizens” tells the story of the black American experience through images - some iconic - that have come to define a race of people.

The book delivers bite-sized lessons, simple enough for youngsters to digest, yet accessible to adults. The photographs paint vivid pictures of the struggles blacks in America have faced for hundreds of years and the triumphs and successes many attained, in spite of racial and social barriers.

It’s a compilation of historical facts, laid out in chronological order highlighting the abuse of enslaved Africans brought to the New World by force. The development of institutional racism, protest, tragedy and achievement are

‘Cops’, Inner Circle’s ‘Bad Boys’ theme song pulled from U.S. television

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11A)

song, everybody just knows the hook. They don’t listen to the words of the song where it’s talking about a person who was coming into crime and adversarial towards their parents. The song is about growing up (as a teenager) who wants to be a man but doesn’t understand that it’s the family that you should springboard from. I think it was slightly misunderstood, but worldwide, we never got a negative connotation.”

NEW MEANING

“Bad Boys” may take on new meaning in an era when the police are being heavily scrutinized. It is a time, Lewis believes, to re-examine the

meaning of the song’s lyrics.

“I hope people take a moment to understand that the song is about teenage life and becoming semi-aggressive as you start growing up,” he told Rolling Stone. “We have played in places where everybody sings the song because music is the healer. If you are black; if you are white. If the culture is not shielding children (from trouble), then you’re gonna get problems. That has been the neglect of certain strata of American society that has been forcing kids to take things in their own hands; but if you give them aptitude, attitude and knowledge, they will go to good places.”



E.U. travel ban may affect Caribbean nationals in U.S.

Caribbean nationals in the United States eager to travel overseas to shake off prolonged confinement caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but not sure if they want to immediately return to the region, just had their option of destinations reduced.

The European Union late last month announced it is re-opening its borders, but travelers from the U.S., those holding American passports, may have to wait a while longer before they are allowed general entry.

Residents of the U.S., which witnessed rapid surge of COVID-19 cases across the country towards the end of last

month, learned on June 30 they would be among those from 14 nations blocked from entering the E.U. for at least two weeks. The list will be updated and revised after that time.

They will not be allowed entry into the 27 members countries which make up the E.U., plus four other nations which are part of the continent's visa-free Schengen travel zone.

Reports indicate that over 15 million Americans travel to Europe annually. Many Caribbean nationals living in the U.S. and elsewhere are usually among them.



Tourism will have new look

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Tourism in the Caribbean will have a different look going forward as the region tries to bounce back from the effects of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), according to industry sources.

Neil Walters, acting secretary general of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), said tourism in the region - and the rest of the world - will feature changes as it re-opens to international visitor traffic following the forced closures caused by the onset of the pandemic.

Walters predicts closer alignment of tourism and health functions as destinations seek to reassure potential visitors that their health, safety and well-being are being taken seriously. He said the virus, in addition to pausing in tourism activity, hurt Caribbean economies and disrupted lives.

Yet it also allowed Caribbean countries to retrain workers across the sector and improve the product.

"But one thing that has become critical is that the tourism that emerges from this pause will be different from the tourism that paused at the end of March," said Walters while speaking in the final episode of the CTO podcast "COVID-19: The Unwanted Visitor" last



Walters

month.

"And the key way it will be different is that now tourism will be living and functioning with COVID-19. That means that there will be a significant integration of tourism and health functions across the world - not just in the Caribbean."

Walters said "although it has been economically impactful, that pause (due to COVID-19) has actually given our destinations the chance to get that new process right, to work on getting it right, and to ensure that they reopen in a way that there's a level of comfort on all sides."

He also emphasized the level of collaboration among member countries, saying he hopes this will continue.

- Edited from CMC.



Caribbean countries participate in IDB plan to revitalize tourism ~ sector

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Eight Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries are participating in an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) initiative aimed at identifying business models to transform and revitalize the tourism sector, following the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The IDB said The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago are among 15 countries in Latin and Central America participating in the IDB innovative challenge being launched through its innovation laboratory IDB Lab and in collaboration with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

It said it is launching the challenge to which both public and private sector organizations may apply until July 31.

CHALLENGES

"The challenge aims to identify innovations in two categories: development of the tourism labor force, which needs to acquire new digital skills for the recovery phase, and environmental sustainability, which includes implementing waste management measures through circular economy



The plan is to restore the industry.

models as well as climate-smart agricultural practices," the IDB noted last month.

The IDB said the requests for non-reimbursable financing for technical assistance can go from \$250,000 to \$500,000. In the case of loans, amounts can range from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000. Applicants will be expected to contribute with at least 50 percent of the project's total budget.

According to the UNWTO, the tourism sector is among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the outbreak, tourism was one of the world's largest economic sectors, supporting one out of

every 10 jobs worldwide and accounting for 10.4 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP). The IDB said that in the 15 countries selected for the challenge, the average contribution of tourism to GDP is 16.4 percent.

"The widespread emergency triggered by COVID-19 provides a unique chance for the tourism industry," IDB noted. "... Innovation can help the industry get back on track and emerge from this crisis ready to grow again."

- Edited from CMC.



BRIEFS

Antigua to test all arrivals

The Antigua and Barbuda government says every person entering the country will need to be tested for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and undergo mandatory quarantine after 39 cases of infection were recorded from individuals who recently arrived in the country.

Grenada re-opens airport

The Grenada government announced last month it will re-open the Maurice Bishop International Airport (MBIA) on July 1 as the country recovers from the impact of the virus that forced it to shut down its economy and borders over the past three

months.

"We believe that we have done a significant amount of education with the various stakeholder about the new health protocol and despite the risk, we believe that we are ready to welcome passengers," said Tourism Minister Clarice Modeste.

Belize to re-open borders

The Belize government says it will officially re-open its borders on Aug. 15, nearly six months after the Caribbean community country shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Compiled from various sources.



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HEARTBURN: Finding relief for frequent indigestion

Indigestion is on the rise worldwide and is especially prevalent in the United States.

According to the American College of Gastroenterology, 60 million Americans suffer from heartburn at least once a month.

While it's a common issue for older people due to aging, it's now a growing problem for younger adults as well, who report increasing bouts of indigestion, upset stomach, and anxious stomach, which may be linked to stress and hectic lifestyles.

"When the acid in your stomach rises into your esophagus, that's when you know you have heartburn," says Dr. Ken Redcross, a board-certified physician in internal medicine and author of "Bond: The 4 Cornerstones of a Lasting and Caring Relationship with Your Doctor".

Dr. Redcross explains that heartburn is more than just a minor discomfort, and it can impact daily life.

"Heartburn can cause chest pain, difficulty swallowing, and even interfere with sleep. While there are many contributing factors, whatever the cause, it's uncomfortable and important to manage," he explains.

HELP

Suffering from indigestion and heartburn? Dr. Redcross recommends a few measures that may help you find relief:

- A sudden change to one's



- Photograph © Rawpixel/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Choosing the right foods is important.

diet is frequently the source of heartburn. If you are starting a new diet, it can be helpful to change your diet more gradually.

- Indigestion from travel is common, as being away from home often means eating unfamiliar foods and keeping odd hours. When on the go, (or all the time) stick mostly with tried-and-true foods you know that sit well, attempt to keep a regular eating schedule, and wear loose, comfortable clothing.

- Eating too fast or too much can also contribute to indigestion. Slow down and savor your food. Also, consider consuming smaller portions at a time.

- Try to incorporate some

movement into your daily routine, particularly after meals, as lying down directly after eating can be a source of indigestion.

- Know your triggers. For some, certain foods like citrus, spices, fatty food, and alcoholic or caffeinated beverages can trigger symptoms. Knowing your specific triggers can help you avoid them.

- Be prepared to address symptoms when they strike. Indigestion sufferers with a bloated or upset stomach can find plant-based relief with travel-friendly tablets.

- Edited from StatePoint.



Float your taste buds boat with cannabis curry goat



Cannabis curry goat

Curry goat is a Caribbean delicacy. But how about cannabis curry goat?

Felicia J. Persaud, author of "Caribbean Curries", shares the recipe with adventurous foodies. Here's how you can make it:

INGREDIENTS

- 3 lbs. goat meat, cubed
- 6 tbsps. vegetable oil
- 4 tbsps. canna butter
- 1 large onion
- 6 cloves of garlic
- 1 Scotch Bonnet pepper
- 1 tbsp. garam masala
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1-3 tps. curry powder
- 1/2 tsp. turmeric
- 1 cup water
- 3 red potatoes
- kosher salt to taste
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1 lime

METHOD

In a large bowl, add the goat meat along with the vinegar and lime and soak for about 15 minutes. Wash twice until there is no "rank" smell of the meat.

Peel and chop onion and garlic and place in a chopper and grate. Add half a hot pepper and grate as well. Pour half of the mixture on the meat and let it marinate.

While the meat is marinating, make the curry mixture by combining curry powder, turmeric, cumin and garam masala. Add a bit of water

and combine to make a paste.

Place a pressure cooker on the stove on high heat. Once hot, add oil and then add meat. Ensure the meat runs off all the water it will emit and begin to lightly brown.

Once lightly brown, add water and pressure for about 10 to 15 minutes until meat is tender. Remove from water, saving some of the broth mixture.

Place a Dutch pot or large skillet or canaree on the stove and add the canna butter. Add the rest of the onion, pepper and garlic mixture and sauté lightly, then add the meat and curry mixture along with potatoes. Coat meat and potatoes fully with curry mixture and let it all fry together over low heat, adding some salt.

As the mixture fries in, add some of the saved broth mixture. Add enough to help potatoes boil and create a thick gravy. Don't add too much as you don't want the gravy to be watery.

Curry is done when potatoes are boiled through, meat is soft and gravy is thick. Taste and add more salt if needed and simmer for another minute before removing from heat.

Serve hot with basmati or other rice, or rice and peas.

- Edited from News Americas.



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West Indies has duty to show solidarity with BLM ~ captain



Holder points to Black Lives Matter logo.

“We have come to England to retain the Wisden Trophy, but we are very conscious of happenings around the world and the fight for justice and equality. We believe we have a duty to show solidarity and also to help raise awareness.

“As a group of young men, we know of the rich and diverse history of West Indies cricket and we know we are guardians of the great game for generation to come. We did not take our decision lightly.

“We know what it is for people to make judgments because of the color of our skin, so we know what it feels like, this goes beyond the boundary.”

EQUALITY

He added: “There must be equality and there must be unity. Until we get that as people, we cannot stop. We have to find some way to have equal rights and people must not be viewed differently because of the color of their skin or ethnic background.”

The Black Lives Matter logo, which features a clenched fist representing the letter “A” in the word “Black”, will be brandished on the left side of the shirt collar.

MANCHESTER, England – Captain Jason Holder has underscored the importance of West Indies’ role in the global fight for racial justice after Cricket West Indies announced late last month that players would wear the Black Lives Matter logo on their shirts during the three-Test series against England this month.

The series, which runs from July 8-28, is being played amid global racial tensions triggered by the killing of unarmed black man George Floyd in the United States in May.

“This is a pivotal moment in history for sports, for the game of cricket and for the West Indies cricket team,” Holder said.

Alisha Hosannah, partner of English Premiership soccer player Troy Deeney, designed the logo. Deeny, who captains for Watford and has Caribbean roots, said their involvement in the initiative was important since it was critical sports stars used their public profiles to highlight the need for change.

“When I got the call, I didn’t hesitate to respond, because I know as sportspersons in the spotlight, how important our efforts are to bring about change and the role we play in the move towards change in our society,” said Deeney.

“Watching cricket with my grandad and seeing Brian Lara

transcend from being a cricketer to a worldwide superstar shaped my childhood. So it’s great to be able to help West Indies Cricket show their support in such a meaningful way.”

- Edited from CMC.



COVID-19 forces Caribbean soccer nations to change

Caribbean soccer nations will have to readjust their timetables to accommodate new formats for several qualifying tournaments, including age group and senior World Cups.

Soccer’s world governing body FIFA has confirmed that CONCACAF’s planned qualifiers for the 2022 senior men’s World Cup have been postponed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONCACAF’s Hexagonal, which should include Caribbean, North and Central American nations, was set to kick off during the September international window. However, a statement issued after a FIFA Council meeting last month noted that window would be closed for federations outside Europe and South America.

CONCACAF will therefore be forced to alter plans in the run up to the World Cup, including changing the format of the qualification competition.

WELCOMED

The decision to change the match calendar was welcomed by the regional soccer (football) governing body, which said



Jamaica, U.S. may have to wait a bit longer.

many of its member associations and their communities continued to face significant challenges due to the spread of the highly contagious virus.

It added that it would work with its stakeholders to reorganize the CONCACAF Road to Gold Cup Qualifiers (originally scheduled for March and June 2020), its inaugural Nations League Finals, originally scheduled to be held in Houston and Dallas in June, and a range of other suspended competitions.

Given the elimination of the September window, the soccer body will be revamping the 2020 World Cup qualifying competition, nixing the

Hexagonal, which would have had to be followed by playoffs in two international windows.

In the Hex, the top six ranked CONCACAF teams based on the FIFA rankings play home-and-away round-robin matches. The top three teams would qualify for the World Cup, and the fourth-placed team would advance to the CONCACAF play-off round. So far, Jamaica is the only Caribbean nation which appears set to qualify for the Hex.

FIFA had also announced that the June 2021 window would be extended by seven days for CONCACAF and other federations outside Europe and South America, so they can play four games instead of two.

- Edited from CMC.



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Iconic Windies batsman dies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Legendary former West Indies batsman Sir Everton Weekes has died.

Sir Everton, who was up to the time of his death on July 1 the only surviving member of the storied “Three Ws” and the third oldest surviving men’s Test cricket player, died in his native Barbados at age 95 following a long illness.

He played 48 Test matches between 1948 and 1958, scoring 4,455 runs at an outstanding average of 58.61 per inning. He also made 15 centuries.

Sir Everton is the only batsman to make centuries in five consecutive Test innings.

His first class career yielded 12,010 runs at an average of 55, with 36 centuries.



Weekes

Sir Everton was knighted in 1995 for his service to cricket.

ICONIC

Iconic former West Indies captain Sir Clive Lloyd praised Sir Everton as “an absolutely wonderful human” who had been a “hero” to generations of cricketers.

In a touching tribute, Sir Clive said Sir Everton had also been a “pioneer” who had transcended the region to achieve global recognition.

“He was a great Barbadian and a great West Indian,” said Sir Clive, who was credited with molding West Indies into the great side of the 1970s and 1980s. “Someone who was proud to fly the West Indies flag wherever he went.

“He was a pioneer and paved the way for persons like myself to come along. Apart from his greatness as a cricketer he was an absolutely wonderful human. He was very humorous.”



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

RISE, SHINE: Bahamas gets ready to resume international travel after COVID-19 lockdown

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Ministry of Tourism and Aviation says it is preparing for the second phase of the Tourism Readiness and Recovery Plan, scheduled to begin July 1, and allow for the resumption of international travel to The Bahamas.

According to the ministry, plans continue to evolve in response to COVID-19 trends, but some of the guidelines in place include having all visitors presenting a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test upon arrival, with results no more than 10 days old.

Meanwhile, select individuals will be exempt from testing, including children under age two years, private pilots who do not deplane, and Bahamian citizens, residents and homeowners returning from English-speaking CARICOM countries.

PHASE 2

As part of Phase 2, hotels and vacation rentals, including Airbnb and HomeAway will open to guests and domestic. The following international airlines are permitted to resume service:

- Delta Airlines announced it will be resuming its twice daily Atlanta-to-Nassau service on July 2;
- United Airlines announced its daily Houston-to -Nassau service will resume July 6;



The nation is spreading the welcome mat.

- and the Saturday-only Denver-to-Nassau service is scheduled to resume July 11;
- American Airlines will resume flights to Nassau and Exuma on July 7; and
- Air Canada is scheduled to resume flights from Toronto to Nassau on July 3.

The ministry said additional airlift resummptions are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

'CAMPAIGN'

Once on island, travelers should expect to follow The

Bahamas' "Healthy Traveler Campaign" that encourages both visitors and residents to continue practicing social distancing measures, regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizers, and pack appropriate PPE, such as face masks, just as they would their swimsuits and sunscreen.

The ministry added that a certification agency has been established – representing a collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, and other regulatory

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18A)

Setbacks aside, we look to the future ~ CG

LINDA MACKEY

There is no better day to celebrate our nation than on Independence Day. It is a day that every citizen should have a sense of belonging wherever they find themselves.

As consul general I am honored to serve and bring greetings to the wonderful people of The Bahamas and friends of The Bahamas as we celebrate our 47th anniversary of Independence.

This year ushered in one of the greatest challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our lives, as we have known it, will be forever changed. However, with every challenge there is opportunity. We are grateful for a cleaner earth, more quality family time, and the ability to connect without direct contact.

Our faith in God and resilience as a people is the catalyst for successfully navigating this global crisis. The pandemic has proven that we are not in control, God is. It confirms that good planning, organization, wealth and health are all good but no guarantee for success as things are simply beyond our control.

Nonetheless, may we all be encouraged to press onward with hope knowing that our individual contribution is very important. We look in faith to the future, and commit our ways to His. Independence is a special and precious gift of God.

Happy Independence!

Linda Mackey is consul general, Bahamas Consulate, Miami.



ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas lies 50 miles off the coast of Florida, United States.

This year, the Caribbean nation will celebrate Independence Day on **July 10**.

The nation includes over 700 islands and cays, with 15 of the 16 unique island destinations

currently open for business.

The Bahamas offers visitors fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of water and beaches.

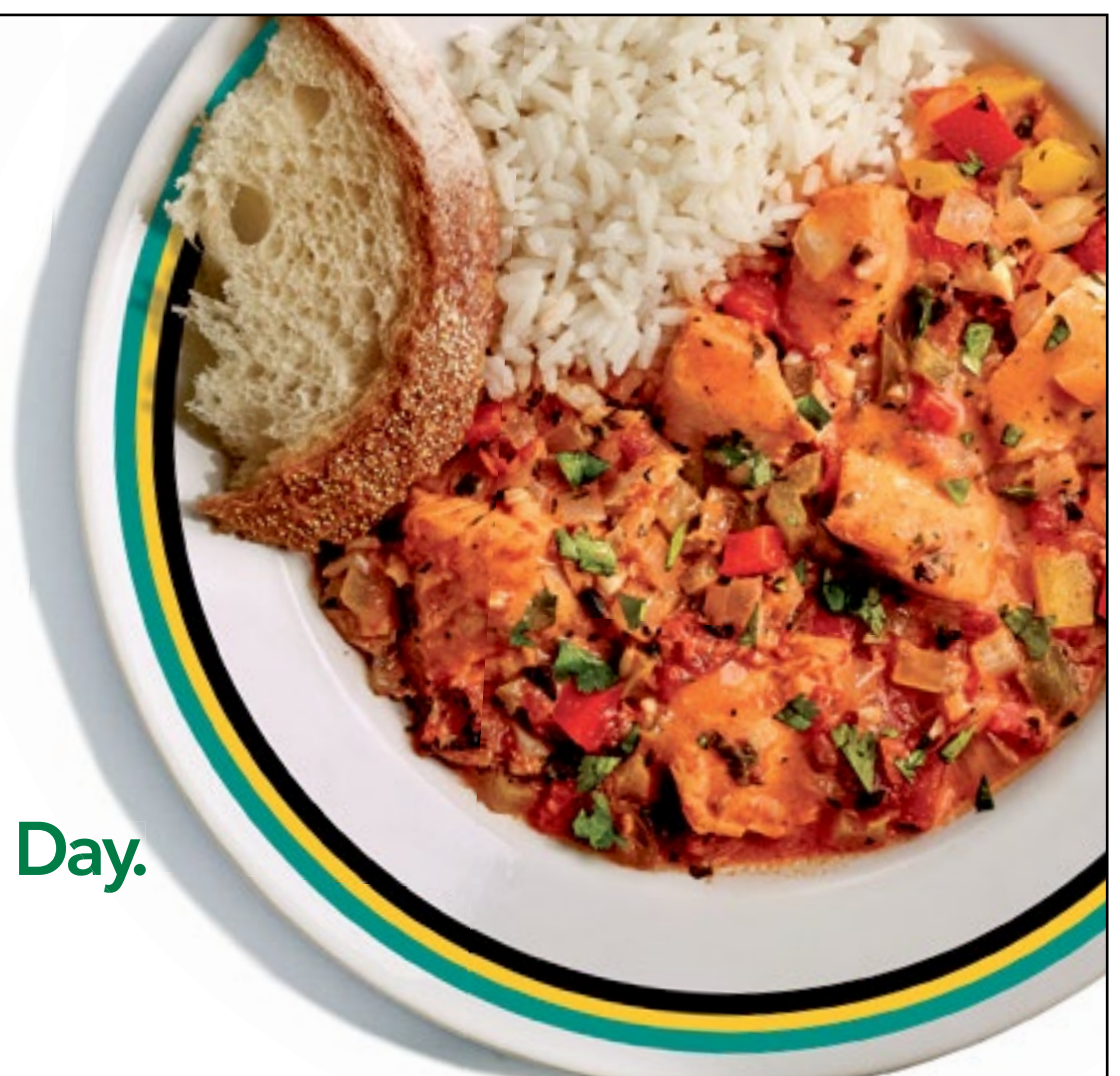
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SALUTE TO THE BAHAMAS



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Bahamas commits to eradicating racism, protecting human rights for all

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Bahamas government said it has re-affirmed its commitment to eradicating racism and protecting the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people.

Nassau made the pledge as it joined the international community, by way of consensus, in adopting a United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) draft resolution to further promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent.

In its statement to the UNHRC last month, The Bahamas said as a nation with a majority people of African descent, with a shared history of slavery, “we condemn all forms of racism and believe that equal treatment is a human right founded in natural justice.

“Therefore, The Bahamas joined consensus along with other members of the UNHCR, and indeed the international community, for the convening of an urgent debate on racism in light of recent events globally.”

ALIGNMENT

“The Bahamas is also aligned with the statement made by the Non-Aligned Movement,



Floyd's death sparked global anti-racism protests.

which denounces racism in all its insidious forms. As a result, the Bahamas is of the view that its position on racism, wherever it finds itself in the world, has been made demonstrably clear,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added.

“The Bahamas looks forward to engaging with other member states on the question of racism and human rights, which is of grave concern and needs to be eradicated wherever it raises its intolerable head.”

Race relations became a

major issue again following the recent death of American George Floyd at the hands of four police officers. The incident sparked protests in the United States and places around the globe.

Last month, participants in a debate at the U.N. Human Rights Council on systemic racism called for an independent investigation into the death of Floyd.

- Edited from CMC.



P.M. implements strict guide for opening during pandemic

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The Bahamas is moving into another stage of re-opening its economy during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic amid warnings that nationals and visitors alike could be fined as much as \$1,000 for failing to wear a mask in public.

The government is also appealing to nationals to remain in the country for fear of bringing about a new wave of the virus (COVID-19) if they should leave and then return.

Prime Minister Dr. Hubert Minnis, in a radio and television broadcast late last month, defended the decision to re-open the local economy from July 1, saying 50 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is derived from tourism, which employs directly and indirectly up to 60 percent of the working population.

He said the first phase of the re-opening of international tourism began on June 15 with the re-opening of the international borders to private aviation, yachts and pleasure craft.

MASKS

“Masks are to be worn by all persons, Bahamians, residents and visitors, entering and exiting our beaches,” the prime minister explained. “Please be reminded, gatherings on the beaches of more than five persons are strictly prohibited. This will result in a fine under the Emergency Orders.”

Minnis said the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Tourism will collaborate with and assist the Royal Bahamas Police Force, reiterating that persons not wearing face masks could be fined \$200 or sentenced one month imprisonment - or both.

“Additionally, we have already made it an offense for a business establishment to allow patrons to enter or remain in that establishment without a mask,” Minnis said.

“The fine for this offense on the first occurrence will be \$500 and on the second occurrence the fine will be \$1,000. On the third occurrence of this offense, the business establishment may be temporarily closed or required



Minnis

to pay a greater level of fines.”

REQUIREMENTS

Minnis said various requirements have been put in place for people entering the country.

“It remains the case that persons will be required to undergo an RTPCR COVID 19 molecular diagnostic test administered by an accredited lab prior to returning The Bahamas,” he said. “Effective 7th July, the results of the RTPCR COVID 19 test must have been taken no later than seven days prior to the date of arrival. Until that date, tests that have been taken no later than 10 days prior to travel will continue to be accepted.

“We have made the window of time for testing shorter for the protection of Bahamians and residents. Bahamians and residents returning to The Bahamas from countries where they cannot obtain the COVID 19 RTPCR test, may be permitted entry. We want our people to be able to return home. However, they must clearly demonstrate that the test was unavailable.

“They will also be subject to mandatory quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in The Bahamas. Bahamians and residents who have departed from The Bahamas and are returning after a period of 72 hours or less are not required to undergo a RTPCR COVID 19 test,” Minnis added.

CAUTION

The prime minister told the nation his administration had decided on re-opening the economy after careful

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19A)



It's that time of year again!! August is 'Back to School' month in Caribbean Today. Please join us as we explore what is new and expected for the upcoming school year.

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RISE, SHINE: Bahamas gets ready to resume international travel...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17A) agencies – to enforce a “Clean & Pristine” certification program across the islands.

“Re-opening of borders will continue to be monitored and guided by The Bahamas government and health officials. Re-opening dates are subject to change based on COVID-19 trends, if there is a deterioration in improvement or if government and health organizations deem these phases

unsafe for residents or visitors,” the statement noted.

“The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation believes it is an absolute baseline requirement for consumers to have a comfort level that The Bahamas is a safe and healthy destination to visit, and the ultimate goal is for that to remain the case.”

- Edited from CMC.



~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

Say what? Bahamian slang

Citizens of every Caribbean nation have their own way of expressing themselves and Bahamians are no different.

So this month, with the help of a column written by guest blogger Jason Todd on www.bahamas.com, we introduce a sample of Bahamian slang, just in case you drop by.

Whatchusayin –

Translation: What are you saying? A greeting meaning “How are you?” or “Is everything OK?”

Bey – Translation: Term of endearment/warning.

(Pronounced buoy, but sped up considerably.) Think of it like the word “dude”, which could

be a greeting, warning, threat, or celebration.

WellMuddaSick! –

Translation: Well my mother is sick. It loosely translates to “wow!” or “holy cow!” and is used when either something extremely good or something extremely bad happens.

Das a wibe! – Translation:

That’s a vibe, meaning that’s quite the situation that’s transpiring.

Yeah, ya see – Translation:

Indeed. Usually what is said when a person vehemently agrees with you. Either that or they agree with actions that are about to transpire.



Tourism ministry offers virtual sales missions in U.S., Canada

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation has been hosting a series of virtual sales missions in the United States and Canada, during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, in an effort to promote the Caribbean nation for the travel trade, other business partners and suppliers.

Without the ability to host face-to-face interactions to which the sales teams were accustomed, the ministry has pivoted to launching and participating in online events such as webinars, virtual travel shows, virtual trip simulations and live social media sessions.

It is part of a plan to share The Bahamas’ road to recovery. The effort has brought together



Jibrilu

the country’s international partners in the U.S. and Canada for virtual meetings hosted by Director General Joy Jibrilu.

“While grappling with the effects of COVID-19, all travel

was put on hold,” said Jibrilu last month, “but we remained committed to providing our travel suppliers, travel agent communities, key meeting planners and destination wedding planners, flying ambassadors, boating community and all of our other business partners with the resources and information they needed to assure new and returning guests, we would be ready once the world was ready to travel again.

“Now, more than ever, we need to show our partners just how important they are since we will be calling upon them to help bring tourists back to our shores, the moment it is safe to do so.”



ENDANGERED SPECIES: Disease severely affecting Bahamas corals ~ report

NASSAU, The Bahamas – A disease is ravaging reef-building corals and endangered species in The Bahamas as it moves undetected on the currents of waves and likely in the ballast water from ships.

A new report by the United States-based Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS), noted that the presence of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) has been confirmed in New Providence, less than three months after its deadly presence in Grand Bahama was publicly revealed.

According to PIMS, a non-



SCTLD has damaged reefs in New Providence.

profit organization committed to protecting oceans, the only sign of SCTLD’s troubling presence is the white exposed skeleton

left in its wake.

Last month, a rapid assessment team led by PIMS senior scientist Dr. Krista Sherman surveyed the six sites between Columbus Cove on the northwest end of the island and Lighthouse Boulders, off the western end of Paradise

Island near the entrance to the port of Nassau. Photographs which were shot by Jenna Chaplin, a concerned Nassau resident, suggested stony corals surrounding New Providence were losing tissue, just like vast areas of shallow reefs in Grand Bahama, whose infection PIMS confirmed in March.

INFECTED

“Sixty-five percent of the corals assessed at Sandyport were infected with SCTLD and five percent of corals were recently dead. The greatest recent coral mortality was observed just off Caves Point, with 17 percent of corals dead,” said Dr. Sherman.

“However, the shallow reef off Baha Mar had the greatest number of corals infected with SCTLD, other diseases and more recently dead corals than other sites. In contrast, reefs in the Traveller’s Rest area had the greatest number of healthy

colonies, fewer corals infected with SCTLD and the lowest recent mortality compared to other sites.”

According to PIMS, more detailed assessments are needed to help conclude what is driving the severity of cases, with Dr. Craig Dahlgren, PIMS executive director and marine ecologist, noting “for corals, this disease is as easy to catch and transmit as the common cold and has the mortality rate of Ebola.”

Corals typically face several threats, including nearly a dozen different diseases. Each disease normally infects only about two to three species. In the case of SCTLD, roughly half of coral species in the Bahamas are susceptible. Being more lethal and spreading faster means SCTLD could potentially kill coral in a matter of weeks.

- Edited from CMC.



P.M. implements strict guide for opening during pandemic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18A) deliberations.

“We are re-opening because we must carefully balance the health, economic and social needs of our people in order to secure our country in the medium- and long-term,” Minnis said.

“We have to re-open to get more Bahamians back to work and to get businesses and the economy back to work.

“Like a number of other countries, we are reopening because we have been successful in arresting the community spread of COVID-19 in The Bahamas.”

Minnis said he also wanted to make “a very strong plea

to Bahamians and residents considering or planning to travel overseas for nonessential travel — to not go overseas at this time.

“If you are thinking of traveling for non-essential or nonemergency reasons, please, I beg you, stay at home at this time.

“... If you travel to these areas and go to malls, shops, restaurants and other establishments you might catch the virus. You could bring the virus home and community spread could start again,” Minnis warned.

- Edited from CMC.



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**The Honorable
Barbara J. Jordan**
Miami-Dade County
Commissioner
DISTRICT ONE



Celebrating 47 years of Independence

As the Bahamas observes its Independence Day, Bahamians locally and abroad will commemorate this historic occasion. The residents of Miami-Dade County join in celebrating this milestone and we all will reflect on the many contributions of Bahamian people.

Congratulations on this special day, and best wishes for prosperity in years to come!


 Barbara J. Jordan



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