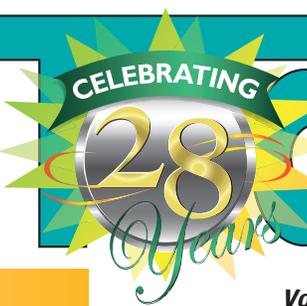


Caribbean Today

SEPTEMBER 2017



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TRUMP HUMP

~ It just got harder for Caribbean nationals to obtain United States permanent residency or "green card" under the administration of President Donald Trump, page 3.



Caribbean nationals are rallying behind what they believe is a long overdue push by Jamaica to clear its late National Hero Marcus Garvey of criminal charges brought against him by the United States, page 2.



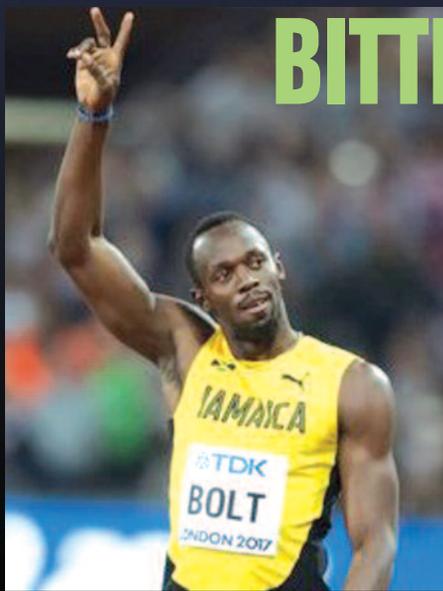
Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette Clarke is fighting to remove statues of the Confederacy

from all United States military bases and change street names honoring those who waged war against the U.S. to protect the evil institution of slavery, page 5.

BITTERSWEET

~ Sprint legend Usain Bolt, left, bid farewell to track and field, but Trinidad and Tobago's 4x400 meters relay team and Bolt's Jamaican compatriot Omar

McLeod found golden form at last month's IAAF World Championships, despite the Caribbean's overall disappointing show. Coverage on pages 7, 9, 14 and 19.



INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE

News	2	Arts/Entertainment	11	Belize Independence	17
Health	6	Food	13	Sports	18
Feature	7	Salute to T&T	14	Tourism/Travel	19
Viewpoint	9	Classifieds	16		



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LONG OVERDUE: Jamaica pushes to clear Garvey of U.S. criminal charges

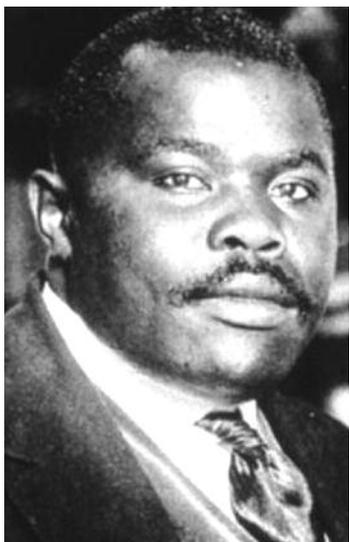
GORDON WILLIAMS

Caribbean nationals are rallying behind what they believe is a long overdue push by Jamaica to clear Marcus Garvey of criminal charges brought against the country's National Hero by the United States.

The Jamaica government recently announced it wants to "remove the blots" from the name of the late Garvey, who in 1923 was convicted of mail fraud in U.S.

"It should have been done a long time ago," Dr. Julius Garvey, who currently lives in the U.S. and has continuously lobbied for his father's exoneration, said of Jamaica's announcement. "I don't know what the hesitancy in this was about."

According to Olivia Grange, Jamaica's minister of culture, gender, entertainment and sport, the Caribbean nation is completing legislation that will clear Garvey as he, and other



Marcus Garvey

"iconic" Jamaicans, were wrongfully punished.

"We continue to argue that Garvey's actions were not criminal, but were acts of liberation with moral justification," Grange declared last month.

"The bill should be brought to the House in October to absolve National Heroes, including Garvey and

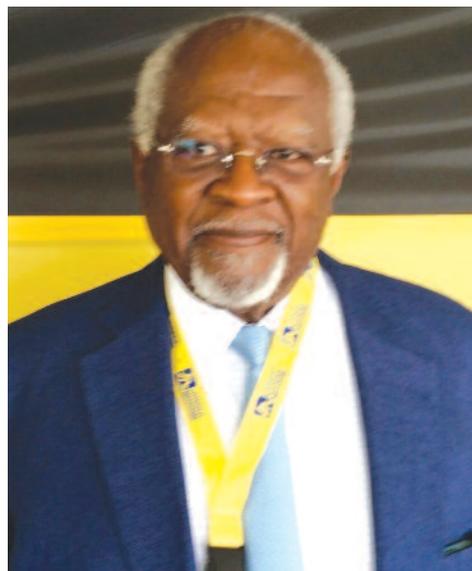
other freedom fighters of criminal liabilities arising from their acts of liberation and connected matters. By including Garvey in this bill, we are moving to ensure that his record will be totally cleared."

DASHED HOPE

Caribbean nationals in the U.S. were hoping Garvey would have received a pardon from former U.S. President Barack Obama. A petition lobbying for such a move secured thousands of signatures. However, Obama left office in January without issuing the pardon, although he commuted the sentences of 330 other persons on his last day in office. Dr. Garvey declined to comment on Obama's decision.

"I'm not going to get into that," he told **Caribbean Today** late last month. "It's 55 years of Jamaica's Independence and so let's deal with that."

However, some U.S. law-



...Photograph by Gordon Williams

Dr. Julius Garvey

makers have rallied to clear Garvey's name.

"While the exoneration and/or pardon of the Right

Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey remains elusive, unresolved and unfinished business, we must continue our education and organizing efforts in the pursuit of justice for the legendary icon," said Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, daughter of Jamaican immigrants.

JUSTICE CRY

Clarke, along with 17 other representatives in the U.S. Congress, had called on Obama to pardon Garvey, who many have recognized as the "Father of the 20th century civil rights movement".

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

U.S. begins legal battle to extradite radical Jamaican Muslim cleric

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The legal battle has started to extradite Jamaican-born radical cleric Trevor William Forrest, who has been indicted in the United States on charges he used his public profile and personal network to recruit and provide support to those seeking to commit acts of violence and terrorism.

Forrest, 53, also known as Shaikh Abdullah Faisal and Shaikh Faisal, was remanded into custody until Sept. 11 when he appeared at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court recently.

His lawyers indicated they intended to file an application for bail on behalf of their client, since the disclosure of documents will be made on Oct. 27 when the cleric is due back in court.

ISIS LINK

On Aug. 25, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. and New York City Police Commissioner James O'Neill said Forrest used his network to aid the Islamic State (ISIS). They said Faisal had been indicted for soliciting or providing support for an act of terrorism in the first degree as a crime of terrorism and other charges.

The indictment followed a year-long investigation by the New York Police Department (NYPD) Intelligence Bureau and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office's Counter Terrorism Program.

"Shaikh Faisal has dedicated his life to terror recruitment," Vance said. "... He



Forrest

provided material support to the Islamic State by facilitating the passage of a self-described ISIS sympathizer from New York to Syria."

SUPPORT

Vance said Faisal's rhetoric has been cited by several convicted or suspected terrorists in New York, London and elsewhere.

Since 2014, Faisal, who was previously convicted in the United Kingdom of crimes related to inciting murder and using racially charged, hateful rhetoric in furtherance of terrorist ideologies, has publicly supported a terrorist organization known as ISIS or ISIL.

He reportedly "called for the establishment of an Islamic caliphate through violent acts encouraged by the defendant's online lectures and militant propaganda," the indictment noted.

- Edited from CMC.

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ROAD BLOCK: Trump erects hurdles in Caribbean nationals' path to U.S. 'green card'

It just got harder for nationals of the Caribbean and other places in the world to obtain United States permanent residency or "green card" under the administration of President Donald Trump.

The Trump administration



Trump

announced late last month that applicants for U.S. permanent residence in certain categories will need to participate in an interview, which was not done before. The move, some observers believe, will considerably delay the process by which immigrants get a "green card".

Under law, most persons applying for permanent residence are required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to sit for an interview. However, in practice the USCIS does not interview all applicants, waiving that process for those in some cases so the agency can concentrate resources on cases with higher risk applicants.

According to USCIS, Trump's new directive, which stems from his executive order known as the travel ban, is also designed to combat fraud. It is the latest effort by the Trump administration to crack down on illegal immigration and perceived abuse of the legal immigration system, a central focus of Trump's since the 2016 presidential election campaign.

START

The new policy will go into effect on Oct. 1. Under the directive, people applying for "green cards" based on their employment or for refugee and asylee relatives will be subject to an interview.

According to current published USCIS guidelines, many individuals applying for employment-based "green cards" have their interview waived, especially if they have extraordinary abilities and if the employer petitioning on their behalf is the same one that sponsored their initial work visa.

Last month's order doesn't affect other broad cate-

gories of people generally exempt from interviews, including fiancés and parents of U.S. citizens. But USCIS said it plans to incrementally expand interviews in other categories.

However Leon Rodriguez, USCIS director under the administration of

former President Barack Obama, questioned the decision to institute interviews for all employment-based applicants, saying it doesn't seem to be matched to a particular threat of fraud or national security.

Another concern for critics of the decision is the length

of time it could add to the "green card" application process. According to a tracking tool maintained by USCIS, as of Sept. 30, 2016, it took an average of 333 days, just under a year, to process employment-based applications - that was with the interview waivers that were being

granted.

The new policies could affect roughly 180,000 people per year, according to 2015 statistics released by USCIS.

- Edited from multiple sources, including CNN.



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May	\$154.87

SAFETY CONCERN: P.M. laments breakdown of Jamaica's citizen security

The lack of security for its citizens may be the greatest hindrance to Jamaica's development and job creation, according to Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

Addressing the Jamaica 55 Independence Gala late last month in New York City, Holness said in order to reduce the level of criminal activity in the Caribbean island, the government "has passed a groundbreaking piece of legislation which, with others to come, and other initiatives to be



Holness

announced, will, for the first time since our Independence

empower the government to confront the breakdown in law and order and public safety in our country and to return Jamaica to a safe and secure place of choice."

The prime minister assured members of Jamaica's diaspora of his government's commitment to continued engagement with them in an effort to secure the legacy of sustained growth and development.

He said Jamaica is committed to building on the legacy gained by its achievements aimed at transforming the nation into "a peaceful and orderly society with access to world-class education and training; high quality health care; sustained, inclusive economic growth, development; job and wealth creation, and an end to poverty, particularly intergenerational poverty."

Holness commended diaspora members for their overwhelming support of the recently held Jamaica 55 Disapora Conference in Kingston. He explained that some 60 percent of the attendees were first time conference participants.

- Edited from JIS.



Dominica's P.M. plans visit to hurricane-ravaged Texas

ROSEAU, Dominica – Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said he intends to visit the hurricane-ravaged United States city of Houston, Texas where residents are still dazed by the battering they took from Hurricane Harvey last month.

"I wish to express my empathy and solidarity with the government of the United States of America and more particularly, the residents of the state of Texas, Houston more specifically," Skerrit said last month, describing the situation as "a catastrophic disaster.

Skerrit said when he looked at the thousands of families that have been affect-



Skerrit

ed, "it really, really touches my heart as a world citizen, and I know that we have several Dominican families resi-

dent in Houston.

"I have had the opportunity to reach out directly to some of them and to express our concern and indicated to them the willingness of Dominica to assist where we can," he said. "I intend to visit Houston myself personally at the earliest opportunity to meet with Dominican residents there and to see how we can assist in restoring their lives to normalcy."

Skerrit said he also has American friends who are resident in Houston and whom he had spoken to since the storm hit the city.

- Edited from CMC.



LONG OVERDUE: Jamaica pushes to clear Garvey of U.S. criminal charges

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

"(Garvey) is a case of unjustified persecution that continues to cry out for justice," Clarke said recently.

Marcus Garvey would have celebrated his 130th birthday on Aug. 17. He is revered by many as one who fought relentlessly for the betterment of black people.

Grange said Jamaica will continue to lobby the U.S. to exonerate Garvey, although previous attempts failed.

"As a country, we have done a number of things to honor this great son of Jamaica and to remove the

blots against his name," she said. "... We cannot give up this fight to clear his name."

SUPPORT

The Jamaica government's call has met welcome ears overseas.

"There are a number of Jamaicans in South Florida supportive of efforts to get Marcus Garvey's name cleared," said Franz Hall, Jamaica's consul general in Miami. "There's good support in the Jamaican community."

Dr. Garvey is also hoping that the names of other icons in the fight for freedom in

Jamaica will also be cleared, including National Heroes Paul Bogle, George William Gordon and Sam Sharpe.

"The government should clear all our National Heroes who were charged during colonialization," he said.

"They were all fighting for freedom. So they should be cleared of any criminal charges against them in their fight for freedom in Jamaica."

- CMC reports contributed to this story.





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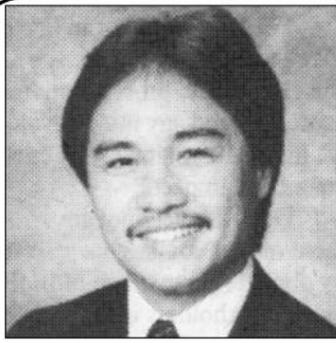


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INSULT: Congresswoman demands re-naming streets at U.S. military base

BROOKLYN, New York – Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke last month called on the Department of the Army to change two street names at Fort Hamilton, which she said “have for decades been used to honor men who waged war against the United States to protect the evil institution of slavery.”

“These memorials are an insult,” Clarke, who represents the 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, told a press conference outside Fort Hamilton.

“They are a personal insult to the hundreds of thousands of women and men in Brooklyn who are descendants of a people held in bondage.”

“They are an insult to many of the members of the armed forces honorably serving our country at this military base, for we are still living with the legacy of slavery and the refusal of this nation to truly accept the outcome of the Civil War,” added the daughter of Jamaican immigrants. “That legacy remains continues to threaten our community.”

‘TERRIBLE LEGACY’

Clarke said “that terrible legacy was the reason neo-Nazis and other white supremacists last month

Jamaica gets new area code

Persons calling Jamaica from overseas will have the option of dialing area code 876 or 658 starting May 31 next year.

“It became necessary for Jamaica to get an additional ... area code ... to ensure that there are sufficient numbers available to satisfy growth in demand for these resources over the next 25 years,” Jamaica’s Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) explained late last month.

“... However, the most immediate change will be the introduction of 10-digit dialing for local telephone calls, come May 31, 2018,” OUR added.

By Dec. 2009, 6.25 million of the assumed capacity of 7.73 million numbers had been assigned. Projected demand is 1.31 million over the next three years.

Edited from CMC.

marched through the streets of Charlottesville (Virginia) with torches and guns – the standard equipment of the Ku Klux Klan.” She said these individuals were trying to defend a statue of Robert E. Lee, located in Emancipation Park in Charlottesville, and noted that the City Council in

Charlottesville and the mayor “realized that a public monument to a man who represents white supremacy – and nothing else – was simply not acceptable in 2017.”

In its initial response to the congressional representatives’ request, the Army claimed that changing the

street names at Fort Hamilton would be “divisive”.

“We strongly disagree,” Clarke said, stating that the names symbolize “a continuing effort to divide our nation by race, an effort that, very unfortunately, has been joined by the man who now occupies the White House.”

Last month, Clarke introduced the “Honoring Real Patriots Act of 2017” in the U.S. House of Representatives to remove Confederate monuments from military bases.

- Edited from CMC.



Clarke

SPECIAL ELECTION ALERT: VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 26 – PUNCH #16



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Annette and her daughter, Sofia, with Michelle Obama. The former First Lady is holding a drawing Sofia gave her.

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St. Kitts begins probe of unapproved herpes vaccine tests done by U.S. university

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts – The St. Kitts and Nevis government has launched an investigation into the use of health facilities here to conduct tests, with the assistance of an American university, of a vaccine to cure herpes without its approval.

“It has been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Health that certain clinical trials were being conducted in the federation, with the support of Southern Illinois University in the United States of America (USA),” the ministry noted.

“The Ministry of Health states categorically that neither the Cabinet, the Ministry of Health, the office of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) nor the St. Kitts and Nevis Medical Board has ever been approached on this project.

“By extension, none of these agencies has approved such a venture. As a result, an active investigation has commenced into this project. The



Ministry of Health will always ensure that all research involving human participants follow international standards which protect the safety and security of persons involved,” the government added in the statement.

SCANDAL

Late last month, Opposition Leader Dr. Denzil Douglas said the use of the island to conduct the tests not only raised ethical questions, but promoted the twin-island federation in the international community as a rogue state or a banana republic.

“This scandal has rocked the nation around the world

with this negative image,” said Dr. Douglas in response to U.S. media reports that at least 20 American nationals were flown to the Caribbean island to participate in the testing program between June and August 2016.

International media reports note that at least \$7 million had been pumped into the testing of an experimental drug which did not rely on traditional U.S. government safety oversight in the first trial.

Neither the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) nor a safety panel, known as an institutional review board, or IRB, monitored the testing of a vaccine its creators say prevents herpes outbreaks.

Former Chief Medical Officer Dr. Patrick Martin said no vaccine trial in the federation came to his attention when he served from Oct. 1, 2004 to June 16 last year.

- Edited from CMC.



Florida health department offers free dental treatment

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County has launched a free fluoride treatment dental service program for children to prevent cavities.

Hygienists from DOH-Broward are offering a free dental exam and tooth-strengthening fluoride varnish to clients of the department's Women Infants and Children (WIC) family nutrition program.

Last year, the department began providing free dental sealant treatment to students at Broward County elementary and middle schools. More than 25,000 received sealants during the past school year, according to the department.

The fluoride varnish is a flavored gel that is brushed onto a child's teeth to soak in for several hours or overnight. Studies show the varnish can strengthen tooth enamel and help prevent cavities, the department stated.

So far, the service is being

offered at WIC offices in Lauderdale Lakes and Hollywood, but there are plans to expand it later this year to the five other WIC offices – two in Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Coral Springs and Pembroke Pines.

DOUBLE DUTY

The treatment will be offered to kids on hand for the family's normal WIC visit, so no appointments are necessary.

“For parents, it's like killing two birds with one stone,” Dr. Paula Thaqui, director of DOH-Broward, explained. “It's like going for a dental appointment at the same time you are at WIC.”

The treatment is available for ages one to 20. Hygienists give the children an exam, a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss and explain the proper way to care for their teeth. Then they paint on the varnish, which comes in caramel, mint



- Photograph contributed
Hygienist Sharon Simpson applies dental varnish for 12-year-old Jose Perdomo of Sunrise.

and fruit flavors. Children are offered a free or low-cost appointment at DOH-Broward dental practice offices. There, they can see a dentist for more extensive dental care.

Since May about 3,000 children have been treated.

- Contributed by DOH-Broward.



U.S. firm markets Zika virus diagnostic to Caribbean

UTAH – A molecular diagnostics company, based in the United States, said it has strengthened relationships with key regional customers throughout the Caribbean basin to purchase Zika virus diagnostic.

Co-Diagnostics Inc, located here, said its potential customer base across the Caribbean includes laboratories, regional health ministries, and hospitals interested in

offering a state-of-the-art molecular diagnostic for the mosquito borne Zika virus to their patients.

“To date, representatives and future product distributors have conducted on-site suitability assessments at dozens of locations in countries across the region, with the understanding that these locations would be among the first to have access to the Zika virus test upon completion of

successful performance evaluation and validation studies,” the company noted.

Earlier this year the World Health Organization urged Caribbean countries to continue to be vigilant although there has been a decline in cases of the mosquito-borne Zika virus.

Edited from CMC.



Caribbean American senator supports single-payer system

Caribbean American United States Senator Kamala Harris has announced she will co-sponsor a single payer health care bill scheduled for introduction this month.

The freshman senator from California, viewed as a rising political star and whose father Donald Harris is from Jamaica, will join the effort of fellow Democrat Senator Bernie Sanders.

Harris announced her support for single-payer during a town hall meeting in her home state late last month.

“Here, I'll break some news: I intend to co-sponsor the Medicare-for-all bill, because it's just the right thing to do,” Harris told the audience.

CONTROVERSIAL

The single-payer system has long been a controversial issue in the U.S. Many Democrats have supported the idea of health care through a system where all citizens pay into the government-run program. Republicans have resisted the concept, saying it represents too much government interference in health care.

However, with the uncertainty currently surrounding the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as “Obamacare” because it was signed into law by former U.S. President Barack Obama, single-payer has taken a more prominent role in the health care debate.

Harris's decision to co-sponsor the single-payer bill indicates a growing shift from a private insurance market

Making drinking water safe

When it comes to emergency and natural disaster preparation, clean, uncontaminated water should be top-of-mind.

September, which is National Preparedness Month, is an ideal time for individuals and families to make certain that they will be able to hydrate safely throughout the duration of an emergency.

Natural disasters, such as tornadoes, floods and hurricanes, can compromise local water sources. Flooding can be especially dangerous, when harmful bacteria and contaminants that transmit life-threatening diseases can be present in nearby waterways.

Unfortunately, flooding can occur after a number of emergency scenarios, from heavy rains to hurricanes to situations when snow melts too quickly.

PROBLEM

“Contamination in fresh water sources continues to be a public health problem



Harris

toward a more government-run system. Other Democrats have supported it as well.

A RIGHT

“This is about understanding, again, that health care should be a right, not a privilege,” Harris said at the town hall meeting. “And it's also about being smart.

“It is so much better that people have meaningful access to affordable health care at every stage of life, from birth on. Because the alternative is that we as taxpayers otherwise are paying huge amounts of money for them to get their health care in an emergency room.

“So it's not only about what is morally and ethically right, it also makes sense from a fiscal standpoint, or if you want to talk about it as a return on investment for taxpayers.”

Single-payer health care is expected to become a hot button issue for upcoming elections in the U.S., including the 2020 presidential campaign.



domestically and worldwide,” says Alison Hill, managing director of LifeStraw, a manufacturer of water filtration systems.

“During emergency scenarios, the issue is amplified as water can become unreliable for consumption.”

Consumers need to have the ability to filter their water following an emergency situation. Be sure your emergency supplies include a portable filter, which can fit onto a wide variety of popular water bottle brands.

While most people don't like to dwell on worst case scenarios, the right preparation can help you remain healthy and safe during an emergency. This National Preparedness Month; be sure that you equip your family with practical means to have safe drinking water.

- Edited from StatePoint.



NO OBSTACLE: Brilliant McLeod lifts Jamaica at World Champs

GORDON WILLIAMS

LONDON, England - As if clearing 10 barriers while trying to outrun the world's elite athletes wasn't enough, 23-year-old Omar McLeod suddenly found himself carrying the weight of an entire nation's hopes entering the final of the men's 110 meters hurdles at last month's IAAF World Championships here.

Over successive days before, fellow Jamaican megastars Usain Bolt and Elaine Thompson had stunningly failed to deliver 100 meters gold, as much of the track and field world anticipated, even expected.

In Bolt's final solo race before he retired, he managed bronze, beaten by Americans Justin Gatlin and Christian Coleman. Equally favored Thompson didn't even make the medal podium. It was a thumping one-two body blow for Jamaica, long considered the sprint capital of the world.

Even worse, according to McLeod, the disappointing results had begun to erode the Jamaica camp's morale. The

defending Olympic sprint hurdling champion believed it his duty to rally a desperate team.

"It was really daunting," McLeod recalled after capturing the Caribbean's first gold medal of the championships on Aug. 7.

"Everybody's face was down and I felt it and it was up to me ... I took it up on myself to really change that. I mean, I was like, 'I want to bring the spark back. There is still hope'.

"We lost the two major sprint events we usually dominate in, that Jamaica is normally pampered with gold medals in, and I was like it's up to us now."

TOUGH

McLeod desperately wanted to win for Bolt, who he considers an icon, his teammates and Jamaica. But first he had to confront the threat from what he described as "probably one of the hardest (hurdles) line-ups ever in history." The field included world record holder Aries Merritt of the United States and defending world champion Sergey Shubenkov, who

competed as an authorized neutral athlete.

"I think it was up to me to set that momentum again," recalled McLeod, "especially after what happened to Usain Bolt and Elaine (Thompson) and I especially wanted to dedicate this win to Usain Bolt's retirement."

Just like last year's Olympics, he powered home ahead of the field.

McLeod was "overcome with emotion."

Shortly after the race, when he clocked 13.04 seconds to beat Shubenkov, he ran towards the stands to embrace his mother. Much later, he was still unsure how to describe his accomplishments, being now world indoor and outdoor, plus



McLeod

Olympic, hurdling champion.

"It's mind blowing," said McLeod. "... But I'm really happy that I was able to come out here and deliver once more."

BRANCH OUT

Track and field will need

him to deliver again. With Bolt's departure, McLeod is undoubtedly the best in his discipline and among the sport's biggest names. He has already announced plans to branch out, eyeing competition in the 100 and 200 meters.

"I have that in mind," McLeod explained. "... I know I want to run a 100. So hopefully I get to run 100 or 200."

At the championships here, McLeod, who has a 100 meters best time of 9.99 seconds, was named to start Jamaica's 4x100 relay team in the final. Bolt, the anchor, pulled up injured, denying McLeod another possible medal. The 400 meters hurdles, which he claims he could "dominate," is also a possibility.

McLeod's versatility is unquestioned. He successfully competed in multiple disciplines between high school in Jamaica and college in the U.S. He calls the 200 meters - not the hurdles - his favorite event.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

BAPTISM OF FIRE: U.S. calls out Caribbean on religious freedom

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Though religious freedom is generally upheld in most - if not all - Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries, the United States has called out some nations for what it describes as religious intolerance.

In releasing the 2016 International Religious Freedom Report recently, the U.S. Department of State said almost 20 years after passage of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, "conditions in many parts of the world are far from ideal," including those in the Caribbean.

The Department of State cited instances of what it regarded as religious intolerance in some CARICOM-member states, particularly in the larger ones. In Haiti, for example, the State Department said that while voodoo has been a registered religious group since 2003, it has not been able to perform civilly-recognized marriages or baptisms.

"By law, the government provided funds and services to the Catholic church but not to other religious groups," the report noted, adding that the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Denominations (MFA) did



Tillerson

not act on a pending request to register the Muslim community and that many non-denominational Christian and Muslim groups said they operated without registering with the MFA.

The report noted that a mob decapitated a voodoo priest following reports that the priest had used his spiritual powers to kill a local woman and a church director.

COLLABORATION

The report stated that U.S. embassy officials met with the MFA to reinforce the importance of religious freedom, as well as equal protections and equal legal rights for minority religious groups.

It noted that embassy representatives also met with faith-based nongovernmental

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Fall Health

The October issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community. With a proven track record now in our 28th year of service to readers in the United States and the Caribbean Basin, Caribbean Today reaches an audience of over 112,000 highly qualified readers.

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BAPTISM OF FIRE: U.S. calls out Caribbean on religious freedom

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

organizations (NGOs) and religious leaders to seek their views on religious freedom.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the report stated that while the republic's constitution prohibits discrimination based on religion, some groups believed the government provided less financial support for religious ceremonies than in previous years, and that they were invited to officiate at fewer government ceremonies.

But the government said the reason for the decrease in funding for religious groups was a decrease in the national budget.

The State Department said a "colonial-era law" criminalizing the practices of obeah and myalism in Jamaica remains in effect "but is not enforced."

The report stated that Rastafarians said acceptance of their views and practices "have improved markedly, although cases of discrimination and profiling by police do continue to occur."

OPPOSITION

In addition, the report stated that Rastafarians reiterated their opposition to the state-mandated immunization of children as a prerequisite to register and attend school.

The State Department said Seventh Day Adventists have complained that their observance of a Saturday Sabbath in Jamaica caused them to be discriminated against by some employers, despite a "flexi-work week" law passed by Parliament in 2014 that gave employees the right to negotiate working hours.

Jamaican Rastafarians said elements of their religious observances, such as wearing dreadlocks and smoking marijuana, continued to "present barriers in employment and professional advancement," according to the report.

It noted that local media outlets provided a forum for religious debate, open to participants from all religious groups, adding that the U.S. embassy officers met with

government officials and religious groups, including Christians, Muslims, Jews and Rastafarians.

The U.S. Department of State said discrimination on the basis of religion is prohibited in Belize, but added that a dispute over church representation in the senate caused a division among evangelical Protestants, leading to the formation of the National Evangelical Association (NEA) as an offshoot of the Belize Association of Evangelical Churches (AEC).

"As the NEA was not officially recognized by the government, it could not contribute to the choice of church representation in the senate," the State Department reported.

It said a Christian non-governmental organization (NGO) continued to manage the only prison in the country, "which uses religion as the basis of prisoner rehabilitation." Additionally, the State Department said leaders in the Council of Churches in Belize reported certain evangelical Protestant pastors "acted irresponsibly in radio and television broadcasts" by attacking religious leaders who supported an August Supreme Court ruling that found parts of the criminal code criminalizing consensual same-sex activities unconstitutional.

The State Department lamented that the Surinamese government provided "limited subsidies" to a number of elementary and secondary schools established and managed by various religious groups.

The report stated that the Ministry of Education in Suriname reiterated government policy, "which prohibits the practice or teaching of religion in public schools."

CONCERN

In Antigua and Barbuda, the report stated that Rastafarians "continued to express concern that government practices, including the prohibition of marijuana use, required vaccination for entry to public schools and head-dress restrictions, negatively impacted their religious activities and convictions.



Some religions haven't been praised in the region.

"They also reported being subjected to undue scrutiny at security checkpoints," stated the report, also underscoring alleged religious intolerance and unfair treatment of Rastafarians in a number of other islands.

The Organization for Rastafarians in Unity (ORU) in St. Kitts and Nevis said Rastafarians "continued to experience discrimination in school enrollment and in celebrating their religious holidays," according to the report.

HARASSMENT

It said the ORU protested what they stated was police harassment and the mandatory cutting of dreadlocks while in prison. The ORU said the government continued to prohibit their use of marijuana for religious rituals, the report noted.

According to the ORU, Rastafarians said they faced societal discrimination, including when seeking employment, because of their dreadlocks, which they said were an important component of their faith.

The State Department said U.S. embassy officers met with government officials to discuss religious freedom, including issues of the Rastafarian community, and that embassy officials also spoke with the St. Kitts and Nevis Christian Council and a leader of the Rastafarian community.

In Dominica, the State Department said Rastafarians "continued to disagree with the government's prohibition

of marijuana use and said they were subjected to scrutiny from police and immigration officers."

The report said the St. Lucia government does not officially recognize marriages conducted under Rastafarian rites and that Rastafarians reported reluctance to use marijuana for religious purposes "because of the government's prohibition and imposition of fines for any use."

DISCRIMINATION

In light of their belief against vaccinating their children, Rastafarians in St. Lucia claimed that they faced discrimination in the school system, the report said, noting as a result, some Rastafarian families decided to vaccinate their children or to home school them.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), Rastafarians said they disagreed with the government's ban on marijuana, stating it was integral to their religious rituals, according to the report. It said vaccinations as a requirement for school enrollment remained under discussion between Ministry of Health officials and Rastafarians with school-age children in SVG.

Rastafarians were concerned about access to public education in Barbados, the State Department reported, adding that Rastafarians said they faced discrimination, specifically for their dreadlocks, "but that attitudes regarding Rastafarianism were becoming more positive."

NO OBSTACLE: Brilliant McLeod lifts Jamaica at World Champs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

McLeod doesn't see the added workload as a burden; just a challenge. However, he wants to break the 110 meters hurdles world record of 12.80 seconds, set by Merritt in 2012, before moving on. McLeod's personal best is 12.90.

'HISTORIC'

He doesn't just want to be great. McLeod has bigger ambitions.

"Definitely," he said of his track ambitions. "I mean, why settle? I wanna be historic. I don't want to settle.

"I'm not just about hurdl-ing and, you know, world

indoor, Olympic, world champion. I think I've done it all for hurdling. So I just need to break that record now and just experiment a little more with different events."

So no one should be surprised at his choices. The competition in the "flat" sprints will be greater, but the

barriers less. McLeod seems to like that idea.

"Yes!," he said, then burst into laughter.

There are no obstacles ahead, McLeod believes. Just fun.

Additionally, the report noted that Muslims objected to a government policy that required women to remove the hijab for identification and passport photographs.

The State Department reported that Guyana's government "limited the number of visas for foreign representatives of religious groups, based on historical trends, the relative size of the group, and the president's discretion."

The report said the practice of obeah was illegal in The Bahamas and that violators may be sentenced to three months in prison.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, in unveiling the report, said: "Religious persecution and intolerance remain far too prevalent.

"We cannot ignore these conditions," added Tillerson.

- Edited from CMC.



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Vol. 28, Number 9 • AUG. 2017

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Modern day slavery in ICE detention centers?

Just when you thought being arrested and detained as an immigrant in the United States was bad enough, a new lawsuit sheds light on the nightmare that is the entire immigration detention system.

According to a recent lawsuit filed by a group of former detainees and reported by the **Associated Press** news agency, the system equates to modern day slavery in many privately run detention centers across the country.

While these private prisons, which have federal contracts with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to house people accused of civil violations of immigration law until they are deported or

released, can legally require detainees to clean up their personal areas, the lawsuit alleges that at least one of the nation's major detention contractors compelled detainees to work without pay, cleaning up common areas as well.

The GEO Group, which recently won a \$110 million contract to build the first new immigrant detention center under the Donald Trump administration as he looks to ramp up arrests and deportation of immigrants, is accused by former detainees of compelling tens of thousands of immigrants to clean common living areas for free over a decade at the 1,500-bed Aurora, Colorado detention center.

FORCED LABOR

The company is accused of operating with just one full-time janitor while it forced detainees to work for free? Sounds like slavery?

The immigrant detainees were allegedly required to clean and maintain common areas for free, even as GEO raked in \$2.2 billion in revenue and had nearly \$163 million in adjusted net income last year.

U.S. government rules require detainees to keep their personal living areas clean without pay, but not common areas. The federal rules also allow that prisoners can be hired to jobs as varied as landscaping, cleaning and



Are prisoners being used illegally to make prison profit?

cutting other inmates' hair, for at least \$1 a day and higher.

But U.S. Justice Department's National Institute of Corrections rules also clearly state that while people convicted of crimes and serving time in prison are often required to work, those simply held in the nation's jails like detainees, generally cannot be forced to work because they have not been convicted of a crime.

NOT ALONE

Yet records show GEO is allegedly not alone in putting inmates to work for free in this modern day servitude in the U.S. Following a November inspection, the U.S. Homeland Security Department's Office of Inspector General found the publicly run Theo Lacy detention center in California violated that rule, as well by requiring detainees to clean common-area showers.

Another lawsuit filed in May against CoreCivic, the nation's largest private prison operator, challenges similar labor practices at its San Diego immigration detention center.

But who really cares if this is against the law and the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery and bars involuntary servitude, except for punishment of a crime?

Certainly not El Trumpeto and his cohorts, as they push for more detention and hand out more contracts to their private prison buddies as they slap them on the back too for keeping those "aliens" in check while finding a way to return a new form of slavery to America!

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is CMO at Hard Beat Communications, Inc., which owns the brands NewsAmericasNow, CaribPRWire and InvestCaribbeanNow.



Bolt loses races, but wins hearts across the globe

GORDON WILLIAMS

LONDON, England - You're never sure quite how much you're loved until you lose.

Jamaica's Usain Bolt proved that here last month at the 2017 IAAF World Championships, the biggest track and field only meet on the planet.

The globally popular Jamaican was defeated in his bid to repeat as champion in the 100 meters, didn't defend his 200 meters title and pulled up lame in the 4x100 meters relay. But, judging by the overwhelming reaction in and outside the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Stadium, there was only one winner.

"We know from the 100m final that everyone wants to see Bolt gold," former British Olympic gold medalist Darren Campbell told the **Evening Standard** newspaper here. "But it does not matter. He was almost a greater champion in defeat.

"We saw a new side. He's both the best winner and the best loser."

The official championships record will note Justin Gatlin of the United States won 100 meters gold, with his compatriot Christian Coleman taking silver. But fans booed Gatlin every time his name was mentioned - heat, semi-final, final and at the medal presentation the following day.

"I can't believe this man (Bolt) didn't win," said an exasperated stadium announcer. "But the crowd loves him."

'AMAZING'

Gatlin, maligned in track because he was found guilty of doping, quickly conceded the main stage to Bolt, bowing to the Jamaican. The new world champion paid tribute to the people's champion.

"(Bolt's) an amazing man," Gatlin said.

Track fans agreed. The stadium crowd erupted in prolonged chants of "Usain Bolt! Usain Bolt!" right after the race and intermittently up to 90 minutes later. Bolt, competing in his last solo international race before retiring, bid a lengthy farewell. He circled the track, soaking up the adulation, applauding and hugging fans, just as he did when he won eight Olympic and 11 WCA gold medals before.

Bolt then returned to the finish line where he did his signature "To di werl" pose.

"This place is wonderful," he said, "and I appreciate this crowd so much."

The build-up to the Aug. 5 100 meters final was phenomenal. Approaching the



Bolt takes a final bow to salute the crowd.

stadium four hours before the first afternoon event on day two, which featured the men's 100 meters semis and later the final, the crowd was already thick and buzzing. People wore colors and waved flags corresponding with the country they support. However, the most common color combination was the black, green and gold of Jamaica. British fans decked out in the Union Jack also carried Jamaican flags and scarves. They wore T-shirts emblazoned with "Jamaica" or "Bolt".

Almost every gathering in and outside the stadium featured talk of "Bolt". Children and seniors primed for his performance. Gigantic advertising posters of Bolt loomed everywhere.

Forty minutes before Bolt actually took the track for the semi-final the public address announcer conducted a "Bolt

Cam" for stadium fans, asking them to strike the "to di werl" pose as the images flashed across big screens at either end of the stadium while Bob Marley's "Jammin'" blared over speakers.

ADULATION

After the 100 final, the adulation for the Jamaican ratcheted even higher. Fans understood that Bolt, far more than anyone, had hauled track and field from the dark doldrums of prolonged doping smear, including Gatlin's transgressions. With flamboyance and world record performances he made millions watch again. Even rivals weren't afraid to embrace Bolt's impact.

"He's a man who has taken the sport to a whole new level," said Coleman.

Now there's already palpable worry over who will take Bolt's place as track's marquee name. South Africa's phenom Wayde Van Niekerk, who won the 400 meters and placed second in the 200 here, acknowledged he's one option.

"I know that I have a massive responsibility ahead of me now," Van Niekerk said here.

As Bolt departs the stage, the sport is desperate. Someone, anyone, needs to step up. Quickly. Opportunity lurks in uncertainty's weeds.

"Seeing that he's leaving, a legend, there's gonna be a lot of upcoming athletes now," explained Trinidad and Tobago's gold medal relay hero Lalonde Gordon. "We might get another Usain Bolt sometime in the future, but

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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BIG IS IN: 'Say it loud, I'm fat and I'm proud'

There is something that I've noticed for a while now - people are proud to be overweight.

Big people have always been around, but not in the proportion they are now. There was a time when people were ashamed to be overweight and would be encouraged, ordered, shamed into losing weight.

It was no badge of honor to be large and cruel people would stare and make snide comments. Fat jokes were as legendary as they were insensitive.

Being big was never in vogue and overweight people were treated with ridicule, disdain and disgust. Never pity. That's because it was thought that getting so big was the sole responsibility of the persons who put all that food inside their bellies.

There are people who are continually eating, yet they always ask: "I just don't know why I can't lose the weight?"

BAFFLING

Check out the buffet line at any function and see whose plate is piled highest. Go to any restaurant and see the size



of the people who order the biggest meals. Then they will say: "I don't eat much, I can't see why I can't lose the weight."

Fat shaming was in style many years ago and today fat people still solicit stares from children and adults too.

Now, not only have fat people increased in numbers,



TONY
ROBINSON

propensity, girth and tonnage, they have not only been accepted by some sectors, but encouraged to be fat. The word fat is deemed to be politically incorrect, so if you aren't plus-sized then you aren't saying anything.

Big people are all over our television screens, hosting shows and appearing in commercials, a far cry from what took place in the media landscape years ago. Back in the day, overweight people would try to cover up their weight by wearing appropriate clothing. Nowadays they wear the

skimpiest outfits to show off the folds, flab, fat under fine fabric. The fatter they are, the less fabric they wear.

That's because we're in the era of "Say it loud, I'm fat and I'm proud."

STARTLING

Doctors have revealed startling statistics showing that we are becoming a population of fat people. With this comes illnesses, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney failure, malaise and indolence.

Statistics also show that this weight gain starts from an early age. "Childhood obesity; a major public health concern" was the headline of a recent feature. "The earlier the excessive weight or obesity occurs, the more severe will be the effects in morbidity (illness) and in preventing a good quality of life", was the article's opening sentence.

Sadly, many parents do not take heed, and are not even aware that their children are grossly overweight. Weight denial is a serious malady.

But why this new found desire to be plus size? Is it that people simply resign themselves to their bigness and accept it because they cannot change their corpulence?

Losing weight is difficult. It has been shown that many people who lost weight, gained back the poundage after a time. Some even gained more than they were originally. Scientists have proven that the body reacts, rebels and compensates for weight loss by

slowing down metabolism, which ironically leads to weight gain.

FRUSTRATING

So this yo-yo up and down losing and gaining weight can be frustrating to big people who may just sigh and say: "I enjoy the way I am, that's how I'm supposed to be, everybody can't be slim."

I know some who really do try to lose the weight, but simply give up because it's too difficult. The diets and exercise programs were too much to endure, so they just resigned themselves to their bigness. Big is in.

Sometimes we'll see people who we haven't seen in many years and can't believe how big they have become. Some blame childbirth, but I know many women who have had multiple children and are still as thin as ever.

I still contend that food causes weight gain. If you are locked in a room and fed small portions of bread and water for six months, I guarantee that you will lose weight.

I also know that different people have different metabolic rates. One person will eat one slice of bread and gain weight, while another will eat four loaves of hard dough bread and not gain an ounce.

I wish people would stop glorifying corpulence. Your destiny is in your hands. Make that your dinner plate.

seido1@hotmail.com



Bolt loses races, but wins hearts across the globe

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

right now you just have to wait and see."

PRICE

For a decade, track was dominated by Bolt. He was also the biggest name in the Caribbean and among the most recognizable in the world. But he wasn't at his best here. Far from it. His final 100 time of 9.95 seconds was a season's best, yet not close to the phenomenal 9.58 world record set in his prime. His start failed him, but age and injuries factored as well. Bolt's finish wasn't the fearsome weapon of old either.

Still, Bolt captured fans' hearts and respect from fellow athletes. After he claimed 110 meters hurdles gold, Jamaica's Omar McLeod's first reaction - surprisingly - was to pay tribute to his compatriot, who has since turned 31.

"I really wanted to come

out here and dedicate this win to Usain Bolt's retirement," McLeod said.

NO REGRETS

Bolt's track career ended here, complete with more applause, lofty tributes, gifts, a speech and the embrace of his parents. But the magnitude of his accomplishments, for all who witnessed them, may never leave.

Before the championships, Bolt declared: "My main aim is just to win. I just want to retire on a winning note."

He did, just not on the track. Still, Bolt didn't dwell on regrets.

"It's been great," he said before his ill-fated relay leg. "... I just feel happy and blessed."

The world, which watched him in awe for a decade, feels the same.



Fall Cargo & Shipping



October is the start of the Fall shipping season. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is a 117% increase from 1990. Florida's black household income for 2000 was a whopping \$32 Billion, that has continued to increase healthily over the subsequent 16 years. C.T will spotlight the various shipping services available to them via Land, Air, and Sea to get their goods safely home in time for the season.

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Caribbean Today

New York's Caribbean carnival marks 50th anniversary

NELSON A. KING

NEW YORK – The colors, pageantry and sound of Caribbean Carnival were on full display as the Brooklyn, New York-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) launched its 50th anniversary celebration of Caribbean Carnival Week last month.

Masqueraders from several mas camps, as well as carnival lovers, officials and legislators, converged on the Brooklyn Children's Museum for the grand celebration, held under the theme, "From a Dream to a Legacy".



Brooklyn's carnival has preserved Caribbean culture for half century.

"It's good that we got to the 50th anniversary," costume-clad Trinidadian Kay Mason, described as the "Queen of Labor Day Carnival", told the Caribbean Media Corporation.

"It's a milestone to bring this culture together, so we can celebrate," continued Mason, representing perennial West Indian American Day Carnival Parade's Band the Year Champions Sesame Flyers, who were honored by WIADCA in April.

Other mas bands represented included T&T-owned Detailz Mas, Antoine International, Amezilia Costumes and Diamond Entertainment.

"This is my first year; and, so far, so good," said Giselle Thomas, the Trinidadian designer of Amezilia Costumes. "It's very interesting."

PRIDE

Caribbean American Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke stated that it was "important that we stand with pride." Later, the daughter of

Jamaican immigrants, who represents the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, led the audience to a chant of "Get out the Vote", while calling for United States President Donald J. Trump's ouster, with the refrain, "As soon as possible."

The 50th annual New York Caribbean Carnival Week kicked off Aug. 31 with "Reggae Unda Di Stars." The annual "Summer Jam: Stay In School Concert & Youth Fest" was on Sept. 1, along with the popular Brass Fest concert. The Junior Carnival and Panorama was scheduled for Sept. 2. The Dimanche Gras finale was set for the following day.

"We are blessed to have marked 50 years of Caribbean impact, culture, education, economic contribution, services and carnival in New York State," said WIADCA's President William Howard. "This year, we celebrate our long-standing partners and welcome new ones that will help sustain this legacy for the next 50 years."

"We look forward to a diverse, inclusive and bright future, as we welcome new members and volunteers from all walks of life, and celebrate our stalwarts," he added.

ORIGINS

The grand marshals for

the Sept. 4 Labor Day Parade were New York State Jamaican-born Assemblyman Nick Perry, representative for the 58th District; George Hulse, vice president for community engagement,

Healthfirst Insurance Company; Camille Joseph-Goldman, vice president for government affairs, Charter Communications; and New

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

BRIEFS

Carnival warm-up fete

A free Miami Broward Carnival warm-up fete will be held **9 p.m. Sept. 8** on the plaza at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. For more information, call **786-573-5300**.

Inner Circle, UB40 in Fort Lauderdale

World-renowned reggae bands Inner Circle and UB40 are scheduled to perform on **Sept. 23** at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Showtime is **8 p.m.** For more information, visit www.BrowardCenter.org.

Miss Miami Broward Carnival Pageant

The 12th annual "Miss Miami Broward Carnival Pageant" will be held **Sept. 23** at the Miramar Cultural Center in Miramar, Florida. For more information, call **786-356-0869**.

Miami Broward Carnival

The annual Miami Broward Carnival kicks off this month with the "Junior Carnival" on **Sept. 30** in South Florida. The event will continue with "Duck Work Lunch Time Bacchanal" and the "Kng/Queen/Individual and Pan Competition" on **Oct. 6** and "MBC Official J'Ouvert" on **Oct. 7**. The "MBC Grand Parade and Concert" is set for **Oct. 8**.

For more information on carnival events, including times and venues, visit miamibrowardcarnival.com.

'Carnival Kingdom'

Some of the biggest names in Caribbean entertainment, including Machel Montano, Bunji Garlin and Fay-Ann Lyons, are scheduled to perform in "Carnival Kingdom" on **Oct. 6** at Mana Wynwood, 318 N.W. 23rd St. in Miami, Florida. Visit www.sosfestinc.com for more information.

Compiled from various sources.



Trinidad and Tobago's rap star Nicki Minaj strikes a stunning pose in this pink latex outfit as she attends the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards last month in Inglewood, California.



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ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN two VIP tickets to Miami Broward Carnival on Sunday, October 8 at Miami-Dade Fairgrounds or two tickets to *Dance Theatre of Harlem, The Return of the Black Ballerina* at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center on Saturday, March 10. To enter to win you must visit the information tent at the event. The winners will be announced at the Caribbean Carnival Pre-Party and you must be present at the event to collect the prizes.

No coolers or outside food and drink are permitted.

#CarnivalAtSMDCAC

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Bermudian actor celebrates 100th birthday

HAMILTON, Bermuda – Legendary Bermudian actor Earl Cameron celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 8.

Cameron, the first black actor to star in a British film, lives in Warwickshire with his wife Barbara.

The Bermuda Department of Community and Cultural Affairs indicated it will host an event here next month to mark the occasion. The department, in partnership with the Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club, said it would, on Oct. 19, host the event, titled “Our Earl Is 100 Years Young!”

Cameron said he never saw himself as “a pioneer,” indicating “it was only later, looking back, that it occurred to me I was” as he recounted

how he first landed in the United Kingdom from Bermuda in Oct. 1939 at the start of World War II.

‘NERVE’

Former Bermuda cultural affairs officer Ruth Thomas said “he never forgot his homeland” adding that, “so many of us would like to do things, but somebody like that has the extra bit of nerve.

“Later in life we can find ourselves thinking ‘if only’. I am very proud of him.”

Seeking fortune just before World War II, Cameron joined the merchant marine,



Cameron

struggled through menial jobs in wartime London and stumbled on to the stage as a hurried recruit when an actor failed to show up.

Cameron went on to break the race barrier in 1951 in “Pool of London” and many Bermudians turned out to see his films, including the 1965 James Bond movie “Thunderball”, shot in The Bahamas, in which he played a role.

His accomplishments were recognized in 2009 when he was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE). In 2012, “The Earl Cameron Theatre” here was named in his honor.

- Edited from CMC.



Horace Forbes, promoter, singer, radio personality dies

Singer, promoter and radio personality Horace Forbes died on Aug. 12 in Florida. He was 84.

Forbes started in the entertainment business in the 1950s. He worked with notables such as The Four Tops, Clarence Carter, Candi Staton

and the Mighty Sparrow and produced concerts and stage shows in Jamaica and South Florida, where he resided.

As a singer, Forbes had a smooth voice and vibrant personality, delivering songs from the 1950s and 1960s. Forbes also hosted “The Horace

Forbes Show” on WAVS radio on Saturday evening at 10 p.m.

- Edited from Riddims Marketing Newsletter.



Lauderdale Lakes mayor honors ex-Jamaican T.V. show host

Former Jamaican television personality Baldwin Howe, who hosted “Where It’s At”, was last month recognized by the South Florida City of Lauderdale Lakes Mayor Hazelle Rogers for his work on the show, which was popular in the 1970s and 1980s.

The half-hour program, which featured the latest music and dance moves, ran for a decade.

Howe was scheduled to host a “Where It’s At Reunion - Memories Don’t Leave Like People Do” retro style dance party late last month. He had been absent from the active entertainment scene for a while, but returned to the spotlight.

“In my opinion, the reason why a regeneration of this event would be great is that it is good for youngsters to know the historical culture behind



Howe

our dances,” Howe was quoted as saying in a recent press release.

“We don’t teach Jamaican music in our schools. The curricular is not geared for it. Our musical history is important and this is where the reunion event could prove useful where the music and dance are concerned,” he added.



New York’s Caribbean carnival marks 50th anniversary

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

Honorary grand marshals were New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo; New York City Mayor Bill deBlasio; lawyer Frank Seddio, chairman, Kings County Democratic Party in Brooklyn; and other corporate sponsors.

Caribbean carnival was officially established on Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York by Trinidadian Jessie Wardell and friends in the mid-1940s, according to WIADCA.

But WIADCA said that Wardell and some of her West Indian friends actually started the Caribbean festival in Harlem in the 1930s by staging costume parties in large enclosed places, like the Savoy, Renaissance and Audubon Ballrooms “due to the cold wintry weather of February.

WIADCA said the earliest known carnival street activity was held during the 1940s, when Wardell secured the first street permit for a parade type event on the streets of Harlem.

BROOKLYN’S TIME

During the 1960s, WIADCA said another Trinidadian, Rufus Goring, brought carnival to Brooklyn. In 1967, Goring passed the reigns over to another Trinidadian Carlos Lezama, who became WIADCA president. Lezama nurtured the organization and carnival celebrations until 2001, when, due to his ill-

health, he retired, and his daughter Yolanda Lezama-Clark, a registered nurse, served as president until 2011.

Trinidadian Thomas Bailey was elected president in 2012 until he was replaced by African American Howard, considered a long-standing friend and die-hard supporter of the Caribbean community in New York. Carlos Lezama was widely credited as the “Father of Brooklyn’s Caribbean Carnival”.

WIADCA said Wardell, Goring and Lezama’s collective legacy “lives on today, as the organization continues to preserve the core values of institutional transference of information, cultural pride and preservation, diversity, inclusivity and intergenerational leadership.

“Today, those values still remain the focal point for WIADCA, while bringing together over 1.5 million visitors to New York from around the world to participate in the annual West Indian Carnival Parade on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn on Labor Day,” WIADCA said.

It said its mission is to “promote, develop and celebrate West Indian/Caribbean culture, arts, history and traditions through year-round programs to expand our cultural reach throughout the world, which culminates with a week-long display of festivities and a grand finale carnival parade.”

- Edited from CMC.



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TRINI CHICKEN ROTI: Tasty, filling, a complete dish

MINNA LaFORTUNE

Roti is a favorite dish among Caribbean nationals, especially those from Trinidad and Tobago, which marked its 55th Independence on Aug. 31.

Roti shops are popular because rotis are tasty and filling - practically a complete dish. The following is my recipe of Trini chicken roti:

Ingredients

- 2 pounds chicken thighs cut in pieces
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup cooking oil (corn or sunflower)
- 2 onions, chopped fine
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 scotch bonnet pepper - minced
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 2 sprigs thyme
- 1/2 cup chopped scallions
- 2 large potatoes (cubed)
- roti skins
- 4 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 pack fast acting yeast
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 1/2 cup water
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil (for brushing dough)

Method

Mix the minced garlic and lemon juice with chicken thighs. Add curry and salt. Marinate overnight.

In a heavy Dutch pot, sauté the chicken, add seasonings, including curry powder, and cook for 10 minutes.

Add water and stir the chicken. Combine all the ingredients.

Add potato cubes, cover and cook.

Lower the heat and simmer - for an hour or more. When done, sauce should thicken and meat should be cooked.

In a large bowl sift together flour, salt, yeast and baking powder. Add water, mix until it comes together in a firm ball of dough.

Cover with a clean kitchen towel and let it rest for about 30 minutes at room temperature. Knead rested dough. Divide dough into six pieces. Make each a flat round shape dough.

On floured counter top, move dough around and roll into round sheets with a

rolling pin until they are roughly 12 inches wide and a quarter inch thick. Brush flat roti skin with oil and place on a hot, flat skillet to cook.

Cook each side for about two minutes until brown bub-



Chicken roti

bles begin to appear.

Remove from heat and clap gently until flaky.

To make the dish, add two tablespoons of curried chicken in the middle of the roti and fold, left over right then top and bottom, to form a rectangular bundle.

- Edited from News Americas. Minna LaFortune is a trained caterer.



Mexican treat with Caribbean twist

Soft or hard-shell tacos may be Mexican in origin, but they're also a "canvas" fit for a Caribbean twist. They are great for breakfast, snacks, lunch or supper, filled with ackees and codfish, or codfish salad topped with salsa or escovitched fish, jerk chicken, jerk pork, fish fillet and shrimp.

Here's the recipe for soft jerk king fish fillet taco:

Ingredients

- 2 large king fish steaks
- 1 tsp dry jerk seasoning
- 1 teaspoon wet jerk seasoning
- 2 teaspoons lime juice
- 4 soft shell tacos
- 1 small head of lettuce
- Fresh salsa (tomatoes, cilantro, lime juice, red onions)
- 1/2 cup grated goat cheese

Method

Marinate fish in jerk sauce and lime juice for an hour. Grill jerk king fish fillet.



Jerk king fish tacos

Rest for 20 minutes.

Flake fish in small pieces. In each soft shell taco, add lettuce (shredded).

Add three teaspoons of salsa. Add flaked jerk king fish. Add goat cheese.

Serves four.

- Minna LaFortune.



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

SOCA PRIDE: Jereem's dream comes true

GORDON WILLIAMS

LONDON, England - Judging from his reaction after finishing third in the 200 meters at the IAAF World Championships here last month, it seemed nothing else could've made Trinidad and Tobago sprinter Jereem Richards more proud.

Yet he returned days later to run a crucial leg on T&T's 4x400 meters winning relay team and was even more excited because he and compatriots could gift their Caribbean nation gold. The two medals were Richards's personal pre-Independence salute to his twin-island republic home.

"It makes me feel great I could actually give Trinidad and Tobago something to celebrate about on it being Independence," he said smiling broadly. "Just to bring it home for Trinidad, I'm just thankful



Richards

for that."

T&T's actual Independence date - Aug. 31 - was still weeks away when Richards triumphed here. But he entered the 200 meters final, after two impressive earlier rounds, primed for the challenge. In the opening heat, Richards ran 20.05 seconds, the fastest of any athlete at the championships, quicker than even the event's eventual gold

medal-winning time of 20.09 by Turkey's Ramil Guliyev.

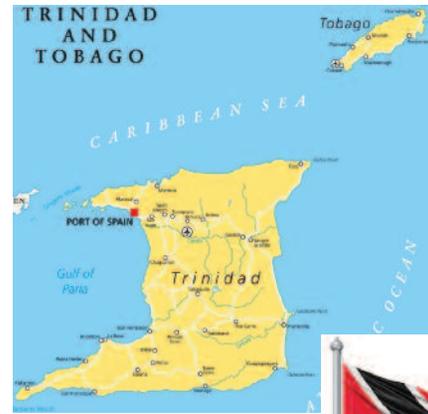
In the semi-final, Richards was again in sparkling form. He clocked 20.14 in cold and wet conditions at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium, the second fastest time of the round, slower only than American Isiah Young (20.12).

SMOOTH

For the 23-year-old University of Alabama All-American, who holds the school's indoor and outdoor 200 meters records, the early competition was smooth sailing. Although he was inexperienced outside the U.S. college circuit, there were no big meet jitters. Richards knew few expected him to win, especially in a field that included South African phenom Wayde Van Niekerk, who won 400 meters gold here, Guliyev, Young and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

T&T's road to Independence



Trinidad and Tobago celebrates Independence on Aug. 31 each year.

This year, that date marked the 55th Independence from Britain for the twin-island republic.

Originally, Trinidad was a Spanish colony. In 1797 it was conquered by the United Kingdom. Tobago was a Dutch colony as early as the 16th cen-

ture, but has been ruled by Britain, France, the Netherlands and the Duchy of Courland over the years.

After the Treaty of Amiens between the United Kingdom and the French Republic in 1814, the islands were officially ceded to Britain. At first, the British ruled Tobago separately, but during the 19th century they began controlling the island under the Windward



Flag



Coat of Arms

Islands government.

In 1816, black American Baptist ex-soldiers settled in Trinidad after being promised developments by Governor Ralph Woodford. During the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria's rule, many descendants of the soldiers were unhappy with the lack of assistance they were receiving. Reverend Robert Andrews, who was increasingly upset about bad road conditions in Trinidad, broke protocol by writing not to Governor Sir William Robinson, but Queen Victoria.

COMBINED

In 1888, Queen Victoria instructed Robinson to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the problems in Trinidad. A year later, the Colonial Office determined that Tobago could no longer sustain itself and combined the two islands as one colony, creating Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1946, general elections took place under a partial franchise, as only half the seats were elected and the other half appointed by the governor. A new nationalistic party was formed in 1956, the People's National Movement, headed by Dr. Eric Williams. The party won 13 of 24 seats in the elections that year.

T&T became Independent on Aug. 31, 1962, three months after the West Indies Federation collapsed.

- Edited from various sources.

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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

'FOCUSED, FEARLESS': T&T celebrates 55 years of Independence

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has urged the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to be “focused and fearless” as the nation seeks to implement progressive strategies and policies.

In his Aug. 31 address to mark 55 years of T&T's political Independence from Great Britain, Rowley said in order to continue on the path of growth and development – “we the people are mandated to foster a strong patriotism as well as our own capacity to take full advantage of opportunities through clear focus, grit and determination.

“Despite our challenges, I believe that Trinidad and Tobago continues to live up to the promise and potential we demonstrated in 1962 and we can ill-afford to falter now,” he added. “We must strengthen our democratic institutions and implement policies that are tailored to our specific conditions and developmental objectives. In so doing, we will increase our chances of success exponentially.”

The prime minister made reference to the success of the country's athletes at last



Rowley

month's IAAF World Championships in London, England, where T&T won two medals, including gold in the men's 4x400 meters relay.

MESSAGE

“Fellow citizens, perhaps there is no better message that I can share with you on this Independence Day, than the words of our athletes,”

Rowley said. “I noted the remarks of the young men as they spoke to the media after their races. When asked about their achievements, the young men described themselves as being ‘focused and fearless’. They declared that they had ‘made up their minds’ and that, ‘our country can achieve if we work together’.

“I believe that we are a winning team of capable, enlightened citizens. Let us come together as a winning team,” he said. “Our nation's motto says it best: together we aspire, together we achieve. I implore you to re-commit to these words daily as we build a better nation.”

In his message, President Anthony Carmona said the diversity of the twin-island



Persaud-Bissessar

republic is its strength. Carmona urged special acclaim for one of the country's national symbols – the Scarlet Ibis – as well as the athletes.

“It is with great pride that I salute the remarkable achievements of all our paralympians and our athletes, especially gold medalist Akeem Stewart and the ‘never say die’ quartet 4x400 meters gold medalists at the World Championships in London, together with the astounding victory of the West Indies cricket team against England.

“These athletes have all become our lightning rods in our social and human darkness. This imposing display of youth success and prowess on the international stage is a timeless and timely gift to a nation celebrating Independence.”

CRISIS

However, Opposition Leader Kamla Persaud-Bissessar said T&T is in a state of crisis. The former prime minister said “there is a sense of hopelessness in the country” and attributed this to “another sharp decline in our economy.”

Persaud-Bissessar says the citizens “are capable of greatness in every area.” She said the Opposition is currently “developing policy proposals

to build our economy, create sustainable jobs and to continue to develop our nation's human capital.”

Persaud-Bissessar said these proposals include the development of a knowledge-driven diversified and growing economy. She urged all citizens to play their part in

rebuilding the country's sense of patriotism and nationhood and it is incumbent on all people to build a society which is one of, “acceptance, tolerance and equality.”

- Edited from CMC.



T&T Consulate General co-hosts CaribbeanTales

Trinidad and Tobago's Consulate General will this month co-host a festival celebrating films and filmmakers from the Caribbean in Toronto, Canada.

The 12th annual CaribbeanTales International Film Festival (CTFF) will run Sept. 6-21.

Among the highlights will be a street party at College Street featuring the sights and sounds of the Caribbean, including

appearances by T&T soca star Machel Montano, actor Joseph Marcell, Barbados soca queen Alison Hinds, Jamaica's Sheldon Sheperd and T&T's Nikolai Salcedo.

International Caribbean stars of film and television are also scheduled to appear at



Montano

CTFF's opening gala and film premieres. The Encore Screening slated for Sept. 7 at Cineplex Morningside Cinema in Scarborough.

LEGACY

“It was hard to pick this year's program, but those we've chosen will not only entertain, but also challenge our audiences to consider our legacy as Caribbean peoples here and throughout our diaspora,” Frances-Anne Solomon, CTFF executive director, was quoted as saying.

“We need to think about what we're leaving now for future generations.”

This year's festival promises 14 feature films and 30 short films from 18 countries – all featuring stories centering on Caribbean legacy.

For more information, including a full schedule of festival events, visit www.caribbeantalesfestival.com



SOCA PRIDE: Jereem's dream comes true

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

Isaac Makwala of Botswana. But he remained undaunted.

“I was really confident going into the finals,” Richards said. “I wasn't nervous at all. I came into the World Championships with everything to gain and nothing to lose. So, you know I was very relaxed.”

Poise paid dividends. In the final Richards struggled out of the blocks. But the native of Port Fortin didn't panic. He held his form and gradually reeled in the frontrunners, just missing Van Niekerk and Guliyev. Both Richards and Van Niekerk were timed in 20.11. The South African was awarded silver, Richards bronze. He wanted more.

“I was disappointed because I didn't get the best of starts,” Richards explained. “... Had I not stumbled, hopefully I think I could have won this race, but at the end of the day I'm still thankful for a medal.”

NOT DONE

Yet he wasn't done. The 4x400 meters final, the last event at the championships,

wasn't supposed to be T&T's. The U.S. dominated the event globally for years. But Richards and his team of Jarrin Solomon, Machel Cedeno and Lalonde Gordon believed T&T was primed for success. The nation, they thought, deserved it, especially for Independence.

“It's been long overdue and we finally came out here and bring a gold for the country, family and friends,” said Gordon. “So I feel the whole country should celebrate our medal and Independence. It's a great feeling. The whole country is gonna be one and alive.”

Richards plans to cherish the lessons of the world championships. He knows he will no longer be an unknown challenger on the world stage. Yet self belief he already had. Richards wrote the words “world champion” all over his room at the University of Alabama before he left for London. Success here has given him an extra push to improve.

“This (performance) made me hungry, gives me a little vengeance inside,” Richards explained. “Hopefully it can

fuel me for years to come.”

As for his gifts to his homeland, Richards wants to continue that too.

“I would love to be someone that young athletes can look up to and want to emulate or be better than,” he explained.

“And, if I can get to that caliber of an athlete, I would love to and I'm aspiring to be that. So, I hope so.”



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~ A CARIBBEAN TODAY SPECIAL FEATURE

IDENTITY: Where is our place Belizeans?

TARA A. CHADWICK

As children of the global diaspora, pluricultural nationals of the legacy of human migration, colonization and industrialization that has resulted in the forced abandonment of our indigenous identities from every continent, where now do we belong?

What role are we to play in the tumultuous time of transition we find ourselves woven within?

How is it that we will identify and assemble those disparate items from our various bundles of cultural treasures and fashion them into a guide map to a future of harmony we cannot yet imagine?

We are who we are. But remember, our history was written by the victor of many wars and our heritage is the sum of many parts still unwritten.

CELEBRATION

For Belize, as in most of the Central American mainland, September is a time of celebration. It is the point in the agricultural cycle that marks the completion of the summer wet season and the promise of a cooler, dryer "winter".

It was during this season, a break between the harvest and planting time, when the Spanish Armada was held at bay by the legendary Baymen of Belize. The enthusiasm with which my great grandmother and her family recounted and celebrated the defeat of the Spaniards by the Baymen is both an artifact and a result of the legacy of colonial history in my mother's homeland.

This treasured tale of loyal enslaved people fighting along-

side their owners to defend a territory that was shared, swindled and stolen from the true landlords, the people of the Mayab, people of the stone mountain, is not too different from the multiple perspectives of history we are witness to today in the northern frontier of Mesoamerica.

HOPE

But in those 1950s uniformed marches where school bands played military style, patriotic tunes to commemorate an event in order to harness the power of unity to build a case for nationhood, there was no hopelessness. No lack of discipline.

Creativity, respect and determination of the people led the way to the creation of an Independent Belize on Sept. 21, 1981.

The Battle of St. George's Caye, still celebrated on Sept. 10 each year, continues to serve as a stark reminder that we each have much work to do to begin the process of de-colonization of our own thoughts, memories and actions.

We must continue to uncover who we are without the context of that person everyone else seems to think we should be.

INDEPENDENCE

In the early 1980s we celebrated Belizean Independence alongside the Battle of St. George's Caye Day in South Florida with small house parties, dances and the occasional beach or park gathering. But during that decade, we shifted our focus to carnival. The first Miami Carnival we were bystanders, watching the spectacular performance art of mas in feathers and beads, and in

the giant speakers that blared our favorite tunes.

We wanted in! So the next year, Belize had an entry in the Miami Carnival and Belizeans flocked from the diaspora and the homeland to take part. In the last 30 years, carnival has become a mainstay in the September celebrations back home, although the older school children still march in Belize City on the 21st like those of my mother's era.

SPACE

We all need space to be who we are, regardless of how we come to that identity recognition.

When I last "went home" I could hear the sounds of dancehall take a little more space on the airwaves than the soca I grew up with and, while the punta rhythms of the Garifuna people were plentiful, the boom and chime jams have all but disappeared.

But as long as we keep on dancing, singing and re-telling our stories, not just the ones we hear but those we live, we will keep that spark of self-learning alive in the generations yet to come. It is they who will build this elusive dream of unity long after we are but a wisp of wind on the wings of a butterfly.

Tara A. Chadwick is an indigenous Belizean Canadian woman of Mayan, English and African descent.



WELCOME ABOARD



Daniel Gutierrez, right, Belize's new permanent representative to the Organization of American States, is greeted by OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro as Gutierrez presented his credentials during a recent meeting in Washington, D.C.

Independence service

The Belize Independence Worship Committee, in conjunction with the Consul General of Belize in New York City, will hold the "Belize Independence 36th Anniversary Ecumenical Service" **Sept. 24.**

The service will be held 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian

Church in Jamaica, 89-60 164th St. Jamaica, New York. A reception and town hall meeting is included in the program.

For more information, call Reverend R. Dyer, **646-505-9743.**



'Diaspora of Belize' website

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched a "Diaspora of Belize" website to offer "a fresh new look" at the Caribbean community nation.

The address for the new site is <http://diasporaofbelize.org/>.

According to a recent release from the Belize Press Office, the ministry's "main goal in designing this new site is to

facilitate the gathering of information on skills, experiences, and interests of Belizeans living in and legitimate Belizean organizations operating out of the Belizean Diaspora, and to engage them in contributing to the development of Belize primarily through investment and repatriation skills."



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Caribbean struggles at World Championships as Bolt bids farewell

GORDON WILLIAMS

LONDON, England - Trinidad and Tobago capped last month's IAAF World Championships here with a golden relay run, but the Caribbean fell short of its own lofty track and field standards, despite the highly emotional global embrace of retiring Jamaica legend Usain Bolt.

The championships, which ran from Aug. 4-13, featured athletes representing over 200 countries at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Stadium. But T&T's team of Jarrin Solomon, Jereem Richards, Machel Cedeno and Lalonde Gordon brought the curtain down in style. The quartet stormed by the United States to win the 4x400 meters title in a world leading time of two minutes 58.12 seconds.

The Caribbean ended with nine medals - two gold, silver and six bronze, a disappointing return, since the last championships in 2015 produced 20, including seven gold by Jamaica.

Only Jamaica's Omar McLeod joined T&T in hearing a Caribbean anthem played at the medal ceremony. Jamaica also earned three bronze. T&T added a bronze, while The Bahamas won silver and bronze, and Cuba bronze.

U.S. led all countries with 30 medals, 10 gold, 11 silver and nine bronze.

UNDERACHIEVED

When Bolt, the Caribbean's - and track's - biggest star, world record holder, defending champion and huge sentimental favorite in his last international meet, finished third in the 100 meters on day two, it proved an ominous sign for the region. Former champion



Gordon, left, and Richards celebrate T&T's triumph.

Yohan Blake of Jamaica managed fourth as the U.S. pair of Justin Gatlin and Christian Coleman finished first and second, respectively.

The Caribbean was hit with another setback in the women's 100 meters. Overwhelming favorite Elaine Thompson of Jamaica, the Olympic champion, cruised into the final with T&T's Michelle-Lee Ahye and Kelly-Ann Baptiste. But Thompson finished fifth, with Ahye sixth and Baptiste eighth in the race won by American Tori Bowie.

"I came out here brave, strong and ready to go," Thompson lamented, "but that didn't happen."

The Caribbean's first gold came in the men's 110 meters hurdles. Barbados's Shane Brathwaite joined the Jamaican pair of Hansle Parchment and McLeod in the final. Brathwaite finished sixth, Parchment eighth. McLeod paid tribute to country.

"(I) really wanted to come out here and keep Jamaica's flag high," he said.

The Bahamas's Steven Gardiner attempted the same in the men's 400 meters. He

reigning Olympic champion in the women's 400 meters, shockingly failed to earn a medal in her pet event. She stumbled in the stretch on a cold, rainy night and faded to fourth.

Three Jamaicans, Shericka Jackson (fifth), Stephenie-Ann McPherson (sixth) and Novlene Williams-Mills (eighth) also contested that final.

Miller-Uibo returned days later in the 200 meters final, along with compatriot Tynia Gaither. But on another wet night she finished third behind

the 200 meters final.

Jamaica's Ristananna Tracey secured bronze in the women's 400 hurdles behind the U.S. duo of winner Kori Carter and Dalilah Muhammad.

"This is my fourth World Championship. This is my first World Championship final and to come out with a medal, I feel extremely proud of myself."

Tracey said after clocking a personal best 53.74 seconds.

Jamaica and T&T made the women's 4x100 meters relay final. Jamaica, featuring Jura Levy, Natasha Morrison, Simone Facey and Sashalee Forbes, finished third, behind winner U.S. and Great Britain. T&T was sixth. Word from Jamaica's camp indicated Thompson's withdrawal from the relay was pre-planned. That puzzled her teammates.

"We literally found out before we warmed up," Facey said. "... At first we were a little disappointed, because we really didn't know why it happened."

'HEART WRENCHING'

Many fans hoped Bolt would cap a magnificent career with a win in his final race, the 4x100. But he injured his leg anchoring the team. Jamaica was devastated, but not just over the loss of a possible medal.

"It's heart wrenching," said McLeod, who started the relay. "... I really wanted, especially Usain, to leave golden."

More disappointment awaited Jamaica in the women's 4x400 meters final. Anneisha McLaughlin-Whilby pulled up injured on the second leg dashing the country's medal hopes.



Jamaica's McLeod wins sprint hurdles.

set a new national record of 43.89 seconds to win his semi-final. Jamaica's Nathon Allen and Demish Gaye followed him into the final. The Bahamian (44.41), however, couldn't repeat that form, earning silver behind South Africa's Wayde Van Niekerk (43.98), with Allen fifth and Gaye sixth. Still, Gardiner was elated.

"It feels awesome," he said. "First final and able to get a medal."

SHOCK

Shaunae Miller-Uibo, Gardiner's compatriot and

winner Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands and Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou. Gaither was eighth. Miller-Uibo, happy with bronze, said the 400 disappointment wasn't a factor in the shorter race.

"I brushed it off right after the race," she said.

NEW STARS

Veteran Yarisley Silva earned bronze in the women's pole vault. However, T&T's U.S. collegian Richards emerged as a new Caribbean star. He finished third, behind winner Ramil Guliyev of Turkey and Van Niekerk, in

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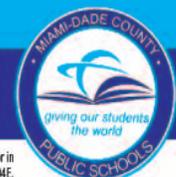
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HAVANA LIVING: Cuba's one percent lifestyle stylishly unveiled

TITLE: Havana Living Today: Cuban Home Style Now
AUTHOR: Hermes Mallea
PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY: Adrian Fernandez
REVIEWED BY: Dawn A. Davis

It's not often we get a chance to view the interior living spaces of Cuba's money class, celebrated artists or its rapidly expanding middle class.

But, Hermes Mallea's latest coffee table book "Havana Living Today: Cuban Home Style Now" gives us a magnificent perspective of stylish living in today's Cuba.

This nostalgic walk through these architectural stunners hits a personal note for Cuban-born architect Mallea, whose family home was seized by the government during the 1959 revolution, as was the case with many of the island's elite.

Today, these private residences stand proud, many still owned by descendants of the original families. The 'rebirth' and restoration of these edifices, some considered historic landmarks, come to life through the lens of Havana-based photographer Adrian

Fernandez.

Not the usual story of the island's poor and the drab spaces they inhabit, this is a major coup for publishers Rizzoli International. Stepping outside the standard literary box by publishing a book that focuses on the lifestyles of Cuba's elite, the one percent, they are making a statement about the resilience and hope of the Cuban people even in the face of economic sanctions that gripped the country for decades. Now that the United States has relaxed its political and financial stranglehold, the island can now come from behind the isolating curtain to proudly showcase its capital style.

INTIMATE

Mallea gives an intimate account of these grand homes, putting the reader in the middle of the story with details of how the property was acquired and the lives of those who first lived in them. A love story about Lan Gomez and Rodolfo "Fofi" Fernandez, who acquired a mid-century landmark just a year before the revolution, humanizes this journey through Havana's architectur-



al landscape. The couple started courting in the 1950s, fell in love and decided to buy a home together.

Their special story of love and perseverance is evident in the home they shared with their three children throughout the decades. It's eclectic collection of colorful artwork and signature furnishings reflect their lives in their beloved Cuba.

Seized by the state in the early 1960s, many of the city's opulent guesthouses and diplomatic residences were once grand homes that belonged to some of the island's richest residents. Mallea and his photographer toured these modern residences that offer Havana's

expats, diplomats, business-people and tourists unparalleled Caribbean living in sought-after neighborhoods. Readers get a close look inside these posh rented mansions with their double staircases, inviting pools, grand archways and lush gardens.

PRIVILEGED

Artists have always held a privileged place in Cuban society. The vibrant art scene, pre-revolution and beyond, continue today as home-grown artists create and sell to a growing number of local and international art collectors. As the author states, because of this cultural exchange many artists are among the most affluent in Cuban society.

That is reflected in some of their living spaces. Carlos Quintana, for example, a well known Havana-based artist who has exhibited worldwide, lives and works in a modern duplex in Kohly, one of the city's upscale areas, when he's not visiting his studio in Spain. Conceptual artist Wilfredo Prieto makes his home in a cool art-deco building that celebrates locally

sourced materials yet exhibits his personal artistic "detached" style.

The space that photographer Maria Cienfuegos shares with two fellow artists is "multi-voiced" in its mid-century architecture adorned with stained-glass windows and exposed brick walls decorated with modern and contemporary art pieces that highlight the occupants' personal styles creating a unique orchestration.

But, whatever the style or design, it's the architectural signature that gives these magnificent Havana homes their endearing character. Mallea celebrates the design eye of Cuban master architect Eugenio Batista, who implored the island's architectural designers to create with Cuban sensibility while incorporating elements of the contemporary world.

The homes in this book are testament to that advice. These magnificent spaces speak the "Cuban language" with a modern flair.

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



St. Lucia's P.M. heads delegation to U.S.

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – Prime Minister Allen Chastanet will lead a delegation to the United States on a mission to improve his country's tourism, according to a government statement issued here late last month.

According to the statement, Chastanet's delegation includes local investment and tourism officials. They plan to visit Miami, Florida and Texas early this month to meet with

stakeholders in the tourism industry, including marketing and branding agencies.

"The trip is part of ongoing efforts to rebrand Saint Lucia and better position the country to take full advantage of tourism



Chastanet

markets," the statement noted.

Chastanet is also scheduled to meet with investors to discuss the upcoming opening of OJO Labs Call Centre here "which is expected initially to employ scores of St. Lucians in the south," the statement added.

- Edited from CMC.



CTO gets Caribbean American Chamber's help with diaspora

NEW YORK - The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) have formalized a co-operation strategy to strengthen the role of the Caribbean diaspora while sharing resources and creating sustainability for the people and the region.

"CACCI believes that now is indeed the time for serious, positive action," Dr. Roy A. Hastick Sr., president and chief executive officer of CACCI, was quoted as saying in a recent press release from the organization.

"We stand ready to support the regional integration process and will continue to

respond positively to the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), CARICOM, and OECS heads of government for assistance requested," he added as he introduced CTO Secretary General Hugh Riley to the member delegates here.

ROLE

"As the tourism development agency for the Caribbean, the CTO recognizes the role of the Caribbean diaspora in contributing to the tourism success of our member-countries, generating



Hastick

investment, stimulating a wide range of commercial activity, injecting significant amounts of foreign exchange, and influencing decisions at the highest levels of the public and private sectors," Riley was quoted as saying.

As part of the meeting, CTO and CACCI finalized arrangements for reciprocal membership, making each organization a member of the other with the two leaders formalizing the process by an exchange of documents and membership insignia.

The next steps are to begin implementing elements of the co-operation strategy for 2017-18.



Jamaica provides 'lifeline' for tourism enterprises

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) is providing an additional J\$350 million (one Jamaica dollar = US\$0.008 cents) to the National Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of Jamaica to continue the provision of loans to the operators of small and medium-sized tourism enterprises (SMTEs).

It said the allocation represents the second tranche of the one million dollar TEF/EXIM Bank Jamaica loan facility, which was launched in Sept. 2016 with an initial J\$300 million capital injection by the tourism entity.

The facility enables the industry stakeholders to access between five and J\$25 million at five percent interest for five years.

Among those eligible are operators involved in spa and wellness; gastronomy – restaurants and food-related businesses; small accommodations; shopping and galleries; attractions; knowledge networks; and sports and entertainment as well as manufacturers and suppliers.

CRITICAL

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said the loan facility was a critical financial lifeline that had allowed and would enable more sector stakehold-



Bartlett

ers to create jobs, generate growth and facilitate economic well-being.

Bartlett said it represented the government's acknowledgment of the entities' integral role in the tourism value chain.

He said the first tranche of the loan facility has been fully disbursed, and encouraged other entrepreneurs not yet accessing the provision to take advantage of it to grow their businesses.

EXIM Bank Managing Director Lisa Bell said the entity has, to date, processed more than 28 loan applications totaling J\$509 million under the program. She said applications totaling J\$408 million have been approved, with disbursements totaling J\$311 million.

- Edited from CMC.



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