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Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has accused some St. Vincent and the Grenadines nationals living overseas, including the United States, of using social media to encourage terrorism in his country, including calls for the assassination of him and his family, page 3.

Dr. Carlton "Pee Wee" Fraser, former physician for Jamaica's soccer team, was accused of illegally doping a national player and banned. He says he's innocent and being made a scapegoat, pointing to discrimination, assassination attempt, campaign to smear him and Jamaica, plus a plot to oust him from his Caribbean homeland, page 7.



JAMAICA SHOWDOWN



~ Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, right, has named Feb. 25 the date for general elections in Jamaica, when her People's National Party and the Opposition Jamaica Labour Party, led by former P.M. Andrew Holness, will seek approval to rule the Caribbean nation, page 2.



COMPLETE CHAOS

~ Michel Martelly was scheduled to step down as Haiti's president this month, but his successor cannot be pinpointed as violent protests forced the cancellation of general elections last month and resignations plagued the Provisional Electoral Council. Coverage starts on page 2 and continues on pages 5 and 6.

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NEWS



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CRISIS IN HAITI: Election council chairman resigns amid chaos 'beyond control'

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Haiti's electoral process was thrown into further disarray late last month after Pierre-Louis Opont, the chairman of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), tendered his resignation to President Michel Martelly.

The United Nations Security Council last month reiterated its condemnation of any attempt to destabilize the electoral process, and urged all parties and political actors to refrain from violence.

In his letter dated Jan. 28, Opont said events beyond his control had "prevented me from carrying out my mission, which was to conduct elections meant to permit Parliament to return on January 11, 2016 and an elected president to be installed on February 7, 2016."

His resignation followed that of four other CEP mem-

bers and the burning down of electoral offices on Jan. 30.

The Organization of American States (OAS) is sending a mission, led by Antigua and Barbuda diplomat, Sir Ronald Sanders, to the French-speaking Caribbean community (CARICOM) country at the request of Martelly who is due to demit office on Feb. 7.

PROTEST

The country faces a constitutional crisis as the second round of presidential elections to choose Martelly's successor, scheduled for Jan. 24, was cancelled indefinitely. The poll was



Opont

cancelled following street protests by Opposition supporters claiming the elections would be rigged in favor of the government-backed candidate Jovenel Moise.

In the first round of presidential voting on Oct. 25, Moise officially won 32.76 per cent of the vote as compared to 25.29 percent for Opposition supported candidate Jude Celestin.

In a statement, the members of the Security Council expressed their concern that the delay in elections may undermine Haiti's ability to address the security, economic and social challenges it faces.

The council is also urging all candidates, their supporters, political parties and other political actors to remain calm, refrain from unlawful violence or any action that can further disrupt the electoral process

and political stability, resolve any electoral disputes through established legal mechanisms and to hold those responsible for such violence accountable.

Edited from CMC.
For more coverage on the crisis over Haiti's elections, turn to pages 5 and 6.



Jamaica calls Feb. 25 elections, ruling party, Opposition ready

Jamaicans will go to the polls on Feb. 25 to elect a new government.

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller announced the date for general elections in the Caribbean island while addressing a mass meeting of supporters of the governing People's National Party (PNP) on Jan. 31.

Simpson Miller said Nomination Day would be on Feb. 9 and Parliament would be dissolved Feb. 5.

The prime minister and her party will face the biggest challenge from main Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), led by former Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

To supporters gathered in Half Way Tree, the capital of the parish of St. Andrew, who were clad in orange, the color of the 78-year-old PNP, Simpson Miller said she was answering the long awaited call.

"The time has come to sound the trumpet," she declared. "... (The Opposition) have been calling for elections for a long time, they will get a whipping at the polls."

Holness, however, said his party is prepared. Responding to Simpson Miller's announcement, while addressing JLP



Simpson Miller

supporters in the old capital of Spanish Town, he said the prime minister was forced to the elections ahead of tabling the budget.

"We ... knew that she would not want the campaign to extend into the budget debate period, when she would have to announce new measures arising from the current agreement with the International Monetary Fund," Holness explained. "... which we expect will lead to the government taking some undesirable measures which could further affect her chances at the poll."

During the PNP rally, Simpson Miller listed achievements of her administration, claiming her government had addressed

Jamaicans' social and business needs and invested millions of dollars in education. The prime minister also called for peace during the campaign.

"During and after the election," she said, "we must continue as one Jamaica."

In the last general elections, the PNP won 42 of the 63 seats with the remaining going to the JLP.

- Edited from various sources, including CMC.



Holness

T&T allows Warner to fight U.S. extradition request

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad – A High Court judge here has granted leave to Austin "Jack" Warner, embattled former vice president of world soccer's governing body FIFA, to challenge an extradition request by the United States to face bribery and other charges.

Justice James Aboud also ordered a stay on Warner's extradition matter in the Magistrates Court until the matter in the High Court is settled.

The judge said he believed there were sufficient grounds in three of the four arguments raised by Warner's legal team, and granted permission for a judicial review. Warner's attorneys were given 14 days to file a fixed date submission. If they fail to submit one by Feb. 5, the leave will be denied.

Warner, 72, a former senior govern-

ment minister here, last year filed the appeal challenging an extradition order issued by the U.S., saying it goes against local extradition laws.

He was indicted in May 2015 by a U.S. grand jury on 12 charges of wire fraud, racketeering and money laundering over an escalating scandal at FIFA, in which U.S. authorities have charged numerous FIFA officials and sports-marketing executives of soliciting and receiving more than \$150 million in bribes and kickbacks over two decades.

- Edited from CMC.



Warner

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Vincentians in U.S. 'directing terrorist activity' against SVG ~ P.M. Gonsalves

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent – Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has accused some Vincentians living overseas of using social media to encourage terrorism in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

During a press conference early last month, Gonsalves told reporters that U.S. officials have been notified of such social media posts..

"We notice that a context for the propagation of information is being inflamed by a number of persons who are on social media, most of them living in the comfort of overseas. You would have seen them," Gonsalves said..

"There are calls to assassinate Ralph and his family. There are calls to burn down Ralph's dwelling house - his personal property. They are encouraging people in the act of terrorism, to burn down the city. I want to know what the leader of the Opposition is saying about this.."

The prime minister did not identify the persons who he said were committing these acts, but said some of them were in St. Vincent and the Grenadines campaigning for



Gonsalves

the main Opposition New Democratic Party (NDP), in the lead up to the Dec. 9 general elections.

HIDE AND HIT.

Gonsalves said some of these persons use what they believe "is the safety of their home in Brooklyn or wherever, to encourage this kind of lawlessness..

"I want to say to them that the police, directly, and through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have informed the American authorities and provided examples of these postings. I just want to make that point. And, I happen to know that the ambassador

himself, the American ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, has been engaged to be made aware of the use of this illegal activity on U.S. soil – directing terrorist activity against St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Leader of the country..

"I have not spoken this before, but ... I want to inform the public," said Gonsalves, who is also minister of national security..

In response, NDP President and Opposition Leader Arnhim Eustace issued a statement:

"Without providing any single evidence, Ralph Gonsalves also accused Vincentians living in the United States of terrorism, and is seeking to put American authorities on his own people..

"What all of this highlights, is what we have always known – that this man will do and say anything to remain in power," Eustace noted.

- Edited from CMC.



ISIS is major threat to Caribbean ~ St. Lucia

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – The St. Lucia government says the Islamic group ISIS poses a major threat to the security of the Caribbean..

"Obviously we must have serious concerns," said National Security Minister Victor La Corbiniere, noting that the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy (CSME) allows for the free movement of skills, labor goods and services across the region..

"That is obviously going to create a greater challenge than normal," La Corbiniere told reporters last month..

However he disclosed that advanced training had been given to the members of the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, and Regional Security System (RSS) the capacity to cope with the threat..

"We are constantly monitoring as we do both in relation to our own information and also information given by partner nations. That is ongoing," he said.

CONCERN.

Last month, a top United States military official expressed deep concern



ISIS poses challenge.

about the ISIS threat to the region..

General John Kelly was concerned that a small number of motivated Islamic State fighters could commit acts of terror in Caribbean nations..

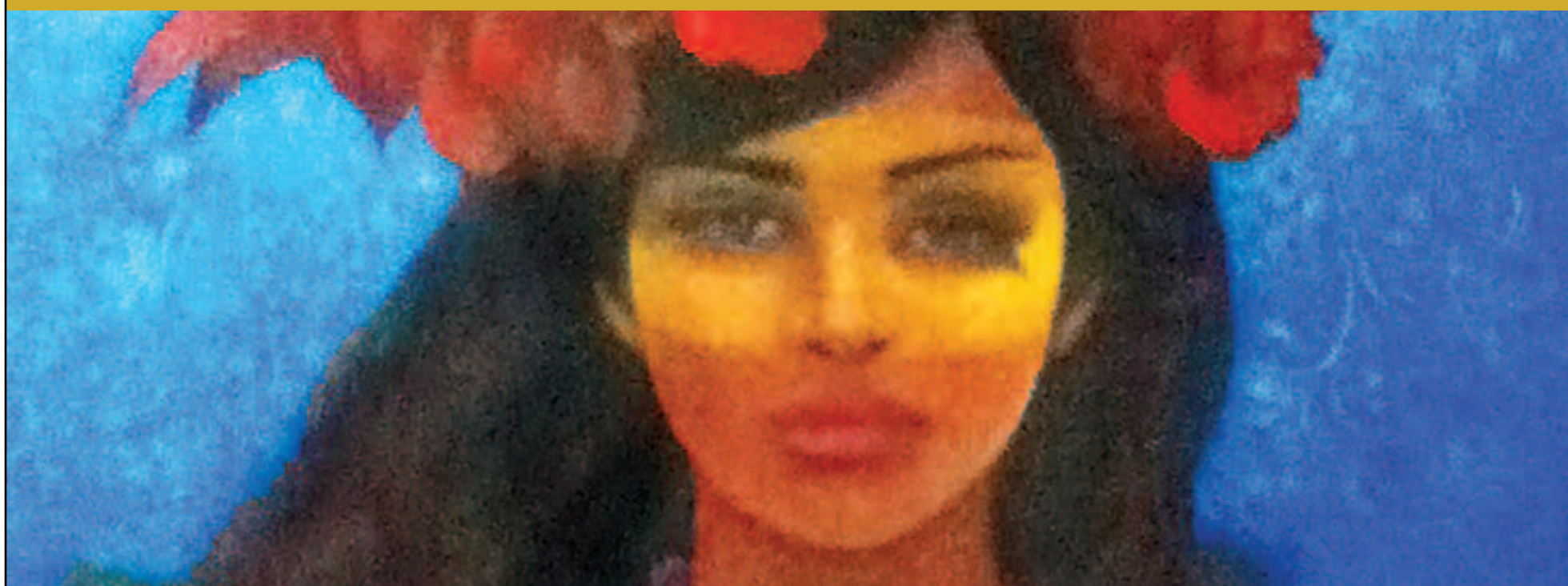
He revealed that about 150 Islamic extremists left the Caribbean region to join ISIS in the Middle East last year, 50 more than in the previous year..

However, he said, the biggest threat might not be the extremists who leave to train and fight with the Islamic State, but the ones who stay behind.

- Edited from CMC.



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NEWS



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Caribbean countries score low on international corruption index

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – Transparency International has named five Caribbean community (CARICOM) countries that have scored below 50 on its latest corruption index, even as it noted globally that while corruption is still rife, more countries improved their scores last year.

“Overall, two-thirds of the

168 countries on the 2015 index scored below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean),” the global watchdog group noted in a statement.

It said that Denmark took the top spot for the second year running, with North Korea and Somalia the worst

performers, scoring just eight points each.

“Top performers share key characteristics such as high levels of press freedom; access to budget information so the public knows where money comes from and how it is spent; high levels of integrity among people in power; and judiciaries that don’t differentiate between rich and poor, and that are truly independent from other parts of government..

“The Corruption Perceptions Index is based on expert opinions of public sector corruption. Countries’ scores can be helped by open government where the public can hold leaders to account, while a poor score is a sign of prevalent bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that don’t respond to citizens’ needs,” Transparency International noted..

HAITI TOPS

Of the five CARICOM countries with scores below 50, Haiti topped with a score of just 17, with Jamaica



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

ranked 41st overall..

Transparency International regarded Haiti as being the most corrupt country in the Western Hemisphere, with the United States regarding the French-speaking CARICOM country as a major narco-trafficking transshipment point..

Guyana, which is the second most corrupt CARICOM country had a ranking of 29 overall as compared to 30 the previous year with Suriname placing third with an overall ranking of 36..

The Dutch-speaking CARICOM country retained its 2014 ranking from 2014 with the Heritage Foundations’ 2015 Index of Economic Freedom report noting that the rule of law is undermined by a

growing domestic drug trade that encourages corruption..

It said also that “organized crime and drug networks undermine governance and the judicial system” and that corruption is also most pervasive in government procurement, license issuance, land policy, and taxation..

The oil-rich twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago, whose ranking dropped from 39 last year to 38, is regarded as a place where “drug-related violence undermines the rule of law, and corruption has infiltrated the police force and increases the daily cost of living and corruption, much of it drug-related, diverts resources and damages the rule of law”..

The report also noted that the judicial branch is independent, but subject to some political pressure and corruption..

Jamaica received a ranking of 41, up from a rank of 38 in 2014.

- Edited from CMC.



U.S., Cuba agree to restore commercial flights

The United States and Cuba have agreed to restore regular commercial flights, a move that could pave the way for thousands of visitors to the Spanish speaking Caribbean nation daily..

The deal was announced exactly a year since U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuba’s President Raul Castro announced ease on the strained relations between both countries. .

While U.S. law still bars travel to Cuba for tourists, the deal is expected to increase authorized travel between both nations. It is not known when the first Cuba-bound flights will take off. In a statement, Obama, touted the steps the



Obama, right, and Raul Castro have thawed U.S.-Cuba relations.

U.S. has taken to normalize relations with Cuba in the past year and called on the U.S. Congress to lift its embargo. .

In May, the U.S. removed Cuba from its list of state sponsors of terrorism, an act that led to the reopening of embassies months later. .

Last month, the U.S. and

Cuba announced they would resume direct postal services between both nations several times a week, alleviating the need to rely on routing mail through a third country. Details of that deal were expected to be finalized in coming weeks..

On Dec. 17, 2013, Castro and Obama announced the normalization of relations after more than 50 years of hostility between both countries.

More stories on tourism and travel, pages 15 and 16.



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~ EYE ON ELECTIONS IN HAITI

OAS sending special mission Violence forces Haiti to cancel presidential elections

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Organization of American States (OAS) will send a special mission to assess the situation in Haiti in response to a request by Haitian President Michel Martelly.

According to an agreement reached late last month by the Permanent Council of the OAS, Council Chair and Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Ronald Sanders said the mission will be sent by the OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro.

Sir Ronald said the mission's work will include engaging in "a dialogue with all appropriate parties." Almagro said the "mandate and the limits" under which the mission will act "must be set by the legitimate government of Haiti at this moment."

"Any other action beyond that would be an intervention that Haiti does not want, and that we want even less," he said.

CRITICAL

The OAS secretary general said the successful conclusion of the electoral process in Haiti is "critically important," adding that the dates for the second round of voting in the presidential elections should be set as soon as possible.

"It is of fundamental importance that there be an



Almagro

election, and not a plebiscite or a referendum on a single candidate," he said. "Haitians should agree on a mechanism for a clearly defined period of time, as short as possible."

Almagro said this should be within a plan endorsed by the Haitian Supreme Court of Justice. Bocchit Edmond, permanent representative of Haiti to the OAS, said the request by his government for a high-level OAS mission was motivated by "the goal of helping the actors to get together to avoid the country falling into an institutional vacuum and chaos."

Edited from CMC. Martelly gives his reasons for calling in OAS and CARICOM expresses concern over situation in Haiti, page 6.



Officials quit electoral council

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – Two members of Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) have submitted their resignations to President Michel Martelly as demonstrators continue to protest the electoral process in the French speaking Caribbean country.



Joseph

On Jan. 22, council member Jaceus Joseph submitted his letter, stating that because of his "deep convictions" he could not be an "accomplice of elections stained by a deficit in credibility, which will necessarily generate political instability, as well as illegitimate political leaders."

The other resignation came from Pierre Manigat Jr., the CEP's vice president and press representative, who said his decision was based on prior commitments made with the association of Haitian journalists (AJH), which

urged him to resign because of the "disasters the elections could generate" if maintained.

Two other CEP officials had already quit since the beginning of the electoral campaign. Néhémie Joseph left shortly after the presidential elections' first round, saying he was not confident he could fulfill his mission in accordance with his convictions. Also resigning was Yolette Mengual, after her appointment as the CEP's women representative was strongly questioned by human rights groups and Opposition sectors.

Haitians were scheduled to elect a new president on Jan. 24 as outgoing President Martelly is constitutionally due to leave office on Feb. 7.

- Edited from CMC.



PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti – The second round of presidential elections scheduled for Jan. 24 were cancelled last month as electoral officials said they could not guarantee their safety as well as the voters.

Jude Célestin, the main Opposition candidate in the elections, called the cancellation "a victory for all of the democratic sector."

"This isn't just about me," the **Miami Herald** reported him saying. "It's also about all the people who supported me and who fought for us to arrive here."



Martelly

Roudy Stanley Penn, a spokesman for the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) said the council had agreed to postpone the presidential and legislative runoffs. The electoral officials later told a news conference that safety could not be guaranteed for voters

or poll workers as Opposition supporters continued with street protests to force the postponement of the polls that they claimed were being rigged in favor of the government-backed candidate Jovenel Moise.

TURNAROUND

The announcement by the electoral officials came less than 24 hours after President Michel Martelly dismissed Opposition demands that he postpone the second round of presidential elections and vowed that polling would take place "amid order and discipline." In a nationwide radio and television broadcast on Jan. 21, Martelly, who is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Cruise liner cancels call to Haiti amid ongoing political unrest

MIAMI, Florida – Royal Caribbean says it has been forced to cancel its call to Haiti because of the ongoing protests in the French-speaking Caribbean country.

The company said "Vision of the Seas" skipped its scheduled stop at Labadee late last month because of concerns related to protests related to the cancellation of the presidential elections in that country.

"Royal Caribbean has not received any guarantees or assurances that there will not be any protests in the future,"



'Vision' changes course on Haiti.

Royal Caribbean noted in a statement.

"If a protest takes place while a ship is port, there

would be a significant impact on our guests' ability to enjoy Labadee, or we may

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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~ EYE ON ELECTIONS IN HAITI

Martelly calls in OAS, fears situation 'that would truly be chaotic'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Haiti's President Michel Martelly has called on the Organization of American States (OAS) to send a high level mission to the French-speaking Caribbean country which is grappling with efforts to hold a second round of voting to elect a new head of state.

Haiti's OAS representative Ambassador Bocchit Edmond

told the organization's Permanent Council that "Haiti remains convinced that election is the only way forward to guarantee democracy," adding that Martelly wanted a high level OAS mission with a view to helping Haiti reach some agreement regarding the polls. He said failure to do so could lead to the French country going into a political abyss "that

would truly be chaotic.

"The fate of Haiti is in our own hands and we would therefore ask that a high level political team be sent to Haiti as soon as possible for the process to continue such that by February 7 a Haitian solution to this difficult situation should be found. I am sure the member states as in the past will assist in maintaining stability in the

country," he said, adding that the existing situation cannot be allowed to continue.

"What we want and what the president is seeking is a broad solution to the ... impasse and we know you will have a very critical role to play ... you have a mere 10 days," Edmond added.

DEADLINE

Lemes told the Permanent Council that in his conversation with Martelly, the president made it clear that he would demit office on Feb. 7 and was also determine to do all in his power to ensure that the democratic process is maintained. But he made it clear that the OAS would need to have a "clear mandate as to the mission's visit adding that no decision can be issued from this meeting "we must act as a facilitator."

Belize Ambassador Nestor Mendez, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) said "our concern is for a solution to be found."

He read a statement issued on Jan. 26 by the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat condemning the violence that led to the postponement of the elections on Jan. 24.

He said the 15-member grouping was of the view that the violence has also led to the postponement of the elections for the remaining members of the legislature.

"In the circumstances, the community calls on all the stakeholders, and in particular



Edmond

the major political actors, to do their utmost to resolve, as a matter of urgency, the current political crisis in a calm and peaceful atmosphere by facilitating the negotiations being conducted," said Ambassador Mendez.

The were cancelled following street protests by Opposition supporters claiming that the election would be rigged in favor of the government backed candidate Jovenel Moise. The Opposition supported candidate Jude Celestin had already said he would not participate in the second round of voting and instead joined supporters in calling for the establishment of an interim government to oversee the electoral process Haiti.

The United States told the OAS Permanent Council that there was need for a "firm commitment" from the stakeholders in Haiti for a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis.

- Edited from CMC.



Cruise liner cancels call to Haiti amid ongoing political unrest

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

have to cancel the visit completely."

It stated that "Vision of the Seas" was supposed to call on Royal Caribbean's fenced-off private port Jan. 24, but instead the cruise line chose to avoid Labadee and take pas-

sengers to Puerto Rico.

That was the third cancellation by Royal Caribbean after its ships "Liberty of the Seas" and "Navigator of the Seas" last month bypassed the Caribbean island.

The indefinite postponement of the elections, due to

violence and fear of corruption, has resulted in Royal Caribbean postponing its decision when it will return its ship to Labadee, the company stated.

- Edited from CMC.



Violence forces Haiti to cancel presidential elections

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

barred by the constitution from seeking a third consecutive term in office, said "the election must be held" and reminded citizens that when he took up office in 2011 he had vowed to leave on schedule in Feb. 2016.

Martelly denounced what he termed "vast plot to try to destabilize us" and accused the opposition of engaging in a strategy to prevent the legitimate handover of power to a new head of state on Feb. 7.

"They want to take power their way, because they can't

take it through the ballot," he said in the broadcast.

The Opposition parties have accused Martelly and the CEP of seeking to rig the polls in favor of Moise.

- Edited from CMC.



Spring Health

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'I'm being used as a scapegoat,' says Jamaican doctor banned from sports

GORDON WILLIAMS

FLORIDA, United States – A former doctor for Jamaica's national soccer team has broken his silence about a lengthy ban received from the sport's governing body FIFA, claiming innocence of charges he injected a player with an illegal substance and accusing people on the Caribbean island of betrayal.

Dr. Carlton "Pee Wee" Fraser also blamed FIFA for shattering his professional reputation and the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF) for failing to release information clearing his name while not backing him fully during the scandal, which rocked the Reggae Boyz' failed 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign.

In addition, during an exclusive interview from his home here on Jan. 11, Dr. Fraser described plots to oust him from Jamaica, an assassination attempt, plus efforts to tarnish Jamaica's image as a sporting powerhouse.

The fallout, he admitted, has resulted in absence from his homeland for over two years, loss of steady income and mounting financial issues. None of it, he explained, is his fault.

"I'm being used as a scapegoat," said Dr. Fraser, claiming the scandal has dissolved ties with athletes who once trusted him with their life and career.

TROUBLES

His troubles hit the spotlight following Jamaica's away qualifier against Honduras on June 11, 2013. Jermaine Hue, an injured, unused substitute, was one of two Boyz randomly drug tested after the game, which Jamaica lost. Hue's urine sample returned positive for dexamethasone, believed to be on the 2013 World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List and deemed a steroid in published reports.

Dr. Fraser admitted he gave "dex" to Hue via intravenous (IV) therapy on match day. However, he insisted dexamethasone is not a steroid, or performance enhancer, but a legal anti-inflammatory substance. He believes he proved that during a Sept. 2013 telecommunication conference to investigate Hue's test result. Also present during that meeting were JFF officials, at the federation's New Kingston office, and FIFA representatives in Switzerland. Dr. Fraser also countered

objection by FIFA over the "route" he used to administer dex, meaning IV.

"Absolutely nothing wrong as far as I'm concerned," he said.



Dr. Fraser has leaned hard on faith. - Photographs by Gordon Williams

"... When they had requested the medical and scientific response from me I went into details and showed them you had about 60-odd different disorders where you treat with dexamethasone and it is given intravenously ... why I gave (Hue) intravenous therapy it wasn't for the dexamethasone. What I did, I rehydrated him."

BAN

Dr. Fraser was banned for four years by FIFA and barred from contact with players. He claimed WADA recently expanded the punishment to include athletes from all sports for the remainder of his suspension.

"I can't go near them," he said.

Dr. Fraser swears he did nothing illegal and claims the punishment was far too severe.

"According to their protocol, they say if a doctor gives an illegal steroid to a player, the first time he does it he is supposed to get two years," he said. "Now, how on Earth I got four-year ban?"

Following the teleconference, Dr. Fraser said he was directed by JFF General Secretary Raymond Grant, who he said attended, not to discuss the meeting publicly. Shortly after the teleconference, and before he learned about punishment from FIFA, news of Dr. Fraser's ban had already hit the airwaves.

"Why I wanted to talk to the media is that they had perpetuated the same misconception about the substance," he explained. "... So everybody in Jamaica had it all over, not only in Jamaica now, the entire world, that I'd given illegal steroids to a player,

which is totally misconceived, because that substance is naturally made."

Hue, Dr. Fraser confirmed, was one of five Jamaican players he gave IV containing "dex" in Honduras. The midfielder should bear no responsibility for the test result, he added. The player was banned for several months. Dr. Fraser said he's devastated by the damage to Hue's career and broken relationships with players.

"Of course I felt terrible about it," he said.

ABOUT FACE

Administering "dex" is legal, said Dr. Fraser, and FIFA agrees.

"FIFA actually sent a documentation to JFF saying that nothing was wrong with the substance," he explained.

Yet Dr. Fraser said he's been unable to get that document from the JFF and the federation hasn't made FIFA's findings public. Attempts to verify his claim have been unsuccessful. Contacted by telephone Jan. 21, Grant said he was in a meeting. Informed it was about Dr. Fraser, he said he'd return the call. Up to press time he hadn't.

Dr. Fraser believes FIFA opposed his methods out of ignorance.

"They're trying to say I was negligent," he said. "... Now I'm getting to understand, more and more, that one of the major reasons why I was considered outside of the protocol was because nobody else is doing it on the planet Earth but me. It's at the research level."

FIFA declined to discuss Dr. Fraser's case, citing "confidentiality rules." However, JFF representatives publicly stated the use of IVs was banned by FIFA.

"Some players were treated intravenously, and apparently that is not allowed," JFF President Captain Horace Burrell told reporters.

Dr. Fraser said the JFF was fully aware he used IVs to treat players and believes Burrell wasn't properly briefed.

"FIFA said if you're gonna give intravenous treatment you must do clinical investigation, and I do that," Dr. Fraser explained.

In Aug. 2013 Dr. Guyan Arscott, chairman of the JFF Medical Committee, declared in a published story that Dr. Fraser "did not stick to the stringent guidelines for prohibited substances."

Dr. Fraser was disappointed with colleagues' reaction in Jamaica. "Only a few ... people who were in the scientific or medical community, were

saying (dexamethasone) was not a steroid," he explained.

"... I didn't get no support from the medical fraternity."

Dr. Fraser said the JFF criticized him for "chastising" FIFA by objecting to the body's original findings.

According to a federation source who declined to be identified, the JFF didn't back Dr. Fraser. The source said the

doctor was only kept on since 2007 because "the players liked him, he worked hard, he showed he genuinely cared."

PROBLEMS

Dr. Fraser admitted notorious Jamaican "dons" as patients, but said he was not involved in politics. However,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

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FEATURE



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Caribbean not seeking handouts, but needs help to repair slavery's damage ~ Beckles



OXFORD, England – Sir Hilary Beckles, chairman of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission, says Caribbean countries are not looking for “handouts” as a result of its call for reparation for the slave trade.

Professor Beckles, speaking at a recent public lecture on reparation organized by Oxford University, said a suggestion by European countries, that “they have now moved on ... sorry it is a closed chapter there is nothing to discuss,” does not negate

the call for compensation.

“What reparatory justice says these are the children who are now disposed, disenfranchised,” Sir Hilary said.

“We are the children. We have now said, ‘Hold on dad, hold on a second, you gave our mother a raw deal, you gave us a raw deal, we want to talk about our education, our health, we want you to come back and participate in our upbringing,’” as he juxtaposed the salve trade to an abusive marriage.

“That’s what we are asking you to do. We are not asking you for handouts. We are asking for a moral conversational, a legal conversation about justice,” he added.

ISSUES

The vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI) said that reparatory justice is about “dealing with these issues.” He said the Caribbean is faced with a “chronic disease explosion where 60 percent of all the black people in the region over the age of 60 have type



Beckles

two diabetes, hypertension.

He said while “slavery is over ... we are now in the jet stream of it ...

“The people are stressed out. They cannot metabolize sugar and salt because that’s what they had,” he said, recalling that children of the working class used to go into the kitchen and pick up a handful of sugar and eat it.

“So now we have a serious problem because the philosophy was eat what you grow. We grew sugar and we consumed it, now we have a dia-

betes explosion on the island. Barbados is now known for two things, beautiful tourism product, the amputation capital of the world. Every day in Barbados someone loses a limb ... because of the rampant explosion of diabetes.

“So we have the illiteracy, we have diabetes, we have no institutions, there are no museums, lovely museums on slavery in the Caribbean.”

HIGH COST

Sir Hilary said it would be difficult to say to a Caribbean government, struggling with debt and other problems to take five million pounds (one British pound = US\$1.42 cents) to build a museum to slavery when there are other pressing issues.

“We know from the work we have done on hypertension that the hypertension drugs don’t work as well on West Indians as they do on the British,” he explained. “We have done comparative studies in Britain, West Africa and the Caribbean (and) it is fascinating to know that if you are

English and you took a hypertension drug your body has a 95 percent response ...

“If you are black from the Caribbean you have a 70 percent response. So most black folks in the Caribbean are in and out of different drugs because one, it does not work, they get immune ... (but) the most remarkable thing is that the West African has the same response as the English,” he said.

Beckles said the pharmaceutical companies were not showing interest in the research because of the small size of the Caribbean.

The visit to Britain came as CARICOM is expected to send a letter to British Prime Minister David Cameron formally requesting a meeting this year on the start of discussions on reparatory justice within the context of Caribbean development.

- Edited from CMC.



‘I’m being used as a scapegoat,’ says Jamaican doctor banned from sports

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

he learned people wanted him out of Jamaica.

“They discussed it,” Dr.

Fraser said without specifically identifying the accused. “You know what they came up with? I’m dealing with revolution and I’m too much influ-

ence in the country.”

He left Jamaica and hasn’t returned. But a more dangerous threat emerged last summer. On Aug. 8, while driving on Interstate 95 here, Dr. Fraser said he was rear-ended by another vehicle, leaving him unconscious. He’s adamant it wasn’t an accident.

“I don’t believe,” Dr. Fraser said. “I know.”

He declined to discuss the alleged assassination in detail, yet underlined the claim by tracing his connections to several notorious organizations and individuals, including the Black Panthers and late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Dr. Fraser believes his banishment from treating athletes also stems from sinister roots. Some colleagues in Jamaica never supported his medical practice since he returned to the island decades ago after studying at Howard University in the United States, he said. The objections, he believes, were based on his Rastafarian faith.

“They didn’t want to work with a tam-wearing dreadlock,” he said about a mid-1990s incident.

Dr. Fraser doesn’t rule out a set up in the Hue case.

“I think there is more influence to it than just FIFA,” he said.

Jamaica’s sporting accomplishments, track and soccer included, have also become a target of a smear campaign,

Dr. Fraser believes, and he is being used to reach that goal.

“WADA must be aware that FIFA has sent to say nothing is wrong with the substance (I gave Hue) because WADA did the test,” Dr. Fraser explained. “... And now, after I’ve served two years of the ban they’re coming out now to say I can’t touch anyone else. I can’t deal with anyone in sports, because I am on the list, top of the list, in terms of doping. “Now this is obviously something to show that they’re trying to say that the performance of Jamaican athletes, all (over) the world, might be related ...”

Asked if that was part of a conspiracy to destroy him and Jamaica’s reputation, he responded: “Exactly ... I strongly believe that.”

The 68-year-old is getting legal advice to deal with his troubles, but Dr. Fraser’s has watched his medical career “crumble” and his financial future is in “worst than limbo.” Job offers vanished once news of the doping scandal erupted and his family is stressed.

“What I’m really embarrassed about, although I was aware of it, is the type of discriminatory attitude, the hate, all of that,” Dr. Fraser said. “And it transcends more than me. It is directed at Rastafarians.”



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Time to stop the lies, GOP!

If I had a penny for every time I heard the twaddle that the United States border needs to first be fully secured before we can begin to address immigration reform within the U.S. I'd be rich!

It's the favorite lie the Republican Party's right wing band of politicians use to blind many of their base, tainted by a level of ignorance that leads to their bigotry meter sky-rocketing every time the word "immigration" or "immigrants" are used.

Something inside – perhaps a fear of the further darkening of America and the loss of power – allows them to look beyond facts to the lies. It is why the insanity that is Donald Trump's presidential election campaign train continues to ride high despite the fact that the GOP under Trump will never win a general election.

But the lies continue to abound – on Mexicans, on immigrants, on Muslims! The false message that the GOP and its bunch of mad men continue to spread to their base is that immigrants are crawling over the U.S. borders daily and the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama is doing nothing to stop them.

FEAR

Sadly, many lap up these lies, choosing to agree with neurotic statements and comments aimed to create fear and division instead of getting the facts. But numbers don't lie, and if the numbers from the latest U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions report are any indication, then "illegal border crossings are at their lowest level in more than 40 years."

This is worth repeating – "... in more than 40 years"; four decades, four and O!

The Department of Homeland Security data released recently show that in Fiscal Year 2015, the total number of U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions was approximately 337,117, a decrease of 30 percent from Fiscal Year 2014. Further, the deportation of criminal immigrants continued apace with 139,368 or 59 percent of the 235,413 immigrants deported being those who were previously convicted of a crime. Of the criminal immigrants deported, 1,040 were classified as suspected or confirmed gang members.



FELICIA J. PERSAUD

These are the facts!

And here is another fact: Contrary to Trump's misinformation, it is immigrants from Central America, not Mexico, who are being captured trying to enter the U.S. illegally at the southern border. This was recently confirmed by the Pew Hispanic Center, which reported that "more Mexican immigrants have returned to Mexico from the U.S. than have migrated here since the end of the Great Recession."

BAIT

The only reason why the GOP and its candidates refuse to rationally offer up a solution to immigration reform is because they love to use it to enrage the blue colored base that hang on to their lies instead of getting the facts right. It is time the GOP starts getting the facts right and quit using lies to blind its own base, especially since as the Pew Center also tells us that a near-record 14 percent of the country's population is foreign-born compared with just five percent in 1965, and that share is expected to rise to 18 percent by 2065.

Most of all, 51 percent are from Latin America and a quarter are from Asia.

The Pew Hispanic Center also reports that Hispanics will account for 40 percent of the growth in the electorate over the next two decades. By 2030, 40 million Hispanics will be eligible voters, up from 23.7 million today. If Hispanics' voter participation and naturalization rates increase to the levels of other groups, the number of Hispanic votes cast could double within two decades. Similarly, the Asian share of the electorate is estimated to more than double by 2040.

In addition, multi-racial Americans account for 6.9 percent of adults, and they are growing at a rate three times as fast as the population as a whole.

That's a whole lot of immigrant and ethnic voters! These are the facts the GOP candidates and its base should focus on instead of continuing to be blinded by lies and the spinning of hate. Those lies will get them nowhere but down the losers' lane for years to come! Time to start spinning some truths Trump and company!

Edited from News Americas. Felicia J. Persaud is CMO of Hard Beat Communications, which owns the brands News Americas Now, CaribPR Wire and Invest Caribbean Now.



CON CONQUEST: Trials, triumphs of a ladies man

Call him what you may. The girls' man. Ladies man. The village ram. Mr. Lover Lover. He goes by many names, but his modus operandi is the same. His goal is to wine, dine as many women as he can, and he will stop at nothing in his pursuit of happiness.

Tall ones, short ones, slim ones, fat ones, pretty ones, rich ones, poor ones. He is loved by women, but feared, yet admired in a grudging way by most men who wish they could share even a bit of his good fortune.

The ladies man has no moral fiber, no sense of honor, no loyalty, no obligation and no remorse when it comes to dealing with women. Neither does he have any guilt. He comes, sees, and conquers. He then moves on with not even a thought of the last one's feelings.

It's every man's dream to have many women, either all at one time or over a period of time. Even women hold such men in awe and respect, even though they would never admit it publicly.

IRONY

The irony is, men who have many women, or have had many women, will always get other women. No woman wants a man who no other woman wants. Just check out how many women are drawn to their best friend's men, even though that best friend complains how wild the man is.

But the lothario has to know how to play the game, for the crude, overt womanizer, the boorish, clumsy clod, the loudmouth guy who treats



women like chattel and boasts about his conquests, will have little success with women. He has to be smooth and discrete, so the woman doesn't know that she's being stalked, pursued, hunted, snared and captured.

The romantic makes every woman feel as if she's special. The ladies man knows how to maneuver his words to suit each conquest. He is all things to all women.

NO FEAR

He has to exude confidence and power, for faint heart ne'er win fair maiden, and power is the ultimate aphrodisiac. Women are drawn to men of power. Even the clergy is not exempt, as stories about



TONY ROBINSON

randy pastors having too much fun with their flocks abound.

The ladies man has to be able to bend the truth and have a good memory to stick to the various tales he weaves to different women.

He also has to have strength of cash, for when it comes to women, it takes cash to care. I have never heard of a broke-pocket-walk-foot ladies man.

Yes, the ladies man comes in all shapes and forms, but the greatest trick he has, is to let people believe that he's not one.

Still, there's the hypocrisy that says, be celibate, sow no wild oats, take time with women, yet glorifies the exploits of the ladies man.

Yet he has to stop at some point, hang up his boots, tether his steed. But at least he can live on his memories.

- seido1@hotmail.com



CaribCha

Progress made, but development lacking in Caribbean soccer ~ Carl Brown

Jamaican Carl Brown served as head soccer/football coach for his country's senior men's national team five times. The 65-year-old former international player now resides in South Florida, where he instructs at West Pines F.C. and American Heritage High School. The following is an edited version of an interview Brown did last month with Caribbean Today's Gordon Williams, focusing on the game in the Caribbean, especially Jamaica.

QUESTION: Where do you think Jamaica's football is now, starting from the progress made from qualification for the 1998 World Cup (when Brown was an assistant coach)?

ANSWER: There is a concept that once we go to the World Cup that we, automatically, should be there the next time around. But if you look at the history of it, particularly in

CONCACAF (confederation of Caribbean North and Central America), if you look at Caribbean teams that have been there, that so few of the Caribbean teams have gone back to the World Cup, after qualifying for one ... So, for me, it's probably wrong for us to judge the development and progress of our game on the fact that we've not gone back to another World Cup.

Apart from that too, if we look at the game itself ... we've made some progress along the way in our region ... But if we look locally, at home, for me that's where it's not so much about going back to the World Cup, but what has happened in our local situ-



Brown

ation, that probably concerns me more than anything else.

Q: How do you rate how we've progressed over the years?

A: One of the things we definitely have to look at is the movement of players in the professional ranks. We've not, in recent times, seen any club in England sign any of our local (Jamaica) players and that for me is a benchmark, you know.

... Most of our signings now have gone off to the other side of Europe and to the MLS (Major League Soccer).

Q: Why is that?

A: It has to do with the development of the game back home ... We don't see the crowd turning out. We don't

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

VIEWPOINT



www.caribbeantoday.com

Progress made, but development lacking in Caribbean soccer ~ *Carl Brown*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

see people wanting to come. The game itself is lacking a superstar ... and therefore we

have to now take a look at what is happening at the prep school and primary school level.

Q: Shouldn't Jamaica be a bit further along now?

A: We should ... The fact that we went to the World Cup (in

'98) should have propelled us to move on. But we have done nothing ...

Q: Who has failed?

A: I mean, the administration (Jamaica Football Federation) has to take the big blunt of responsibility. And then it comes back to the JFF and development. The truth is that JFF cannot undertake development of football in the country and therefore the government and private sector have to play a bigger role in ensuring that we have continuity there ... So we have to move away from this stigma that the JFF is responsible for the development of football in the country. Financially they're not able to do it.

Q: When you see Jamaica play, is that the best it can do right now?

A: Our biggest hindrance right now, for the coach, is the period of time he gets this squad together.

Q: Doesn't everybody have the same problem?

A: Well, to a different extent ... People always say that. The Brazilian team only gets together a couple days, but the quality is different.

When you look at (Jamaica's senior men's) coach (Winfried) Schaefer, for instance, it's so difficult for him to stamp his personality, to stamp the way he would like to see this team play, because of the short period he gets ... And this is why I go back to, and I know it's a sour point, that coach Schaefer needs to get a local squad and coach them.

Q: Exactly what do you mean by that?

A: There's this concept that there's no good footballer in Jamaica anymore, that the talent is not there anymore. I really don't support that. I really believe that if coach Schaefer spends some time with the best of what we have in Jamaica, we can grow into the powerhouse that we want to be with the addition of the players that we're inviting home now.

Q: Isn't the nature of the beast forcing a national coach to protect his job first by putting the best squad on the field?

A: You're so right with that, and I can understand that. But also, too, our football administrators, who are responsible for our development, even if they're not going to be financing our development, that if they employ an experienced coach like Schaefer that he should, at some time, be afforded (to pass on) that

experience and that knowledge to our local players. And clearly that is not being done at the moment.

Q: And that's an error?

A: And that, I believe, is an error ... Now money has become so important that we're not going to play a game unless we can make some money from it, you know, and that is at the detriment of development of our players ... We have seen a local player involved in a squad presently, but how often does he get an opportunity to play?

Q: Jamaica has sent three teams to youth World Cups—two under-17s and one under-20. But we've not seen the same names on any big scale making that step from that level. How big of a disappointment is that?

A: This is a concept that people have, that if you play under-17 World Cup that you should automatically be moving into your national senior team ... We've not seen them gone on. And that's the big difference. The players from Argentina, for instance, what is it that they go back to when they leave that youth World Cup (professional clubs), as opposed to our players ... What (Jamaicans) go back to at home, it's back to school football.

Q: Do you believe the belief or the confidence these Jamaican players gained at the youth World Cups, despite what they go back to, has been sufficient for them?

A: It's not sufficient ... Again it comes back to financing of this development that we keep talking about ...

Q: Has Jamaica done a good job making sure that what is expended in the past and what is gained from the past is reintroduced into the national football program?

A: I'm a testimony that we can succeed as local coaches and I see some bright minds there now (in Jamaica) ... (but) I still feel we're not doing enough to help them develop ... Our young coaches, when we get them in, we need to ensure that continuity for them ... We cannot put them in a situation where they get into one tournament, lose, and they have to wonder if they're going to be a part of it ... Yes, we're getting there. I'm really happy to see some of the past players (coaching), you know, because this is something that you worried (about) a lot along the way.



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Island Style: Mixed bag of talent for 25th St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival

A mix of Caribbean and international talent representing a wide range of musical genres, including reggae, rock, R&B and jazz, will form the main attraction at the 25th annual St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival beginning late April.



Shaggy

Confirmed performers for the April 29 to May 8 festival so far include Shaggy, Marc Anthony, George Benson, Kool and the Gang, Air Supply, Omi, Kassav, Donald Harrison Jr., and Joey Alexander. More names to be confirmed as the festival draws near.

"This year's festival commemorates 25 years of star-

studded musical performances that have commanded world attention over the years," St. Lucia's Tourism, Heritage and Creative Industries Minister Lorne Theophilus noted in a recent press release to promote the event.

"We are honored to continue the tradition and take great pride in providing a platform for internationally acclaimed musicians, as well as showcasing Saint Lucian artisans, entertainers and cultural enthusiasts during the two-week celebration."

LOCATIONS

The 10-day festival runs through May 8 and will feature a multitude of musical performances and art showcases throughout the island. Locations span from St.

Lucia's Pigeon Island National Park, where main stage events will kick-off on May 6, to various other venues island-wide.

With a continued emphasis on the arts component of the festival, a tribute to Sir Derek Walcott – one of St. Lucia's two Nobel Laureates – will be presented through the play *Omeros* and produced by

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. An Arts Village with a dedicated site in the north of the island will feature literary, visual and performing arts, while the fashion show "Hot Couture" will return with a spotlight on St. Lucia and the region's style.

Completing the line-up will be a string of other local

entertainers, together with more than 100 local artisans, who will perform at jazz venues island-wide throughout the festival.

For more information about the 25th annual festival, visit <http://www.stluciajazz.org> or call 1-800-456-3984.



Lauryn Hill to headline Tobago Jazz Experience

SCARBOROUGH, Tobago - Grammy winner Lauryn Hill has been named among the main performers for the Tobago Jazz Experience scheduled for April 16-24 in the Caribbean island.

The Tobago House of Assembly Division of Tourism and Transportation last month announced the headliners for the nine-day festival, which it said exemplifies Tobago's vibrant culture, rich history, diverse gastronomy and friendly locals.

The festival is a celebration of jazz, Tobago's indigenous music and new music from around the world set along the island's beaches.

Tobago Jazz Experience is the island's biggest annual music event, with past performers including John Legend, Michael Jackson, Elton John, Jennifer Hudson, Jill Scott, George Benson, Erykah Badu, Trey Songz,



Hill

Angie Stone and India Arie. Several communities will host multiple events and performances by both regional and international acts, including local rapso group 3Canal. Other scheduled performers include Jamaican reggae band Third World and Barbadian saxophonist Arturo Tappin.

For more information, visit www.tobagojazzexperience.com.



Newsweek releases Marley 70th anniversary tribute



A Newsweek magazine special issue, billed as the official 70th

anniversary Bob Marley tribute and entirely dedicated to the Marleys, reggae, rock steady, ska and Jamaica, was released across the United States last month.

The 100-page book chronicles the life and legacy of Marley, Jamaica's gifted son of Trench Town, whose music and cultural ideology inspired millions across the globe.

The editorial spread is accompanied by over 100 color and black and white photographs of Marley, his children,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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Nari Ward, *Scandal Bag: History Feeds Mistrust*, 2015 (detail). Photographed by Steven Rose. Image courtesy the artist; Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Beijing, Les Moulins, and Havana; and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong

M

Caribbean authors to explore region's culture at AARLCC

Two Caribbean-born authors will spotlight their most recent works, exploring the region's culture, this month at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

A tale of intrigue set in Jamaica will be the focus of a talk by writer and artist Carol M. Williams at 2 p.m. Feb. 13. Williams, a Florida resident, will discuss her novel "Burning Down The Country House".



Williams

From 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Feb. 19, Haitian-born author Lahiny Pierre will share insights into her novel "Family Values" and essay "Freedom Conscience: Sovereignty vs. Paternalization".

Williams's story explores the circumstances leading up to the end of a marriage built on deceit, power play and ignorance. The author interjects anecdotes into this account of a family under duress as seen through the eyes of her child protagonist "Addie".

Williams delves into the trenches of spiritual poverty - when the head of a household replaces the one true and living God with one of his own

making.

'FREEDOM'

"Family Values" features a main character named "Frida" who is in a bind. Doctors find nothing wrong with her, but she suffers from pain in the uterus. A visit to a voodoo priest changes her course of action. He orders her to go home. She must face her older sister "Follie", who cut ties with Port-au-Prince 18 years ago and won't upset her plush life by indulging Frida's superstitions. Alone to travel into her past for a cure, Frida succumbs to the twists of fate.



Pierre

The essay analyzes African consciousness in the 21st century, noting that that Haiti has always been a signifier in the Western Hemisphere. It offers examples of recent historic events, involving public figures/world leaders as accomplices, to collect donations for Haiti just to ensure the billions were returned to boost the United States' economy.

The AARLCC is located at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. For more information, call 954-357-6210.



Newsweek releases Marley 70th anniversary tribute

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

the Wailers band and other reggae pioneers, including Coxone Dodd. One black and white image dates to 1966 at the wedding of Bob and Rita before Marley started growing dreadlocks. Another photograph revisits the "Is This Love" video shoot in 1978 in London that featured seven-year-old Naomi Campbell, who would later become a super model.

There are no images of former Miss World Cindy Brakespeare in the book. Brakespeare is the mother of Marley's son Damian "Junior Gong" Marley.

Much of the narrative is

told by Marley's children. Son Ziggy discusses his father's enduring works. Another son, Stephen, recalls the night his parents were shot. Daughter Cedella zooms in on her dad's world-changing relevance.

"My siblings and I are honored and blessed with the Marley name and heritage of music and are proud our children will continue his legendary message through their own music, inspiring generations to come," Cedella Marley said in the Newsweek book.

- Edited from an article submitted by Dave Rodney/Images Newsletter.



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Pork steak mojito with island potato salad

Meat and potatoes never hurt anyone, especially Caribbean Americans looking to satisfy their hunger.

So **Publix Aprons Simple Meals and Caribbean Today** present a pork steak mojito with island salad meal sure to fill them while satisfying their taste buds. Enjoy.

Cooking sequence

Prepare pork steaks and begin to brown - five minutes. Prepare salad and complete pork steaks; serve - 15 minutes.

Pork steak mojito

Ingredients

- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 small yellow onion, thinly sliced
- juice of 1 lemon
- 6 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 4 Spanish-style pork cube steaks (about 1 1/2 lb)
- 1 teaspoon adobo seasoning (Spanish seasoning)

Cooking instructions

Prep by chopping garlic and slicing onion. Cut lemon in half.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high two to three minutes. Place two tablespoons of the oil in pan, then



Pork steak mojito

add pork steaks.

Cook three to four minutes on each side or until browned and pork is 145°F. Remove from pan and cover to keep warm.

Reduce heat to medium. Add remaining four tablespoons olive oil, onions, adobo and garlic to pan.

Squeeze juice of one-half lemon into pan (about two tablespoons). Cook five to six minutes or until onions are tender. Serve sauce over pork steaks.

Island potato salad

Ingredients

- 1 cup tart apple slices
- 16 oz Deli N.Y.-style potato salad

- 1/4 cup sliced green olives

Steps

Cut apples into bite-size pieces and place in salad bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients, mixing gently, until blended. Chill until ready to serve.

Aprons Advice

Complete your meal with red beans, sourdough bread, and a chocolate dessert.

Adobo is a flavorful, but not hot, seasoning blend used in Caribbean recipes. Use to season meat before grilling or mix with avocado and dash of lemon juice for quick guacamole.



Spanish stewed chicken served with yellow rice

Caribbean cooking is just fine. But nothing's wrong with spicing it up with some Spanish flavor, courtesy of **Publix Aprons Simple Meals**.

Cooking sequence

Prepare rice. Cook chicken - 20 minutes. Cook vegetables. Complete chicken and serve - 15 minutes.

Spanish stewed chicken with yellow rice

Ingredients

- 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup green onions, finely chopped
- 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 6 slices bacon
- 1 (10-oz) package yellow rice mix
- 2 tablespoons, plus 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup flour
- Large zip-top bag
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 8 oz pre-diced onions (1 1/2 cups)
- 8 oz pre-sliced baby portabellas
- 1/3 cup sliced green olives, drained
- 1 cup cream sherry
- 1 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Prep

Chop garlic (one tablespoon)

and green onions. Cut chicken and bacon into bite-size pieces.

Steps

Prepare rice following package instructions (using olive oil). Place flour in large zip-top bag.

Season chicken with salt and pepper; add to bag (wash hands). Seal bag; shake to coat. Remove chicken from bag. Shake off excess flour.

Preheat large sauté pan on medium-high two to three minutes. Place bacon in pan. Cook three to four minutes or until lightly browned. Add chicken. Cook three to four minutes or until brown on all sides.

Add remaining one teaspoon olive oil. Stir in onions, mushrooms, olives, and garlic. Cook four to five minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Add sherry and broth. Simmer eight to 10 minutes or until mixture thickens and chicken is 165°F. Remove from heat; stir in green onions and butter. Serve with rice.

Aprons Advice

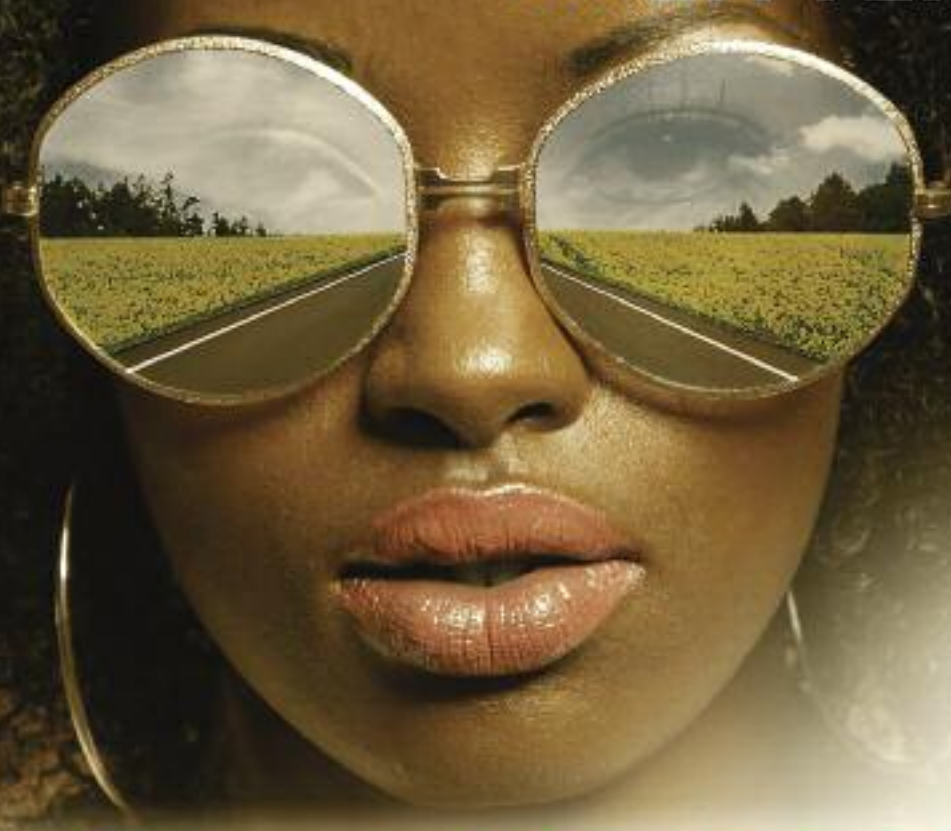
Complete your meal with steamed broccoli, Cuban bread, and pecan pie for dessert.

The ingredients of this chicken recipe represent the flavors of Spain and not those of the Caribbean.



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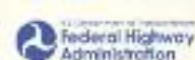
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HEALTH



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PAHO working with Caribbean governments to 'prevent, detect, respond' to Zika

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) says it is working with Caribbean governments to "to prevent, detect and respond" to the Zika virus.

Last month, PAHO said starting in Mar. 2014, and through the first week of 2016, 14 countries and territories of the Americas, including the Caribbean, have reported cases of Zika infection. The virus, which is transmitted to humans by infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos, causes symptoms including light fever, rash, conjunctivitis and muscle pain.

PAHO said a current concern is the effect of Zika virus

on pregnant women and newborn babies. It said there is little information on transmission of the Zika virus from mother to baby during pregnancy or childbirth, stating that perinatal transmission has been reported with other vector-borne viruses, such as dengue and chikungunya. The studies are now being conducted on possible mother-to-child transmission of the virus and its possible effects on the baby.

INCREASE

In Nov. 2015, PAHO said the Ministry of Health of Brazil noted a marked increase in microcephaly, in which the head circumference of newborns is smaller than

expected. PAHO said that discovery coincided with Zika virus circulation in the coun-

"PAHO said a current concern is the effect of Zika virus on pregnant women and new-born babies ... There is little information on transmission of the Zika virus from mother to baby during pregnancy or childbirth".

try. With support from PAHO and other agencies, "health authorities are carrying out studies to clarify the causes, risk factors, and consequences of this increase in micro-



The mosquito carries the virus.

cephaly," the statement noted.

PAHO said the Zika fever occurs about three to 12 days after the mosquito bites. The clinical manifestation of the virus is often similar to dengue, another mosquito-borne illness. The virus was isolated for the first time in

1947 in the Zika forest in Uganda. Since then, it has remained mainly in Africa, with small and sporadic outbreaks in Asia.

Since October 2015, PAHO said other countries and territories of the Americas, including Caribbean community (CARICOM)-member state Suriname, have reported the presence of the virus. Treatment consists of relieving pain, fever, and any other symptom that inconveniences the patient.

- Edited from CMC.



20/20 vision doesn't always mean healthy eyes ~ CHI

Clear vision is not necessarily an indication of healthy vision, warns Dr. Sarah Shafi of the optometry department at Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI).

"A patient could have perfect vision, but actually have tumors, other harmful conditions or diseases and not even know it," Dr. Shafi explained.

Eye and vision examinations are important to preventive health care. A variety of tests and procedures are used to examine the eyes. CHI's optometry department offers exams to determine the

health of the eyes, including looking for tumors and other abnormalities that may indicate serious conditions such as diabetes.

"I can tell from looking into the back of the eyes that a patient might have diabetes," explained Dr. Shafi. "If they are undiagnosed, this is valuable information to have so the patient



Dr. Shafi gets a close-up look at the eyes.

can be referred to the proper provider for follow up. Other diseases can also be detected through a comprehensive exam."

Preliminary testing may include the evaluation of depth perception, color vision, muscle movement, peripheral or side vision, focus, the way the pupils respond to light and the risk for glaucoma.

- Edited from article and photograph submitted by CHI.



U.S. military offers health care for Caribbean patients

MIAMI, Florida - The United States military command, otherwise known as Southern Command or SouthCOM, says in 2015 its medical professionals provided health care to more than 150,000 people in 14 nations in Latin America and the Caribbean during humanitarian-focused training exercises.

SouthCOM said that the multinational exercises - including stops in 11 nations by the hospital ship USNS Comfort during the Continuing Promise 2015 humanitarian and civic assistance deployment - are part of a "long-standing U.S. military humanitarian training program with partner nations in the region." The medical efforts generally take place in rural areas, and are coordinated with the host nation and other U.S. government agencies, according to SouthCOM.

"These training events enhance readiness of U.S. military personnel and host nation

medical forces, provide free medical treatment to communities and attempt to improve the overall level of care of the host nation's healthcare system," SouthCOM said.

It said the medical exercises last year provided one or more services in general surgery, specialized treatment and surgery, basic medical evaluation and treatment, preventive medicine treatment, dental screenings and treatment, optometry screenings and eyewear distribution, and public health training.

SouthCOM said small teams of U.S. military personnel provided free care for nearly 38,000 people during 36 Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETEs) or Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) exercises in seven nations during Fiscal Year 2015.

- Edited from CMC.



U.S. lifts horticultural ban on Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic - The United States has lifted a ban on the importation of various vegetables and citrus fruits from the Dominican Republic.

Last month, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said the lifting of the ban affects 23 of the 30 Dominican provinces, which does not include the country's eastern districts, where the presence of the Mediterranean fruit fly, which attacks vegetables and tropical fruits, was detected last year.

The ban was imposed by

the U.S. in April 2015, resulting in losses of millions of dollars to Dominican producers, officials said.

As of Jan. 12, all Dominican peppers and avocados, papayas and citrus fruits were allowed to enter the U.S. market.

The Ministry of Agriculture recalled that the ban imposed by the U.S. did not include Hass avocados or green tomatoes produced in the country, which are resistant to attacks by the Mediterranean fruit fly.

- Edited from CMC.



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Bahamas P.M. underscores tourism importance to regional development

NASSAU, The Bahamas – Bahamas Prime Minister Perry Christie underscored the importance of the tourism sector to the socio-economic development of the Caribbean during last month's annual Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) Marketplace here.

Christie, addressing the three-day event, said tourism as a direct contribution to Caribbean gross domestic product (GDP) was three percent in 2015, compared to the worldwide average of 3.7 percent.

He said the sector as a total contribution to Caribbean GDP rose by 2.9 percent last year and is expected to increase by 3.3 percent of GDP per annum each year over the next decade, against the worldwide average of 3.8 percent. He said in the region, total capital investment in tourism grew by 4.2 percent in 2015, as compared to the worldwide average of 4.8 percent.

"All of this suggests that while we are holding our own in tourism in the Caribbean, we must do much better if we are to meet the needs and expectations of Caribbean citizens over the next decade and that we must be intent on giving prioritized focus to those drivers of our economies that will leverage our tourism assets for continued and accelerated growth in the years to come," he said.

ENTER CUBA

Christie said he welcomed the move by the United States to re-open diplomatic relations with Cuba and to work toward completely lifting the trade embargo.

"With the U.S. trade embargo eliminated, Cuba will enter the Caribbean arena as a heavyweight contender for the region's share of the tourism trade," he explained. "Among Cuba's many attrac-



Christie

tions is her novelty and human beings are naturally attracted to what is new.

"But let's keep in mind that there is an upside to stiff competition. Competition motivates us to reach deep within and bring out qualities that we are unaware that we possess. All nations seek to strengthen their economic position through collaboration with neighboring countries.

"Cuba is no exception. Already, several of our destinations have entered into agreements with Cuba to do joint tourism marketing and to create multiple destination packages," Christie said, noting "for us in the Caribbean, it is no longer business as usual.

"We are at that juncture in our development as tourism dependent nations where the name of our region must become synonymous, bar none, with world class, impeccable service, value for money, top rate accommodations and wonderfully memorable vacation experiences.

"The upside is that today's global economic landscape continues to provide opportunities for each of the Caribbean's tourism destinations, even as our governments seek to mitigate challenges such as infrastructure development, energy security, technological advancement, citizen security and climate

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Jamaica welcomes more visitors than population to Caribbean island ~ minister

Jamaica has welcomed more visitors than the population, confirming the country's status as one of the elite destinations in the Caribbean.

According to Tourism and Entertainment Minister Dr. Wykeham McNeill, for the past two years the country has been receiving two million stopover visitors and 1.5 million from the cruise ships annually, more than the population of 2.5 million.

"Bringing in more people than our current population is no ordinary feat ... and we are not done as yet," he said, noting that currently, there are 2,500 new hotel rooms under construction.

He said never in Jamaica's history the island has had so many rooms being built simultaneously and that, in addition to the current boom, there are about 7,000 more rooms in the pipeline. McNeill said his mantra as minister has always been about what is in the best interest of the Jamaican people and that every effort will be made to ensure that many



Jamaica 'not done as yet,' says McNeill.

Jamaicans are employed during the construction phase of the new rooms that are coming on stream.

He said that with the new rooms coming on stream, there will be over 10,000 jobs that will be available and has urged Jamaicans to get themselves certified to meet the demand.

Tourism is one of the major foreign exchange earners for Jamaica, which in 2013 entered into a four-year \$948.1 million Extended Fund Facility (EFF) agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

- Edited from CMC.



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'Brilliant Barbados' offers incentives to visit island

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados – “Brilliant Barbados” is offering potential visitors attractive incentives to choose the island as their holiday destination.

Fresh on the heels of Barbados's 50th Independence jubilee celebrations, which kicked off last month, officials of the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI) announced that an offer of a 50 percent discount will be extended to multiple markets with “More Excitement. More Value. Come Celebrate!” as its call to action.

This updated version of the campaign, dubbed “Brilliant Barbados 50”, falls in line with the BTMI's digital marketing strategy, which emphasizes tracking visitor trends, interests and issues, as well as keeping a close eye on the marketing return on investment.

“We hope to build on the positive results yielded from last year's campaign with an improved iteration rebranded to mark our island's 50th anniversary of independence,”



said BTMI Chief Executive Officer William Griffith.

“This year is already off to an encouraging start and by launching this promotion early, we hope to sustain that performance through the traditionally softer summer and fall months.”

EXCITEMENT

Sue Springer, CEO of the Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association, added that BHTA and its hotel members

are excited to again partner with the BTMI in this national marketing package.

“It is hoped that with the foundation laid last year with the ‘Brilliant Barbados’ brand,

together with the additional excitement being evoked by the celebrations of Barbados's 50th anniversary, that the program will be very successful and assist in driving extra

business for the members during the softer periods,” said Springer.

The booking code, BB50, can be used to redeem available offers, which vary across source markets. Travelers must book their travel by Feb. 14. Travel must take place between April 15 and June 30, and Sept. 1 Oct. 31.

For more information on “Brilliant Barbados”, visit www.brilliantbarbados.com.



Caribbean Airlines joins Guyana's 50th jubilee celebrations

GEORGETOWN, Guyana – Caribbean Airlines (CAL) has come on board to support the government and people of Guyana in commemorating the country's 50th jubilee anniversary.

The airline has partnered with the Ministry of Education, Department of Culture, Youth and Sport to brand three of its aircraft with the 50th anniversary logo. The branded planes were unveiled at a simple ceremony at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport last month.

Addressing a recent press briefing, Minister within the Ministry of Education

Nicolette Henry said CAL has been the only airline to approach the National Commemorative Commission to partner in support of the 50th Independence anniversary celebrations.

Apart from the logo, which is branding and publicity, the airline has agreed to airlift to Guyana, free of cost, certain items, including memorabilia and souvenirs that the National Commemorative Commission would require to purchase outside of Guyana, for the celebrations. The arrangement also caters for reduction in passenger fare for VIP passengers who would be

required to travel to the country or to Toronto and New York as part of the celebrations there.

Henry said the partnership does not make CAL the official airline of the jubilee celebration, explaining that the government is still open to, and would welcome, other airlines coming on board and offering similar packages. Given the volume of the activities planned and the amount of air traffic expected, “we might very much need other support,” she noted.

- Edited from CMC.



Bahamas P.M. underscores tourism importance to regional development

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

change that impact tourism development.”

TERRORISM

Christie said that the three-day event here attracted participation from Latin America and other global emerging markets, which are well poised to tap into mainstream and niche tourism and hospitality products available throughout the Caribbean region. But he said he was perturbed at the increase in “random, wanton acts of terrorism in areas around the

globe that are highly frequented by tourists.

“The constant threat of terrorism creates a psychology of anxiety,” he said. “It is our earnest hope that peace would soon be restored to those regions.

“In selecting the Caribbean for their clients' next holiday, travel professionals the world over can have peace of mind that our region is one of calm and stability.

“The Caribbean is a region full of tropical dream vacation destinations that persons around the world desire

to visit at least once in a lifetime. There are enough island gems in our region for the traveler to collect one, two or three each year for decades to come.

“While we are proud of our product offering we are also acutely aware that tourism is the world's largest industry and that global competition for the traveller is fierce,” Christie added.

- Edited from CMC.



OECS gets tourism aid from World Bank for development

CASTRIES, St. Lucia – The nine-nation Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has received a World Bank grant to develop a harmonized framework for tourism market intelligence.

Late Dec. 2015, the OECS Commission signed a grant agreement with the World Bank to execute a project to develop a harmonized framework for collecting and reporting tourism market intelligence data in the OECS.

This framework, according to Dr. Lorraine Nicholas, head of the OECS Tourism desk will allow participating countries to collect, organize, report and use the statistical data necessary for tourism market intelligence and ultimately enhance the quality of decision-making in vital tourism sector in the OECS.

INFO NEEDED

She noted that the need for accurate, timely and reliable information on the tourism sector cannot be overemphasized in light of the ever-changing dynamic tourism industry.

“Empirically derived data can play a pivotal role in the OECS in empowering tourism policy makers to make more informed decisions for tourism planning, policy making and marketing.

“Notwithstanding, there is a notable lack of marketing intelligence to enable countries of the OECS to monitor tourism market dynamics

nationally, regionally and globally,” she added.

For the most part, she said the research agenda of most tourism entities in OECS member states is restricted to the collection and analysis of data on tourist arrivals and expenditure. She added that the methodology for data collection and reporting in member states also differs across member states, with the absence of a proper framework for monitoring of global market trends in tourism.

“Such deficiencies relative to marketing intelligence present dire implications for the ability of OECS member states to make sound strategic business decisions.”

An OECS commission statement advised that the project to develop a regional market intelligence system will involve three components, diagnosis and preparation of recommendations for constructing a harmonized regional approach for tourism market intelligence work, including data collection and analysis; introduction of a common methodological and institutional framework for tourism market intelligence; and capacity-building towards standardized and harmonized statistics.

The project started last month and ends in Dec. 2017.

- Edited from CMC.



Bahamas defends beaches with skis

NASSAU, The Bahamas – The government here last month announced changes to the water sports industry that will lead to the recruitment of port enforcement officers, surveillance at beaches and sea patrols by members of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force who will be on jet skis.

The measures followed an advisory issued last month by the U.S. Embassy in Nassau in which employees are prohibited from using jet ski rentals in New Providence. U.S. citizens visiting The Bahamas were also advised against using the jet ski rentals in Nassau.

According to Hanna Martin last month, she is in dialogue with National Security Minister Dr. Bernard Nottage on the role that will be played by the Royal Bahamas Police Force in securing beaches where water sports take place. The additional measures being taken by the government follows a report that an American woman was allegedly raped by a man with a jet ski on a beach. Hanna Martin said work

on rules and regulations in the water sports began several years ago in collaboration with



Government steps up surveillance.

several government entities and industry stakeholders. She told reporters at a press conference that measures stem from a collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, the Port Department, the Port Authority, Royal Bahamas Defense Force, the RBPF and industry stakeholders.

- Edited from CMC.



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Real Salt Lake selects Jamaica's Holness top five in MLS SuperDraft

GORDON WILLIAMS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida – Jamaican Omar Holness became the top Caribbean national to be selected in the 2016 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft last month.

Holness, who left the University of North Carolina early and signed a Generation adidas professional contract, was picked fifth overall by Real Salt Lake (RSL). He is expected to join fellow Jamaican nationals Demar Phillips, a player at the Utah-based MLS club, assistant coach Tyrone Marshall and chief scout Andy Williams.

Holness, a midfielder and former captain of Jamaica's team at the 2011 Under-17 World Cup finals, was one of three Caribbean nationals drafted. Compatriot Neco Brett, an attacking player from Robert Morris University, was selected in the second round



Holness

by MLS champion Portland Timbers, 40th overall. Vincent Mitchell, another Jamaican midfielder, who attended Butler University, was the first pick of the fourth round by Chicago Fire, 62nd overall.

At least five players with Caribbean roots – all Jamaicans – participated here in the combine, a showcase of primarily soccer talent leaving United States colleges and hoping to stake a claim in North America's top professional league. Two Jamaicans – Jorginho James and Kevaughn Frater – who play club soccer in the island, were specially invited to the combine.

EXPECTATIONS

However, it was the six feet, 174-pound midfielder who was expected to be the Caribbean national attracting most attention, despite the limited immediate impact of recent high draft picks from the region in MLS. Holness plans to make his mark early.

"Performance is what makes a player," he told **Caribbean Today** at the combine. "If you're not performing you won't play. It doesn't mat-

ter what position you get drafted. It's the work you put in at the club."

RSL views the 21-year-old as a player who will contribute immediately and in the future.

"We ended up getting the one we really wanted, so it was great from our perspective," RSL General Manager Craig Waibel told **MLSsoccer.com** following the draft in Baltimore, Maryland.

"We really had (Holness) targeted, it was a guy we're really interested in helping grow. We think he can help our organization a lot over the course of time, so we're excited."

As part of the deal with the Generation adidas contract, the sportswear manufacturer will pay Holness's salary while he's initially at the club and also be responsible for tuition and fees if he chooses to return to school to finish his university education.

According to Holness, he has a year left to finish his



Brett

bachelor's degree at UNC, where he's majoring in management and society, with a minor in Spanish.

EXPERIENCE

He acknowledged that the American university experience played a key role in his development towards life as a pro athlete.

"College really molded me into more of an independent man – not just on the field," said Holness, who has also represented Jamaica's senior Reggae Boyz. "It matured me.

Discipline, being on time, being punctual. On the field the physicality and demands. It was an eye-opener.

"College prepared me for the social world as well as (soccer)."

According to Waibel, Holness's ability projects him to play a big role in his club's



Mitchell

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Sammy tipped to captain Windies at World T20 cricket tournament

West Indies selectors have retained T20 captain Darren Sammy for the upcoming International Cricket Council World T20 tournament, according to reports in the Trinidad and Tobago media.

The reports came late last month amid speculation that selectors may have replaced Sammy with one-day international captain Jason Holder for the premier tournament scheduled for India in March.

The **Guardian** newspaper reported on Jan. 25 that selectors opted for experience going into the T20 World Cup, but the report contained no official confirmation from the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).

Sammy, an all-rounder from St. Lucia, has presided over the West Indies' rise to number one in the ICC rankings. He led the team that won the title in 2012 in Sri Lanka and reached the semi-finals in 2014 in Bangladesh.



Sammy

Sammy quit Test cricket last year and continued to make himself available to play ODIs for the West Indies, but was not included on the regional side for the ODIs against Sri Lanka last November.

West Indies begins its World T20 campaign against England in Mumbai on Mar. 16.

- Edited from CMC.



Poor facilities force Windies cricket fall ~ Brendan Nash

MELBOURNE, Australia – Former West Indies Vice-Captain Brendan Nash believes the poor standard of cricket facilities in the Caribbean has played a role in the decline of the game in the region.

The Australia-born left-hander, who played 21 Tests between 2008 and 2011 after qualifying to represent West Indies through his father, who is Jamaican, said the quality of the facilities at all levels had fallen off and this had directly impacted on development.

"A lot of money was spent on the 2007 World Cup to increase the standard of facilities," Nash said recently.

"I know when I was there towards the end of 2010, the facilities really dropped off. So



Nash

within four years they just didn't have the money to keep it going or it wasn't run correctly.

"It starts with the facilities because training facilities are poor. Even club matches, facil-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Spring Cargo & Shipping

March is the start of the Spring shipping season. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is over 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. CT 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

Haiti, Grenada, Jamaica hunt places in U-17 women's World Cup soccer

Three Caribbean countries will next month vie for places in this year's women's Under-17 World Cup soccer tournament.

Haiti, Grenada and Jamaica have been split into two groups for the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Women's Championship qualifying tournament Mar. 3-13.

Host Grenada, which also

staged the draw last month, will be joined in Group A by Haiti, Canada and Guatemala. Jamaica is slotted in Group B, alongside the Costa Rica, Mexico and the United States.

Tournament games will be played at two stadiums in the capital St. George's, the Grenada National Stadium and the Grenada Athletic Stadium.

Three teams from CONCACAF will advance to the World Cup Sept. 30 to Oct. 21

in Jordan. Those teams will be decided after round robin play within the two groups. The top teams will advance to the semi-finals, from which the winners will qualify for the final and the World Cup. The third place match winner will also advance to the global tournament.

Grenada will face Haiti in their tournament opener on Mar. 3. Jamaica will kick off its Group B play on Mar. 4 against the U.S.

On Mar. 5, Haiti will play Guatemala and Grenada tackles Canada. The following day Jamaica plays Costa Rica.

The Caribbean teams will close out group play when Haiti faces Canada and Grenada tackles Guatemala on Mar. 7, while Jamaica will meet Mexico on Mar. 8.

The semi-finals are set for Mar. 11.



Poor facilities force Windies cricket fall ~ *Brendan Nash*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

ities are terrible. So I can see it getting better any time soon, unfortunately."

BREAKDOWN

Much of the decline in West Indies cricket has also been attributed to the breakdown in the relationship between the West Indies Cricket Board and the players, and Nash said this appeared to be the case.

"I've been out of it for two or three years but from an out-

sider looking in that there is just no trust between either party," he said.

The 38-year-old ended his association with English County Kent last August, following a productive four-year stint with the club. He said he was still available for international duty if West Indies required his services.

"I'm still available," he said. "I'd like to think I can still move around the field quite well and I've been playing county cricket, which has

its challenges over there, and done pretty well in the last four seasons."

He added: "They (West Indies) still need that mix of experience and youth but they need the right kind of experienced players."

Nash averaged 33 runs per inning, with two centuries and eight half-centuries, during his Test career.

- Edited from CMC.



Real Salt Lake selects Jamaica's Holness top five in MLS SuperDraft

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

fortunes.

"He's a center-channel player, there's no question," he said. "In our mind he belongs somewhere in the middle – probably not as much of a (number) 10 as he is an eight or a six, holding or box-to-box. It's a matter of his maturity

and how we coach him, and the roles we put him in and where does he succeed the best over the next year, two years, three years."

Holness vows he will be ready for the task, undaunted by his youth and inexperience.

"I don't think there's any nerves," he said. "I'm very confident. I think I bring exu-

berance and confidence. I think I can help the team with my offensive ability. I can play anywhere in midfield. I don't feel any pressure."

MLS kicks off in early March, although some clubs will begin participation in other competitions this month.



T&T's Gordon wins 300M at New Balance Games N.Y.

NEW YORK - Trinidad and Tobago quarter miler Lalonde Gordon defied severe weather to win the 300 meters dash in a blistering run at the New Balance Games in New York late last month.

Gordon won comfortably in 32.83 seconds in a race which also featured his countryman Adrian Crichlow who placed sixth. Gordon holds the meet record of 32.64 seconds, established last year.

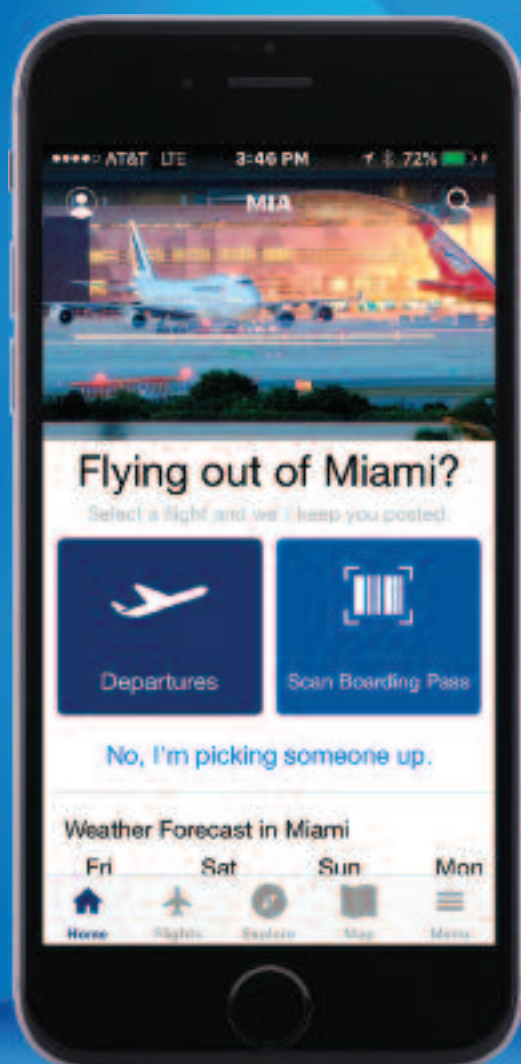
The meet was originally carded for Jan. 23, but a snow storm in New York forced organizers to push the professional section of the meet to Jan. 24.

Gordon's victory in New



Gordon

York came on the heels of 200 meters wins at both the Staten Island's Great Dane and the Villanova Open invitational earlier in January.



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