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MEREDITH UNDER FIRE

Calls mount for Toronto senator’s resignation

NEIL ARMSTRONG
 Freelance Editor

TORONTO, ON:

Pressure is being mounted by some senators and members of the African Canadian community for Jamaican-Canadian senator Don Meredith to resign.

The calls follow a report by the Senate Ethics Officer, which found Meredith guilty of breaching sections of the Code for senators when he engaged in a sexual relationship with a teenager, referred to as Ms M in the report.

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Centre to promote innovation in education opens in Washington

Derrick A Scott
Gleaner Writer

WASHINGTON, DC: PARSON, newly elected President of the Board of Directors of Virtual Educa Foundation, which established the Virtual Educa Foundation in order to promote innovation in Education, took to the Foundation to the next level while creating the required linkages to innovation, education, and the Fulfilling of the Sustainable Development Goals Secretary-General Jose Maria Anton presented the main aim of Virtual Educa projects including the Global Forum on Innovation in Education, which takes place in Silicon Valley October 5th-6th, 2017. Paloma Durán, Director of UN Sustainable Development Goals Fund outlined the importance of the Goals to effectively change contemporary societies, while Patil Pawan, World Bank Senior Economist, remarked on the importance of education for a knowledge society.

FLAGSHIP OF EDUCATION

“Virtual Educa has become a standard in the Americas and a flagship program of innovation in education that has been recognised and supported at the highest political level. Its impressive growth in the last 16 years is evident in its contribution to the integration of the region around issues of education,” remarked Ambassador Audrey Marks, the Ambassador of Jamaica to the United States Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. Virtual Educa is a global initiative created in 2001, in order to promote innovation in Education to promote social transformation and integral development. Virtual Educa operates through an alliance of public and private institutions, bringing together the government, multilateral business, academic and civil society sectors. Its management engages the associations and foundations of Virtual Educa in Spain, Peru and USA. The General Secretariat is in Washington, DC.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness (right) watches while Finance Minister Audrey Shaw (centre) and Fayval Williams share words.

No rollback of tax on BPO – Stakeholders warn that this could drive away investors

Mark Titus
Gleaner Writer

MINISTER OF State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Fayval Williams has slammed the door in the face of operators in the business processing outsourcing (BPO) industry who have been pushing for a rollback of the 12.5 per cent corporate income tax (CIT) levied on the sector.

Despite claims by major players in the sector that the tax could derail the expansion being projected by the Andrew Holness administration, Williams told a BPO breakfast forum in western Jamaica last week that it will remain in place, at least for the life of the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal.

“I can’t stand here and promise that the (CIT rollback) is something that we are going to do,” said Williams.

“We cannot run afoul of the IMF programme... 12.5 per cent corporate income tax rate will remain as long as the IMF programme exists,” added Williams at a time when several stakeholders in the BPO sector and its partners, including Garry Sinclair, president of FLOW Caribbean, have been calling for more to be done to encourage local and foreign direct investments in the sector. Sinclair, who addressed the breakfast forum before Williams, had argued that every effort should be made to create the right environment for the sector to grow.

“We have to continue to create the environment for growth and prosperity, and specifically the new proposed structure by the special economic zone authority is going to be an impediment to growth,” said Sinclair.

“We are threatening to kill the goose that lays the golden egg while it is in the crib. We have to give the industry a chance to breathe, grow and mature,” added Sinclair.

DISAPPOINTMENT

In the meantime, Davon Crump, chief executive officer of the Montego Bay-based Global Outsourcing Solution Limited, was quick to voice his disappointment with the government’s refusal to roll back the tax.

“I am very disappointed because a CIT will only create uncertainty and make Jamaica unattractive,” said Crump.

He charged that the decision could cause prospective investors to look to other emerging destinations such as Cuba.

“And I will repeat that while other countries are rolling out the red carpet, we seem to be making things more difficult for our people. This will also put me as a local investor more at a disadvantage. Take a look at the other countries, the record speaks for itself. We are not as competitive as the other regions. Every investor’s first concern is whether or not the prospected venture will be viable,” added Crump.

Apart from Mexico, competing countries in the Americas offer tax exemptions to BPO entities, with Panama and the Dominican Republic offering almost 100 per cent tax and duties exemptions being offered to investors. Holness has repeatedly argued that the BPO sector is critical in the plan in his administration’s push for inclusive economic growth and job creation.

According to Holness, for the last five years the industry has experienced tremendous growth, with 45 companies operating in the ICT/BPO sector. The prime minister recently indicated that employment in the sector has moved from about 12,000 persons in 2011 to 22,000 at present, and the Government is projecting the figure to reach 30,000 within the next five years.
Clarke wants immigration agents to wear body cameras

Brooklyn, (NY): CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE Clarke has proposed legislation that would require Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to wear body cameras during field operations and removal proceedings.

The bill seeks to mandate that ICE develop procedures for training agents and deploying body cameras - including the storage of digital information obtained through the cameras - and would require ICE agents to start wearing body cameras within eighteen months.

“As Donald Trump has dramatically expanded the number of undocumented Americans who are a priority for deportation, many immigrants in Brooklyn and across the United States now fear a knock on the door in the middle of the night or checkpoints on their drive home from work,” Clarke said in a statement.

“These immigrants as well as advocates are concerned about the possibility of abuse, particularly when individuals detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement have only severely limited access to attorneys and to the due process of law,” she added.

“We need to establish procedures that protect their rights.”

INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY

Clarke said that introduction of body cameras is a step to increase accountability and build the public’s trust in law enforcement officials.

“The early results are promising,” she said.

The Congresswoman cited a study by President Obama’s Task Force on Twenty-First Century Policing, which found that police officers wearing body cameras were involved in 87.5 percent fewer incidents where force was used and received 59 percent fewer complaints than police officers who did not wear cameras.

In recent years, many law enforcement agencies in the United States have required their officers to wear body cameras when conducting arrests or interacting with the community.

“We should apply this same approach to immigration enforcement. Immigrants and their families are entitled to respect for their humanity and to the full rights guaranteed under the law,” Clarke said.

With the ICE Body Camera Act of 2017, we will secure their rights,” Clarke said.

Dr. Patricia Houston, Vice Dean of the MD Program

Toronto University aims to increase enrolment of black students in medicine

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

THE FACULTY of Medicine at the University of Toronto has initiated a programme to increase the number of black students attending its medical school.

On March 8, the faculty launched the Black Student Application Program, which will offer a new application stream for students of African and Caribbean ancestry.

“There are no targets or quotas associated with this program, which will start with the next application cycle (2017/2018).”

Currently, less than two per cent of the medical class identifies as black. The medical school wants its doctors to reflect the general ethnic makeup of the city where 8.4 per cent identify as black.

Dr Patricia Houston, vice dean of the MD Program, says the numbers have been low for many years.

“We think that we have done a lot to have pipeline programs for students like our mentorship programme and through a mentoring programme for undergraduates to help them to better understand what is needed to apply to medical school, but inspite of this, it would seem that our admissions process is daunting for them and they don’t feel that they are welcomed.”

She said this is why the faculty is initiating this programme to better support black students through both understanding and fulfilling the needs for the admissions process.

It is also being introduced to ensure that if these students are admitted to medical school there that they have supports in place to make them as successful as possible.

Dr Houston said the University of Toronto is not alone in this, black students are underrepresented in all of the medical schools across Ontario and Canada.

Dr Lisa Robinson, chief diversity officer of the Faculty of Medicine, says in Canada they have not been good in general, of asking questions tracking the number of black students that apply visavis those admitted.

“We need to know who is applying and who is being admitted to medical school because if students are not just applying versus they’re applying and they’re not being accepted, then we know the two situations will really point to very different strategies.”

Historically in Canada, we have not collected that kind of data.”

However, Dr. Robinson said they have a lot of information about who their medical students are in the last few years but they don’t have a lot of information about their applicants.

Whatever little information we do have about our applicants suggests that black students are underrepresented in the applicants pool.

The Black Student Application Program is based on a similar program, the Indigenous Student Application Program, that has successfully increased the number of Indigenous students in the MD program.

Under this programme, students who apply through this new admission stream will have to meet the same high educational standards (based on GPA and MCAT scores and course requirements), but members of the Black community would have some information about who are part of the file review and the support of the interview process,” said Robinson.

SAFE SPACE

The idea is to provide a safe cultural space for black applicants, to make sure that excellent candidates are not being missed due to any unconscious bias on the part of the interviewers.

Dr Robinson said the short essay is not meant to be a barrier but is really intended as an opportunity for the student to tell something about themselves “that we wouldn’t normally be able to capture through the rest of the traditional application.”

There is a growing body of evidence which shows that diversity among medical providers results in better medicine.

“We know that you need diversity in medicine so that you can produce doctors who are better able to care for our community, so we know that if we have enhanced diversity among our medical students, we’re going to have a more diverse physician workforce who are more culturally competent and are better able to care for our population,” said Dr Robinson.

The chief diversity officer said several studies have shown that minority patients tend to seek care from minority physicians and they report better satisfaction with the care from minority physicians.

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Dr Lisa Robinson, Chief Diversity Officer of the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine
Death of Jamaica’s former Honorary Consul to Boston mourned

DERRICK SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

Washington, (DD) — JAMAIKA’S AMBASSADOR to the United States Audrey Marks has expressed condolences at the death of Jamaica’s former Honorary Consul to Boston, Dr Derek Guscott, who died in a house fire in Boston on March 6.

His father-in-law, retired US Army Lt Col Leroy Whitmore also died in this accident.

Marks conveyed condolences on behalf of the Government of Jamaica to Guscott’s wife, Valerie Whitmore-Guscott.

“I extend deepest condolences to you and the entire family on your tragic loss. Mr. Guscott, who was the son of Jamaican immigrants served with distinction as the Honorary Consul in Jamaica for Boston for nearly two decades, from 1992 to 2011. Though he had demitted office several years ago, he was always fondly remembered, and the Jamaican community in Boston is also grieving the loss as they reflected on the invaluable service he gave during his tenure,” Marks said in a statement.

FONDLY REMEMBERED

She said “though he had demitted office several years ago, he was always fondly remembered, and the Jamaican community in Boston is also grieving the loss as they reflected on the invaluable service he gave during his tenure.”

Marks also extended sadness at the passing of Whitmore-Guscott’s father Leroy Whitmore, noting that “our hearts mourn with the family at this very unfortunate time.”

Guscott, who served as Jamaica’s Honorary Consul until 2011, was a prominent Toronto-based African American developer and was credited with the transformation and revitalisation of Dudley Square in 1969.

Only recently he announced plans for a 250 million 25 storey towers to be built in Roxbury, Boston. Guscott was led many ties to the island.

Two of his pet project was renewable energy and the reusacation of the island’s sea bed.

Guscott’s passing has rekindled Jamaican commu- nity in Boston and the wider Jamaican Diaspora of a true asset, who, though not born in Jamaica made tremendous contribution to the island’s development.

Jamaica owes him a debt of gratitude, Marks said in her statement.

In 2009, Guscott was recognised for outstanding contribution to the Boston and Jamaica by the Jamaican Diaspora Northeast Advisor Board.

Tributes paid to Raphaelita Walker

Eddie Grant
Gleaner Writer

MEMBERS OF several Canadian and Caribbean organisations turned up on Saturday, March 4, to pay their last respects to Raphaelita Walker at a service described as a Celebration of Life.

It was held at Revivaltime Tabernacle, located on Dufferin Street.

Described by many as a patri- arch and community stalwart “Raf”, as she was called by the many who loved and adored her for her selfless community support.

She passed away at her home in North York, on February 14.

A number of dignitaries and other individuals were present at the service, among them were Mittie Hunter, Ontario’s Minister of Education, Adama Patterson, president of the Jamaican Canadian Association, Sandra Whiting, president of PACE Canada, Janice Miller, Jamaica’s High Commissioner to Canada, Desmond McKenzie, minister of local government and community development, Jamaica.

McKenzie said he grew up on the same street in West Kensington where Mrs. Walker once lived.

There were many tributes paid by the members of the Douglas and Dickens families.

They included grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

Also paying tribute were members of the Surtees family, including a granddaughter, who spoke fondly of her grandmother.

She also read a letter sent by former Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, and a letter of con- dolence from the Edward Seaga.

In the musical selection, Minister Carlene Davis delivered “My Redeemer Liveth” and “You will never walk alone.”

On Wednesday, December 16, in her 90th birthday celebration, she entered the packed hall dancing to her favourite song, “Electric Slide”.

Among the singers who took part in the celebration of life for Mrs. Walker were Japanese, Comfort, Jimmy Reid, Visionary, and steel pan player Jango, who performed “She is Royal” as his special tribute.

“Jou Douglas and the all-star band brought the entertainment segment to a close by taking the audience down memory lane by performing some classic, top good, much, to the delight of the audience.”

There were also tributes paid to Mrs. Walker at that event by many who were not able to speak at the church. These included Lloyd Wilke, Jamaica’s Consul General to Toronto, said that Walker was an icon who left a legacy and the community.

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Anti-Black racism conversations planned for March

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Toronto, (CN) — TORONTO WILL be conducting nine Anti-Black Racism Community Conversations in the first half of March.

On January 20, and the first of these conversations took place at Ujima House with Mayor John Tory in attendance. In total, 10 community conversations about anti-Black racism were requested by 10 partner agencies across Toronto in January and February.

The ‘Toronto Action Plan on Anti-Black Racism’ will be written over the next five years.

The “Toronto Action Plan to Combat Anti-Black Racism” will be presented to city council for approval and implementation in partners with Black communities.

The city council has decided to plan a city wide meeting to finalise the action plan with residents.

The “Toronto Action Plan to Combat Anti-Black Racism” will be presented to council for approval and implementation in partnership with Black communities.

The action plan will be written and reviewed between March 1 and April 2017 with the intended goal of presenting it to the executive committee in June, and the city council in July.

The information of the province’s Anti Racism Directorate released its 3-year and released the action plan “A Better Way Forward,” on March 7.

It is the province’s strategy for combating and dismantling sys- temic racism in order to achieve fairer outcomes for racialized peo- ple, including Black, Indigenous and Muslim communities.

Michael Coteau, Minister of Responsible for Anti-Racism, released the strategy at Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office in Toronto, one of the province’s most ethnical- ly diverse neighbourhoods.

The directorate said this strate- gy is an acknowledgement that racism-anti-Black racism, anti- Indigenous racism, Islamophobia and racism experienced racialised communities-are real, and can act as a barrier to achieving opportunity.

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To complement A Better Way Forward, the province is also announcing the Ontario Black Action Plan.

The plan is a commitment to develop a framework for the collection of race-based data to moni- tor the impact of policies and pro- grams on different segments of the population.

There are also plans for public education and awareness initia- tives targeting racism, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and provide training and education to ensure sustainability and accountability of the government’s anti-racism work.

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Pressure mounts on Jamaican Canadian senator to resign

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

TORONTO, ON: The political firestorm is mounting beingf fed by some senators and members of the Jamaican-Canadian community for Canadian senator Don Meredith to resign.

The calls follow a report by the Senate Ethics Officer, which found Meredith guilty of breaching sections of the code on sexual harassment when he engaged in a sexual relationship with a teenager, referred to as Ms. M, while he was appointed to the Senate.

Further, in an open letter obtained by CBC News, on March 13, Senator Andre Pratte has begged Meredith to leave, for the sake of his colleagues.

“I am writing to plead with you to resign from the Senate as soon as possible,” the letter, excerpts of which were posted on a senator’s website, says, “If you do not, I am afraid you will do yourself and, most importantly, the institution, unnecessary and lasting harm.”

The letter echoes that situation to that of former Justice Robyn Hrdlicka, who is known as the “knees together judge.”

Camp resigned last week after a public investigation suggested he be removed from the bench over comments he made during a sexual assault trial.

Released on March 9 on the website of the Senate, Canada, the “Inquiry Report under the Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators concerning Senator Don Meredith” states that Senator Meredith’s conduct breached both subsections 7 (1) and 7 (2) of the Code.

Subsection 7 (1) states that, “A Senator shall not engage in any activity, including the management of a business, that is so closely connected with the interest of the office of Senator, while the Senator holds the office of Senator, to cause or to appear to cause any loss or unfair advantage to the office of Senator, or any gain not clearly lawful for anyone else.”

Subsection 7 (2) states, “A Senator shall refrain from acting in any way that could reflect adversely on the position of Senator or the institution of the Senate.”

In the report, Lyne Ricard, senate ethics officer, found Ms. M to be a credible witness noting that “She generally had clear recollections of the interactions she had with Senator Meredith between 2013 and 2015.”

She was being forthcoming in attempting to answer all questions put to her and while growing up she knew of her ability. She was cooperative in locating and providing to my office, via the Senate, facial and email exchanges with Senator Meredith that she had in her possession.”

According to the report, Ricard said that Senator Meredith was unable to recall interactions that Ms. M described during her interviews and that he did not respond to her. On others, he denied that certain interactions occurred, asserting that Ms. M was lying about events the documentary evidence before me suggested had actually occurred.”

Meredith was born in St Ann, Jamaica in 1954, and is a Pentecostal pastor and co-founder of the GTA Faith Alliance. He was appointed to the Senate in December 2010 by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Ms. M, it is reported, was born in Jamaica in 1993. Between 2013 and 2015, she was a university student at Carleton University.

The report notes that in February 2013, Senator Meredith, then an MP for St. Catharines—Niagara, R惋ted Ms. M to attend the University of Ottawa for the 2013-14 academic year.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

The report references their relationship and other aspects including a possible business dealing with Ms. M. The Meredith Research Residency application, help for her sister’s not-for-profit organization, and writing a reference letter for Ms. M for an internship opportunity at St. Andrew’s College.

In her analysis, Ricard said she had to consider that Senator Meredith’s conduct on and after June 14, 2014 [the date when the previous Senate Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code of Senators] was reviewed, as well as the amended code and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators’ known as the Code, breached.

Ms. M, he concluded, stated that “the relationship he had with Ms. M for eleven months after this date did not uphold the highest standards of dignity inherent to the position of Senator or that Senator Meredith could reflect adversely on the position of Senator or the institution of the Senate.”

The Ethics Officer mentioned the “imbalance of power” between the two of them and described it as an “improper relationship.”

Ricard noted that, “Senator Meredith drew on his position and stature as a Senator in his interaction with Ms. M. In dealing so, he exploited Ms. M and the power imbalance between them. Senator Meredith brought into the relationship the power and influence of the office of Senator, while Ms. M was a vulnerable teenager.”

The report says Senator Meredith’s counsel indicated that he was interested in exploring remedial measures to address Senator Meredith and conduct.

“I explained to counsel that I did not see how remedial measures could be appropriate if I accepted the facts as described by Ms. M, but I remained open to reviewing and considering submissions on this question,” the report said.

In a letter attached to the report, Senator Meredith proposed several remedies.

He said he had already taken remedial measures, including him himself under “the guidance of spiritual advisors,” engaging in “continuous prayers of repentance and seeking the forgiveness of my family.” and “engaged with trusted advisors, both in the Senate and others, about my role and responsibilities as a Senator and as a man in a position of significant authority.”

However, Ricard concluded that, “while they may have some salutary effects and may help prevent further breaches of this nature by Senator Meredith, the remedial measures he has proposed do not remedy the harm his actions have caused to the office of Senator and the institution of the Senate.”

A press release notes that in accordance with section 49 of the Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators, the Standing Senate Committee on Ethics and Conflict of Interest for Senators will now consider the inquiry report “as promptly as circumstances permit and recommend the appropriate remedial measures or sanctions to the Senate. Any recommended measures and sanctions become effective once adopted by the Senate.”

Ryerson University celebrates the success of black women

JUST AFTER Black History Month and a couple days before International Women’s Day, Ryerson University honoured Annette Bailey, associate professor, Daphne Cockwell, School of Nursing, and Evie Willis, a graphic and web specialist at Ryerson, with the Viola Desmond Award.

Bailey, a student in the business technology management program at Ted Rogers School of Management, Stifan Hassan, a Grade 12 student at Mohawk Technical School, and Sharon Folkes-Hall, a 4th year social work student, Bailey, Bryce, and Folkes-Hall are of Jamaican heritage.

Organised by the Ryerson Black History Awareness Committee, this year the awards given to – Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard faculty award, Pauline Muir staff award, Pauline Senior Ryerson student award, and the Viola Desmond high school student award, which is the only standing award given annually and changes every year.

Bailey, recipient of the Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard award, holds a PhD in public health science from Laurentian University, where she also played basketball.

She said her love of technology and computer science came about when she was 10 and she continues to learn and teach towards a career in computer forensics.

Racial DISCRIMINATION

Being the child of a single mother who came here from Jamaica, Bryce praised her mother for being a major inspiration in her life.

Bailey, recipient of the Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard award, holds a PhD in public health science from Laurentian University, where she also played basketball.

Her research sheds light on the immense grief and traumatic stress experienced by black mothers who lose siblings and friends to gun violence.

In 2015, she established a scholarship program in the Jane and Finch community to support the educational pursuits of at-risk youth.

“I did that because we know our black men nowadays are falling rapidly to gun violence. I see that our black youth are more than just images of criminality,” Professor Bailey grew up with her grandmother telling her that education is the key that knowledge is power, and so she took that to heart.

Hassan, recipient of the Viola Desmond award, tutors her peers and also teaches children her favourite subjects, chemistry.

She said she was privileged to witness and experience inequality and injustices around the world and uses giving back to students.

“I attribute it really to my parents. It’s not only in the world. Like my mom, she always tells me you’re a woman, you’re black and you’re Muslim, you’re ultimate minority. You’re going to have to work three times as hard so I want to help as many people as they don’t necessarily have to work as hard so that they have chances that they might not have given to them.

Hassan wants to be a businesswoman and be able to employ as many people as possible.

Folkes-Hall received the Viola Desmond award, a teacher at the school who has shown leadership qualities and shows commitment to the students.

She said her love of technology and computers – a sector that is constantly evolving and is very important to the country – is the key that knowledge is power.

She said Desmond was from a small town in Nova Scotia and was tallest and strongest among her group of five siblings and was interested in becoming a doctor.

Her research shed light on the causes of the most publicised incidents of racial discrimination in Canada.

In her analysis, Ricard said she had to consider that Senator Meredith’s conduct on and after June 14, 2014 [the date when the previous Senate Ethics and Conflict of Interest Code of Senators] was reviewed, as well as the amended code and Conflict of Interest Code for Senators’ known as the Code, breached.

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Jamaican cop among alleged scammers extradited

LIVERN BARNETT
Senior Gleaner Writer

A JUDGE has declared that wire fraud and mail fraud, two of the charges typically filed by American authorities in lottery scam-related cases, are offences for which a Jamaican citizen can be extradited to the United States. Parish Judge Vaughn Smith made the ruling in the extradition hearings yesterday just before he ordered the extradition of eight Jamaicans, including a police constable, who are wanted in the US state of North Dakota on charges related to the lottery scam.

The orders come nearly two months after Justice Minister Delroy Chuck declared that there would be no delay in the signing of extradition orders. “All orders that come before me are signed within hours once I read them and every case is in order,” Chuck told The Gleaner in January.

Constable Jason Jahalal, Alrick McLeod, O’Neil Brown, Xanu Ann Morgan, Dario Palmer, Kairae Grey, Kimberly Hudson, and Dahlia Hunter are facing a 66-count indictment in North Dakota. They are each charged with one count of conspiracy and attempting to commit wire fraud, 48 counts of wire fraud, 15 counts of mail fraud, and one count of money laundering.

LOTTERY SCAM ORGANISATION

According to prosecutors in North Dakota, the eight were part of a criminal organisation led by another Jamaican – identified as Lavrick Willocks – that used an advance fee, or lottery scam scheme, to fleece 80 elderly victims of approximately US$5.6 million. Their attorneys argued, during the extradition hearings, that the offences of mail and wire fraud were not known to Jamaican law and would, therefore, offend the country’s extradition law. They asked the court to find that both offences were not extraditable. However, Smith, in his ruling, rejected the argument. He acknowledged that mail and wire fraud were not offences in Jamaica but said that “the substance” of both charges was captured under the Larceny Act. Citing Section Three of the act, the parish judge said that the offences of larceny and simple larceny were “corresponding offences to wire fraud and mail fraud.”

“They are extraditable offences as contemplated by the Extradition Act of 1991,” he declared.

Smith also ruled on exceptions of the witness statements given to American authorities by several cooperating witnesses and US law enforcement personnel to outline the alleged roles all eight Jamaicans played in defrauding their victims then moving the cash to Jamaica.

AFFIDAVITS DETAIL how Lavrick Willocks’ Montego Bay home was used – sometimes in the presence of his mother – as a base to telephone victims in the US and how the alleged ringleader directed underlings in the US to transport large sums of money to him in Jamaica.

The statements also included what US law enforcement personnel said were receipts from a number of local remittance agencies for money wired to Hunter and other persons connected to the Willocks organisation. Willocks waved his rights in this scheme rather than just an observer. He was present when large sums of money were being transferred,” Smith reasoned.

Two other Jamaicans, radio personality ZJ Wah and Sanjay Williams have been convicted in the US on wire fraud, 15 counts of mail fraud, and 48 counts of wire conspiracy and attempting to commit mail fraud.

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‘Most of us never went to steal or traffic drugs’

– 32 deportees arrive on charter flight from UK

PAUL CLARKE
Gleaner Writer

SHE GAVE her name only as Christie, but to her, that was not important. What was significant was the fact that she had to leave behind her elderly mother, who had been living in the United Kingdom for approximately 50 years.

Wearing a smile that masked her sadness, she spoke to The Gleaner, having exited Harman Barracks, where she was processed as one of a batch of 32 persons who were deported to the island on a charter flight from London yesterday.

Christie said that she would be fine, although looking back, she feels that the British system just never worked for her.

“I was there for 16 full years, and I tried several times to get myself straight, but each time, they turned me down. But I will be OK. I never went there to steal or traffic drugs or anything like that,” she said.

“The system just never worked for many of us, but I will be fine. I still have my home here,” the mother of four said before dashed off to get into a car that one of her sons was driving.

The white Meridiana Airline charter flight arrived at the Norman Manley International Airport at approximately 12:55 p.m. before they were taken to Harman Barracks to complete the processing.

Christie was one of six women among the 32 deportees as the UK government continues its deporta- tion policy of Jamaicans who have either overstayed their time in that country or have run afoul of UK law.

DECENT 22-YEAR-OLD

Included in the batch was 22-year-old Francois Somers, who left Jamaica when he was eight years old to live in London, England, with his aunt and other relatives.

His mother, Sherine Dean- Collins, admitted to The Gleaner that he had immigration issues, but that while living there, he had established himself as a decent young man, who was willing to contribute positively to the society.

Now deported, Somers has been separated from his three-year-old son and his common-law wife, who has begun preliminary proceedings as she seeks to get him back into the UK.

“He was doing OK. He never got into trouble. I guess that is just how their (UK Government) want to deal with things,” Dean-Collins said.

“Now, all of us as a family will have to rally round him and pro- vide the necessary assistance to get him back on his feet as quickly as possible,” said Dean-Collins.

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Letters

Give Russell a break

THE EDITOR, Sir:
JAMAICA SPORTING prowess is known world over. It is that thing that makes us great as a nation. With that said, it is really disheartening to see the manner in which the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) is going after cricketer, Andre Russell.

The appeal to JADCO to extend Andre Russell’s ban is one of those moments in which we ought to voice our disapproval, and if needs be, block. This whole process like a witch hunt. What will it achieve to extend his ban? Will it show the international bodies that we are strict on athlete violations? If we tear down our athlets, who will support them?

I am not saying that we ought not reprimand our athletes for infringements, but we don’t need to throw the book at them either. No other nation does that. Our athletes need to know that our local sporting bodies are supportive of them.

NARIDIA GRANT

Alan Magnus: the end of an era

THE EDITOR, Sir:
IT IS indeed a fact that good things always come to an end.

I have been listening to RJR since I was a little boy. And RJR has always been my favourite radio station.

But, we deeply regret the fact that the great Alan ‘Teddy’ Magnus will be leaving RJR at the end of this month. His friendship and colleagues, the very relaxed and easy-going Henry ‘Butcher’ Shennett, tendered his resignation some years ago, and we did miss him.

And now, after decades of service, Alan, so full of humour very dedicated and committed to his work highly respected and loved by many people, has decided to take leave for good. What a sad day that is going to be.

For many ladies, Alan sometimes created sunshine on a cloudy day for them, with his cracking jokes and humour.

There is something special that I like about Alan: he is a proud person, he is just natural and down to earth and is very unselfish. Everybody likes Magnus. He is also talented in singing. He is a great singer, mi like him songs dem.

How many national awards has he received over the years?

It’s a pity he couldn’t hold on until the end of this year. He will be greatly missed.

So, we sadly say to him: “Well done, Alan. Thank you very much and all the best to you. May God bless you and your family abundantly.”

DONALD J. MCKOY

Cops’ battered spouses suffer in silence

THE EDITOR, Sir:
I AM not surprised by these recent stories in The Gleaner about domestic abuse.

I was in an abusive relationship with a policeman for many years, which today still affects me and my son. The worst part is the impact it has on our son. There is no support from the police force.

There are a lot of women who are in abusive relationships with policemen, but who can you turn to? No one, so we continue to suffer in silence.

BRENDA BERRY

Gov’t right to reject UK prison ‘gift’

THE EDITOR, Sir:
THE REV Devon Dick, in The Gleaner, March 2, 2017, under the headline ‘Accept the prison gift’, seemed not to understand that the United Kingdom’s so-called gift of a prison was a deal of trickery that it tried to pull over the eyes of the Jamaican Government.

Rev Dick must first understand that the British Government did not offer Jamaica the gift of a prison; they, instead, offered to grant almost 60 per cent of the cost to build that prison. Second, it is not that the UK was sorry for the condition under which our prisoners are being held, it was their self-interest.

They wanted to send prisoners – presumably Jamaicans – who are being imprisoned in the UK to serve their terms in Jamaica. The UK prime minister, at that time, told The Guardian that the Jamaican prisoners incarcerated in Britain would be sent here to serve their terms, for it was costing the British taxpayers too much to sustain them there.

Thanks to the smart thinking of the current Government of Jamaica, and the majority of the Jamaican people, this deal has been rejected.

JOHN D. KELLY

Editorial

The new America beyond aid

THE TRUMP administration’s declared intention to deeply cut foreign aid to pay for planned increases in spending on America’s military has, quite understandably, raised concerns among some people in Kingston, who fear that Jamaica could be impacted negatively.

A lot of projects out there might be affected,” Dennis Chung, CEO of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, told this newspaper. Some projects might, indeed, be squeezed if Jamaica is among the countries on the chopping block for Uncle Sam’s help.

But the impact may not be as grave might be assumed, at first blush. And while US economic assistance is important, there are other matters that might flow from the Trump presidency to which Jamaica should put its mind.

In nominal terms, the United States is a big donor to other Caribbean countries. Barack Obama’s last budget to Congress, for instance, had a foreign-aid component of US$44.2 billion. That, however, was less than one per cent of the federal government’s proposed expenditure for the 2017 fiscal year. Further, America’s foreign-aid spend has hovered around 0.17 per cent of its gross national product. Britain’s is 0.7 per cent, or the level the United Nations recommends for developed countries.

While the United States is sorry for the condition under which Jamaican prisoners were incarcerated in Britain, there was for a period deemed a critical role for US victory in the Cold War and aid reached over US$160 million been in the top tier of global beneficaries of US largesse.

For instance, in 2016, America’s aid to the island was US$89 million, or a 1.4 per cent decline on the 2015 figure, which itself was a fall on 16 per cent on the previous year’s. Indeed, America’s aid for the eight years, up to 2016, was US$677 million.

IMPORTANT PARTNER

The importance of US-Jamaica relations, however, is beyond aid.

There is a significant amount of US aid to the island was US$9 million, or a 14 per cent decline on the 2015 figure, which itself was a fall on 16 per cent on the previous year’s. Indeed, America’s aid for the eight years, up to 2016, was US$677 million.

With that said, it is really Abraham Lincoln’s enduring words that matter most: “You cannot fool all the people all the time.”

Under the circumstances, it would seem to us that Jamaica, either on its own or with its CARICOM partners, should be seriously thinking about how it, or they, will survive this new American irrationality, if it is sustained.

For instance, our Government should be analysing what might happen with, say, the drug trade, if Mr Trump builds his wall along its border with Mexico and the cartels try to find new routes through the Caribbean.

There is the issue, too, of whether the Caribbean Basin Initiative will survive an overhaul of NAFTA and what kind of security partnership the new America can expect with the United States. It remained the world’s sole superpower, but there was a presumption that its exercise of that power, economic and military, was grounded in democratic ideals, sensitive to the aspiration of its partners. Even when America displayed an ugly side, you assumed, or wanted to, that it was an aberration, and that America’s better self would soon be asserted.

In Donald Trump, with incoherent foreign policy declared in 140-character tweets, old certitudes of the United States are no longer firm. Under the circumstances, it would seem to us that Jamaica, either on its own or with its CARICOM partnerships, should be seriously thinking about how it, or they, will survive this new American irrationality, if it is sustained.

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becky

Jamaica’s Ambassador to the United States Audrey Marks, with Howard University’s President, Wayne Fredericks, at a cocktail reception prior to the 93rd Charter Day Dinner marking 150 years of Howard University’s founding. The HU Charter Day affair was held at Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington DC on Friday, March 10.

From left: Dr Denise O’Neil Green, Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard, Professor Annette Bailey, recipient of the Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard Award, and Professor Jennifer Clarke at the 9th annual Viola Desmond Day awards ceremony at Ryerson University in Toronto on March 6.
Gov’t electricity team dismisses concerns about JPS licence

Power company gets green light for Old Harbour plant

JOVAN JOHNSON
Gleaner Reporter

THE GOVERNMENT’S Electricity Sector Enterprise Team (ESET) has dismissed concerns from the chief technical adviser to the finance minister, Aubyn Hill, that the current Jamaica Public Service (JPS) licence threatens the economy and should be reviewed.

Professor Alvin Wint, ESET’s acting chairman, defended the licence yesterday as he revealed that the Cabinet has given the JPS the permission to start building a US$130 million power plant in Old Harbour, St Catherine that will be capable of burning natural gas or automotive diesel oil.

Arguing in the Senate in January, Hill said the Andrew Holness administration was obliged to review the 2016 licence because, among other things, the replacement of the price cap regime with the revenue cap “could dampen economic growth” because JPS’s growth is no longer tied to that of the economy.

But Wint, backed by Christopher Zacca, an ESET member and former president of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, said there should be no worries.

“I don’t think Jamaica should be concerned, because I understand the concerns that had been raised by Senator Hill. This (change in pricing regime) was thought about very, very carefully.”

IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE

He said the switch to a revenue cap was “very important to balance the ability for investment to take place. An important part of the discussion around that licence really focused on how do we have a licence regime that is good for consumers and good for investors.”

Meanwhile, Wint said the notice was issued as loans and bond-financing agreements for the project have been signed with a group of local financial institutions led by the National Commercial Bank.

Spanish contracting firm TSK will build the plant that is expected to facilitate the addition of more natural gas to the company’s fuel mix.

ESET to be disbanded

THE ELECTRICITY Sector Enterprise Team (ESSET), which was set up in 2014 after a failed bid to bring cheap energy to Jamaica, is to be disbanded and its work absorbed into a new body to be known as the Generation Procurement Entity (GPE).

The GPE was established under the 2016 Electricity Act as the entity responsible for new electricity generation procure-
**UWI to leave JPS grid next year**

JOVAN JOHNSON  
Gleaner Reporter

In ANOTHER major cost-saving venture, the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) has said that by next year, it will come off the grid of the Jamaica Public Service (JPS), the island’s sole power distributor.

The university recently approved a contract to complete the building of a cogeneration plant. “In the moment, we're paying JPS US$18 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Once we get off the grid, which we expect to do within the next year, that cost will fall to US 12 cents per kWh,” said principal and pro vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Hilary Beckles, said the campus’ report for the 2015/2016 academic year to the council.

The company that we are partnering with is Wartsila out of Finland. Wartsila will operate the plant and training School of Engineering to take over the management of the plant. When that is done, the cost will be decreased by another three cents, so we’ll be producing energy at the cost of about 8.9 cents kWh.”

**REDUCING DEPENDENCE**

McDonald, whose leadership vice-chancellorship by Beckles has hailed as “brilliant”, said the campus has been pursuing a mix of renewable streams as well as containing costs, especially in light of the declining government allocations. Just last December, the UWI, Mona campus, signed its dependency on the National Water Commission by commissioning its own well to serve the campus.

He said the results so far have seen the student population grown to 18,200, making Mona once again the largest of the four UWI campuses. “The real value of these projects is for the next generation. In 15 years, when the capital expenditure has been paid out, the entire thing (plant) will be turned over to UWI, and we’ll be generating energy at a cost of about 5 cents per kilowatt-hour, the principal stated.

**What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com**

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**FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING SUMMARY**

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Unscathed by Troy Powell

UNSCATHED BY TROY POWELL

NDTC kicks off 55th anniversary in Brooklyn

DEON BROWN
Gleaner Writer

NEW YORK

COMBINING NEW works with favourites from their repertoire, the National Dance Theatre Company (NDTC) of Jamaica returns to Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts this weekend to celebrate 55 years of dance.

NDTC has been a biennial visitor to the Brooklyn College campus for more than two decades and is promising a scintillating programme.

“It’s about national pride. The NDTC is a national treasure and Jamaicans in New York who know that they’re coming, turn out for the show, and we’re always able to sell the house,” says Yvonnie Riley-Tepie, board president of the Brooklyn Center.

Jamaica-born Riley-Tepie said that the company has an unrivalled place in Caribbean dance history and has provided the blue-print for Jamaica’s continued appreciation of the art form.

“When I go back home and I see the kids dancing, everything they’re doing has been done by the NDTC. They’ve led the way in showing the freedom of dance,” she said. “NDTC helped us to embrace the idea of dance as a vital part of our identity;” she noted.

Founded at the time of Jamaica’s Independence, as a direct response to the call for self-determination, the NDTC created a platform for the celebration of Caribbean dance traditions and the means for the Jamaican people to tell their own traditions and the means for the celebration of Caribbean dance to the call for self-determination, Independence, as a direct response to the ideas of the NDTC.

“The NDTC is aware of its responsibility to unearth the continued potential of our traditional expression and create works that speak to the realities of this generation.”

“Looking at five and half decades of dance, what you are seeing in the NDTC is a constant dialogue with what was, what is going on now and projecting ideas as to how we engage and create works into the future.”

The company will also introduce new works, reflecting the introduction of new choreographic voices into the dance company.

“Folktales”, a contemporary take on Jamaican folk culture, and “You/We” – a deeply political piece that projects the idea of a unified Caribbean. It includes a suite of songs, among them, David Rudder’s ‘Rally Round the West Indies’.

The NDTC singers and musicians are as much an important part of the concert experience as the dancers, and what Musical Director, Ewan Simpson has in store, will leave audiences enthralled.

The performances would be held on Saturday March 18 at 8 pm and Sunday March 19 at 3 pm. For tickets visit BrooklynCenter.org or call the box office: 718-951-4500.

Have a story or photo to share? Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
Best of Caribbean Fashionweek
June 7-11, 2017

The 2017 edition of Caribbean Fashionweek (CFW) is slated to be the 'best of', a series that embraced the region and the wider world and changed the face of Caribbean fashion forever. It is anticipated that this June's CFW will be the best ever CFW. Fashionistas are undoubtedly in for a treat as Pulse reaches out to the five continents to ensure that the global components of this event over the past 17 years all come together in one unforgettable experience.

Dubbed an 'important new trend in world fashion' by no less a style arbiter than British Vogue, Caribbean Fashionweek, has taken regional fashion to the corners of the earth through such media outlets as Fashion TV Paris, Vogue, the BBC, 13, The Independent, The New York Times, The Associated Press Marie Claire, and a host of other media outlets around the globe.

Staged by Pulse since 2001, the event, launched in Trinidad and Tobago in 2000, has attracted over 150 designers and a host of celebrities and entertainers since its inception. Superstars of music and film like: Eve, Nia Long, Kelly Rowland, Brian McKnight, Joe, Johnny Gill, Maxi Priest, Billy Ocean, and a host of other media outlets such as Billboard, media outlets such as Billboard, and most will return in June for this very special edition of the 'Best of CFW', which will be supported by its own TV series being shown in the wider Caribbean and soon to air in Jamaica. Several new elements and innovations will be part of the 2017 event.

CFW 2017 will be held at the Villa Renai Fashion Village in Stony Hill, St Andrew.

CFW is presented by Pulse in association with several partners, including the Jamaica Tourist Board, The Spanish Court Hotel, The Peter Tosh Museum, and a number of others to be announced.

Culture Corner
converges art and poetry

“CULTURE CORNER with Dr Sue at Yardhaughed Art Gallery”, as one patron put it, has got better. It was an evening of refreshments, entertainment and art work on display on Saturday February 25, 2017.

The event featuring Malachi Smith, was attended by a cross section of guests, diverse in age, cultural background and creative interests.

The feedback, according to the organizers was encouraging.

“Culture Corner with Dr Sue paid homage to the true meaning of ‘culture’. The night was filled with fire of rhyme and rhythm;

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Guidelines for real estate investment in Jamaica in 2017

ROBERT TAYLOR AND SASHA KAY FAIRCLOUGH
Contributors

A

ncrease in foreign direct investment as well as government policy has seen a steady upturn in the Jamaican economy with increased prospects for incremental growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As consumer confidence continues to improve, there has been an increased interest for both residential and commercial developments with demand being pivoted by both local and expat consumption. With its extensive coastlines and tropical climate, this Caribbean paradise remains one of the most sought-after destinations for real estate investment. In local currency terms, housing prices rose by around 41% during the period 2010-2015 and is expected to keep rising. Jamaica still has some of the most sought after and affordable beach front houses. Prices range from US$1,300 per sq. m to US$1,500 per square metre, while in Barbados, beach front properties range from US$400,000 per sq. m, and unlike many other Caribbean destinations, Jamaica has no restrictions on foreign property ownership.

Notwithstanding the attractiveness of the market, here are several important factors to consider before investing in your slice of tropical paradise.

Estimate your finances

The first step in your attempt to invest in a Jamaican real estate requires making a realistic estimate about finances. Having cash for the entire value of the property is not always necessary. So loan purchase real estate by acquiring a mortgage through a Jamaican mortgage lender and secured by the house. If you have foreign currency income, you can borrow in USD’s or in JMD’s. There are merits to borrow in either currency. The fact that JMD interest rates are higher than USD’s does not mean that it is costlier if you take into account the fact that over time the JMD may devalue against other hard currencies and therefore in the long term less hard currency will be required to meet your local currency mortgage payment. Engage a mortgage lender who can advise on both.

Tend to hold or rise in this locality

- St Catherine - Has become the main community for providing housing for persons that work in Kingston. Access to modern highways leading into both the North and South coast of the island – Spanish Town to May Pen High Way - Kingston to Ocho Rios Highway corridor creates access and mobility to amenities.
- St James - Second City and the north coast capital that is set to lead Jamaican’s economic recovery through the expansion of tourism and hotel room capacity. A number of new hotels are in the development pipeline, which will result in the upturn of related economic activity that push increased demand for housing for the tourism worker and other commercial operators and related stakeholders in the industry. Completion of the North South Highway and significantly reduced travel time from Kingston to Montego Bay will make St James a more attractive and in demand destination for housing. Montego Bay’s international airport has been ranked as one of the best in the region.
- Ocho Rios - Emerging location, given the recent opening of the North Coast Highway. Not as strong initial demand as Montego Bay given that infrastructure and non-tourism related economic is not as developed, but nonetheless maintains an attractiveness as a centre point between Kingston, Montego Bay and Portland.

Understand changing demographics and lifestyle trends

It is very easy to miss the changing demographics and lifestyle trends when not living or being close to a particular market. A number of factors have emerged over the past 10-15 years that are changing and will affect the value of real estate in Jamaica.

- Consumerism of the economy – the economic contraction of the past several years has resulted in the inability of small players to survive and be successful at doing business in Jamaica. To survive companies have learned to purchase on a large scale to achieve margin as well as sell on a large scale. As an example, a few large groups control the retail and supermarket industry. Insurance, Banking, Telecommunications and security are other examples. The real estate industry has not escaped this dynamic and so the small contractor is not a long-term prospect. Consequently, a developer/contractor in the current economic environment must have very strong a capital base and access to lower cost bank financing to undertake a successful development.
- Additionally, as land resources become less available in Jamaica, developers are forced to acquire several thousand acres of land to secure inventory to future build out. This requires enterprises with significant financial resources. Given this phenomenon it is imperative that any purchase into a development be preceded by due diligence on the developer. This should not be a difficult or extensive task as the number of large developers is few.

- Metropolitan Lifestyle – As land becomes more expensive in Kingston, the gated concept has become more widespread. This phenomenon has resulted in must be able to purchase a property in an area has certain minimal infrastructure. "Kingston" - Centre of main economic activity, headquarters for most large local companies and multinationals. International Airport and major sea port, Shopping and Dining facilities and International Airport and major sea port, Shopping and Dining facilities and Government agencies. Property values tend to hold or rise in this locality.

- Montego Bay - Has become the main tourism worker and other commercial operators and related stakeholders in the industry. Completion of the North South Highway and significantly reduced travel time from Kingston to Montego Bay will make St James a more attractive and in demand destination for housing. Montego Bay’s international airport has been ranked as one of the best in the region.

- Ocho Rios - Emerging location, given the recent opening of the North Coast Highway. Not as strong initial demand as Montego Bay given that infrastructure and non-tourism related economic is not as developed, but nonetheless maintains an attractiveness as a centre point between Kingston, Montego Bay and Portland.

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**ACROSS JAMAICA**

**Pilot greenhouse project at Tamarind Farm Correctional Centre**

St. Catherine

A GREENHOUSE pilot project - part of the rehabilitation process - was handed over to the Tamarind Farm Adult Correctional Centre in St. Catherine on March 6, to be managed by ten inmates who have been trained in modern agricultural techniques.

The initiative sponsored by Carib Cement Company Limited will also contribute towards the country’s food security.

**August Town residents appreciate Wellness Fest**

St. Andrew

AUGUST TOWN residents have expressed appreciation to the University of Technology (U Tech) and its partners for hosting a Wellness Fest last month, emphasizing a need for information fair, aimed at strengthening the social and economic fabric of the community.

Participants had access to oral-health screening and basic medical checkups as well as information regarding basic civil documents registration and obtaining a Registration Number, (TRN) birth checks as well as to information fair, aimed at embracing a health and Wellness Fest, last month, and its partners for hosting a.

Manager of communication and customer service at the National Works Agency, Stephen Shaw (left), and senior project officer, Paule Hearst, discuss the scope of work to be undertaken as part of the Barbican Road Improvement project. The works will see the corridor being upgraded from a two-lane to a four-lane carriageway with a median.

**Land acquired for waste transfer station**

Westmoreland

LAND HAS been acquired in Westmoreland for the establishment of a solid waste transfer station to serve the parish. A transfer station is a cost-reducing facility convenient hub for the deposit of waste which is then consolidated and transferred to trucks for disposal facilities.

A Jamaica Information Series (JIS) release said that the executive director of the National Land Waste, Audley Gordon indicated.

**Free Wi-Fi for ScotiaBank customers**

Dommestic violence workshop

St Mary

FRONT-LINE workers police officers, social workers, pastors JPs involved with treating with domestic violence participated in a two.

**First specialised nerve surgery done at Hargreaves hospital**

Manchester

HARGREAVES HOSPITAL has performed recently the first specialised surgery in the country to correct a nerve condition which causes acute pain to the trigeminal nerve.

The surgery, which was just initiated at the hospital, is not an open surgery but one done through the patient’s cheek using a needle.

**Moody’s downgrades Barbados**

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC INTERNATIONAL CREDIT ratings agency Moody’s Investors Service has downgraded the social and issuer ratings of the Government of Barbados to Coach.

In a release, the New York based agency said despite the government’s efforts to contain the fiscal deficit and alleviate pressures on foreign exchange reserves, the fiscal deficit remains large and credit risks have increased in Barbados.

The debt burden has risen in recent years and will continue to do so for the next few.

According to Moody’s, domestic and external liquidity pressures on the sovereign have increased.

"We assess the likelihood of a credit event in the near-term as very high, given lack of fiscal adjustment and increasingly limited financing options."

The agency also issued a negative outlook for the island, while warning that the sustainability of the Barbados dollar was now under threat, amid Government’s continued reliance on the Central Bank to finance its deficit.

However, unlike Standard & Poor’s (S&P), Moody’s has maintained a stable outlook for the island.

Moody’s noted that the upward pressure on the rating could build if the government initiates a credible fiscal consolidation programme to arrest the rise in debt-to-GDP ratio and put debt on a sustainable downward trajectory.

"These developments would likely be accompanied by reduced reliance on short-term debt and financing from the central bank, and a rebound in international reserves."

The agency said the rating would most likely come under additional downward pressure if, following a restructuring, losses imposed on creditors exceeded 35 per cent.

This latest rating has come on the heels of a downgrade by S&P and this week’s presentation of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure by Finance Minister Chris Broomes.

Based on the 2017-2018 estates, the Government is proposing to spend BDS$ 4.9 billion for the coming fiscal year, with $1.8 million due to go towards debt servicing.

**Churches in Grenada call for stringent measures to deal with indecency on radio and television**

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, CMC THE CONFERENCE of Churches in Grenada (CCG) is calling the better control of the airwaves saying ‘ordinary decency demands that hosts/hostesses should not allow callers to be abusive or to use insult- ing or derogatory language especially towards named individuals live on air.

In a statement, the CCG said radio and television talk shows hosts should also be better prepared to discuss topics of relevance to the society.

The CCG said that while it appreciates the opportunity electronic media houses give to ordinary citizens to express their views on various talk shows, there is need for better control.

"We realise what a powerful medium it is for educating, informing and entertaining. However we would like to express two concerns. Sometimes the topics seem to have been chosen at random, without proper preparation, and are dealt with in a way that can be misleading to some people," the CCG said in the statement signed by its chairman, Rev. Dr. Debert James.

It said it believes that to encourage an intelligent and informative discussion on certain topics it is necessary to ensure that a resource person is available to correct any inaccurate views that may be expressed by callers.

"Especially those who articulate their opinions in a very authoritative manner even when they propose what may be immoral or illegal. This can be misleading for your young and less-informed listeners since all contributions seem to be accepted and given equal value without question by the host/hostess," said the statement.

The CCG is also of the opinion that ordinary decency demands that hosts/hostesses should not allow callers to be abusive or to use insulting or derogatory language especially towards named individuals live on air.

Last December, the CCG was among a group of social partners that called on the Mitchell government to re-introduce Section 6 of the Electronic Crimes Act which provides for a one-year jail term for anyone sending by electronic means any information that is ‘grossly offensive’ or known to be false but reproduced in order to cause injury to the person.
Can’t make it home for The ISSA/GraceKennedy Boys and Girls Champs 2017?

Watch it live on
1spotmedia Pay - Per - View
March 28 - April 1, 2017
Dear K.W,

How do we gain residence?

Dear K.W,

I am a British citizen. My spouse is Jamaican and a green-card holder. We have a 4-year-old son born in Jamaica who did not gain his green card because his mother was killed for her daughter. I am filing for the son's British passport. For our family to gain residence in the USA, what would we have to do? I also have a daughter in the USA who is a green-card holder.

- K.W.

Dear K.W,

Your permanent resident (green-card holder) wife can file a petition for you and your minor son to join her in the US. Many persons are under the mistaken belief that only US citizens can petition for their family members. However, green-card holders can file for their spouses and their unmarried children. A US citizen can file for their spouse, unmarried and married children, parents and siblings.

There is also the option of your US citizen step-daughter to file a petition for you if your marriage to her mother took place before she was 18 years old. Your step-daughter could also file for her brother, but that filing would not be feasible as it would take more than 13 years for a visa to become available for her brother. Your green-card holder daughter would be unable to file a residency petition on your behalf; she would have to be a US citizen.

As a green-card holder, your wife’s petition would take approximately two years and she would only have to file one petition for you and your son, and your son would be able to accompany you to America. However, if she is close to becoming a US citizen, then she should file two separate petitions and upgrade the petitions to immediate relatives once she becomes an American citizen. The US citizen petition would take nine months to a year and you would keep the same priority.

Dahlia Walker-Huntington

Dahlia Walker-Huntington is a Jamaican-American attorney who practises immigration law in the United States; and family, criminal and personal injury law in Florida. She is a mediator, arbitrator and special magistrate in Broward County, Florida. info@walkерhuntington.com

Members of the family of Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, left, stand with supporters at a news conference in front of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Phoenix after he was deported February 9.

Watchdog: Spoiled food, safety risks at immigration facility

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) JUNEAU POLICE will not check people’s immigration status upon their arrest or contact.

The Juneau Empire reported that Juneau Police Department Chief Bryce Johnson says that his department’s priority is public safety, not any individual’s immigration status.

Johnson explained his department’s position in response to questions to the public in a news release.

Johnson said that if Juneau police determined a suspect is undocumented in the course of an investigation, that information can be shared with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

City and Borough of Juneau spokeswoman Lisa Plus said in a news release that Juneau police don’t have authority to enforce immigration laws and the department isn’t part of a federal programme that partners local law enforcement with ICE.

How do we gain residence?

Dear Mrs. Walker-Huntington,

I am a British citizen. My spouse is Jamaican and a green-card holder. We have a 4-year-old son born in Jamaica who did not gain his green card because his mother was killed for her daughter. I am filing for the son’s British passport. For our family to gain residence in the USA, what would we have to do? I also have a daughter in the USA who is a green-card holder.

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Members of the family of Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, left, stand with supporters at a news conference in front of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Phoenix after he was deported February 9.

If Juneau police determined a suspect is undocumented in the course of an investigation, that information can be shared with U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement, but those instances are rare“

Guyana to introduce e-visa

GEOGRTOWN, Guyana, CMC THE GOVERNMENT of Guyana is making plans to introduce an Electronic Visa (E-Visa) and Work Visa System as part of the implementation and development of a modern visa issuance policy and system. With help from the European Union (EU) and the United Nations’ International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the system will help in eliminating bogus immigration stamps as well as human trafficking.

Minister of Citizenship, Winston Felix said he was in receipt of the Policy Recommendations and Guidelines for the new visa system will aid in the implementation and development of a modern visa issuance policy and system in Guyana.

Work to compile the report, conducted by the IOM came about following a request made by the Department of Citizenship to the African, Caribbean-European Union (ACP-EU) Migration Action Programme in June 2015 for technical assistance on how to improve the country’s visa processing and issuance system and immigration services.

Ambassador to the European Union (EU) in Guyana, Jerzej Videtic said the report will serve as a source for correcting the many issues associated with the country’s current visa system.

CHANGING WORLD

“The world is changing, but the migration policy in Guyana has not changed. We have had our immigration laws and visa facilities available since we became independent entity little changes to it. But in this changing world, which is seeing human trafficking, transnational crime and irregular migration patterns, we in Guyana are now seeking to harden the soft parts of our immigration system,” Videtic said.

What’s your view? What stories would you like to read? What issues would you like us to focus on? Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
KIRK-ANTHONY Hamilton has built a sharp reputation for his ability to craft deep partnerships and build communities by connecting wealth, influence and opportunity.

The architectural designer turned entrepreneur and investor is the chief executive officer (CEO) of Infiniti Partnership, a company connecting opportunities to a dynamic network of people, capital and markets.

Hamilton founded Infiniti Partnership out of the love for collaboration and transforming ideas into business solutions. His business interests focus on real estate, hospitality, retail, lifestyle and entertainment, with the aim to let the world know that there are serious business opportunities in Jamaica.

“My family moved to Barbados when I was 12 years old. At a young age, I got exposed to the fact that there is more to us and we are all unique. I saw the dynamics of the different islands and realized that a lot of opportunities that were available outside of the country were either non-existent or limited in Jamaica,” Hamilton said.

Following graduation with a master of architecture degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design, he was a member of the pioneering design team behind the Star Island Bahamas Project, proposed as the world’s first 100 per cent off-the-grid resort island.

However, he began sharpening his investment skills through his work as co-founder of a private investment firm offering Caribbean high-net-worth individuals investment in existing profitable United States digital media companies.

DEEPENED INTEREST

Hamilton’s investment and business was further solidified during a visit to South Africa while a participant at the One Young World Leadership Summit, where he observed young people in his generation making significant strides as entrepreneurs. He felt the need during this time to acquire as much knowledge and expertise as possible to share with other young people in Jamaica.

“I encountered two groups of people. This is how I met Richard Branson and Arianna Huffington, business luminaries that my generation in Jamaica perhaps have never encountered, and young South African business leaders who were doing very exciting things, especially in entrepreneurship,” he said.

“I realised that many of the things I observed were not available to me if I were in Jamaica. Most young people are not at the forefront of industries. I told myself I wanted to be successful and I knew it would not happen in its entirety in Jamaica. We are not attracting business people and in order for us to be successful, we must engage international business enterprises that must interact with our local business communities to form new enterprises and partnerships,” Hamilton added.

HOSTING A ‘GLOBAL PARTY’

Hamilton started a quest to build a network with local and international business leaders. With this in mind in 2011, he hosted a ‘Global Party’ that gave him some level of visibility as a person very focused on global networks. The Global Party was one of 80 parties hosted in 79 different cities around the world in September 2011. The goal was to connect 100,000 wealth builders and influencers to network and raise money for charity.

Out of this concept, and after developing a reputation in Jamaica for having some level of global connectivity, he became the co-founder of the Destination Experience, a social discovery experience, gathering a global network of business leaders and influencers to promote investment, prosperity and philanthropy in the Caribbean.

“Destination Experience is to build a global ecosystem for business within the Caribbean. I want to connect a community of business-minded individuals just like there is in any other major metropolitan city like New York or London. We want to imagine a future where people come to the islands themselves to do business,” Hamilton said.

THREE-DAY DESTINATION EXPERIENCE

The three-day Destination Experience event brings CEOs, investors and entrepreneurs from around the world to meet their Jamaican counterparts and to let them know that Jamaica is increasingly a good place to do business.

“The conference has been a labour of love. What we have built is a global brand and we are looking to expand the concept into the region, and to achieve the same goals we are working to achieve in Jamaica,” Hamilton said.

In 2015, Hamilton was recognised by then United States President Barack Obama and the White House as one of 75 emerging global entrepreneurs. He was the only one to be so recognised from the Caribbean.

Hamilton has since taken his message to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, as one of 50 under-30 leaders from the Global Shapers Community and also to the World Black, and the US Embassy in Jamaica.
OID celebrates 27th anniversary

NEW YORK:

The ORGANIZATION for International Development Inc. (OID) will celebrate its 27th anniversary of service to various countries. The group completed its annual mission trip to Jamaica where some of the underserved were treated in various services. In 1990, Dr Roy Streete, dentist, and a group of caring individuals who wanted to improve the quality of life of the underserved in areas around the world founded the OID, which is now a multidisciplinary, multifaceted, non-profit, not for profit organisation registered with the IRS as 501©3. The group of volunteers has and continues to travel to Jamaica and other areas of the Caribbean, Ghana, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, and within the US giving much needed service in the areas of pediatrics, gynaecology, medicine, social services, dental, ophthalmology, physical therapy, and computer science. Our motto ‘Helping others to Help Themselves’ is an integral part of what the OID volunteers are about. OID sponsored vocational programs, have helped rebuild homes in disrepair, fund academically talented students and help improve the quality of life of the underprivileged in areas around the world.

In 1990, Dr Roy Streete, dentist, and a group of caring individuals who wanted to improve the quality of life of the underserved in areas around the world founded the OID, which is now a multidisciplinary, multifaceted, non-profit, not for profit organisation registered with the IRS as 501©3.

The luncheon will take place on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at Greentree Country Club, New Rochelle, NY, from 12-5 pm.

EVENTS LISTINGS

EVENTS

CANADA

On Friday, March 17, 6:30pm, Jamaican-Canadian businessman and social activist, B. Denham Jolly, will hold a book signing of his new memoir, In the Black, at A Different Booklist, 777/779 Bathurst St, Toronto. Call 416-538-0889.

JN Group Expo 2017 will be held on Saturday, March 25, 10am-7pm at Pearson Convention Centre, 2636 Steeles Ave. East, Brampton.

United Achievers’ Club - Brampton presents its 20th annual Celebrity Chef Men Who Cook 2017 event on Saturday, March 25, 6pm at Century Gardens Recreation Centre Auditorium, 340 Vodden St East, (at Rutherford), Brampton.

In celebration of Shouter Baptists’ 100th anniversary & 66 Years of Liberation, there will be a celebration for the Shouters on Sunday, March 26, 11am-2pm at 63 Mack Ave., Unit #9 1/4, Scarborough. Call 416-686-1435. nesh@shouterbaptist.org

A Different Booklist presents a public lecture: ‘50 years ’Beyond Vietnam’: Dr King’s Revolutionary Dream against our Neoliberalism by Robin D. G. Kelley & Fred Moten on Saturday, April 1, 5pm at Bloor United Church, 300 Bloor Street West, Toronto. Call 416-538-0889.

NEW YORK

Vissi Dance Theater presents Disco Queen “Love and Dance Forever” on March 18th at 7 pm, The Milton G. Bassin Performing Arts Center at York College, 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, Queens. For further information call 718 262 2840.


Holmwood Past Students Association NY Chapter invites you to Penn Relays Fund Raising Dance, Saturday, April 1st, from 9 - 2 pm, C. W. Mixon New Life Center, 112-50 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village. For Additional Information/Tickets - Call 973-220-1236 /646-239-6718.

Edwin Allen HS Alumni Assn Mid-Atlantic Chapter 2017 Spring Dinner Dance Gala, April 8th, Verd’s, 680 Old Country Road, Westbury, NY, 7:30P - 2A; Contact: Bricose 516-729-2549, Collin 301-466-4137, Joe 917-607-8808

STAHS AA NE Annual Spring Fundraising Fete, April 8th; 9P - 3A; Royal Chateau. Rosedale, NY; Contact: Peter 917-449-0357

Westwood OGA Tea Party, Fashion Show & Silent Auction, April 8th; Grace United Methodist Church, 21 S. Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY; 2P - 5P.

UAJA Penn Relays Bus Ride Fundraiser - Saturday, April 29th - 2 buses: BUS A - Bklyn/Queens/LI Border: Green Acres Shopping Ctr.; BUS B’ - Bronx: Bay Plaza/Co-Op City. Event ticket optional. For further information contact Wilbert Davis: 917-697-3097; Donovan Wilson: 917-972-5502; Sharon Wynter: 646-388-2479; or Marlene Clarke: 917-499-1869; Jah Jerry, Inc invites you to the 5th Anniversary Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance on Friday, April 21, 2017 at elegant Country Kitchen Restaurant from 8:00PM-12:00AM. For further information call (212) 470-5555.

JAMAICA

The Association of Jamaica Ex-Police General of Jamaica in New York.

The group of volunteers has and continues to travel to Jamaica and other areas of the Caribbean, Ghana, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, and within the US giving much needed service in the areas of pediatrics, gynaecology, medicine, social services, dental, ophthalmology, physical therapy, and computer science.

Do you want your events to be published in the Events Listing section, then send them to normadelle.rose@gleanerna.net (USA) or neil.armstrong@gleanerna.net (CAN)
Family members want stiff punishment for man found guilty of quadruple murder in Clarendon

CECELIA CAMPBELL-LIVINGSTON, SHANNIQUE SAMUELS
Gleaner Writers

FAMILY MEMBERS of the three boys and an adult male killed in the Monymusk Housing Scheme on April 15, 2015 want the court to make an example of the man convicted of killing them.

Jermaine Turner was found guilty of the quadruple murder recently and is to be sentenced on April 6. Almost two years to the day when 14-year-old Raymond Giovins, 14-year-old Ricardo Briscoe, 16-year-old Alex Turner and Marquis Hamilton, a 35-year-old accounting clerk employed to the Monymusk Sugar Factory, were killed.

Following the guilty verdict returned by a jury in Clarendon Circuit Court last Monday, Gleaner News, the Sunday Gleaner he was not surprised as based on the evidence the jurors could return no lesser.

FATHER ASKS WHY

According to the still-mourning father, he would love if Turner could explain why he killed his son.

“What did my son and other little youth do ever to you for you to kill dem? I really would like to know the motive for the killing. What could they have done to make him take their lives like that?” said Giovins with the pain still evident in his voice.

He told our news team that there are times when his young son sees him crying and he can’t even open up to him.

“Then I come up and I never should have gotten. I want them to make an example of him during sentencing. My son would outlive his gunny cause we not act alone and she wants the others to face their day in court.

“They appealing to come in with information that lead to the capturing of the other person or persons to help bring to justice the pain and nightmares that they are facing,” said Ashely. “I so happy that this heartless animal is off the street, and although this will not bring back these promising young men we are pleased that he will be convicted, and thanks to the justice system someone got done,” added Ashley, who would want to see the killer or killers pay the ultimate penalty and be executed.

MINIMUM SENTENCE

But since it is unlikely that Turner will get the death penalty, Ashley wants the judge to sentence him to at least 99 years of life and labour.

Alexander Turner, the father of Alex, is also pleased that the man who killed his son has been caught by the justice system.

“My feel better little. even though I know my son won’t come back but I can feel better know say him no deh sin di street a big up him chest bout how many people him kill,” said the father, as he told our news team that the guilty verdict has offered some level of closure to the pain he has been carrying for over one year and 1 month.

The father, who has lived alone since the murder of his son, said he followed the case closely and went to all the hearings except one since the matter was first filed up in 2015.

“I would feel a hundred per cent better if he was sentenced to be hanged or get a life sentence, but since that will not be the case I will settle for life imprisonment,” said the father.

“He should get life imprisonment without parole, he should get at least 30 years of life and be executed.”

According to reports, shortly after 10 a.m., armed men approached a shop, which Giovins owned, and opened fire on a group of persons who were in the shop watching football. That resulted in the deaths of three persons on the spot. A fourth person subsequently died in hospital.

“I was at the taxi stand listening to the news on my car radio when I heard a barrage of gunshots and saw people running all over the place,” said a taxi driver.

The shooting subsided and the shooters fled the scene in a waiting motor car, it was discovered that the 57-year-old Dunkley, Raphael Wedderburn, 70, and a popular street person known as Gabriel were all dead inside Dunkley’s shop. A fourth man, 54-year-old Percival Tapper, who also suffered multiple gunshot wounds, subsequently died in hospital.

Dunkley, who represented St Elizabeth Technical High School in daCosta Cup football in the 1970s and later represented Seba United in National Premier League football for more than 15 years, was a member of the club’s history-making 1986-87 team. It became first regional team to be crowned national champions. The death of the popular former goal-keeper comes as a double blow to Seba United, who lost another former stalwart last week when Edwin ‘Magic’ Alcock, who himself was a former national player, collapsed in Montego Bay and died.

Businessman Orville Powell, who owns the Seba ‘Football Machine’, which was rebranded Montego Bay United FC just over five years ago, was quite disheartened when The Gleaner spoke to him.

“This is just another sign of the decay that is facing us as a society,” he said.

“Kid Harris was a decent human being who made something out of his life from humble beginnings,” said Powell, who is also a former presiden-t of the St James Football Association. “It is really a painful reality to see this man being killed in the same community that he brought so much glory to.”

Former nat’l footballer murdered in MoBay
Devon ‘Kid Harris’ Dunkley among four killed

ADRIAN FRATER
News Editor

A MATE

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The shooting subsided and the shooters fled the scene in a waiting motor car, it was discovered that the 57-year-old Dunkley, Raphael Wedderburn, 70, and a popular street person known as Gabriel were all dead inside Dunkley’s shop. A fourth man, 54-year-old Percival Tapper, who also suffered multiple gunshot wounds, subsequently died in hospital.

Dunkley, who represented St Elizabeth Technical High School in daCosta Cup football in the 1970s and later represented Seba United in National Premier League football for more than 15 years, was a member of the club’s history-making 1986-87 team. It became first regional team to be crowned national champions. The death of the popular former goal-keeper comes as a double blow to Seba United, who lost another former stalwart last week when Edwin ‘Magic’ Alcock, who himself was a former national player, collapsed in Montego Bay and died.

Businessman Orville Powell, who owns the Seba ‘Football Machine’, which was rebranded Montego Bay United FC just over five years ago, was quite disheartened when The Gleaner spoke to him.

“This is just another sign of the decay that is facing us as a society,” he said.

“Kid Harris was a decent human being who made something out of his life from humble beginnings,” said Powell, who is also a former presiden-t of the St James Football Association. “It is really a painful reality to see this man being killed in the same community that he brought so much glory to.”

Former nat’l footballer murdered in MoBay
Devon ‘Kid Harris’ Dunkley among four killed

ADRIAN FRATER
News Editor

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ALL about BOGOS?

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I want to be the greatest mother – Fraser-Pryce

FRASER-PRYCE'S finales are decided on the track, but her family is unmistakable. The Jamaican sprinter understands the importance of family, heritage and history.

She became a role model when she took the stage on the world stage at the London 2012 Olympics. There she set the world record in the 100m, becoming the fastest woman in the world.

She won the gold medal in the 100m and 200m at the 2013 World Championships in Moscow, and in 2014 she won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay at the World Championships in Beijing.

Fraser-Pryce is the fastest female sprinter in the world and the fastest woman on the block. She has been a role model for young girls and women around the world.

Fraser-Pryce is not just a sprinter; she is a mother of two young boys. She is the type of woman who can be a role model for anyone, not just girls and women.

Fraser-Pryce is not only a sprinter, but also a social media star. She is known for her posts on Instagram and Twitter, where she shares her journey as a mother and as a world-class athlete.

Fraser-Pryce is also a major advocate for social justice. She has used her platform to speak out about social issues, including police brutality and racial inequality.

Fraser-Pryce's story is one of determination, hard work, and perseverance. She is an inspiration to all who dream of greatness.
More ‘Bolt Tickets’ for 2017 World Championships

ORGANISERS OF this August’s International Association of Athletics Federations’ World Championships in London have increased the availability of a so-called ‘Bolt Ticket’ children’s ticket, which is priced at £9.68 in honour of the Jamaican 100 metres world holder. Tickets for the World Championships went back on sale on Wednesday. They were first put on sale via an application process in August 2016, seeing overwhelming demand with more than one million tickets requested. Over the past few weeks, tickets have been off sale while customer orders are allocated to specific stadium seats. More than 200,000 children’s tickets have been purchased. For the IAAF World Championships, 75,000 young fans have taken advantage of the ‘Bolt Ticket’, while for the World Para Athletics Championships, more than 100,000 tickets have been purchased for children as part of a Mayor of London-backed school ticket offer with 25,000 children’s £5 tickets also snapped up.

FEELS GOOD

“It’s great that the Bolt children’s ticket has sold so well and that more children will get the chance to attend,” said multiple World and Olympic champion Usain Bolt. “Athletics is a sport for all the family, and it’s great to know that so many different age groups will be there in the stadium as a result of this offer. It feels good as an athlete to know children are getting a chance to enjoy the sport that has been so good to me.”

Bolt has announced that he will retire from professional track and field after the World Championships. He set the 100 metre World record of 9.58 seconds at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin, Germany.

No Trump-ban worries for Jamaican athletes

RACHID PARCHMENT
Gleaner Writer

TWO AMERICAN immigration lawyers agree that Jamaican athletes have nothing to fear with regard to moving to America to seek opportunities in sports in light of the recent immigration controversy. However, a recent incident involving former Trinidad and Tobago and Manchester United star player Dwight Yorke causes concern for at least one of the attorneys.

United States President Donald Trump made updates to his immigration ban on Monday, in his attempts to curb the arrival of refugees from countries with Muslim cultures, from which he believes many international terrorists and terror groups originate.

There are many Jamaicans who believe this immigration ban will eventually evolve and not only affect Jamaicans living in the US right now, but also prevent others from moving there. Some of these Jamaicans are athletes and as such, they fear it will hamper their careers if they cannot move to the US to sign for professional sports teams or gain sports scholarships for American Universities.

Immigration lawyer Dahlia Walker-Huntington and CEO of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Dennis Johnson were here at the economic forum ‘Trump’s Recreations for Jamaica’, hosted by Victoria Mutual Wealth Management and at Mona Non Hotel in Kingston on Monday, January 23.

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AT LEAST two prominent high school coaches have expressed disappointment at the Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association’s (ISSA) decision to allow Ari Rodgers of Kingston College (KC) to participate in the ISSA-GraceKennedy Boys and Girls’ Athletics Championships later this month.

Rodgers, a Ugandan student-athlete who competes in long and middle distance races, joined KC in October last year, missing ISSA’s registration deadline of September 30. However, ISSA has now cleared him after accepting that he had what is being described as “extenuating circumstances” for his late arrival in the island.

Michael Clarke, head coach of five-time defending boys’ champions Calabar, describes ISSA’s decision as a “frivolous” one and called into question the credibility of the organisation.

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Jockey Hubert Bartley is dead

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