JAMAICA REJECTS REPORT OF INCREASE IN HIV INFECTIONS

A CLAIM that there has been an increase in the number of persons contracting HIV in Jamaica has been rejected by chief medical officer in the Ministry of Health, Dr Winston De La Haye.

Please see HIV, 3

ROMARIO SCOTT
Gleaner Reporter

LADY COOKE IS DEAD
Wife of former Governor General Sir Howard Cooke passes at 100 – P3
Sexual Harassment Bill to be sent to Cabinet soon

THE LONG-AWAITED Sexual Harassment Bill is to be sent to the Legislative Committee of Cabinet shortly. Minister of Gender Affairs Olivia “Babby” Grange says the draft legislation is now with the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. In her contribution to the Sectoral Debate in the House of Representatives, Grange said the amended bill, once approved by the legislative committee, would be taken to Parliament, this parliamentary year. Grange argued that the bill was critical to protect “all women and men from unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and crude sexual behaviours that affect quality of life by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment”.

Preliminary estimate indicates J$522 million in losses to agri sector

THE AGRICULTURE ministry is reporting an estimated J$522 million in loss to the sector as a result of the recent flood rains. Minister without Portfolio in the ministry, J.C. Hutchinson says the estimate, which accounts for crops and livestock, is expected to further increase as the assessments continue. However, he revealed that already, $18 million has been provided to begin to help affected farmers with chicken, feed, fertilisers and seeds come next week.

J$3.4 billion estimate to restore damaged roads, drains, bridges

It will cost an estimated $3.4 billion to restore roads and drains damaged by rains since March. According to the National Works Agency (NWA), there has been some $2.1 billion in damage to roads and drains since March including $1.4 billion for damage to infrastructure between May 13 and 17. Meanwhile, the Local Government Ministry says the other $1.3 billion was in damage to parochial infrastructure during heavy rains earlier this month. At least 10 parishes were affected with Clarendon the most devastated.

Cops receive used cars

The security force last week received 30 pre-owned Toyota Axio vehicles from representatives of the Ministry of National Security. The used cars were delivered by managing director of O’Brien’s International Car Sales and Rentals Limited Clement Ebanks, and a commitment was given to deliver another 50 cars by early next month. The car company was given the government contract last year to purchase 80 Toyota Axio and 120 Toyota Hilux for over $426 million. The 2012 and 2013 Toyota Axio vehicles cost approximately $1.3 million each and will be serviced for one year by the car dealership under the agreement.

Security minister Robert Montague announced last year that his ministry was planning to acquire 240 used cars for the JCF. More than $500 million was set aside in the Budget for this purchase.

Holness sends condolences to the people of the UK

Prime Minister Andrew Holness has expressed shock at the recent incidents of terror in the United Kingdom (UK) and extended the support and sympathies of the Government of Jamaica to the victims of the attacks on London Bridge and Borough Market. The prime minister also pledged the Government’s support in the global fight against terrorist attacks. According to the prime minister: “No society should be so impacted by these wanton and heartless acts. Undoubtedly, all well-thinking countries of the world stand with the UK government and its people in rejecting these attempts to undermine their way of life.”
ATTHE age of 100 years old, Ivy Cooke, widow of the late Governor General Sir Howard Cooke, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 5 at the Andrews Memorial Hospital.

In 1939, the Cookes became the first couple to be married at chapel of the then Mico Teachers’ College. They raised goats, rabbits, cattle and chickens on the grounds of King’s House, as well as directed the care of the gardens during their official duties from 1991-2006.

Like her late husband, Lady Cooke was a teacher by profession. Governor General Sir Patrick Allen said Lady Cooke was a gracious person whose social engagements and ease of manner enhanced the work of Sir Howard.

“Her love for, and work among, children distinguished her as a major contributor in the field of child development. Her role in national development through education, culture and agricultural initiatives will forever be an important part of the King’s House legacy,” Sir Patrick said in a statement.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness hailed Lady Cooke as an outstanding educator. “Lady Cooke served the nation well. She was passionate about education, child development and guidance counselling,” Holness said.

Former Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller tweeted: “Just heard that Lady Ivy Cooke, widow of Sir Howard Cooke, has passed. She is now reunited with the love of her life. Walk good, Miss Ivy.”


Ja urges Venezuela to reconsider leaving OAS

ROMARIO SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Minister Senator Kamina Johnson Smith has sent an appeal to the Venezuelan government, urging the crisis-hit state to reconsider pulling out of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The invitation to reconsider followed an announcement by Caracas on April 26 that it would be withdrawing from the OAS, a move it said was in response to a Washington-backed campaign against the ruling United Socialist Party that is meant to trample on the sovereignty of Venezuela.

But speaking at the 29th meeting of consulta- tion of ministers of foreign affairs at the headquar- ters of the OAS in Washington last week, Johnson Smith said that it was regrettable that the Nicolas Maduro-led government decided to cease relationship with the organisation.

REGRETTABLE DECISION

“For Jamaica, as well as for CARICOM states and others, suspension of Venezuela from the OAS is not desirable and it is regrettable, there- fore, that Venezuela has decided to withdraw from membership,” Johnson Smith said.

Tell us of your achievements, new business initiatives, birthdays, anniversaries, church happenings, issues and problems facing you. Email: overseas@gleanerjm.com
New York hosts Trelawny reunion

DERRICK SCOTT
Gleaner Writer

The sun had just begun to rise above the lush green hills of New York’s Bear Mountain when vehicles began rolling up the gravel parking lot of the Anthony Wayne Recreation area, the guests were arriving for an early start of the 36th edition of the annual Trelawny reunion picnic on Sunday, May 28. By noon, some 7,000 of the picnic goers from across North America, Canada, Jamaica had packed the large tree-lined park with colourful picnic blankets and baskets, tables, and smoky barbecue grills.

Food and drinks flowed freely as people chatted, old friendship were rekindled and the laughter of children involved in organised games mingled in the air with the colourful aroma of foods – including roasted Trelawny yellow yam and saltfish.

At the unique family affair where no food or drinks are sold, friends and strangers alike ate and drank freely from each other’s offering as they roamed the park to reconnect with their parish and perhaps a long, lost friend.

“This never gets old. Each year when I step in the park, it almost feel like I am stepping back in time to see countless friends who I grew up with and know,” said Dr Albert Stoddart of New Jersey who has been attending the picnic for more than 27 years. “Our stories never end and the good feeling stays on Sunday, May 28.

Centenarian Mabel Dunbar who is 103 years old and hails from Market Street, Falmouth is surrounded by her great-grandchildren and other relatives. She travelled from Miami to attend the annual Trelawny reunion at Anthony Wayne Park, New York on May 28.

Falmouth’s mayor, Colin Gager (right), gets ready to enjoy a good fish lunch at the annual Trelawny reunion.

South Florida man sentenced in connection with Jamaica-based lottery fraud scheme

WASHINGTON: A SOUTH Florida man was sentenced to prison in connection with the operation of a Jamaica-based fraudulent lottery scheme, the Department of Justice announced on May 5. Claude Shaw, 49, of Miramar, Florida, was sentenced to serve 36 months in prison and needed to pay $1 million in advance to claim their winnings. The victims never received any lottery winnings.

“Lottery scams tied to Jamaica are targeting American citizens,” said Inspector in Charge Antonio J. Gomez of the US. Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Arturo DeCastro of the Civil Division.

Victims sent over $100,000 to Shaw, who then forwarded a portion of the money to Jamaica. Victims never received any lottery winnings.

INVESTIGATIONS TO CONTINUE

“The Postal Inspection Service will continue to actively investigate fraudulent lottery schemes based in Jamaica directed at ripping off victims in the United States,” said Inspector in Charge Antonio J. Gomez of the US. Postal Inspection Service’s Miami, Florida Division.

“Lottery scams tied to Jamaica are targeting victims in the United States, and we will not allow fraudsters to use the US mail to commit their crime.” This prosecution is part of the Department of Justice’s effort working with federal and local law enforcement to combat fraudulent lottery schemes preying on American citizens.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Readler commended the investigative efforts of the US Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Arturo DeCastro of the Civil Division’s Consumer Protection Branch.

Audrey Marks lauds The Gleaner

WASHINGTON, DC: JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR to the United States, Audrey Marks, has praised The Gleaner Company for its continued development of the Spelling Bee Competition and its sponsorship of the country’s participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition in Washington, DC.

“The Gleaner's commitment speaks volumes of its stalwart contribution towards encouraging our nation’s young people raise their level of engagement and helping to give them exposure on to the international stage,” said Marks.

She made the comments in welcoming Deneiro Hines, Jamaica’s 13-year-old Spelling Bee entrant in the 90th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition, to the Embassy in Washington, DC.

The Ambassador also invited the Gleaner Company to partner with the Embassy to develop a program for young people from Jamaica to visit the United States, especially during the 90th anniversary of the Spelling Bee Competition in Jamaica next year.

The proposed programme would provide an opportunity for parish-level spelling bee winners to get overseas exposure.

Marks told Deneiro Hines: “You are an ambassador for your country: we know you did your best and we are proud of you. She also congratulated him on being the champion of all the Caribbean island Countries All-Island Competition 2017. “Jamaica is grateful for your contribution to the development of the Spelling Bee competition,” Marks said for coach Campbell. Hines, who is from Glenmuir High School in Clarendon, said he “felt honoured and proud to represent his country at this national event.”

Some guests enjoy a game of Dominos at the Trelawny reunion.
Jamaica National Money Service celebrates a landmark

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

FOR THE first time since its inception in 1972, the Caribbean’s largest arts festival, Carifesta, has agreed to the participation of first Caribbean Diaspora delegation.

The group of 66 artists from Canada will attend Carifesta from August 17-27.

There will be a GoFundMe campaign and other fund-raising activities to help support the costs.

This is a significant achievement for Trinidad-born Rhona Spencer, an artistic director, writer and actor based in Toronto, who had been urging organizers of the festival for eleven years to consider the Caribbean Diaspora.

In 2006, when she was the artistic director of Theatre Archipelago, Spencer got a grant from the Toronto, she mobilized the community putting out a call on Facebook and spoke to some people by phone.

“The call was about artists who are Caribbean descent whose works are critically acclaimed and presented to the public, and that are known and funded by the federal, provincial, and municipal arts councils.

The response was resounding, said Spencer, who organised their first meeting on April 5. Participants have to basically be self-funded because “we don’t have the luxury to say that Canada is sending this delegation down as the Caribbean countries do,” she said.

Because we all, most of us, would have had arts council funding. What we do then is to apply to arts councils to fund our participation in the festival. And, of course, you have to show proof of the official invitation from Carifesta as part of your supporting documents.

They have met with the Ontario Arts Council, which was very supportive, - most of the arts councils have been. The new step is for them to get their registration in. The Ontario Arts Council was gracious and said the whole initiative as something called ‘Strategic Collaboration.’

Whether they get funding is to be decided upon by the directors, not the jury. The application is in and pending; however, Spencer noted that the Canada Council’s website has been closed and it involves a longer process.

She is currently looking at community support because this is a huge undertaking. Time is also a factor.

Spencer is the artistic director of the Carifesta Canadian delegation and the chief de mission is retired Trinidadian, Ramesh Harry and Nova Scotia general, Michael Lashley.

In her tribute Earl Jarrett, chief executive officer of The Jamaica National Group, parent company of JMMS USA Inc., said she worked hard over the years to build financial bridges between Jamaicans in Florida and their homeland.

“We salute Mrs Bartlett, for her hard work and commitment during her 20 years here, as well as, her previous years with The Jamaica National Group, and for her service and dedication,” he said.

In accepting her award, Bartlett recalled the many challenges, as the team had to send remittances by fax, as well as going door-to-door to convince the new service to the community.

“I was in South Street where we started and then I moved to an office. And, while I enjoyed the new office, I missed connecting with our clients, therefore, I moved back to 24th Street,” she explained.

“I felt that I didn’t need an enclosed office, because I was a part of the day-to-day interactions with the community. And, I enjoyed serving them. That is what love and respect is about. And, if you give your customers love and respect, you will earn it from them in return,” she said to much applause.

The dinner, which also included a round-table discussion, heard tributes to Earle Rogers, Mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, who commended the company for its dedication to the Jamaican Diaspora in Florida.

“We thank JLMS for its participation and support in the Diaspora over the years. You have done us proud and have assisted us in many endeavours over the years,” said Rogers, former State Representative (District 96).

Bartlett paid tribute to the many persons who assisted the remittance company over the decades.

Jamaica National Money Service

AUBREY CAMPBELL
Gleaner Writer

Fort Lauderdale, FL

PROCLAMATION from the Broward County government, citing Sunday, May 28, 2017, as Jamaican National Money Service (JNMS) Day in the county and Southeast USA, highlighted a weekend of appreciation, celebration and thanksgiving, among key stakeholders of the financial institution, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Proclamation outlined the achievements and accomplishments of the organization in the USA since 1997, was presented to Regional Commissioner Dale Holness.

Holness, whose county ‘district’ includes Fort Lauderdale, home to the vast majority of Jamaicans residing in South Florida, lauded the organization for its innovation and networking, allowing Jamaicans to stay in touch with family and loved ones regionally and world-wide.

Host pastor, Rev Bancroft Williams, in his message of praise and thanks, likened the operations of JNMS to a bridge, connecting the past and the present to the future.

“As you rejoice in your achievements over these past two decades, there is need to focus on the task ahead,” he said while referencing his theme, ‘Rooted in history, forging into the future.’

He said that what started as a small group, more than a hundred years ago, has grown, through drive and determination, into an international financial firm, because for them (JN Group), “relationalships reassuring.”

At events a day earlier, the focus was on customers, the staff and the network of agents, overseeing the day to day operations of JNMS.

At the flagship location at State Road 7/24th Street in Lauderdale, a steady stream of customers were greeted by senior company executives and Board members and given anniversary tokens including discounts on remittance fees.

Loretta Thompson and son Moamar Hamilton, who made the 52 miles trip south from West Palm Beach, told TThhee  WWeeeekkllyy  GGlleeaanneerr, “Only to be told that this year, when Spencer returned to Barbados, she said, “If they do not allow participation of Caribbean artists from the Diaspora, Barbados has taken on the initiative of two things: to look at what is some of the best practices and what is the current trend in theatre in the Caribbean, and the second one, which was the more important one to me, was to investigate Carifesta secretariat to allow participation of Caribbean artists in the Diaspora for future Carifestas.”

Carifesta agrees to participation of first Caribbean Diaspora delegation

The Proclamation, outlining the achievement in 1972, the Caribbean’s largest arts festival, Carifesta, has agreed to the participation of a delegation of artists from the Caribbean Diaspora.

The group of over 66 artists from Canada will attend Carifesta from August 17-27.

There will be a GoFundMe campaign and other fund-raising activities to help support the costs.

This is a significant achievement for Trinidad-born Rhona Spencer, an artistic director, writer and actor based in Toronto, who had been urging organizers of the festival for eleven years to consider the Caribbean Diaspora.

In 2006, when she was the artistic director of Theatre Archipelago, Spencer got a grant from the Canada Council to attend the sixth Carifesta in Trinidad.

She went as an observer because she felt it was important that, although based in the Caribbean milieu she felt it was important that, although based here, to be always aware and concerned with what is happening artistically in the Caribbean.

“I went down to Trinidad with the intention of two things: to look at what are some of the best practices and what is the current trend in theatre in the Caribbean, and the second one, which was the more important one to me, was to investigate Carifesta secretariat to allow participation of Caribbean artists in the Diaspora for future Carifestas.”

The conversation was inconclusive so Spencer returned to Canada and for the next eleven years continued to advocate for that to happen.

While in Barbados on vacation in March this year, and knowing that Carifesta would be held there, she sought a meeting with the festival’s director, Andrea Wells, at the secretariat’s office in Bridgetown.

After pitching the proposal again for the participation of Caribbean artists from the Diaspora in Carifesta, Spencer was given “a resounding yes.”

Only to be told that this year, while Barbados has taken on the initiative to open up Carifesta to Caribbean artists in the Diaspora, But what they did say to me is that they weren’t doing quite a good job letting the world abroad be aware and know of it so that they can extend it to their nationals in the country,” she said.

OFFICIAL INVITATION

Caribean artists here were extended an official invitation to participate as a non-Caricom registration.

When Spencer returned to Toronto, she mobilized the community putting out a call on Facebook and spoke to some people by phone.

“The call was about artists who are of Caribbean descent whose works are critically acclaimed and presented to the public, and that are known and funded by the federal, provincial, and municipal arts councils.

The response was resounding, said Spencer, who organised their first meeting on April 5. Participants have to basically be self-funded because “we don’t have the luxury to say that Canada is sending this delegation down as the Caribbean countries do,” she said.

“Because we all, most of us, would have had arts council funding. What we do then is to apply to arts councils to fund our participation in the festival. And, of course, you have to show proof of the official invitation from Carifesta as part of your supporting documents.

They have met with the Ontario Arts Council, which was very supportive, - most of the arts councils have been. The new step is for them to get their registration in. The Ontario Arts Council was gracious and said the whole initiative as something called ‘Strategic Collaboration.’

Whether they get funding is to be decided upon by the directors, not a jury. The application is in and pending; however, Spencer noted that the Canada Council’s website has been closed and it involves a longer process.

She is currently looking at community support because this is a huge undertaking. Time is also a factor.

Spencer is the artistic director of the Carifesta Canadian delegation and the chief de mission is retired Trinidadian, Ramesh Harry and Nova Scotia general, Michael Lashley.

She said they had to select artists based on things that they are answerable for to the arts council, such as “how marketable are you?”

“We’re not just going out there to get in, we’re going to pitch and knock home. We’re going out there as a means to let them know that we ourselves as well in the Caribbean,” she said.
The effects of extreme weather events are great consequences for Jamaica, and the country has seen such as more intense rain storms, a lot of rain in a short period of time – which can have serious consequences for Trump's decision was pending, noting that pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He made the announcement last week at the Office of the Prime Minister of Jamaica.

“Under the Disaster Risk Act, the prime minister can declare any place as a threatened or disaster area,” said McKenzie in his main address at the launch of Disaster Preparedness Month and observance of the start of the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season last week in Kingston.

He urged the Government to fix the problems bedevilling the regional health authorities but stressed that we “will never allow you to abolish the authorities and lay off the workers”.

Dalley warns against merging regional health authorities

OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN on Health Horace Dalley has cautioned the Government against rationalising the regional health authorities (RHAs), declaring that the parliamentary opposition would resist it no more.

“We will not support any return to a centralised Ministry of Health that directs health care from a centre where the people of Kittit in that health centre have to call a body in Kingston to get gauze, tissue, and all these things,” Dalley said in his contribution to the Sectoral Debate last week.

He urged the Government to fix the problems bedevilling the regional health authorities but stressed that we “will never allow you to abolish the authorities and lay off the workers”.

The reality is that there is too much duplication in the system, and in areas such as maintenance, procurement, and project management, there is too little capacity, and by extension, the source of some of the challenges we are facing now with some of our health infrastructure,” Tufton said.

Palmer, permanent secretary, Ministry of Justice, and chairperson of the National Task Force against Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act to have a judge alone trying human-trafficking offences.

“Human trafficking has been a serious problem in Jamaica, with the 2016 Global Slavery Index estimating that in 2016, some 5,800 persons were trafficked in Jamaica. Palmer, who is also the chairperson of the National Taskforce against Traffic in Persons, was speaking at a handover ceremony of a bus on Thursday June 1 which is to be used to transport victims of human trafficking to the Ministry of Justice.

Palmer believes that Jamaica should now have a Tier One ranking on the US State Department’s watch list, noting that there were countries without legislation to fight human trafficking, yet they had a Tier One ranking.

Currenty, Jamaica has a Tier Two ranking, which was upgraded from the Tier Two Watch List last year.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

Tier Two consists of those countries whose governments do not fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s minimum standards but which are making significant efforts to do so.

In his comments at the handover ceremony, Clifford Chambers, assistant commissioner of police in charge of the Traffic, Permits and Organised Crime Investigation branch, said that human trafficking continued to wreak havoc on the society.

He argued that this “bureaucratic and clandes-tine” trade had the potential to devastate a country.

While expressing delight that her ministry was able to donate the Toyota bus to the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Unit of the police force, Palmer said, “I am very sad that the world has come to this – that we entangle each other for our own gains. I pray about this a lot because there has to be a way to eradicate this crime, despite the evil in which we live, from the face of the Earth.”

There are 585 such squatter settlements that have been mapped out in the country. One hundred and thirty-eight of them are within 100 metres of waterways. More than 50 per cent of squatter settlements in Kingston, St Andrew and St Thomas are within 100 metres of waterways.

McKenzie added that passing of the building bill was forthcoming, and along with the Disaster Risk Management Act of 2015, would seek to remedy structural and land-use issues to ensure that national exposure to disaster is significantly reduced.

Coordinated by the GDPEM, Disaster Preparedness Month is observed annually in the month of June. The 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season ends on November 30.
Get on board to save youth

THE EDITOR, Sir: I write in response to the editorial appearing in the Saturday, May 13, 2017 edition of The Gleaner under the heading ‘The challenge of idle youth’. As chairman of Gore Developments Limited (GDL) and the Gore Family Foundation (GFF), we, too, applaud the Government’s proposal for Jamaica National Service Corp. project in the planned recruitment and sponsorship of at-risk young men for educational and skills training purposes.

I recently met with the chief of defence staff, Major General Rocky Meade, among others, and both GDL and GFF have committed to sponsoring 50 youngsters from troubled areas in Montego Bay and its environs, with a view to their learning English, mathematics and ‘life skills’ towards gainful employment.

To this end, I invited Dennis Chung, CEO of the PRSJ, to accompany me to the meeting, and he has promised to canvass his membership for sponsorship so that we can really support the programme in Montego Bay.

The cost to train each young adult will be approximately J$78,000, and we urge the leading lights in the private sector to get involved and get on board! If each prominent company/organisation commits to sponsoring 50 young men, we will soon reach the 700 target, and be well under way in what can only be viewed as a much-needed, worthwhile and overdue endeavour.

PHILLIP F. GORE
Chairman
Gore Developments Ltd

Concerned by PM’s conduct

THE EDITOR, Sir: I am hoping that the prime minister did his checks about the suitability of the houses being built by Food For The Poor before jumping to its defence, as this would suggest that he is not inclined to properly inform himself before making crucial decisions affecting vulnerable people.

Indeed, I am also concerned that he is said to have signed off on the land deal with Chinese government building the highway without a valuation being done. I hope that the prime minister is not only fulfilling his own dreams and not anchoring the people of Jamaica with it, because I would have to label him a first-class hypocrite.

NO HANDLE ON ECONOMY

The fact that his Economic Growth Council and 5-in-4 are against the backdrop of higher fuel prices will suggest that he does not have a full handle on things economic.

Why is his Government contemplating refurbishing the stadium at a cost of $5 billion when we have devastated roads and the building of a multitude of statues at this time?

It would seem to me that we are caught between an opposition leader whose record does not say much and a sitting prime minister who is concerned about his singular and personal dream.

My dream is for the betterment of all Jamaicans, especially the less fortunate, from whom I emanate, and I seek no friends in that ambition.

MARK TROUGHT
marktrought6@gmail.com

Install watchdog over sale of national assets

THE EDITOR, Sir: CHINA IS outperforming the United States at the imperialist game.

Jamaica needs a permanent, non-partisan appropriations committee consisting of members who, like the US Supreme Court, do not reveal their party preferences or affiliations, and are lifetime members who transcend successive administrations.

Why, given the high levels of corruption evident in Jamaica, has there been no such body?

Must the country wait until it is a total slave colony before it reacts? Jamaican taxpayers need to demand that massive rays of sunshine be shone into every deal negotiated deal with every foreign entity.

Can a country call itself a sovereign nation when so many of its vital goods and services are provided by non-Jamaican citizens?

PAUL HAYE
haye_p@yahoo.com

Bartlett’s uncalled-for twist

D BARTLETT, the tourism minister, seems to have got himself in a bit of a twist over the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s (FCO) standard advisory on terrorism to British citizens travelling to Jamaica. He can find better reasons and places on which to expend his energy.

The note advises that there is ‘no recent history of terrorism in Jamaica’, but advises Britons that the danger can’t be ruled out in the face of a ‘heightened threat of terrorist attacks globally against UK interests and British nationals’.

Such anxieties, we expect, would have been heightened by last week’s deadly bombing in Manchester, England, which followed the recent attack in the vicinity of the British Parliament when a knife-wielding terrorist not only killed a policeman, but had earlier used a car as a weapon against civilians.

Significantly, the terrorism advisory on Jamaica is in the very same language as for those for most other English-speaking Caribbean countries.

That is not to say we are unprepared. The Gore Family Foundation (GFF), we, too, applaud the worthwhile and overdue endeavour.

The OPINIONS on this PAGE, EXCEPT FOR THE ABOVE, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE GLEANER.
Have a great week!

Mayor of Falmouth Colin Gager with some of the participants who attended the Trelawny Business and Investment Symposium at Radisson Hotel in Queens, New York on May 22.

A Taste of Jerk Kick Off to the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival was held at VP Records Retail Store on Saturday, June 3. (From left) Eddy Edwards, CEO of Jamaican Jerk Festival LLC, Peetah Morgan of Morgan Heritage, Gramps Morgan of Morgan Heritage, Nova of Yardie’s Restaurant, Chef Wenford Patrick Simpson, Patricia Chin, founder of VP Records, and Richard Lue, director of business development, VP Records.

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

Doreen Forrest, WISC President (left), with honouree Louisa Cummings at West Indian Social Club of Hartford 67th Anniversary Ball, Hartford, Connecticut.

Beverly Redd, (left) WISC Member of the Year, with Ann-Margaret Lim (author/poet) at West Indian Social Club of Hartford 67th Anniversary Ball, Hartford, Connecticut.
PetroCaribe deal secure, says Venezuelan official

CHARLES D’AFFAIRES of the Venezuelan Embassy, Luis Gutierrez, said the Nicolas Maduro administration remains committed to bilateral agreements between the two South American nation and its Caribbean counterparts, including Jamaica.

Rocked by an ongoing economic and political crisis, Venezuela has seen its financial output slashed in half since the start of the year because of low price for oil on the world market.

Subsequently, the economic fall-out has stoked massive food shortages and constant electricity black-outs for millions of people.

More than 70 people have been killed in incidents linked to ongoing protests in that country since the opposition launched anti-government demonstrations at the start of April.

Quizzed as to whether Jamaica stands to lose the preferential pricing arrangement guaranteed under the PetroCaribe Agreement, and whether or not her government was pleased with Jamaica’s stance in relation to the unfolding crisis in Venezuela, Gutierrez said she was not worried. She said that her government remained committed to the bilateral arrangements and trade between the two countries.

PetroCaribe is an agreement between Venezuela and several Caribbean territories to provide the oil on preferential payment conditions. The agreement, which began in 2005, allows beneficiary nations to buy oil at market value but only pay a percentage of the cost up front. The balance can be paid over 25 years at one per cent interest.

“We have had a very close relationship with the Planetary’s (Venezuela) Government for several years, which operation proves successful and with which we are facing in Venezuela,” Gutierrez said. She noted that the troubling state of affairs in the oil-rich nation will take time to be resolved, and accused the country’s main opposition party of pandering to outside influence in an effort to topple Maduro’s presidency.

“Recent Venezuelan history shows that whenever the political opposition in that country feels it has support from the Organisation of American States, they increase a practice of violence, destabilisation that seeks to delegitimise the power of the presidency,” Gutierrez stated.

“We have seen internal issues that are never accepted in any other country, that insult the authority of the presidency,” she added.

The European Union recently urged the Venezuelan government to set a clear calendar for elections, even though constitutionally mandated polls are not due until 2018, while regional elections are due in December 2017.

The Bank of Jamaica is seen at left, while Scotiabank Jamaica is to the right. The central bank regulates both banks and the remittance market.

J’can remittances unaffected so far by correspondent banking fallout

A RECENT survey conducted by the World Bank has identified the Caribbean as the region most severely affected by the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships (CBRs) and found that smaller countries are particularly vulnerable.

It said a study by International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff of stakeholders in the Caribbean also provides evidence of a significant impact throughout the region on the money- or value-transfer services, which is important for international remittances.

This includes money-transfer services in Jamaica – cambios – where a leading bank no longer accepts foreign instruments and remittances from some money services businesses, according to the IMF in its May 2017 Western Hemisphere regional economic outlook.

“Limitations on this sector could have a detrimental impact on financial inclusion. For example, in Jamaica, cambios play a critical role in the market for foreign exchange by fostering increased competition, convenience, and wide access demanded by a tourism-driven economy,” it said.

In March this year, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service launched a National Financial Inclusion Strategy, the Government’s commitment to creating the enabling environment which makes it easier for Jamaicans to save, invest, do business and obtain relevant financial products and information. However, the withdrawal of CBRs does not yet appear to have the anticipated negative impact on remittances to Jamaica.

In the report of the survey of consumer confidence for the first quarter of 2017, released in Kingston, researchers found that Jamaican recipients of remittances remained unchanged at 38 per cent. They also found that the percentage of persons who receive remittances on a monthly basis rose to 35 per cent from 28 per cent in 2016, were slightly less common among the youngest recipients and more common among the eldest.

The IMF regional outlook also noted that the cost of sending remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean is lower than to other regions with the exception of South Asia, but said that at 6.2 per cent of the value of a US$2000 transaction, it remains substantial.

DECLINE IN COSTS

It pointed out that the costs have declined significantly over the past decades, for example, from 15 per cent to Jamaica between 2001 and 2015.

The IMF regional outlook noted that global banks have selectively withdrawn from CBRs over the past few years, reflecting banks’ evolving cost-benefit assessments of including changes in the regulatory and enforcement landscape in advanced economies.

Several banks across the region, including Jamaica, have lost some or all of their CBRs.

In the most affected countries, the IMF said, the loss of CBRs has led to a rise in the costs of processing international transactions because of higher costs associated with more robust due diligence efforts and, in some cases, higher service fees. The time taken to process transactions has also increased.

The IMF has recommended that “coordinated efforts by the public and the private sector are called for to mitigate the risk of financial exclusion.”

It noted that several initiatives are under way to better understand the withdrawal of CBRs and assess and mitigate the potential impact, with efforts led by the IMF, the World Bank, and the Financial Stability Board.

Caribbean regional bodies have stepped up efforts to raise awareness of the impact on the region of the withdrawal of CBRs. “Among possible solutions, strengthening of respondent banks’ capacity to manage risks is an immediate priority,” the IMF said.

“This strengthening can take the form of enhanced communication between correspondent and respondent banks to foster a common understanding of risks, issuance of policy statements by correspondent banks on transactions that are considered high risk, and the provision of technical assistance to strengthen respondent banks’ capacity,” it added.

The consolidation of transactional traffic through downstreaming – whereby the correspondent bank has a relationship with an intermediary bank, which has relationships with other respondent banks – has already gained traction in the region.

The consolidation of small-sized correspondent banks also has the potential to bolster the level of transaction flow with correspondents, as well as to provide economies of scale for due diligence processes, the IMF said.
Trade Winds gears up to take market share from imports

JIMMY JOHNSON
Business Reporter

Prime Minister Andrew Holness examines an array of juice drinks during a tour of the Trade Winds Citrus factory at Bog Walk, St Catherine on Tuesday, May 30, 2017. Trade Winds Managing Director Peter McConnell said the investment would allow the company to target additional export markets. Prime Minister Andrew Holness examined the array of juice drinks during a tour of the Trade Winds Citrus factory at Bog Walk, St Catherine on Tuesday, May 30, 2017. Trade Winds Managing Director Peter McConnell said the investment would allow the company to target additional export markets.

The total estimated cost to repair roads and clear drains of J$2.1 billion relates solely to the cost of effecting road clearance and drain-cleaning works and does not include the reactivation of the region’s road network, the PM said.

The revision of last year’s figures brings the cost to reopen road drainage lines in August 2014 in the 200ml format, a size suitable specifically targeted at children.

With the expansion, Trade Winds says around 24 new jobs will be created, and that the full workforce across the new production line will also allow the company to target additional export markets.

JAMAICA GROWTH projection will take a significant hit, two financial analysts have said following the government’s estimate of damage associated with flood losses for March. The new estimate is around J$44 billion and agriculture, a key driver, facing a major challenge.

That amount just adds J$1.5 billion from the National Works Agency (NWA) for the cost to reopen roads and clear drains of the losses to the agriculture sector from the mid-May devastation is approximately J$652 million.

Total costs will go beyond J$2 billion, the NWA warned in its submission to Parliament’s Finance and Development Committee that considered the impact of the floods in the meeting.

We might be looking more in the region of 1.5 percent already. We had revised down the GDP growth for last year from 1.6 per cent to 1.2 per cent. If that 1.2 per cent trend continues, especially given the fact that there’s been a setback, we might be looking at something like 1.5 per cent," Chung said.

The revision of last year’s figures was based on an analysis of the performance of agriculture and mining. The agriculture sector is now reeling from the floods between March and May. Compounding the problem, Hyman said, is the fact that to cover the costs of the damage, coming even before the hurracane season starts tomorrow, the Government have to reallocate resources. Doing that, he said, includes pulling funds that would go towards capital projects.

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JAMO金融分析师表示，今年的经济展望将遭受重大打击。政府已经估计了洪水损失对农业和矿业的影响，外汇储备的损失大约为440亿美元。

"We might be looking more in the region of 1.5 percent already. We had revised down the GDP growth for last year from 1.6 per cent to 1.2 per cent. If that 1.2 per cent trend continues, especially given the fact that there’s been a setback, we might be looking at something like 1.5 per cent," Chung said.

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Debate over foreign acts entering local contests

SHEREITA GRIZZLE
Gleaner Reporter

WHEN THE Boom Sound Clash and the Magnum Kings and Queens (MKQ) of Dancehall competitions, having recently concluded, with foreigners dominating the top spots, discussions about the entries are held to the same standards as locals in these competitions have once again arisen.

Japanese sound system Yard Beat walked away with top honours ahead of Jamaica’s Blaze Odyssey in the Boom Sound Clash finals, and Jamaican reggae/dancehall artists Richard Chin and Mixaro narrowly missed out on the Magnum Crown, but both have had to defend their entries in the competitions after their domination was met with questions about whether they had been judged fairly or given a free pass to the top based on their ‘foreign status’.

In an interview following their win, Yard Beat had to clear the air about rumours that they had to buy out the competition in order to win. Those same accusations began swirling again when Rankin Pumpkin reached the finals of MKQ and intensified after she won second place.

Following the recent conclusion of the MKQ show, Rankin Pumpkin released a statement via Facebook page, outlining that she had been the victim of racism and alleged that she was constantly threatened during the competition merely for being a Japanese in the top spot.

“Many racist comments from audience and contestants. Also one of the judge of the competition. I was very surprised how I was treated as a Japanese citizen. It seems as if we don’t have almost any foreign citizens to be in their competition,” she said in the post.

Defending Integrity

Following these revelations by Rankin Pumpkin and with the popular belief that the competition was somehow rigged in favour of the Japanese, Magnum also offered a statement on the matter.

Executive producer Mark Kenny defended the voting system in his statements to the media and said that it was impossible to rig the competition in favour of any contestant.

With the situation still fresh in the minds of many, there have been calls from ordinary Jamaicans for the locals to compete more seriously. Using the rankings and feedback on the show, the competition encouraged people to bring their art to the world.

In an interview, Yard Beat said, “As long as they abide by the rules, they should be eligible. What people don’t understand is that what they everybody else sees as talent is what we as Jamaicans don’t rate or don’t see as impressive that are touring the world. When they go overseas, they lock concerts, and the ones we who give ratings can’t pass Harbour View roundabout.”

Miss Kitty urged Jamaicans to be careful about xenophobia and discrimination because people are listening and watching. When you hear a Rankin Pumpkin, obviously there is a language barrier, but there is also a language barrier when our artistes go to foreign countries,” she said.

“Many of our artistes go to Japan to release their albums and never even use the money that they use to purchase albums and never show up in Japan but over the Spanish-speaking part. When our artistes go to Japan, which language do they speak? They don’t speak Japanese, but the Japanese people welcome them with open arms and love them up and embrace dem culture.”

In an interview, Rankin Pumpkin said, “Foreigners are very aware of the value of Jamaican culture unlike many in Jamaica. They invest resources (time, money, travel, etc.) to hone their craft and get into the industry, but we are still operating in a paradigm where we feel so grateful that these good good foreigners would want to come all this way to hang out with us. Foreigners are usually given some form of privilege because Jamaicans respond to their ‘foreignness’,” she said. “We have failed to understand that these foreigners come here to win and get very high ratings so they go back to their countries as superstars because they win a Jamaican culture competition on Jamaican soil against Jamaicans.”

However, Magnum judge Miss Kitty disagreed.

“I think that foreigners should be able to enter our competitions for the simple fact that we enter overseas competitions. If we are going to discriminate, or close out, or say that foreigners should not come, then how fair would it be for us to go to their country and participate in their competitions?” she said.

“The First Lady shared spoke about ThriveNYC, a mental health programme which was launched in November 2015. We have never had a programme that is as great as the First Lady because we don’t talk about it. She emphasised that “mental health is an illness, like diabetes, heart disease; it is not a lack of character or a lack of discipline.”

“Like any disease if it is not treated it gets worse,” she added. “We have never had a mental health system, we have had the mental health system.

NEW YORK

The annual Tribute to Our Ancestors of the Middle passage programme will be held on Monday, June 12, during a sitting at Coney Island Beach in Brooklyn.

The Tribute, a celebration paying homage to the millions of people captured from Africa arrive NYC, is the tribute to the millions of people captured from Africa arrive NYC, and transported to the west as slaves.

The event is twenty-eighth year. Although the Tribute is specifically geared to remembering those Africans who died at sea, it is commemoarted and celebrates the lives of all those who have gone on to the other world.

The idea of the Tribute happened at the end of the 1989 Storytelling event at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. It was decided then, in heeding the words of the writer, Toni Cade Bambara, who noted that, at the time, there wasn’t a single marker anywhere that commemorated, that recognised, that honoured those Africans who died in the Middle Passage.

Her words were noted by Dr. Zala Chandler-Taylor and brought to the attention of Dr. Mary Umolu who set about organizing the Tribute. It was in mid-November when the first Tribute was held.

After none of the principals involved did a follow up event in 1990, Tony Akoue, who thought that it should be an annual event, organised, through Medgar Evers College, the Tribute that is now in its 28th year. Akeem hails from Jamaica. The celebration is a mixture of things African. It begins primarily at noon with the pouring of libation. People associated with various religions (the program is secular) offer prayers on behalf of the dead. The program continues with music, dance, performances, and poetry. At the end, the celebration marches to the sea accompanied by drumming and flowers, fruits, and other items are then placed on the waters of the Atlantic as the tribute.

In a commune, the organizers are encouraging people to bring drums and other instruments, as well as flowers.

Although many people wear white or African fashions, there is no dress code,” the communiqué said.

In its inception, there has been the growth of other communities elsewhere - Central America, Africa, and other areas in the US - where the pouring of libation occurs at the same time as in New York, and because of that, people are asked to come before noon to participate in union. The Tribute takes place on the Boardwalk at Bay 16.
School named after Jean Augustine officially opens

NEIL ARMSTRONG
Freelance Editor

Toronto, ON

THE ALL-DAY wet weather did not dampen the enthusiasm at the open house of Jean Augustine Secondary School in Brampton, Ontario — Peel District School Board’s newest secondary school.

On May 25, the school held its official opening celebrations with Jean Augustine, a former Member of Parliament and first Black Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons, in attendance. The school, which has an enrolment of 269 students (179 Grade 9 and 90 Grade 10) and a crest of the phoenix, opened at the beginning of the school year in September 2016.

Buoyed with pride for their school, students conducted tours of the state-of-the-art building with rooms for the visual arts, multi-media, broadcast, photography, music, hospitality, athletics, and more.

Grade 9 student, Juvraj Bhandhol, 14, reels off the motto of the school - service, advocacy, innovation and leadership (SAIL).

“The focus at our school is truly inspired by Jean Augustine’s mandate to empower students to achieve their potential through activism and service,” said Sandra Dussiaume, principal.

“Students have been working hard for months to plan this school opening. We’re all really excited to have Jean join us to celebrate and showcase our students’ creative talents with our school community.”

Jean Augustine, who is originally from Grenada.

“I am very impressed at how everyone at the school has built such a strong school spirit.”

VIBRANT

She described the school as being a vibrant community that she is confident will be a beacon in Brampton.

“The Collective - the name and spelling given to the graphics design lab - was a beehive of activity as students bragged about the 3D printers it houses and showed moulds and designs that they created.

Some of their design creations have been entered into competitions and the students expect to do well.

In the hospitality room, supervised by Mr. Lee, students prepared food and refreshments for community members and parents to taste at the open house.

Heather Norton, music teacher, said students learn song-writing, and how to compose, produce, and perform.

She said every student must understand the fundamentals of a diversity of instruments.

Leadership, innovation, and communication skills are important to the students and staff.

Guests also had an opportunity to help create the first piece of artwork to be displayed in the school.

Augustine served in the Canadian parliament from 1993 until 2006. During this period, she served as parliamentary secretary to the prime minister, minister of state for multiculturalism and the status of women, and was a deputy speaker.

Augustine is also the former national president of the Congress of Black Women of Canada, and was instrumental in the declaration of February as Black History Month in Canada.
SANDALS RESORTS International plans to develop a dozen overwater luxury villas at its south coast resort at Whitehouse, Westmoreland.

In response, fisherfolk in the Whitehouse community want continued access to the area, and better linkages with the hotel to sell fish, according to a new technical report posted on the website of the National Environment and Planning Agency, NEPA, this week.

The hotel is expected to employ an additional 60 personnel to accommodate the villas. Sandals Whitehouse will be the second Jamaica-based hotel in the chain to develop overwater villas. The first set of 17 was built last year at the Sandals Royal hotel in the chain to develop overwater villas. The first closed.

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The plan involves 12 luxury overwater villas built seven feet above sea level with a dozen overwater luxury villas at its south coast resort. The hotel is expected to employ an additional 60 personnel to accommodate the villas. Sandals Whitehouse will be the second Jamaica-based hotel in the chain to develop overwater villas. The first set of 17 was built last year at the Sandals Royal hotel in the chain to develop overwater villas. The first closed.

The villas were expected to be completed by the end of this year; however, the hotel owner has been slow to progress with the development.

The technical report on the current project sought to address specific concerns raised by NEPA and the community of eastern Westmoreland, including an assurance that the main contractor is expected to source labour from the surrounding communities.

However, it also raised challenges in providing the sort of linkages that the Whitehouse fishermen’s cooperative would want.

“The president [Havelon Honeyghan] asked about Sandals buying fish from local people. We explained that the main challenge with arranging such purchase was that any hotel that has the magnitude of Sandals has to enter into a contract with a supplier to provide an established quantity and quality of product at an agreed price. I shared my experience in the industry across Barbados, St Lucia and Jamaica, in that fisherfolk were generally unwilling or unable to make such commitments. Instead, fisherfolk generally sell their catch to the highest bidder, especially during periods of scarcity,” the report writer said.

Sandals Resorts International operates 24 properties in seven countries in the Caribbean, including Antigua, the Bahamas, Grenada, Barbados, Jamaica, St Lucia and Turks & Caicos Islands.

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@jamaica-gleaner.com

When doing a real estate sales deal, it is important for the buyer to have a copy of the valuation report and the surveyor’s identification report. This is crucial so that the buyer is protected from problems concerning land infringes particularly on land use laws and policies. These reports should be handed over prior to any formal sales agreement. The sales agreement, on the other hand, should state that all survey marks should be located and in place prior to the sale. A buyer may also choose to see the survey pegs first before purchasing the real estate property.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Surveyor’s Identification Report: A surveyor’s identification report ensures that the land named and described on the title and the one on the picture or brochure are the same and true. The valuation report also certifies that there are no pending cases and issues as well as any breaches of contract or agreement concerning the said land or property. It also determines and establishes the actual value and selling price of the real estate property.

Valuation Report: A valuation report ensures that the land named and described on the title and the one on the picture or brochure are the same and true. The valuation report also certifies that there are no pending cases and issues as well as any breaches of contract or agreement concerning the said land or property. It also determines and establishes the actual value and selling price of the real estate property.

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ACROSS CARIBBEAN

Ouyana

Government says it's in no rush to establish oil refinery

GEOGROTONW, Ouyana (CMG), THE GUYANA government says it will take on board all advice before making any decision on the establishment of an oil refinery here.

“OEW have to take on board all the advice that is given and then at the appropriate time the minister (of Natural Resources) will bring a memorandum to Cabinet upon which we will cogitate and make a decision that is in the best interest of the people of Guyana,” Minister of State, Joseph Harmon said.

Last month, Pedro Haas, Director of Advocacy Services at Hartree Partners who was tasked with carrying out a feasibility study for an oil refinery in Guyana released that the estimated cost to construct an oil refinery would be five billion US dollars.

The feasibility study found that it would be too costly for the government to invest in an oil refinery and Harmo noted that Cabinet is still to review the findings of the study.

The consultant, who was secured through the International Petroleum Producers Group by Chatham House, said that the final results of the study showed that Guyana would be “destroying over half the value of your investment the day your refinery “

 Trinidad and Tobago, the major oil producing country in the English-speaking Caribbean, has already indicated a willingness to allow Guyana to use its refinery facilities. But no decision has yet been taken by the David Granger government.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Dr. Khemraj Ramjattan called on the government to make public the contract document with the US-based oil giant, ExxonMobil following the announcement by the Ministry of Natural Resources that Guyana will earn a guaranteed two cent per cent royalty on gross production from 2020.

Jagdeo said that the two per cent could very well be seen as an improvement over the one per cent reportedly negotiated by the People’s Progressive Party Civic back in 1999.

NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts and/or has any information regarding Mr. Howard Murray whose last known address was Matthews Lane in Kingston Jamaica and who is believed to be living somewhere in the United States of America is asked to contact:

THE OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCATE,
72 Harbour Street, Air Jamaica Building,
Kingston Jamaica at
Tel: 948-1293 or 948-3279.

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Denied visa for medical care

WASHINGTON (AP): Nancy Valencia said the turmoil in her native El Salvador behind and moved to the US where she was able to support her family, buy a house and start a food-truck business. Beneficiaries work on the outskirts of Washington thanks to a “temporary” residency permit that has lasted for nearly 30 years. But the security for them was something that Vasquez and several hundred thousand others have built under that legal residency program now appears to be on shaky ground.

Immigrants and their supporters fear President Donald Trump’s skepticism about immigration means he will take a harder line than his predecessors on a program that began as a humanitarian gesture to temporarily defer deportations of people from countries that were considered too fragile to take them back – especially Central American nations devastated by war or natural disasters.

Vasquez said she is thinking about how she would sell her property and move back home. She also wonders what she would do with her 11-year-old daughter, an US citizen by birth.

“I imagine what would happen,” she said in a rocking chair in Rockville, Maryland, after a day of driving her food truck to construction sites. “We would be left with no protection. We would be totally defenceless.”

People carry signs as they gather in front of Houston Police Department headquarters in Houston on Saturday, May 20, 2017, to protest Senate Bill 4 which will allow police officers to inquire about a person’s legal status.

CANCELLLED TRIP

Noe Duarte, a 40-year-old Salvadoran landscaper in the Washington area, said he recently cancelled a trip home for a family reunion because he wasn’t sure he would be able to get back to the US and worries he would have to be a defenceless father back home. “If they don’t renew it, everything will come to an end,” he said.

Many see an ominous sign in the Department of Homeland Security’s May 22 decision to grant only a six-month extension of “temporary protected status” to nearly 60,000 Haitians instead of the standard 18 months.

The administration said it needed more time to decide whether Haiti had sufficiently recovered from its devastating 2010 earthquake. But officials suggested Haitians in the program should get their affairs in order so they would be ready to return home. As for Central Americans, the department said, Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly would review conditions and consult with appropriate agencies as the expiration date approaches next year.

End to ‘temporary’ status for US migrants feared under Trump

Immigrants and their supporters fear President Donald Trump’s skepticism about immigration means he will take a harder line than his predecessors on a program that began as a humanitarian gesture to temporarily defer deportations of people from countries that were considered too fragile to take them back – especially Central American nations devastated by war or natural disasters.

The program, which came into being in 1996, gives people who were in the US legally or otherwise, at the time their countries were included on the list, the ability to live in the US through the Arizona desert, some have come and gone from the list.

Advocates of extending the program say it would be cruel to disrupt families that have been firmly established in the US while conditions in their homelands remain troubled.

We are talking about people who have created new lives and have done everything within the legal system to stay in the US,” said Julio Calderon, an immigration activist from Honduras who lives in South Florida. “Their legal status is gone.”

“Other countries have been covered by TPS. Taking the status away from Haitians, even as conditions there remain difficult, would set a prece- dent,” he said. “This is why I’m scared.”

GANG VIOLENCE

Immigrant advocates also say those sent back to Honduras and El Salvador could be exposed to horrific gang violence, which has driven migrants to seek asylum in the US who haven’t covered by TPS.

The head of DHS recently commented on the fact that the gangs are growing more sophisticated,” said Anne Fluberg, director of Central American Legal Assistance in New York. “So one would hope that they wouldn’t want to send people back to a country with terrorists.”

Cecilia Menjivar, a University of Kansas sociologist who has conducted surveys of people with the status, said 90 per cent of people on TPS are in the labour force and many have started businesses. “They will do whatever they can to pay taxes because that shows the government that they are good people,” she said. “They will find ways to pay taxes even if they are self-employed.”

The new rule, to show that they are contributing.”

People in TPS aren’t eligible for public benefits, must pay taxes and undergo background checks when they submit renewal applications.

Duarte, a lucky man who came to the US through the Arizona desert in 2000, said the program has enabled him to make up to $35 an hour “Back home, there is noth- ing to do for me to go to work or to farm,” he said at a McDonald’s in Silver Spring, Maryland, after a day of driving his food truck.

Vasquez said that if sent home, she would reconsider moving back but thinks the US would be better off. “We are like terrorist organisations,” she said. “We are many of us here and we do a lot for this country.”

AP
MINISTER OF Tourism Edmund Bartlett, says the Devon House gastronomy experience will be expanded to include a self-service kitchen, farmers’ market and food shops. He made the announcement while launching the heritage site, located on Hope Road, St Andrew, as the island’s first gastronomy centre on Monday, May 29.

He noted that the stand-alone, self-service kitchen will not include a chef, and visitors will have the opportunity to cook their own meals after purchasing produce, meats and condiments from the farmers’ market to be located in proximity to the kitchen.

At the food shops, visitors will be able to sample a selection of the island’s cuisine, while enjoying local wines and rums. The aim is to establish Jamaica as a prime gastronomy destination.

“This is so that the world can come here to sample all types of foods. One of the things we know is that people travel to eat. In fact, the international gastronomy market is approximately US$150 billion. Eighty-eight per cent of the people who travel the world, travel primarily for food experiences,” he said.

Bartlett said gastronomy tourism provides an opportunity for Jamaica to add value to the tourism sector by diversifying the product.
FarmUp Ja to host Farmers’ Market in New York

DAVE RODNEY
Gleaner Contributor

NEW YORK

A FARMERS market is scheduled for Roy Wilkins Park in Queens on Sunday, June 11 where all the agricultural produce for sale is coming in from Jamaica. Soursop, yam, plantain, jackfruit, dasheen, sugar-loaf pineapple, coco, yellow heart fruit, tīnnikoo, tapi, pumpkin, pigeon pea, bananas, cumin, coconut, spices and herbal dried plants are just some of the items that are making their way for the all-day Jerk, Roots & Yam Fundraiser Festival.

This idea is generating interest among Jamaicans and other Caribbean American residents across the New York tri-state region. The plan was conceived by Neil Curtis, president and CEO of Farmup Jamaica Ltd, a charitable organisation (501-C-3) headquartered in Jamaica and New York that helps farmers return to the soil, driven by a broad vision of economic empowerment.

When the gates open to the farmers market at 10 a.m., some 25 vendors will be on hand to sample and sell produce coming in mostly from Hanover, Westmoreland, St Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St Catherine, St Thomas, Portland and St Mary. The vendors will be supported by a contingent of professional yam roasters coming in from Trelawny and experienced jerk cooks from elsewhere on island. Some of the items for sale require special US Customs clearance.

“Attendees can expect a day a family fun,” Curtis told The Weekly Gleaner. “All patrons will get to buy the Jamaican fruits and vegetables which haven’t been seen in ages and once they are in the park, attendees can begin with the ‘Taste & Buy’ section where patrons are offered the opportunity to sample foods and decide which vendor to support,” Curtis said.

This Jerk, Roots & Yam Festival forms part of the fundraising efforts of Farmup Jamaica Ltd. in key overseas markets across the Jamaican Diaspora. During the course of the event, empowerment presentations will be made by Dr. Julius Garvey, son of Jamaica’s national hero Marcus Garvey who is also Director of Strategic Research & Development for the Farmup Jamaica programme. Other presentations will also be made by Ma Trudy Deans, Jamaica’s consul general in New York and Mr Michael Duncan, businessman and Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) president general in New York.

An entertainment launch for the festival took place a few days ago at the Jamaican Consulate General in New York that outlined the program for June 11 as well as the critically important role that agriculture can play in the Jamaican economy, and the relentless efforts of Farmup Jamaica Ltd to turn Jamaican agriculture students into entrepreneurs.

An entertainment segment forms part of the event and will be hosted by Michael Barukus and Majah Hype with performances by Ry Mi Mani Marley, Stittuze, Glen Washington, Thriller U, Sister Carol, Khalilah Rose, Braata Folk Singers, International Songs of Praise, and others. Music will be provided by Rory Stone Love. A Kid’s Korner will provide an array of activities for children. The day’s activities will end at 8:00 p.m.

“We would like to see every person who truly loves Jamaica attend this event as the foods at this festival are wholesome and healthy, and the support will help us transform agriculture in Jamaica,” Neil Curtis urged.

At the New York City launch last week for Jerk, Roots & Yam Fundraiser Festival (from left) are: Neil Curtis, president, founder and CEO of Farmup Jamaica Ltd, Dr Julius Garvey, son of national hero Marcus Garvey and director of strategic research and development for farmup Jamaica Ltd and event attendee Noel Mignot, president of the PM Group, a New York-based marketing agency.

For more information call 516-376-1626.

17th: SETHS AA 6th Annual Father’s Day Weekend Boattrip “Colors Cruise” 6:30 PM - 10:30 PM; $55 by 6/1, $60 after; On the River Rose, Sheephead Bay Pier, Dock#2, Emmons Ave b/w Ocean Avenue and E 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY; Contact: Maureen: 917-379-2961, Carlene 917-202-0129

Paschal Blue Boleros of the St Catherine High Alumni Association Northeast invites you to their Annual Fundraiser luncheon June 24th at, Plattdutsche Park Caterers, Franklin Square, Long Island. Contact: 631-979-0183 or 718-295-9443

You are invited to Ardenne/Excelsior White on White Summer Splash Boat Ride, June 24th, 6:30 PM - 11 PM; Paddle Wheel Queen (Shea Stadium - Citifield Marina).

The Atlanta Jamaican Assoc Inc presents an Evening of Jazz, Saturday, June 17th from 6 p.m - 10 pm, Waters Edge Pavilion, Stone Mountain. For further information contact 770-403-6435, 404-556-3773 or 404-219-4139.

TELL US WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR ORGANIZATION. EMAIL US AT extraeditor@gleanerna.net

EVENTS LISTINGS

CANADA

Jamaican Canadian Association will hold its Jamaica 55 Independence Gala under the patronage of the High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada, Janice Miller, on Saturday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m. at 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto.

The Consulate General of Jamaica in partnership with the Jamaican Canadian Association presents Jamaica’s 55th anniversary of Independence Flag Raising Ceremony on Sunday, Aug 6, 12:30 p.m. at The Podium Roof, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St W. A reception follows at the Council Chambers-Members Lounge.

This will be followed by the Independence Church Service at Revivaltime Tabernacle, 4340 Dufferin St, Toronto. RSVP at info@jctoronto.org/416-598-2064

NEW YORK

You are invited to Jerk, Roots & Yam Fundraiser Festival Caribbean Food Expo, Sunday, June 11 from noon, Roy Wilkins Park, Jamaica, Queens.

The Atlanta Jamaican Assoc Inc presents an Evening of Jazz, Saturday, June 17th from 6 p.m - 10 pm, Waters Edge Pavilion, Stone Mountain. For further information contact 770-403-6435, 404-556-3773 or 404-219-4139.

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A MAN believed to be a correctional officer died on Monday, June 5, after the vehicle he was driving plunged into the Rio Cobre, in the Bog Walk Gorge, St Catherine. The Jamaica Fire Brigade says the Lindoera Fire Brigade received a call at 7:08 a.m. on Monday regarding the incident.

Deputy Superintendent Lee says the dead man was believed to be a correctional officer, but he says other details cannot be released until he is certain the man’s family has been contacted.

Meanwhile, he says investigations are continuing in relation to the circumstances of the man’s death. He said alleged eyewitnesses have said the car was hit by a truck.

Correctional officer dies in Bog Walk gorge
‘Mini-Routes Negril Tour’ full of adventure

JANET SILVERA
Senior Gleaner Writer

YOU HAVE permission to take these four words literally, as Island Routes delivers on its promise of a truly authentic Jamaican experience behind the wheels of a Mini Cooper.

Two weeks ago, I was privy to this authenticity as I joined a few ‘real visitors’ from Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States — Jamaica’s three largest source markets — and a contingent of journalists on what was tagged ‘Mini-Routes Negril Tour’.

The invitation was bold, commanding us to ‘grab the wheel of your very own Mini Cooper and journey with us as we head out on an adventure to Jamaica’s beautiful west coast’.

Not only is Island Routes showcasing the impact of tourism on local communities and families, while providing guests with opportunities to meet and engage with locals, but it is also allowing that important linkages that the country’s Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett speaks about every opportunity he gets.

“It is giving locals the opportunities to not only earn foreign exchange, but to become actively involved in tourism and the guest experience,” said Island Routes’ vice-president of sales, David Shields.

Sustainable tourism development is exactly what Island Routes has embarked on and this is evidenced by the trickle-down effects on individuals, families and communities.

“The linkages effect is tremendous and cannot be denied, and nowhere is this better highlighted than on the Mini-Routes tour,” added Shields.

TAKING ADVENTURE INTO OUR OWN HANDS

Following the lead of our expert guide, our first stop was at a local coconut vendor, Adrian Hemmings, at ‘Cold Beer Joint’ in Point, Hanover.

This rustic stop is about 40 minutes from Montego Bay, and 10 minutes from the capital, Lucea. Hemmings has had her joint for the last 21 years. She specialises in art and craft and, of course, cold beers.

A drive through the historic town of Lucea, before arriving in the ‘Capital of Casual’, Negril Jamaica’s ‘capital of casual’ for a delicious lunch at Margaritaville, located on the famous seven mile beach.

After lunch and some beach time, of course, the next stop was the iconic Negril Light House at Jamaica’s westernmost point for a breathtaking view and scenic photo-opportunity as well as meet and greet with the Light House keeper.

And if you think the Light House is iconic, be prepared for a one-of-a-kind tour, which sees you savouring the legendary Rick’s Cafe, voted one of the world’s best beach bars and known for the thrill-seeking cliff divers.

On the return trip to Montego Bay, the final stop allows the taste buds to rejoice at an authentic jerk shack for a quick but interactive cooking demonstration with chef Clifton Gordon at Mosquito Cove, in Hanover.

The non-Jamaicans on the tour were in awe and the look of pride was evident on the faces of those born on the island.

“It’s better than a bus tour,” declared Amy Cavanaugh of Delaware, in the USA. She and her husband are planning on taking a road trip to Canada soon and feels Mini-Routes has set them in motion.

Although not accustomed to driving on the left, she described the tour as one-of-a-kind trip that compares to nothing else, in the years that she has been travelling.

“The authenticity of the experience is what I will remember for years to come,” she noted.

Like Cavanaugh, Mark and Nancy Wong, visiting from the UK, were simply smitten by the comfort of the Mini Cooper.

“We wanted to get out of the hotel and see more of Jamaica, while getting a better understanding of the culture,” said the couple.

They both like the self-driving and felt the Rick’s Cafe was among the best attraction they have visited on the island.

“We would have wanted to stay there longer, stopped by a local market or in one of the villages and see more of the local life,” they expressed.

THE START

Mini-Routes were introduced to Jamaica in March and is said to be the first of its kind in the island. The routes take visitors from Montego Bay to Ocho Rios, and from Montego Bay to Negril.

Island Routes has also confirmed in a media release that it will be creating a whole series of Revolving Routes that cross-cuts Jamaica, ensuring that whether you’re a seasoned islander, or a first timer, there will be a new path to discover.

The fleet of Minis feature a range of models ensuring there is something to suit every group, this will include convertibles for the sun-lovers, two-door models for couples and four-door vehicles for families.

The company’s chief executive officer, Adam Stewart, who was quoted, gave his version of living on an island.

“I’ve had the distinct privilege of living the ‘island life’, and it’s something I truly value, so it’s very satisfying for my team and I to be able to share our island and home region with the world,” he commented.

He added that while everyone knows that millennials are big on experience, Island Routes has not forgotten about the boomers, so we’re constantly looking for ways to engage all ages and offer experiences that everyone will love and want to shout about.

I’m confident that in 2017 we will continue to deliver on the experience and continue to out-perform in our segment through our superior technology, our exceptional team and the quality of our product offering.”

On the Ocho Rios route guests can expect to drive through important towns, visit local food spots for some real Jamaican cuisine, see beautiful waterfalls and get to grips with some of the island’s incredible history.

It is not every day that you get to see, touch, taste and drive … in a Mini Cooper.
New management, new PB for Jaheel Hyde

ANDRE LOWE

Sports Editor

HAVING SIGNEED with Ricky Simms and his Pace Sports Management agency, ever-improving Jamaican hurdler Jaheel Hyde – shiny new PB in hand, is approaching the season with renewed confidence and drive.

Hyde, who can count the Olympic Games, two World Junior Championships titles and gold medals at the World Youth Championships and the World Youth Olympic Games among his accolades, lowered his lifetime best to 48.52 seconds in a second place effort in the 400m hurdles at the recent Jamaica International Invitational at the National Stadium.

He noted that it’s the result of a new approach, not only to his life as a professional athlete, but also to his training and preparation under his high school coach Christopher Harley, who has returned to take full control of the charge’s programme.

More speed work, more hurdling, more focus plus the support of Simms as his agent and Nugent Walker as his manager – which is of course the same tandem that guides the career and affairs of Usain Bolt, forms the backbone of the athlete’s recent success and one that he hopes will continue to reap dividends.

“This year I have made a lot of changes to my training and to everything pertaining to my track and field and my hurdling this year – I am doing a lot more hurdling in training. Last year I didn’t do that much hurdling but this year I am doing a lot of hurdling drills before my workouts or not I have hurdles on that day,” Hyde told The Gleaner.

GOING FORWARD

The hurdler has already done two 20km races this season, four years after his last half-marathon effort, during his days as a student at Wolmer’s Boys School.

“My coach said that he wanted to put more speed in my training and that is the plan so it’s more speed-based for me this year. I ran two very good times and what he is doing is paying off,” assessed Hyde, who admitted that his 48.52 seconds came as a surprise to him.

“It was a good race. I was happy to be in that race first of all but I made some mistakes. I took my attention off the rest of the field and was kind of focusing in one person at one point and realised that the rest of the field was getting away from me and I think that played a part in me losing that race. It would be great for me to open with 47 seconds but I am happy with the progress and the steps that I am taking.

As it relates to his steps where his management structure is concerned, Hyde said: “I had to sit down and evaluate my progress and what’s best for me. I spoke to a lot of people and got a lot of advice and I thought that going forward, I needed to make that change.

He admitted that Bolt played some part in his decision.

“Usain Bolt is my mentor, I’m not saying he sent me to anyone, I went to him and sought his advice but I went out of my way to make the necessary contacts after my research and conviction,” Hyde said.

Hyde was previously managed by Garfield Cole and was coached by Bert Cameron, who worked along with Harley.

Bolt's coach plans to construct stadium, develop training institution

LIVINGSTON SCOTT

Gleaner Reporter

JUNE 8 - 14, 2017

President and head coach of the Racers Track Club, Glen Mills, does not believe that the club will lose its prestige or standard of excellence when its postboy, Usain Bolt, retires this year.

Mills, who also conditions the likes of Yohan Blake and Kemar Bailey-Cole at the University of West Indies-based club, underlined also, that he intends to continue coaching for as long as he can.

Speaking at the JN Racers Grand Prix press conference at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel on Tuesday, June 30, Mills acknowledged that both he and the club’s legacies are tied to Bolt’s career, but declared plans to transform the outfit into a world-class athletics institution with a proposed new stadium, to be named in his and Bolt’s honour being a crucial part to those developments.

“We are planning to build an institution so that the legacy will continue to grow. Track and field and Jamaica can be the beneficiaries, so I hope that (Mills-Bolt stadium) project comes off so we can put in an up-to-date training centre, and so on,” he said.

We are trying to develop an institution. We have coaches understanding and if we get going on the bigger (stadium) project, we can unveil more to the public,” he continued.

The world-rated sprint coach, also stated his intention to continue coaching. “My participation in the sport started before Bolt, and if the good Lord gives me health and strength, it will not end with Bolt.

Bolt has had a fantastic career but I have other athletes that need my attention. I have other athletes that need my attention. Bolt has had a fantastic career but I have built my own identity, it is not the only thing that has defined my career, so I will continue until my time comes,” Mills stated.

 Blake expecting high security at World Championships

FOLLOWING LAST week’s terror attack in Manchester, England, president of the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA), Dr Warren Blake, is expecting heightened security measures when the country’s athletes arrive in that country ahead of the August 4-13 World Championships in London.

Jamaica’s track and field stars will begin arriving in the country on July 22, for their pre-championships preparations in Birmingham, England, some 83 miles away from the attack, which happened during an Ariana Grande concert at the Manchester Arena.

The championships has gathered significant attention across the world given the fact that it will serve as Usain Bolt’s final appearance at a major championships, and Blake says the local body is putting its trust in the London organisers and security mechanism, as far as the team’s safety is concerned.

GOOD SECURITY

“We normally have good security on arrival. We expect heightened security for the camp that starts on July 22 to August 1 at the Birmingham University in the UK,” Blake told The Gleaner.

Blake underlined the importance of the pre-championships camp, while noting that things are well in place.

“The training camp has been in place ever since I took over as president, and it is working by building camaraderie among the athletes in preparation for global events,” Blake said.

“Everything is in place for the training camp, as all the athletes will be there, unless there are special cases.

A suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device packed with nuts, bolts and other shrapnel in the foyer of the Manchester Arena during a concert featuring American singer Ariana Grande on May 22 at around 10:30 p.m. UK time.

Twenty-two persons were killed in the blast, which was declared by the Greater Manchester Police to be a terrorist attack and which has been identified as the deadliest attack in the United Kingdom since the July 2005 London bombings.
Wake-up call for J’can netball

ANDRE LOWE
Sports Editor

Netball Insider Sylvester Campbell believes Jamaica’s recent tie with Barbados in their three Test series should serve as a wake-up call, adding that the result showed that a lot of work is needed to develop the country’s fringe players into top international quality talent.

Campbell also weighed in on the performance of coach, Jermaine Allison-McCracken, during what was her first series with the team and her first as a head coach at the senior international level.

He called for an assessment of the coach, and believes the upcoming Caribbean Netball Championships should serve as a make-or-break for Allison-McCracken, who was appointed in March on a six month probationary deal.

An under-strength Sunshine Girls team was held to a 1-1 tie against the world number 12 ranked Bajans a few weeks ago, and Campbell is of the view that Jamaica’s second-tier level national players need to show improvement.

“It’s a wake-up call to Jamaica. We must understand we do not have any given right to netball, we must constantly be working hard. Bear in mind that the crop of our strongest players were overseas just one or two of our strongest players were here, so of the 12, 10 were away,” Campbell told The Gleaner.

NOT WHERE THEY OUGHT TO BE

“So the second tier of players is not where they are supposed to be and we need to do some remedial work at that level. That will come through the Berger League because this is the level that is supposed to develop our second and third tier players,” added Campbell, a respected local coach and long-time international umpire.

Ours are better than Barbados on any given day, given our performance against England and who were present then and who was present now, so if we put it together we should really be way above Barbados, but it was unfortunate that we drew that series against Barbados so we need to look at who we have going forward,” said Campbell, who dismissed suggestions that Jamaica should have easily beaten the Bajans despite the heavy turnover.

“That is a my theory, we should get that out of our minds and we should be constantly working hard. That Barbados team is a pretty good team. I have watched those players from Under-16 coming up, and we didn’t have our best out there,” Campbell noted before turning his attention to the coach.

“I believe that the high performance person, who at this moment is Maureen Hall, needs to assess her (Allison-McCracken’s) performance.” I have not been to much of her training sessions per se, but she came highly qualified with paper work, but in terms of the practical stuff netball is a practical game so I think we should revisit some of what she is doing, the programme she has there is it working?

“Coming close to the Barbados series, I think the concentration was around preparation work. Perhaps they needed to do more court work at that time and not being in the swimming pool as much, and that is what most persons are having a problem with,” he said.

“She has a six-month probation, so I think she should be given that time, and at the end of it, Netball Jamaica can decide whether or not we keep her,” Campbell added. “We also need to pay attention to her programme for the next three months and see if she is carrying us in the right direction.”

LAST ONE

Continued from 24

Mason, 34, died on April 20 in a motorcycle accident close to the Harbour View roundabout in east Kingston, with a grieving Bolt missing the next two and a half weeks of training in what will be his last season on the track.

Bolt, who had announced several months ago that he would be hanging up his spikes at the World Championships in August, says that he is now back in training and pushing himself to be the best shape possible ahead of his swansong in London.

“It was rough for me at the start. It (Mason’s death) took us by surprise and set me back a little bit training-wise,” Bolt told The Gleaner.

FIRST ON THE SCENE

The sprinter was one of the first persons on the scene of the accident after earlier partying with Mason and other friends at a party in downtown Kingston. Images of a crying Bolt, taken at Mason’s funeral, showed the world just how difficult it was for the sprinter.

“Mentally, I wasn’t ready to even train for, like, two and a half weeks, which I had to take off and just collect myself,” he added.

“So I have been working hard trying to get back to where I was, but I am confident in myself and my coach that we can get it done because we have done it years and years, and this year isn’t any different. So it was tough, but I have to focus on what I have to do.”

PUTTING IN THE WORK

Bolt, who will compete for the last time on Jamaican soil at Saturday’s JN Racers Grand Prix at the National Stadium, says that he is putting in the work to get back into shape and that though it has been a rough road back for him, he knows that his friend would have wanted him to continue pushing through and end his career on a high note in London.

“I know my friend would have wanted me to go out there to do my best and to be strong and to be focused on what needs to be done,” said Bolt.

“There is no other place to do the last one. The Olympics in London was out of this world. The support, the energy in the stadium was magnificent. Everywhere in the world I go people keep saying, ‘see you in London’. I don’t know if they have so many tickets, but I know the energy is going to be amazing, and it will definitely be emotional for me,” he added of this summer’s championship.

“It’s the last one, and so many Jamaican fans will be there, and it’s for me to go out in as much glory as I can. I am looking forward to it.”

Mason’s national record holder in the high jump, won several medals at the junior and senior levels for Jamaica before switching allegiance to Great Britain and winning a silver medalist at the Beijing 2008 Games.

Ja takes gold, silver at Boxing World Champs

IN THEIR finest international outing Jamaica landed four gold medals and two silver at the International Sport Kick Boxing Association (ISKA) Amateur Members Association World Championships in Athens, Greece last week.

Gold medal winners at the weekend finish of championships were, Shekema Cunningham, two, 2017 Gold medallist Lagoudia Auglin of Greece (left) and second runner-up Demon Karabazar of Germany.
JA/C’DIAN BOXING MATCHES MULLED
INFLUENCED BY the success of the weekly televised Contender boxing series currently at the quarter final stage, featuring fights between Canadian and Jamaican boxers, Canadian promoter Tyler Buxton is considering a series of fights between boxers of both countries.

NO OTHER PLACE TO DO THE LAST ONE – BOLT

Bolt’s London swansong to honour Germaine

SPORTS

PRINTING SUPERSTAR Usain Bolt has shared that it has been a struggle coming to grips with the passing of his close friend, Germaine Mason, but noted that he is determined to end his season and career on a high in honour of the Jamaica-born British high jumping standout.

Please see LAST ONE, 23