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Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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Govt. proposes refinery partnership in T&T PM talks to Latin Leaders

Prime Minister, the Honourable Patrick Manning, has proposed to two South American countries that they partner with Trinidad and Tobago to build a new 250,000 barrel per day refinery in Trinidad.

Speaking on March 21, 2007, at the second instalment of the BG Trinidad and Tobago Energy Luncheon Series at the Hilton, Port of Spain, the Prime Minister said that he had made the proposal to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on March 20, 2007, and to Brazilian President, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, two weeks prior, during the 19th summit of the Rio Group in Guyana.

This country's lone refinery, Petrotrin, which is located at Pointe-a-Pierre, is currently being upgraded to the tune of US\$850 million.

The Prime Minister stated: "We will seek to attract to Trinidad and Tobago a second refinery of about 250,000 barrels per day capacity, which will also



Visiting Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, Senator the Honourable Joan Yuille Williams (centre) with Lion King stars Jonathan Bishop and Zara Aba Bartels. The actors were paid a courtesy call backstage after the proud Hon. Minister witnessed their inspired performances. See Story on page 8.

have the capacity to treat with the crude oil coming out of the current refinery in Pointe-a-Pierre.

When I spoke to the President of Brazil in Guyana two weeks ago, we discussed this matter and, in fact, a Brazilian mission has already come here in pursuance of that and other issues.

On March 20, the proposal was put to the Government of Venezuela to partner with us to con-

struct here a 250,000 barrel a day refinery, among other things."

Further to his meeting with President Chavez in Venezuela, the Prime Minister said that a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding had been advanced with the Venezuelans, for collaboration between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago in energy development.

The Prime Minister also informed that the two

(Continues on page 3)

"Trinidad and Tobago - The Singapore of the West"

BANK OF BARODA TO SET UP OPERATIONS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, has been authorized by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to set up operations in the country. In Mumbai, India, the formal letter communicating the approval was handed over to Dr. Anil K. Khandelwal, Chairman and Managing Director of the bank, by Trade and Industry Minister, the Hon. Kenneth Valley, who led a Trade and Investment Mission to India.



According to Dr. Khandelwal (pictured above), Bank of Baroda's entrance into the Trinidad and Tobago market will open up new vistas of trade and investment opportunities for both Trinidad and Tobago and Indian businessmen. In referring to this country's economic achievements, Dr. Khandelwal stated that the bank saw Trinidad and Tobago as the "Singapore of the West", and urged his customers to visit this country to explore business opportunities.

Bank of Baroda

will join the seven major banks already located there, to offer its full range of products and services to the Trinidad and Tobago market. It is also geared to operate as a financial supermarket, catering to the needs of its global customer base. According to Dr. Khandelwal, the bank's strategy wherever it has operations, is to build sustainability in the economy and they intend to have a long term relationship with Trinidad and Tobago.

In welcoming the Bank of Baroda to Trinidad and Tobago, Trade and Industry Minister, the Hon. Ken Valley stated that the bank could not have chosen a better partner or better time to enter our market, as Trinidad and Tobago had a highly evolved financial sector, with CARICOM nations visiting the Republic to raise capital and several local financial institutions owning operations in Latin nations such as Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. He stated that one major aspect of the Government's diversification thrust was to have Trinidad and Tobago evolve into the financial hub of the region.

The Bank of Baroda has vast, multi-specialised international experience and expertise in the areas of international trade finance, project fi-

nance, loan syndications, retail finance and SME lending and is determined to add value to the local financial sector. In addition, according to the bank's senior officers, its operations in New York, USA, Georgetown, Guyana and Nassau, Bahamas would benefit from the synergy of having another subsidiary located in Trinidad and Tobago. The Bank has a large global presence, with 60 offices in 21 countries, including the major financial centres of the world – London, Brussels, New York, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The Government's Trade and Investment Mission to the Far East visited Mumbai, India, having met with business leaders and government officials in South Korea and China. In each country, the Mission Team hosted a Business Forum on Investment Opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, featuring presentations on the country, its economic strengths, and testimonials from foreign firms located there. The major focus of the Mission was to expose Far East businessmen to the investment opportunities in the country's non-energy sector and to assist local businessmen to establish key contacts and possibly foster joint venture alliances with their counterparts in the Far East.

Led by Minister Valley, who was accompanied by Tobago House of Assembly Secretary for Finance and Development, Dr. Anslem London, and Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to In-



dia, His Excellency Pundit Maniadeo Persad (pictured above); the Mission included technical officers of the Ministries of Trade and Industry and Foreign Affairs, senior officers of the Tobago House of Assembly, representatives of the Business Development Company, the Tourism Development Company and Eteck, and over twenty private sector companies covering a range of industries including finance and banking services, healthcare, food and beverages, construction, printing and packaging, chemicals, agriculture and business service consultancies. The Far East Trade and Investment Mission ended on March 14th, 2007 in New Delhi, India.

Trinidad & Tobago Culture on show in the Far East



chutney gana gowh mai gawat woh nachat aur kamara dolawat” or “I am on stage, singing a chutney for you, so I want you to come and move your waist and dance”, Rampartap demonstrated the multicultural talents of Trinidad and Tobago at a reception hosted by Essar Steel in honour of the visiting

calypsonians Dennis Cox (Lasana) and Michael Legerton (Protector), CLICO Shiv Shakti directed by choreographer Michael Salickram and the TNT Dancers.

As with the Investment Mission to Europe, the cultural contingent performed on alternating evenings at the cocktail reception for business people, and at a public venue for residents of the city to see and hear the culture of Trinidad and Tobago. The presence of a cultural group had played a crucial role in demonstrating the talent inherent in our nation, and provided prospective investors with a tangible example of our entertainment industry. In addition, our culture has been an invaluable mechanism in creating bonds between the local contingent and their foreign hosts through the

two universal languages of music and dance.

The Government included a cultural group on this Far East Mission given the extremely positive responses which a similar team of performers had generated on the Europe Mission which took place in September 2006. In fact, the music and entertainment industry is one of the seven non-energy sectors identified by Government for aggressive development, in keeping with its diversification policy. The other six sectors are Film, Seafood Industry, Food and Beverages, Merchant Marine, Printing and Packaging and Yachting.

The cultural contingent moved on to New Delhi next, where they staged their final performance before returning home to Trinidad and Tobago with the rest of the Mission.

Performing a “shair” or introduction in Hindi, chutney singer Heeralal Rampartap (pictured above) won the hearts of Essar Steel executives in Mumbai, India, during a performance by the cultural contingent which was in the Far East along with the Trade and Investment Mission.

With the words – “Mai Heeralal stage

contingent.

Apart from business and government representatives, the delegation included a cultural contingent which, along with Heeralal, boasted the talents of soca star Shurwayne Winchester, pan masters Witco Desperadoes, violinist Anslem Walters, singers Lima Calbio and Tricia Hamilton,

Refinery talks. . . Continued from page 1

states are now working towards an agreement on the unitisation of intermediary fields (straddling our borders) and use of those reserves, beginning with Loran-Manatee, which has reserves of about 10 trillion cubic feet.

Mr. Manning went on to state that: "This is the particular field in respect of which we felt there was an opportunity for Jamaica to get LNG and the specific proposal of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago,

was that the Loran-Manatee be developed and produced in Trinidad and Tobago and form the basis of a new LNG train, Train X, thus ensuring that Jamaica is able to get 160 million cubic feet per day out of that train, as is their requirement for expansion of their aluminium manufacturing facilities, some of which incidentally will be exported to Trinidad for utilisation in a smelter by the company Alcoa."

INDIA, T&T SIGN MUTUAL INVESTMENT PROTECTION AGREEMENT



Mr. Rao of India (left), exchanges greetings with Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Pundit Maniedeo Persad

Trinidad and Tobago and India are now signatories to a reciprocal Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (IPPA), which guarantees that investments by businessmen of both nations in each country will be protected under the law, with full access to all profits and guarantees against property seizure, nationalization, etc. The agreement sets the stage for greater levels of investment by Indian businessmen in the local economy.

Negotiations for the agreement were firmly advanced in November 2006, when a team of technical officers from Trinidad and Tobago visited India to finalize arrangements. The Agreement is considered to be a key part of the framework governing trade and investment relations between India and Trinidad and Tobago. According to Trade and Industry Minister, the Hon. Kenneth Valley, the main objectives of the IPPA are to attract more investment from Indian businessmen and to promote bilateral

co-operation between investors of both countries.

India is the fourth largest investor in Trinidad and Tobago, after the US, UK and Germany.

The signing ceremony took place at the Maurya Sheraton Hotel, Mumbai, during the recent visit of the Trinidad and Tobago Trade and Investment Mission to India, and involved Trade and Industry Minister, the Hon. Kenneth Valley and India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Hon. Kamal Nath (pictured below).



During the meeting, both Ministers took the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues between Trinidad and Tobago and India. Minister Nath also expressed admiration for the Government's drive to develop policies to modernise the landscape of the local economy and indicated that India's success was strongly based on its outward orientation to the world economy.

Minister Valley, in turn, elaborated further on Government's vision of Trinidad and Tobago as a hub for business and trade, and a platform for manufacturing in the Americas, both of which provided ideal opportunities for Indian investors. Minister Valley also requested the support of Minister Nath for the participation of a contingent of Indian businessmen at this year's Trade and Investment Convention in Trinidad and Tobago, scheduled for 16-19 May 2007.



*The Hon. Kenneth Valley
Minister of Trade and Industry*

Caribbean Airlines, British Airways launch London flights



From left, Dr Oliver King, British Airways' Senior Vice President Latin America and the Caribbean, with Sen. the Hon. Conrad Enill, Minister in the Ministry of Finance, BA Captain Fred Peters and acting British High Commissioner Geoff Patton at the Piarco International Airport at the formal launch of BA's codeshare service with Caribbean Airlines.

After a 13-year absence from the Piarco runway, British Airways' return flight to Trinidad and Tobago touched down at 3:40 on March 23, 2007.

The flight, carrying more than 150 passengers, was the first in a Codeshare Agreement between British Airways (BA) and Caribbean Airlines. British Airways last served Port-of-Spain in 1994 but it currently operates three flights weekly from Crown Point.

Dr Oliver King, BA's Senior Vice President Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed the hope that the route would be profitable this time around. He said that a feasibility study conducted a few months ago suggested that now would be a good time to re-enter the market as the economy was growing.

Dr. King explained that profitability was determined by a combination of factors: "You need to get the right mix between the business and the economy cabins; you need to be charging the right price and; you need to be factoring that against your cost base. The largest single factor we have is our fuel cost."

He noted that fuel prices have been favourable within the past few months but that BA had to scale down services to incorporate the Trinidad and Tobago route while maintaining its Tobago route.

According to the Vice President: "The Caribbean has enormous advantages in terms of sunshine, beaches... its beauty is well known. But compared to places like the Middle East and Dubai, which have invested heavily in creating a tourism product for customers based in Europe, and for the

Sir Vidia regains TT citizenship



Sir V. S. Naipaul and Lady Naipaul at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has restored the citizenship of the country's 74-year-old Nobel Laureate Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul. As a result Sir Vidia, who was born in Chaguanas on August 17, 1932, now enjoys dual citizenship.

The recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize for Literature said that he was deeply honoured to be invited by the St. Augustine Campus, University of the West Indies, to celebrate his work

and achievements. The internationally acclaimed author made the comment while visiting the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London on Friday 23 March, 2007 to collect his new passport. He was accompanied by his wife Lady Naipaul.

Sir V. S. Naipaul was in Trinidad and Tobago recently as a guest of the University of the West Indies.

Caribbean its been slightly out of vogue as a tourism destination.

And we see the challenge of trying to maintain our operation. We have a partnership with governments across the islands to promote tourism because it is in both our interests but it has to be recognised that the region competes."

Caribbean Airlines' Chief Executive Peter Davies, had said that the local airline could no longer afford to operate the London route because of cost and conditions relating to the aircraft.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SIGN MOU RE APPROVED DESTINATION STATUS

With over 30 million nationals travelling overseas as tourists last year, the People's Republic of China represents a major tourism opportunity and given its significant popularity as a major world destination, China is also an important source of tourism information and technology support for Trinidad and Tobago. China's number of outbound nationals is expected to increase to 100 million by the year 2020, transforming the country into the fourth largest source of tourists in the world.

Consequently, one of the critical activities by the Trinidad and Tobago Trade and Investment Mission involved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both nations for China to grant Approved Destination Status (ADS) to Trinidad and Tobago. This took place at the offices of the China National Tourism Administration (NTA) in Beijing, China, between Trinidad and Tobago's Trade and Industry Minister, the Hon. Kenneth Valley and Mr. Gu Zhaoxi, Vice-Chairman of the NTA.

Trinidad and Tobago now joins the ranks of countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Norway, Australia and some Asian and Pacific

countries, which have become approved destinations for tourism travel by Chinese nationals.

This MOU with China is in keeping with Government's policy to implement strategies that would exploit Trinidad and Tobago's tourism potential in a timely and sustainable manner. With outbound tourism from countries in the middle and Far East on a consistently steep growth trajectory, and lead by China and India, Government has been proactive in laying the groundwork for exploiting these lucrative travel markets.

Accessing this key market will help Trinidad and Tobago diversify its target base, which has traditionally been dominated by the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. Indeed, according to Dr. Anslem London, Secretary for Finance and Development in the Tobago House of Assembly, this MOU is the basis for the two country's full participation in each other's tourist markets. Dr. London also stated that Government had identified tourism as one of the key areas for aggressive development. This is in keeping with the country's diversification thrust, which requires that we develop specific areas in the non-energy sectors, to ensure



Approved Destination Signing and Exchange of Documents: The Hon. Kenneth Valley with China's Mr. Gu Zhaoxi, Vice-Chairman of the National Tourism Administration (NTA).

sustainable economic growth.

Under the MOU, the Chinese Government will designate travel agencies in China to organise outbound group travel of Chinese tourists to Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, legal rights of Chinese tourists travelling to T&T will be protected by the laws of China and those of Trinidad and Tobago, and Trinidad and Tobago travel agencies will be required to assign a certified tour guide for each group of Chinese travellers. Entry permits will be arranged by Trinidad and Tobago travel agencies only for Chinese tourist groups identified by that country's travel agencies and both parties will cooperate to ensure that the immigration laws of Trinidad and Tobago are observed by Chinese nation-

als, along with all other laws of this country.

Led by the Honourable Kenneth Valley, who was accompanied by Dr. London, and Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Pundit Manideo Persad, the Mission included technical officers of the Ministries of Trade and Industry and Foreign Affairs, senior officers of the Tobago House of Assembly, representatives of the Tourism Development Company, the Business Development Company and Eteck, and over twenty private sector companies covering a range of industries such as finance and banking services, healthcare, food and beverages, construction, printing and packaging, chemicals, agriculture and business service consultancies. The Far East Trade and Investment Mission



The Honourable Patrick Manning
Prime Minister

From the Office of the Prime Minister

The London Mission introduces a new feature - *From the Office of the Prime Minister*. In it, we will feature national addresses and speeches by the Honourable Prime Minister. In this month's issue:

- Excerpts from the address re: *Spiritual Baptist Shouter Liberation Day and*
- *Nation on Crime Consultations*

Excerpts from the address re: *Shouter Baptist Liberation Day*

The struggle waged by the Shouter Baptists for the right to practise their faith is one of the epic struggles for liberty and equality by the people of our land.

From inception, the history of the Shouter Baptist faith was one of tribulation and travail, tied to centuries of oppression and subjugation of the masses.

In the early twentieth century, the repression and denigration continued in the promulgation of the Shouter Baptist Prohibition Ordinance of 1917, which, for 34 years denied the congregation of this faith the freedom to assemble and worship.

The repeal of the Prohibition Ordinance in 1951 constituted a triumph of their boundless faith and the irrepressible nature of their commitment to freedom and self-determination in their search for Almighty God.

At the present time, as our nation and others around the world commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the correlation between the struggle of the enslaved masses and that of the Baptists for a more just and humane society cannot and ought not to be overlooked.

Both evolved out of the racial and other prejudices of the times, much of which was informed by ignorance, misconception and mistrust.

Both have seen the triumph of the indomitable human spirit of the formerly subjugated masses in their quest for liberty and justice.

Today, we commemorate the repeal of the Prohibition Ordinance and the abolition of the slave trade in a world significantly different from that of the past, though not entirely free of the unwarranted bigotry and intolerance.

Of necessity, therefore, the intention is to mark the achievement of our people in all walks of life and to strengthen our collective awareness of their struggle.

In this way, we stockpile on our determination and capacity to prevent the reoccurrence of those outrages which have in the past unnecessarily and unjustifiably fettered the process of any and, by extension, all in our society.

Today, therefore, as we commemorate Spiritual Baptist Liberation Shouter Day, let it be that we are once again rededicating ourselves to the maintenance of a free, democratic, just and humane society, in which every creed and race continues to find an equal palace, and, unconditionally, our citizens enjoy equal rights, opportunities and privileges.

National Address: *Nation on Crime Consultations*

One of the great advantages of the democratic way of life is that the nation benefits from the views of the citizens. This Administration has always taken into account the concerns of the population on matters of national importance. We are now about to embark on another initiative to consult with the people of this country.

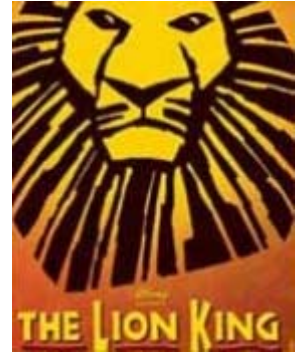
The Government will soon be engaged in a series of Public Consultations on the matter of crime. We wish to have direct discussion with the citizens on both our achievements and our future plans. Most importantly, through this national conversation, we want to hear the views of the population on the way forward so that appropriate strate-

gies could be applied in this battle against the criminal elements in our midst. The series of consultations will start in mid April and run for three to four weeks thereafter. There will be a total of six sessions throughout the country, five in Trinidad and one in Tobago. The Minister of National Security,

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Trini...a synonym for excellence!

Trinbagonians star in West End Classic



It should come as no surprise, especially to those who have visited our shores, that in most cases where there are displays of excellence in theatre and the arts, a 'Trinbagonian' is involved, and in this case, not one but two!

In one of the most popular musicals ever, in disputably the world's premiere location for theatre productions - London's West End - two nationals of Trinidad and Tobago are making names for themselves in Disney's *The Lion King*, a musical at the Lyceum Theatre: Jonathan Bishop (as young Simba) and Zara Aba Bartels (Swing).

Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Senator the Hon. Joan Yuille Williams, Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago, recently had the opportunity to see the young talents in action at the renowned London West End. Her Excellency had this to say after the show, "These two young nationals, by their performances on the world stage, are contributing towards the lifting of the profile of Trinidad and Tobago by their acclaimed performances in the London West End."

Profiles of the Stars

Jonathan Bishop

Place of Birth: Trinidad and Tobago

Training: Sylvia Young Theatre School, Caribbean School of Dance (Trinidad), Ballet Hispanico (New York)

Theatre: *Aspire - The Musical*; *Porgy and Bess*; *Carnival Messiah*

Television: *The X Factor*

Visiting Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, Senator the Honourable Joan Yuille Williams and Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, recently had the chance to see Trinidad and Tobago stars Jonathan Bishop and Zara Aba Bartels in Disney's classic, the Lion King.

Radio: House for Mr. Biswas (BBC)

Video: How to Dance with Barbie

Other: Several school productions for Sylvia Young Theatre School.

The *Lion King* marks Jonathan's West End debut.

Zara Aba Bartels

Place of Birth: Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

Training: Caribbean School of Dance, Trinidad; the Ailey School, New York; E'Cole Classique, Australia and Ballet Hispanico of New York

Theatre: *Memoria* (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre)

Other: BFA in Dance and BA in History from Fordham University and the Ailey School (2002); founding member of Metamorphosis Dance Company; has worked with and performed works by Judith Jamison, Igal Perry, Kazuko Hirabayashi, David Parson, Christopher Huggins, and Nathan Trice.

The *Lion King* marks Zara's West End debut.



From the Office of the Prime Minister

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Senator the Honourable Martin Joseph, will announce details shortly.

In anticipation of the coming dialogue, I wish to now bring you up to date on the efforts we have been making to deal with this very significant challenge.

We are in no doubt that the battle against violent crime and antisocial behaviour requires a firm, consistent and comprehensive response. But we must also recognise the nature of this fight and the resourcefulness of the criminals. Neither crime nor criminals will disappear overnight. Their increased and organised activity have become a dark dimension of modern global society. It will only be effectively stymied and ultimately defeated, by the sustained effort of forces with superior technology, intelligence and determination; and by social and economic policies that promote the inclusive society.

The Government has taken concrete steps to improve the capacity and efficiency of our law enforcement agencies. The following are some of the measures adopted.

Firstly, we have increased the size of the Homicide Bureau of Investigations from 47 officers to 125. We have also improved the effectiveness of the Bureau through specialised training courses to improve the investigative capacity of the officers.

Secondly, we have attained a far greater level of co-ordination between the three critical arms of law enforcement – the Police Service, the Defence Force and the Special Anti-crime Unit. This has been a major contributing factor to the successes we have had in the investigation of kidnappings and homicides.

Thirdly, we have accelerated the process of modernisation in the Police Service by expanding training programmes and by recruiting 39 additional Resource Officers from the United Kingdom.

Fourthly, we introduced the 555 Anti-Crime Initiative to provide the public with the opportunity to become a part of the solution through the provision of information safely and anonymously. This has already proven to be a very significant factor in the fight against crime.

I am therefore now able to report a welcome reduction

in violent crime. The following are some of the facts:

We achieved a 4.4% reduction in the number of murders in 2006 compared to 2005;

As of the 29th of March this year, compared to the same period last year, murders declined from 101 to 57, a decrease of 44%;

Overall abductions, which include kidnappings for ransom, declined from 280 to 209, a decrease of 34% between 2005 and 2006; and

For the same period, kidnappings for ransom decreased from 52 to 17 a decrease of 67%. Very significantly, for the year so far, there have been 2 kidnappings.

These results, clearly demonstrate that we have begun to turn the corner in the fight against crime. Our investments in modernising the Police Service, improving the planning and co-ordination, as well as building partnerships with the community are beginning to pay dividends. We shall maintain unrelenting pressure on the criminals.

To this end, despite some unfounded cynicism, we will continue to collaborate with our international partners for valuable technical and professional support to deal with this menace. We need to be always acquainted with modern crime fighting methodologies, practices and techniques that continue to be developed by the most advanced law enforcement agencies in the world. We are going to continue with the training programmes that improve the capacity of our officers to wage a more scientific and effective war against criminals.

We will not let up. We will not allow violent crime and antisocial behaviour to threaten the economic and social development of the country and the security of our people. We intend to remain focused and maintain the fullest deployment of our security forces in the field. We will consolidate our gains, make appropriate adjustments and maintain our iron resolve to keep moving forward.

As we do so, let us as a nation, maintain an unshakeable unity in dealing with this problem. Partisan considerations should not influence our position when dealing with the problem of criminal activity in Trinidad and Tobago. The battle against crime must be a joint effort of the

(Continues on page 11)

Leeds West Indian Centre celebrates Silver Anniversary

Trinidad and Tobago's first Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, along with retired West Indies batsman, double world record holder Brian Lara, and the calypso King of the World, the Mighty Sparrow, were among international personalities who were identified as people who influenced the success of the West Indian Centre, Leeds, United Kingdom.

The honourable mention of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago was made as the West Indian Centre celebrated their 25th Anniversary on Saturday March 24th with a gala affair at their Cultural Centre, Leeds.

Mr. Arthur France MBE, Chairman of the Centre, in his mes-

sage spoke of the early days in building the organisation. He said "We have withstood the chilly climate of indifference, the doubts of the sceptics, the recession and many other setbacks which I am sure quite a few of you would recall."

He further stated that "We must, therefore, take pride in this our own West Indian Centre, certain in the knowledge that we have provided a functional, multi purpose, multi cultural centre which compares favourably with any similar centre in the United Kingdom."

Mr. France made mention of the many dignitaries who visited the centre. Among them: Prime Ministers (of the West Indies); High Com-

missioners; West Indian Cricket teams; Mighty Sparrow; Steelbands from Trinidad and Tobago and numerous other celebrities.

Tribute was paid to the Secretary of the organisation, Mr. Ian Charles, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, who was described as a hard working official who worked beyond the call of duty.

The High Commissioner for St. Kitts and Nevis His Excellency Dr. James Williams, Mr. Ashton Ford, Attaché, Trinidad and Tobago

High Commission, Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds Cllr Jack Dunn were among the guests at the silver anniversary celebrations.



Secretary of the organisation Mr. Ian Charles, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, with his wife, Mrs. Charles.

Baron in concert in London

Soca star, the Baron (Timothy Watkins), was honoured at a Mother's Day function in London on Saturday 17th March. Cultural Attaché Mr. Ashton Ford, presented a plaque on behalf of Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, before an appreciative audience at the La Royale Banqueting Suite in Tottenham.

According to Mr. Ford, Baron was honoured for his commitment and dedication to calypso and soca locally and internationally. It was also in celebration of his 60th birthday.



Above: Tobago Crusoe, Baron, Ashton Ford and Michael Olton, the event organizer.

Baron sang most of his top hits like *Party Night*, *Shake Your Pampalam*, *the Jammer*, *Feeling It* and others.

He joined with other calypsonians Tobago Crusoe and D'Alberto in paying tribute to the late Mighty Terror.

Crusoe rendered two of the late Terror's top tunes and D'Alberto sang the calypso that brought him into the limelight - *My Band*.

Michael Olton, organiser of the event, said that the show was a success and that he intended to feature more of the art in London in the future.

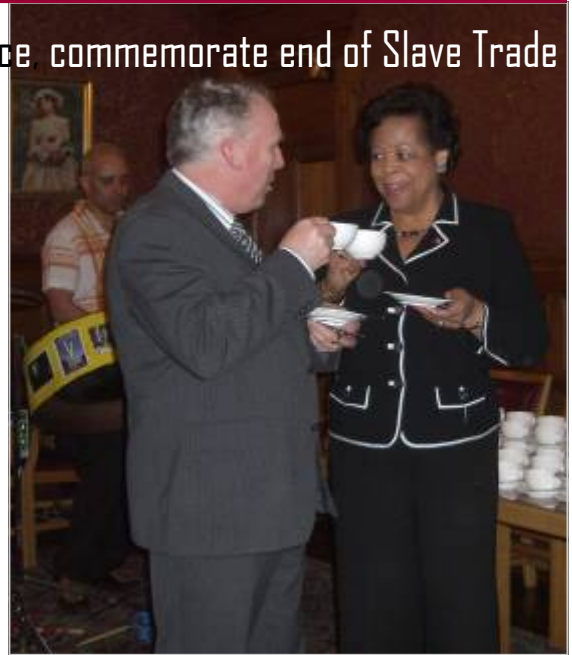
High Commissioner Glenda Morean Phillip, Sam Wilberforce commemorate end of Slave Trade

Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, recently met Mr. Sam Wilberforce, the great, great grandson of British abolitionist and parliamentarian, William Wilberforce, at a commemorative reception hosted on Friday 23rd March, 2007, by the Mayor and Councillors of Croydon. The reception marked the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in Britain.

In her address to the gathering, the High Commissioner alluded to the similarity between the Borough of Croydon and Trinidad and Tobago in terms of the diverse ethnicity and countries of origin of its population, as was exemplified by

the composition of the persons in attendance.

While acknowledging the contribution of William Wilberforce to the legal dismantling of the pernicious slave trade, Mrs. Morean Phillip reminded the gathering of the need to acknowledge also the significant actions and contributions of the enslaved, in particular, the Haitians, who revolted and declared the country independent in 1804, three years before the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Her Excellency thanked the Council for commemorating the event and



Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip with Sam Wilberforce at the reception.

including the various members of the community in the effort.

From the Office of the Prime Minister (Conclusion)

Government and the entire population of citizens.

We should also be absolutely clear that in the final analysis, no matter how efficient, policing alone would not solve the problem. We must continue to strive for the more caring, cohesive and productive society that we want in Trinidad and Tobago. We must therefore also expand opportunities in training and economic activities for our young people, some of whom, without social and economic support, fall victim into the trap of criminal activity.

It is therefore a source of great satisfaction that we have started to implement the Citizen Security Programme. \$3.6B will be spent over the next four years on social projects aimed at improving the lives of young people. \$132M will be spent on providing real opportunities for

youth at risk within our communities. Trinidad & Tobago must be a nation in which every citizen has a stake.

These and other issues will be fully discussed when, through our series of public consultations, we provide the opportunity for citizens in our communities to meet face to face with their elected representatives, public officials and leaders, to discuss this matter of crime and the greater security of our nation. There will be the fullest possible participation by the Prime Minister in this national dialogue.

It is an excellent opportunity for citizens from all walks of life to share their ideas and experiences in this exercise of participatory democracy. Face-to-face consultations provide a unique forum for the people to communicate directly with their leaders and to gain a better understanding of

Government's policies and programmes. The process of accountability is thereby strengthened, furthering our aspiration to the highest possible level of good governance in Trinidad and Tobago.

I therefore wish to encourage participation by all in these consultations. It is another important opportunity to make your voices heard. It will strengthen the bond between Government and the population as we combine our efforts to deal with a problem that affects every citizen of our beloved country. Together, we will succeed.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. May God Almighty richly Bless our Nation. I wish you a most pleasant evening.

Thank you very much.

Letter to the Editor

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank you for the resources that you sent our school to assist in our International Week. With your support we were able to provide a range of activities for our boys during this time.

We also had a very entertaining International Evening with many of the resources you sent us on display. Parents, teachers and students alike commented on how colourful and interesting the displays were.

Many of the resources have now been placed in our school library for further project use. Postcards and posters are now being used to decorate classrooms.

Thank you again for your wonderful support

Charlotte Sohn
EAL Teacher
Westminster City School

To send letters to the editor please e-mail to: tthc@btconnect.com or post to:

**Mr. Ashton Ford
Attaché - Public Affairs, Culture & Tourism
Trinidad and Tobago High Commission
42 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8NT**

Attention Nationals!

Book Launch

FEATURING: DR. ELIZABETH WALCOTT-HACKSHAW AND MISS LOUISE HORNE
VENUE: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION
42 BELGRAVE SQUARE
LONDON SW1X 8NT
DATE: THURSDAY 3 MAY, 2007
TIME: 6PM - 8PM

Nationals Meeting

THE NATIONALS MEETING WILL BE ON **WEDNESDAY 23 MAY, 2007**
VENUE: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HIGH COMMISSION
42 BELGRAVE SQUARE
LONDON SW1X 8NT
TIME: 6PM

Charity Summer Fashion Show

IN AID OF THE FRIENDS AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NOTTING HILL
FEATURING : MUSIC BY DJ WOODY OF CHOICE FM & DEBBIE'S JUNIOR STEEL BAND
ORGANISED BY: PATRICE CHASTEAU-KENDALL (DESIGN AND TEXTILE ARTIST)
STYLED BY: CYPRIAN DE COTEAU (OF TV'S MAKE ME A SUPER MODEL)
DATE: SATURDAY 26 MAY, 2007
VENUE: ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CLYDESDALE RD, NOTTING HILL W11 1JG
TIME: 4:30PM TICKETS: £12.00 (CHILDREN UNER 12 HALF PRICE) INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS
For further information please contact Canon John Metivier @ 0208 909 1371

High Commissioner pledges support for the All-Party Parliamentary UK Group



Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip with (from far left) Mr. John Austin MP, Lord Dubs, Lord Anderson, Lord Newby and Ms Mary Healey at the All Parliamentary Group on March 1 at the Committee Room at the Houses of Parliament, London.

Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to London, Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip, has invited members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group in the United Kingdom to visit Trinidad and Tobago in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. The High Commissioner floated the idea of organizing such a visit by members of the group when she addressed a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on March 1 at the Committee Room at the Houses of Parliament, London.

Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip said that Mr. Nick Hawkins, a past member, had paid a visit to Trinidad and Tobago in 2004, which served to sensitize his colleagues about the purpose of the group. She suggested that the next visit take place simultaneously with a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and pledged her support for the venture.

The High Commissioner told her

listeners that Trinidad and Tobago has a stable but vibrant political climate and can boast of having a history of smooth transition to Office by successful political parties, pointing out that the rule of law is alive and well in the twin island.

Economically, the High Commissioner pointed out, Trinidad and Tobago was enjoying a robust period of development. Her Excellency noted that the ongoing construction boom required an expatriate workforce. Unemployment was at 5%, which was an international benchmark for full employment. The High Commissioner reiterated the importance of the energy sector to the economy. Time was also spent highlighting the significance of Tourism to the Tobago economy.

Another salient feature of the High Commissioner's opening remarks was the continued emphasis on education by the Government. In this regard, Her Excellency stated that tertiary education at the University

of the West Indies and the University of Trinidad and Tobago was free conditionally to nationals. She also stressed the investment that was made on primary education.

In the High Commissioner's wide-ranging remarks, mention was made of Trinidad and Tobago's role in CARICOM. Within CARICOM, Trinidad and Tobago was regarded as the regional metropolis. The CARICOM market remained a very important one for Trinidad and Tobago's goods. It was also noted by Her Excellency that historically, Trinidad and Tobago had always extended a helping hand to its neighbours, notably Guyana and Grenada within recent times. The High Commissioner went on to emphasize the importance of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (C.S.M.E) to member states.

Her Excellency was accompanied to the meeting by Mr. Colin Connelly, First Secretary, Mr. Ashton Ford, Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Attaché, Mrs Allison Quong Sing, Executive Secretary and Ms Romaine Maharaj, Assistant Attaché 111.

Representing the British side were Mr. John Austin MP from the Labour Party, Chairman, Mr. Bill Onlner (Labour), Secretary, Lord Dubs (Labour), Lord Newby (Liberal Democrats) and Lord Anderson (Labour).

Also present was Trinidad and Tobago born Ms. Mary Healey, whose retirement from the staff at the House of Commons coincided with the date of the meeting. We wish Ms. Healey a happy retirement and success in her future endeavours.

Tributes to passed Icons



1934 - 2007

Educator, politician, journalist and economist Lloyd Algernon Best, died on March 19, 2007. He had celebrated his 73rd birthday on February 27. His funeral service, which was attended by several prominent figures including former President Arthur NR Robinson, took place on March 25, 2007 at the University of the West Indies, (Sports and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) auditorium on the North East end of the campus), St Augustine. This unique intellectual and passionate Trinidadian will be remembered as a gentleman who contributed phenomenally to the evolution of the Caribbean intellectual tradition.



1936 - 2007

On March 22, 2007, Police Commissioner Trevor Paul delivered the eulogy at the funeral service of former Chief of Police, Jules Hilarion Bernard, at the Santa Rosa RC Church. Mr. Bernard, 71, passed away at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex on March 15, 2007. A former CoP, Jules Bernard served as the country's top policeman between 1989 and 1996. Police Commissioner Trevor Paul said "Jules, as he was fondly called, was a true effigy of the police service. He was always self assured and confident." Bernard, according to Commissioner Paul, was also known for reforming the police service, namely having officers promoted on a merit-based system.



1920 - 2007

George Radcliffe John was described as a true Caribbean journalist by friends and colleagues. Mr. John who was 86, passed away at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt Hope, on March 14, 2007. The media icon was widely credited with changing the face of modern Caribbean journalism. His career spanned close to 70 years, encompassing stints at the Trinidad Guardian, Express, Daily Mirror and other regional affiliations. So renowned was his expertise in writing and communication, Mr. John also carved a niche for himself in the field of public relations. A former Head of the Public Relations Division between 1970 and 1975, under late Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, he was honoured by the Media Association of T&T (Matt) for his contribution to the profession during the first luminaries awards ceremony, which was hosted in conjunction with bpTT.



1921 - 2007

The late calypsonian The Mighty Terror (Fitzgerald Cornelius Henry) was an icon who used his talents for the advancement of calypso and pan. Canon Knolly Clarke made this declaration while delivering the homily at Henry's funeral service at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Hart Street, Port-of-Spain, on March 19, 2007. The Mighty Terror, renowned calypsonian and calypso composer, died on March 13, 2007. He was born on January 13, 1921, at Arouca. Terror campaigned in England for a significant portion of his early career, joining forces with (the late) Grandmaster Lord Kitchener and eventually teaming with the Bert Mc Lean Trio for a series of tours, before returning home in 1965, after 22 years abroad. On his return, he won the calypso crown. He was awarded a National Award, the Humming Bird Medal (Silver), for services to calypso music. Among Terror's all time classics in calypso are Steelband Jamboree, Callaloo Tonic and Chinee Children Calling Me Daddy.

The complete guide to**TOBAGO**

With its choice of the Caribbean Sea or Atlantic Ocean, palm tree or rainforest, diving or diving, and three types of sand, this is a paradise island in the sun like no other, says Marian Amos of *The Independent Traveller* magazine

PART III**WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT TOBAGO?**

Most resort hotels and guest houses spread out from Crown Point. Some of the smartest establishments are dotted along the beaches between Buccoo and Plymouth, with luxurious villas nudging up against Mount Irvine Golf Course. The resorts have all the usual amenities - pools, gyms and spa treatments.

The island's capital, Scarborough, offers more romantic retreats and plenty of inexpensive host homes. Blue Haven Hotel (001 8 6 8 6 6 0 7 4 0 0 ; www.bluehavenhotel.com) is definitely in the former category. It has been a magnet to A-list residents since the 1940s, and sits quietly in Bacolet Bay, a 10-minute walk outside the capital. It has 55 immaculate rooms, including 10 suites, on a site that was originally an

outpost of Fort King George. Doubles from US\$238 (£132), with a lavish breakfast buffet an extra US\$15 (£8) per person. A villa suite, with two bedrooms plus pool, costs from US\$585 (£325).

Those wanting to escape the more populated tourist spots should head south-east for the idyllically situated Speyside. Approached from the airport by rough roads, hairpin bends, sheer inclines and steep declines, the one-and-a-half-hour journey is worth every jolt. The Speyside Inn on Main Road (001 868 660 4852; www.speysideinn.com) lies in the lush foothills of this fishing village, a few metres from Tyrrel's Bay. It offers a choice of cabins with balconies, or bungalows whose balconies open on to gardens. There's also an excellent restaurant. Popular with divers because of the

*Tobago*

proximity to Japanese Gardens, Bookends and Blackjack Hole reefs. Doubles from US\$132 (£74), with breakfast.

(See PART IV in next issue)



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AT ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD

VACANCIES**Professor / Senior Lecturer in Structural Engineering**

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Deadline Date: Monday, April 30, 2007

Senior Lecturer in Soil Physics

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Faculty: Science & Agriculture
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Complete two copies of the application form provided and submit with the application form, your full particulars of qualifications, experience, date of birth, marital status and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your current organisation).

This information should be forwarded to:

The Campus Registrar
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, W.I.
Fax: | 868 663 9684
Email: appts@admin.uwi.tt

Particulars of advertised posts and applications forms are available at the above address and at <http://www.uwi.tt>. In order to expedite the appointments procedure, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send references under **confidential** cover **directly** to the Campus Registrar at the above address.

Focus on the Mission



Member of Parliament Mr. John Austin and Mr. Bill Olnor with Her Excellency Glenda Morean Phillip at the All-Party Parliamentary Group meeting at the Houses of Parliament.



Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds Cllr Jack Dunn with his wife Mrs. Dunn and Attaché Ashton Ford at the West Indian Centre's Silver Anniversary Celebration in Leeds.



Trinidad and Tobago among the recipients of the Kensington and Chelsea Mayor's Award. The recipients were rewarded for excellent achievements in their perspective fields: Mr. Moore - calypso; Mr Francis - steelpan.

Ashton Moore (back row, far left) and Pepe Francis (back row, far right) were two nationals of



Left: Asif Ali presents Counsellor Victoria Farley with his latest publication, Trinidad and Tobago - Terrific and Tranquil. Mr. Ali was at the High Commissioner to launch his book.



T&T national, Sir V.S. Naipaul, receives his passport from Immigration Attaché at the High Commission, Mr. Nirmal Bhaggan.

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