

THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

St. Kitts and Nevis

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SOUND SPEECH THAT CANNOT BE CONDEMNED... TITUS 2:8

Year 65 NO. 45

BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, W.I.

FRIDAY, 07th MARCH, 2023

EC \$2.00

At The Pumps This Weekend Maximum Price ULG per gallon -

Dated : 23/03/23

DELTA \$14.86/ SOL \$14.02

HELPING BOYS, MEN

STORY ON PAGE 03



ICY RAIN

STORY ON PAGE 06



DOING EVERYTHING

STORY ON
PAGE 03



GREASY GRAB

STORY ON PAGE 06



THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN

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Editorial

Wrong Lesson To Our Young People

As a society, many of us are quite familiar with the saying that 'Crime does not pay' which ideally puts focus on encouraging self-respect and respect for others by staying away from criminal activities and trying to change one's attitude towards living a life of crime which brings death, jail time and other hardships in life.

But something very concerning has happened with the mentality of some of our young impressionable children who apparently have caught on to the 'paying for peace' system-which comes under the formal naming of the Alternative Lifestyle Programme- that was implemented under the previous administration. And unfortunately, it appears that the translation for some children is that crime literally pays.

There are some people in our society who somewhat predicted this kind of fallout relating to such a programme, and many of these concerned citizens and others alike wondered out loud what message would a programme of this nature send to the upcoming generation. Well, the answer is loud and clear.

Making its round on social media is a video highlight of officers who appeared on Freedom FM last week sharing information while on a talk show about children in primary schools in our Federation, who in recent times, have become attracted to the gang lifestyle because they have realized that "de gang man dem ah get pay."

Case Number :SKBHPB2023/0031

FILED

HIGH COURT

ST. CHRISTOPHER / NEVIS

(ST. KITTS CIRCUIT)

Submitted Date:28/03/2023 13:11

Filed Date:28/03/2023 13:11

Fees Paid:52.00

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

SAINT CHRISTOPHER CIRCUIT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

SKBHPB2023/00

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of SYLVESTER RALPH of 7520 Darcel Avenue Mississauga, Ontario Canada. Deceased

IN THE MATTER of the Real Representatives Act Chapter 10.16 of the 2002 Revised Edition Laws of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis

IN THE MATTER of Section 13 of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Non-Contentious Probate and Administration of Estates) Rules 2017

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by ROSELYN RALPH of 5 Hardin Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 9th day of June 1999.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the application shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 28th day of March 2023

Filed by Hendrickson's Legal Chambers Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is New Road, St. Peter's, St. Kitts.

Individuals have been expressing anger, sadness and shock in light of such revelation. It really is heartbreaking to think that our little ones would be wanting to engage in that kind of lifestyle.

But a major question is, what exactly have they been exposed to that has been marketed to their mindset in thinking that being a gang member is a top option for their lives.

Kudos to the present government as it aims to make positive changes to the programme in ensuring that the true essence of 'alternative lifestyle' is embodied geared towards helping the young men and women to live positive lives.

A village helping to raise children seems to be a 'once upon a time' fact. Many individuals, especially those from

the older generations, are of the view that such values of collective involvement in the upbringing of children is no longer recognised, and furthermore, they also believe that such is a factor which has led to a breakdown of moral and decent upbringing in our youths.

The information publicly shared by the officer should be a wakeup call that there must be an all of society approach.

While many look to those in authority to do their part, everyone must realize that every facet of society needs to be involved- parents, church, schools and all other like-minded individuals and institutions.

Let us help to work together to send the right messages to our future generations thus instilling values of discipline, respect and love.



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PM Drew: Consultant To Engage Gov't On Empowering Men, Boys

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St.Kitts (Wednesday 5th April 2023) - Prime Minister and Minister with responsibility for National Security Dr. Terrance Drew has disclosed that the government will be taking a "serious approach" in bringing on a consultant to put in place long term programmes to keep men and boys on the right track.

Speaking on the issue of national security and crime, he made the disclosure on Tuesday 4th April 2023, during the sitting of the National Assembly at Government Headquarters on Church Street in Basseterre.

"There are opportunities that we want our young men to take advantage of, and that is why as we speak about gender equity and diversity, we are bringing on a consultant in our government, and that consultant will look at specifically at men and boys; what are the specific issues that we need to study more [and] understand more to implement sustainable long-term programmes to ensure that we keep our men and boys on the right track," he stated.

He added: "This is a serious approach that we're going to take. We have communicated with our regional partners and those we have to discuss with to make sure we leave no stone unturned in dealing with this, and I as our people for calm, I as our people to help our security forces and to let them now that we have not shied away from any big issue and this one we will not shy away from. We deserve and will get sustainable, long-lasting, sustainable means of making sure that our country is secured."

The National Security Minister informed that he met with the Police Commissioner that afternoon and "he has said to me that he has met with the defence force and together they are collaborating even closer and to make more resources available in terms of manpower and national security, our ministry will not allow any resource to be withheld that is necessary to deal with the situation at hand."

According to Dr. Drew, the Police Commissioner "assured that his operation called operation assurance is quickly being implemented to deal with the situation."

According to him: "We will deal with the situation head on. This government has not shied away from anything whether it was to open up the country when people thought it could not be done; lift all the restrictions in place."



He called on the public and all citizens to give support to the security forces.

"I want to ask the public and all of our citizens to support the security forces, support the police, support the defence force as they implement their plan to deal with the issues of national security but I also want to say to those who are involved in criminal activities that crime does not pay in the long run."

Dr. Drew highlighted spoke about "generational changes" currently being undertaken and that the government will not shy away from the issue".

Front Banner Image: Prime Minister and Minister with responsibility for National Security Dr. Terrance Drew speaking during the sitting of the National Assembly on Tuesday 4th April 2023 (SKNIS photo)

Police On Homicides: 'We are doing everything in our power'

By: Spokesman Newsroom

BASSETTERRE, St.Kitts (Wednesday 5th April 2023)- Following the recent upsurge in gun violence which has resulted in five (5) homicides in a few days shy of two weeks, police have launched Operation Re-assurance in giving the public insight about their work focus in keeping communities safe.

Homicide victims are 18- year- old Zion Huggins of Soho Village, 30-year-old Shanquille 'Jun Jun' Walters of Stapleton Village, 35-year-old Jermaine 'Zuce' Henry and 34-year-old Denzil Edwards, both of Stapleton Village and 32-year-old Bernel 'BJ' Whyte of Fort Thomas Road, McKnight.

All-except Walters who was fatally stabbed- were gunned down during an eleven-day period from Saturday 25th March to Tuesday 4th April 2023 which included double killings on two separate days.

"It is with great concern that we address the recent upsurge in gun violence that has resulted in the tragic loss of lives. The safety and well-being of our residents are of utmost importance, and we are taking all necessary measures to address this situation. In collaboration with other National Security agencies, the Police have launched a full-scale extended special operation named Operation Re-assurance, to contain and suppress the violence," a

police press release dated Tuesday 4th April disclosed.

At about 9:55 am on Apr 4, 2023, police responded to a report of a shooting at Soho Village, Basseterre and met Huggins' lifeless body.

Investigations revealed that Huggins was in his yard when he was approached by a group of men.

Police say he attempted to run away but was shot in the process. The District Medical Officer pronounced him dead at the scene. The scene was processed by the Crime Scene Unit and items of evidential value were recovered.

At about 1:55 pm on Apr 4, 2023, police received a report of a stabbing incident at Stapleton Village which resulted from an altercation between two men. Walters was transported to the JNF Hospital in a private vehicle, where he was pronounced dead.

Police say one suspect is in custody.

Police appeal to persons with information on this incident to call the Violent Crime Unit at 662-3468.

Police are investigating a fatal shooting in the McKnight Community in Basseterre on Monday, March 27, 2023, at about 9:00 p.m. that resulted in Whyte's death.

Police responded to a report of a shooting incident and visited an alley between Central Fiennes Avenue, and Upper Malone Avenue, McKnight, where they observed the motionless body of Whyte, who appeared to have multiple gunshot wounds about his body.

Enquiries so far have revealed that Mr. Whyte was in the company of a female inside his motor vehicle P4850 on Central Street when he was accosted by two masked gunmen who fired several shots at him and his female companion. He exited his vehicle and ran down Central Fiennes Avenue but was chased by the gunmen who shot him several times about his body. His female companion made good her escape and drove Mr. Whyte's vehicle to the Basseterre Police Station where she reported what had transpired.

Whyte was pronounced dead at the scene by the District Medical Doctor Dr. Oduntan at about 10:30 p.m.

The scene was processed by staff of the Crime Scene Unit and items of evidential value were taken into custody.

An autopsy will be performed on the body of Mr. Whyte to determine the exact cause of death.

Police are appealing to persons with any information on this crime, to contact the Violent Crime Unit at 467-1886. 1887 or 1888 or the Basseterre Police Station at 465-2241.

Police are also investigating a fatal shooting incident in Stapleton Village, which occurred at about 2:00 am on Saturday, March 25 that resulted in the demise of Henry and Edwards.

Police investigations thus far have uncovered that a group of men were playing cards in a yard when a lone gunman wearing a hoodie entered the yard and opened fire on them. Two of the men were shot and a third man sustained a broken leg while attempting

(cont'd on next page)

Police On Homicides: 'We are doing everything in our power'

(cont'd from last page)

to escape. Henry was pronounced dead on scene, while Edwards and the man with the broken leg were transported to the JNF

General Hospital by the EMS. Edwards succumbed to his injuries shortly thereafter.



Homicide Victims: (Left to Right) 30- year- old Shanquille 'Jun Jun' Walters, 18- year- old Zion Huggins (top row), 32- year-old Bernel 'BJ' Whyte, 35 -year-old Jermaine 'Zuce' Henry and 34 -year-old Denzil Edwards



The scene was processed by the Crime Scene Unit and items of evidential value were gathered.

Police are soliciting the cooperation of the public in providing any information that will aid the ongoing investigation. Persons with information can call the Stapleton Police Station at 465-2418 or the Violent Crime Unit at 467-1886, 1887 or 1888.

More information on Operation Re-assurance indicate that: "This operation is designed to specifically target those who are perpetrating these heinous acts and to bring them to justice. It will be multidimensional and jointly executed by the security forces to achieve our operational objectives. We want to reassure the public that we are committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all residents. We urge anyone with information about the violence to come forward and report it to the police. Your cooperation is vital in ensuring that we put an end to this scourge."

Additionally: "We also appeal to residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police. We understand that these incidents can cause fear and anxiety in our community, and we want to assure you that we are doing everything in our power to ensure your safety. As a country, we must stand together in the fight against crime and violence. We ask for your patience and understanding during this time, as we work to make our community a safer place for all."

Local authorities have condemned these acts of violence and call upon citizens to assist the police to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Individuals can do so by providing any information you may have on this or any other crime by anonymously calling the Violent Crime Unit at 662-3468. Police say any information provided will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Front Page Image: New Commissioner of Police James Sutton

**LAND REGISTRY
FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
NEVIS CIRCUIT
A.D. 2023**

TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP. 10.19

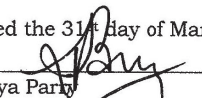
CLAIM NO.

In the Matter of section 144 of the Title by Registration Act Cap.10.19, and in the matter of an Application by GAVIN EZEKIEL PEMBERTON FORMERLY KNOWN AS DON ANTONIO PEMBERS for the issue of a new Certificate of Title for a lot of land containing 3,585+/- square feet situate at Jessups Village in the parish of St. Thomas in the Island of Nevis to replace a lost Certificate of Title recorded in Register Book 44 Folio 339

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Gavin Ezekiel Pemberton formerly known as Don Antonio Pembers of Jessups Village in the Parish of St. Thomas in the Island of Nevis has applied to the Registrar of Titles for the issue of a replacement Certificate of Title in lieu of the following Certificate of Title on the basis that the said original Certificate of Title has been irrecoverably lost by misadventure, namely a Certificate of Title dated 30th November, 2006 and registered in Book 44 Folio 339 of the Register of Titles for Nevis, the land contained in said Certificate of Title being all that lot piece or parcel of land situate at Jessups Village in the parish of St. Thomas in the island of Nevis bounded and measuring as follows: On the North East by a Drain bordering a Public Road 58.10 feet; ON the South east by an Access 61.50 feet; On the South West by land of Joycelyn Cornelius 55.70 feet and On the North West by land of Rohalder Nisbett 64.70 feet and containing by admeasurement 3,585+/- square feet. Any person who may be in possession of the aforesaid Certificate of Title or may have any information that may lead to its recovery is asked to contact Gonsalves Parry of Suites 26A & B, Sands Complex, George Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant.

Dated the 31st day of March, 2023


Sonya Parry
GONSALVES PARRY
Attorney-at-Law for the Applicant

**IN THE FEDERATION OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
TITLE BY REGISTRATION ACT CAP. 10.19**

A. D. 2023

SKBLRD2023/0024

IN THE MATTER of section 144 of
the Title by Registration Act, Cap.
10.19

and

IN THE MATTER of the Certificate of
Title registered in Book F3 Folio 558
in the name of **Sarah Crooke**

NOTICE FOR REPLACEMENT OF LOST CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

It is hereby notified that a Certificate of Title dated the 27th day of September 2006, and registered in the Register of Titles in Book F3 Folio 558 of the Saint Christopher Circuit in favour of **Sarah Crooke** of the Island of Saint Christopher and also of P. O. Box 212846, Royal Palm Beach, Florida 33421, USA the Registered Proprietor of All That lot piece or parcel of land known as Lot No. 53 of Cedar Grove Building Development situate in the Parish of St. Peters in the Island of Saint Christopher and bounded and measuring as follows, that is to say:- On or towards the North-West and the North by Road No. 3A, 14.14 feet and 90.00 feet, respectively; On or towards the East by Lot No. 48, 83.00 feet; On or towards the South by Lot No. 52, 100.00 feet; and On or towards the West by Road No. 3, 73.00 feet and containing by admeasurement 8,249.62 square feet all as the same is delineated and set forth on the plan thereof by John S. Napier, Licensed Surveyor annexed thereto has been reported lost and an Application will be made to the Registrar of Titles for an Order for the issue of a new Certificate of Title in lieu thereof.

Any person knowing the whereabouts of or having any information concerning the said duplicate Certificate which may lead to its recovery is requested to notify the Registrar of Titles at the Lands Registry, South Independence Square, Basseterre, telephone number (869) 467-1872/1860, or Angelina Gracy Sookoo-Bobb of the law firm Sookoo Bobb at Unit C21 The Sands Complex, Bay Road, Basseterre, Saint Kitts, Telephone (869) 466-2622(BOBB)/766-2622 (BOBB). E-mail sookoobobb@gmail.com.

Dated the 23rd day of March, 2023


Angelina Gracy Sookoo-Bobb
SOOKOO BOBB
Attorney-at-Law



A CHANGING OF THE GUARD, BEGINNING A NEW CHAPTER



Dodridge Miller

Today we recognize the indelible contribution and enduring legacy of Mr. Dodridge Miller as he enters retirement after 30 years of outstanding service to our organization, 20 of those years as our Group President & Chief Executive Officer for Sagicor Financial Company Ltd. Dodridge's contribution to Sagicor and the entire Caribbean is unparalleled and incomparable. Under his steadfast leadership, Sagicor has risen to become the leading financial services provider in the region. His commitment to, and vision for, nation building is unwavering, and his contribution will become a part of our legacy for generations to come. The entire team at Sagicor across our multi-country footprint extends our thanks, our gratitude, and our best wishes to Dodridge as he writes this new chapter. Dodridge will always be part of our Sagicor family.

As we begin a new chapter in Sagicor, we welcome to the helm Mr. Andre Mousseau, our new Group President & Chief Executive Officer, having served as Group Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer before assuming this role. With the foundation firmly built, we know that Andre will carry Sagicor into its next phase of success. We look forward to his astute leadership as he steers us on a path of growth and prosperity for stakeholders at all levels.

We extend congratulations to you both as you embark on this new journey.



Andre Mousseau

Icy Droplets Falls in SKN

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Thursday 6th April 2023)- Social media reports about icy rainy drops-called hail- on St.Kitts created a buzz on Thursday 6th April 2023 as cellphone videos and photographs were circulated during the rainy weather conditions that day.

Information reaching this media house indicates that the icy droplets were more visible in the rural areas of the Saddlers and Tabernacle communities.

As understood by the media house, when a thunderstorm updraft causes water droplets to lift above freezing level hail is formed as result.

Information posted by on the official social media post of the National Emergency management Agency indicated that: "The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the St. Kitts MET

Office, has received reports of hail in the Northern part of the island particularly Saddlers and Tabernacle. The St. Kitts MET Office is currently assessing these reports and upon conclusion of the investigation, an update will be provided."

Weather advisory of flash flooding was given.

Sean Kelly, in speaking with this media house, recalled when hail fell in St.Kitts sometimes during the late 90s or early 2000's. He remembered that he was employed at the St.Kitts-Nevis Carib Brewery Ltd. located at Buckley's Site in Basseterre, and how the outside darkened that day.

Well what happened is place had come really black. It was almost like de weather had come from de west rather than de east because you know normally, we get weather systems coming from so [easterly]. It was in the afternoon and the place just got really dark; the weather just changed and started raining, and one of the workers went out and said 'Look here, ice!'. "

Asked what he thought about the weather happening back then, Kelly commented: "I didn't really didn't think anything of it, I just said what going on here, it going snow soon because remember they (the weather experts) talk about climate change and so..."

He said the size of the hail was that of pitching marbles.

More details to be shared by this media house as information becomes available.

Front Page Photo: In this social media screenshot captures a female showing particles of icy raindrops apparently picked up from the ground on St.Kitts-Thursday 6th April 2023

Zack Says Aquatic Sports Ready To Go

By: Precious Mills

BASSETERRE, St.Kitts (Wednesday 5th April 2023)- Coordinator of the upcoming 66th Anniversary of the Basil Henderson Annual Easter Monday Aquatic Sports Winston 'Zack' Nisbett says he is very pleased with the ongoing support towards hosting the outdoorsy event this time around.

"The response has been excellent, and it give me the impetus to keep going," he remarked during an interview with this media house in light of his usual collecting of gift prizes from the business community, encouraging comments from members of the public and members of his organizing team.

Under the theme 'Letâ's Appreciate Our Rich Heritage', the yearly event, being hosted by the Basil Henderson 4-H Organization, is slated to take place at the St. Kitts Ferry Terminal on Monday 10th April 2023 from 9:00AM to 8:00PM.

These events are similar to those of former years, and will include swimming races, Ham Pole, Iron Pole, Boat Racing and a variety of other sporting and cultural activities.

"The impact of the event is very good on our youths and it brings families together



National Caribbean Insurance Company Limited

having made sworn deposition that policy number **67597 and 70768 on the life of Dacil Heyliger has been lost** and having made application to the directors to grant a special policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the special policy asked for will be issued.

Dated: 7/4/2023

By Order,

Cedric Jeffers
General Manager

because it gives you a chance after these hard working days to get a chance to relax and engage in activities which were held a long time ago such as the butterfly and all the other different traditional races," Nisbett stated.

Other exciting features such as games and other competitions will take place, especially targeted the youth at the family-affair event.

The boxing exhibition is slated to take front stage in the afternoon. Cultural groups such as the Mummies and pole ribbon-plaiting will be a part of the performances.

Safety and security personnel such as a professional lifeguard, police, EMS, Coast Guard and Red Cross officers will be present.

The annual event, following a two-year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, returned in 2022, and as usual will help to create increased cultural awareness, most specii-fcally amongst our youths which to some extent will help to broaden their sporting abilities, giving them extra impetus to excel in the international arena.

Photo: A 2009 highlight as a competitor Ikimba Daniel scales the greasy pole to collect the prize of a ham and was successful. Members of the coast guard unit look on.

In the matter of the Companies Ordinance 1999 of Nevis

and

In the matter of BON BANK LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation), members winding-up

At a General Meeting of BON Bank Ltd., a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, Chapter 335 of St. Christopher and Nevis and continued under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance, 1999 of Nevis duly convened and held on 29th March 2023, the following Special resolution was duly confirmed.

RESOLVED that the Company be voluntarily wound up.

Dated this 6th day of April 2023

L Everette Martin
Corporate Secretary

Conserve
Water



St. Eustatius official expresses satisfaction with Nevis visit

NIA CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (April 04, 2023) —

An official from the Ministry of Agriculture on Nevis is describing a meeting between a two-member team from the ministry and a visiting delegation from St. Eustatius as fruitful.

Mr. Huey Sergeant, the ministry's permanent secretary, who accompanied Hon. Eric Evelyn, Minister of Agriculture

at the meeting on March 30, 2023, made the comment while updating the Department of Information on the outcome on April 04, 2023.

"The meeting went very well. We discussed matters that tied our islands historically and along familial relations. There is an ongoing relationship between the departments of agriculture where some trade happens. There was an interest in further strengthening that relationship to the extent that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was proposed.

"Currently there is a very high demand for goat meat on Nevis and an excess of goats on Statia, so that's one area of trade that is ready to go. We discussed exchanges in expertise both at the



The delegation from St. Eustatius (l-r) Ms. Sabrina Richardson, Administrative employee at the Department of Agriculture; Mr. Vaughn Sams, Political Advisor to the Commissioner; Mr. Derrick Simmons, Commissioner with the portfolio for Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. Anthony Reid, Director of Economy, Nature and Infrastructure; and Ms. Sharon Veira, Manager of Unit Veterinary and Island Veterinary Officer with Hon. Eric Evelyn, Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier of Nevis (fourth from left) and; Mr. Huey Sargeant, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture on Nevis, following their meeting at Pinney's Estate on March 30, 2023

In the matter of the Companies Ordinance 1999 of Nevis

and

In the matter of BON BANK LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation), members winding-up

At a General Meeting of BON Bank Ltd., a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, Chapter 335 of St. Christopher and Nevis and continued under the provisions of the Companies Ordinance, 1999 of Nevis, duly convened and held on 29th March 2023, the following Special resolution was duly confirmed.

RESOLVED that Charles Walwyn and Jefferson E. Hunte located at Corner Bank Street and West Independence Square, P.O. Box 1038, Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis be appointed Joint Liquidators for the purpose of winding-up the Company.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the Company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 7th day of July 2023 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, to the Joint Liquidators at Corner Bank Street and West Independence Square, P.O. Box 1038, Basseterre, St. Kitts, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made before such debts are proven.

Dated this 6th day of April 2023.

Charles Walwyn and Jefferson E. Hunte
Joint Liquidators



National Caribbean Insurance Company Limited

having made sworn deposition that policy number 73098 on the life of Karen G. Sadio has been lost and having made application to the directors to grant a special policy, notice is hereby given that unless objection is raised within one month of the date hereof, the special policy asked for will be issued.

Dated: 7/4/2023

By Order,

Cedric Jeffers
General Manager

abattoir and shade house production," he said.



Meantime, **Mr. Anthony Reid, Director of Economy, Nature and Infrastructure (ENI) in St. Eustatius**, who was a part of the delegation shed light on the delegation's reason for visiting the island and what they hoped to accomplish.

"It is my second Agri Expo here on Nevis, and the first one I visited just before COVID, gave me the impression that you guys are busy doing something that is good, and we also mirror that and say 'Hey, that's something that we can do on St. Eustatius.' So first we came for the experience to see, you know, how things are being arranged. We also know that where agriculture is concerned there's a lot of investment in capital, in human resources in Nevis, and we also would like to see how well you guys have progressed over the past years, and also how did COVID impact the agriculture sector...

"We would like to just make it known that we intend to send a letter of intent to the Ministry of Agriculture to sign an MOU within the short future and we have some special topics that

we would like to collaborate on with Nevis," he said.

Regarding his impressions of Agri Expo 2023, Mr. Reid registered satisfaction with the agriculture experience.

"I was also quite impressed this morning when I walked along the different booths and I walked across the booth of the abattoir and I saw they were selling goat meat and beef, and I know that some of that came from Statia as well, so we already have that trade cooperation between both islands so that kind of really gave me a good feeling, and also, we have pledged under our EU multi-annual indicative programme to invest in agriculture.

"So we intend to actually, you know, propel our agricultural sector and hopefully we can also provide some exchange of expertise with Nevis. We can also provide some access to possible funding as well, if that's a possibility and hope we can have collaboration in all different aspects," he said.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Derrick Simmons, Commissioner with the portfolio for Agriculture and Fisheries. Also forming part of the visiting team were Ms. Sharon Veira, Manager of Unit Veterinary and Island Veterinary Officer; Sabrina Richardson, Administrative employee at the Department of Agriculture; and Mr. Vaughn Sams, Political advisor to Commissioner Simmons

MILES MADE IN MARCH 2023

Monthly Press Release

Basseterre, St. Kitts (03 April 2023) - The St. Kitts Tourism Authority's marketing umbrella continues to soar to new heights, having achieved increased airlift in March 2023, positively impacting the destination's upcoming Summer of Fun events. St. Kitts continues to trend as a "must-visit" Caribbean destination, a direct result of persistent promotional efforts in crucial source markets complimented by the Authority's ability to build partnerships to ignite travel to the island.

Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Marsha T. Henderson, led a delegation at Routes America 2023, recently held in Chicago. Minister Henderson stated that her team had been engaged in fruitful discussions. "To date, we have been able to activate a robust plan to improve the tourism sector with the aim of achieving economic stability and rebuilding livelihoods." She further announced the introduction of additional flights to assist with the destination's upcoming St. Kitts Music Festival and returning students. The announcement denoted:

* American Airlines is offering additional non-stop flights from Miami, having two inbound flights on Wednesday, 21 June 2023, and two outbound flights on Sunday, 25 June 2023. The airline will also provide two daily flights non-stop from Miami from 15 August to 05 September 2023.

* interCaribbean Airways' addition to St. Kitts' airlift network will also positively impact the interconnectivity between Caribbean islands.



County Convention Center, fostering over 10,000 attendees, and presented an excellent opportunity for the destination to be marketed, given the growing competitiveness of the cruise sector.

"The attention on the cruise industry is at an all-time high," stated Ellison "Tommy" Thompson, Chief Executive Officer at the St. Kitts Tourism Authority. The pandemic has shifted travel perceptions phenomenally, and we are seeing a tremendous increase in people wanting to participate in cruise travel. Therefore, our team must capitalize on these events to ensure that St. Kitts remains visible as a cruise destination."



The quest to ignite travel to St. Kitts remains a top priority for the Authority. Recently, tourism and transport officials attended SeaTrade Global 2023, popularly known as the cruise industry's leading annual business-to-business event. The event was held at Greater Fort Lauderdale Broward



Further to marketing and promoting the destination, team members of the Authority also attended Atlanta's Travel & Adventure Show. They hosted over 200 travel advisors while they traveled to New

Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut for additional promotional presentations.

The Authority continues to execute promotional efforts in each of its source markets. Recently, Lisa Elmes-Bosshard, Marketing Consultant, and Graham Hawkins, UK Trade Sales Representative at the St. Kitts Tourism Authority, alongside Julie Claxton, UK and Europe Sales and Airline Manager at the Nevis Tourism Authority, collectively updated tour operators of Tropic Breeze and Unite Caribbean on the destination's unique tourism offerings, to market the destination as a twin-island stay.



As part of the Authority's mission to celebrate the Kittitian experience, Joshua Williams, football cornerback of Kittitian descent for the 2023 NFL champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, was recently hosted and provided the opportunity to experience the newly introduced Kittitian RumMaster Program. The Authority was thrilled to have hosted Mr. Williams as part of its pursuit to continually celebrate Kittitian pride globally.



St. Kitts maintains its reputation as an exhilarating and adventurous travel experience. The Authority recently partnered with the Nevis to St. Kitts Cross-Channel Swim organizers as it celebrated 21 years since its inception. Approximately 200 persons navigated the narrows between the sister islands, which began at Oualie Beach, Nevis, and ended at Cockleshell Beach, St. Kitts. Jennifer Harding-Marlin championed the event, coming in at first place with a time of 1 hour and 9 minutes. The swim extends at 2.5 miles, becoming a "must experience" event in the global open swim calendar. The cross-channel swim continues to add to the continual immersive experience that the destination has to offer.

As St. Kitts gears up for its energetic calendar of events for its Summer of Fun campaign, the Ministry of Tourism and the St. Kitts Tourism Authority continues to promote collectively upcoming events which will foresee increased travel to the island, paving the way for remarkable economic opportunities for stakeholders.



The St. Kitts Music Festival recently launched its first wave of artists for the upcoming festival, which promises a joyride of music, fun, and vibes. The festival, to be held from 22-24 June 2023, will feature notable musical acts such as Air Supply, Chronixx, Skinny Fabulous, Koffee, Patrice Roberts, Valiant, Skillibeng, Govana, Byron Messia, and the Grand Masters Band. The line-up is expected to feature additional acts to be shortly announced and promises a night of musical excitement for visitors and residents alike.

Further to having fun in the summer, the St. Kitts-Nevis Restaurant week

(cont'd on next page)



OECS Seeks to Scale up and Accelerate Climate Action

OECS Media Release

April 4, 2023 - Climate Change poses an existential threat to the Caribbean and is increasingly impacting the lives of people of the region, in every sphere. With the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Sixth Assessment report (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>) deemed the “Final Warning,” the need for urgent and concrete climate action is undeniable.

In an effort to scale up and accelerate climate action, the OECS continues to work with Member States to support their efforts to better access climate finance. From March 27-31, 2023, the OECS brought government and private sector representatives together, at two back-to-back meetings in Grenada, with the aim of formulating and refining regional approaches to climate finance.

With the support of a readiness grant from the Green Climate Fund, under the project entitled, Improving Eastern Caribbean Engagement with the Green Climate Fund, the OECS Commission has been engaging the public and private sectors on climate finance matters as both continue to play an essential role in building climate resilience. The first meeting therefore saw the presentation of work from the project, which included a data gap assessment, a private sector engagement strategy, and a pilot project to support the integration of climate change into the curriculum of the Dominica State College.

The OECS Commission, with support from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under its Needs-Based Financing Programme, has developed, in consultation with Member States, a regional Needs-Based Finance Strategy, that seeks to address the major climate change challenges facing the Eastern Caribbean and to identify areas where regional solutions can support efforts to build climate resilience. The second meeting saw the presentation of the Strategy to representatives of Member States and key development partners who, collectively, identified critical next steps as well as possible areas where the respective development partners could engage in implementation of the Strategy

Miles Made In March

(cont'd from last page)

officially released its save the date for this year's culinary experience. This year's restaurant week will extend from 13 July to 23 July 2023, and is expected to host culturally rich experiences through a series of fun and engaging events showcasing Kittitian and Nevisian flavors.

One of the first events announced under Restaurant Week's roster is “Grill Fest,” an event first of its kind that focuses on promoting local grillers, allowing them to showcase their culinary skills and expertise while competing for a winning title featuring prizes for participation.

“Summer of Fun in St. Kitts will be extraordinary,” stated Melnecia Marshall, Deputy CEO at the St. Kitts Tourism Authority. “We have recognized the importance of supplementing travel experiences for traditionally slower travel periods for our destination. Therefore, the Authority has integrated a robust marketing campaign to target the destination's summer events. We are profoundly grateful for the economic benefits that high travel season provides, typically in the winter season; however, we want travelers to experience the energetic aspect of our culture in the summer months. As such, authentic travel experiences continue to headline our marketing strategies.”

St. Kitts continues to strategize and innovate to boost its competitiveness as a tourism destination.

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CDB Announces 53rd Annual Meeting Events and Activities

April 3, 2023 - BRIDGETOWN, Barbados: The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has unveiled the full agenda for the 53rd Annual Meeting of its Board of Governors, (BOG) which is scheduled for June 12-23, 2023, in St. Lucia under the theme Marshalling Finance for Development: Access to Adequate, Affordable Financing.

The Meeting will be hosted by the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, Hon. Phillip J. Pierre, who currently serves as Chairman of CDB's BOG. The event will bring together the Bank's highest decision-making body and other high level regional stakeholders for solution-oriented discourse on the main challenges affecting the Region's Sustainable Development agenda. The objective is to tackle the main constraints hindering access to the various categories of finance necessary for propelling economic growth and sustainability.

“The Annual Meeting's focus on access to adequate and affordable financing for development supports the Bank's objective of building economic resilience through the provision of increased resources to fuel growth and reduce the vulnerabilities the Region faces,” said CDB President, Dr Hyginus “Gene” Leon. “Considering our internal challenges and the uncertainties colouring the external landscape, it is critical for us to address the urgent need to mobilise additional resources to meet current needs while responding to external shocks that can potentially derail our fiscal systems and development programmes.”

As a prelude to the Meeting, CDB is hosting a series of complementary activities including seminars, involving regional and international decision-makers, which will explore innovative approaches to increasing development financing. The Bank will also stage several youth engagement activities, and a forum for dialogue and knowledge-sharing with representatives from the Region's Indigenous community. Other anticipated high points are the 23rd Annual William G. Demas Memorial Lecture, which will focus on climate finance, and the fourth edition of the President's Chat, where CDB Head, Dr Hyginus “Gene” Leon will be joined by financial industry decision-makers for a panel discussion.

The CDB's Annual Meeting will utilise a hybrid format with over 200 participants expected to attend events in Saint Lucia, while thousands more will be able to view all public sessions via online platforms including the Bank's social media channels. Target audiences include government officials, policymakers, members of the development community, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, tertiary students, and youth leaders.

Permanent Secretary in Grenada's Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Merinna Jessamy, reminded participants that, “Our fiscal space cannot afford the price of climate change - we must find a way to bridge the divide and close the gap.”

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Crewless container ships appear on the horizon

Published BBC NEWS



IMAGE SOURCE, JAMES BROOKS

Before long the container ship Yara Birkeland will be sailing crew-free

By Adrienne Murray

Technology of Business reporter

Cruising quietly through the Frier Fjord in southern Norway, the Yara Birkeland looks like an ordinary small ship.

However, by the end of the year, the number of crew on board will be reduced from five to two and then, if all goes well, in two more years the vessel's bridge will be removed and there won't be any crew on board at all.

Until then, Captain Svend Odegard is at the helm of the 80m-long ship. "We are taking big steps towards autonomy," he tells the BBC. "There's a lot of installed technology there, that is not on existing ships."

Eventually the Yara Birkeland will navigate aided by sensors, including radar and cameras, which will feed data to an artificial intelligence, which will detect and classify waterborne obstacles.

"We have situational awareness - cameras on the side, front and stern of the ship," the captain explains. "It can decide whether to change its path because something is in the way."

The captain's job will move onto dry-land, to a remote operation centre more than 80km (50 miles) away, where several ships could potentially be monitored at the same time. If necessary, humans will be able to intervene by sending commands to alter the speed and course.

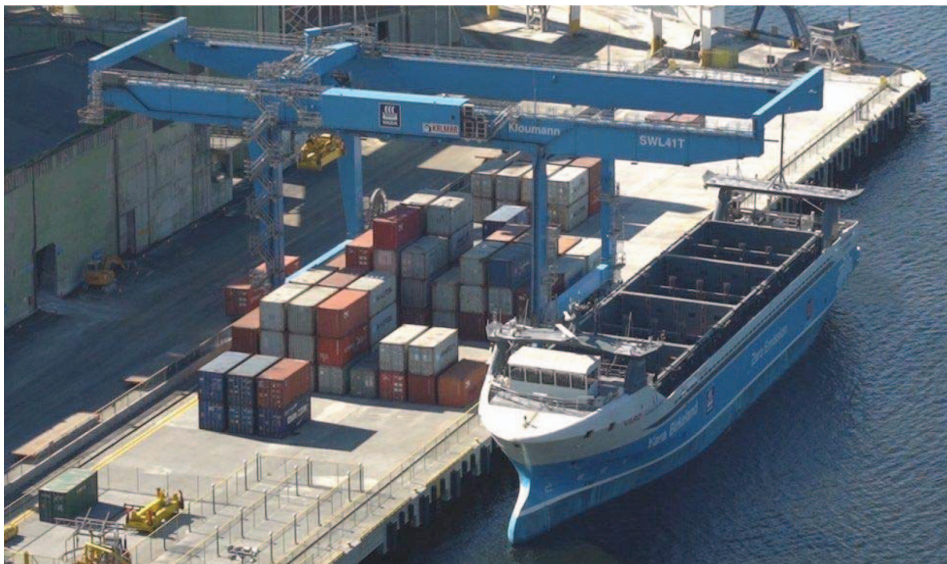


IMAGE SOURCE, JAMES BROOKS

The Yara Birkeland can carry up 100 containers

Owned by fertiliser giant Yara, the Yara Birkeland has been sailing twice weekly for last several months from the firm's enormous plant near Porsgrunn to the port of Brevik, carrying up to 100 containers and collecting data along the 13km (8 miles) route.

"Vessels which operate along short, regular and fixed routes offer good opportunities to introduce autonomous ship technologies," says Sinikka Hartonen,

Secretary General of One Sea Association, an alliance of maritime companies and experts working in autonomy.

The project's technology provider, Kongsberg is working on another two battery-powered autonomous barges in the Oslo Fjord, with Norwegian grocery wholesaler Asko, and a fourth, small container ship, near Å...lesund.

"Some of the technology has already been around for many years. So it's really putting it together," says An-Magritt Ryste, director for next generation shipping at Kongsberg Maritime.

According to Ms Ryste, there's also interest in using autonomous navigation in fishing, passenger ferries and military vessels.



An-Magritt Ryste, director for next generation shipping at Kongsberg Maritime

IMAGE SOURCE, JAMES BROOKS

Autonomous navigation technology can be applied to a variety of shipping says An-Magritt Ryste

Kongsberg already makes autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), which largely carry out seabed mapping tasks for customers in offshore energy, ocean research and defence.

Recently, the firm delivered an 8m, unmanned surface vessel (USV) that detects fish stocks, using acoustic sonars and navigating by AI, cameras, radar, and GPS.

"They're also supervised by humans, who can intervene. But they are fully autonomous," says Bjorn Jalving, Kongsberg's Senior Vice President of Technology.

Kongsberg has been scaling up the technology for larger vessels. "Eventually I think limitations will not be technical, it's a matter of making it safe and secure in compliance with regulations, and good business for the operators," says Mr Jalving.

Of course one of the big attractions for shipping firms, is the costs saved by not having a crew aboard. One team could potentially monitor several ships, says Mr Jalving. Plus it's safer for a crew to be on land, rather than at sea.

Other companies are also working on autonomous shipping projects.

Last year in Japan, a 222m car ferry self-navigated and docked using technology by Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Company.

Meanwhile, a commercial ship completed a month-long voyage from Texas to South Korea, navigating autonomously for about half of the 20,000km route.

The ship's optimal route choice saved fuel and emissions, according to the ship's technology provider, Avikus, part of the ship building firm HD Hyundai.

"You can use autonomy to limit tasks that are dangerous or boring," says Marius Tannum, an Associate Professor of Applied Autonomy at the University of South-Eastern Norway.

"The Yara Birkeland project and the Asko barge project are pushing the technology out into the real world, and not just in research labs, like we have been doing for many years."

When it comes to safety, crewless vessels need to perform as well, if not better than captained ships says Prof Tannum, who believes there will always needs to be a backstop - someone monitoring who could intervene if necessary.

"Since this is very new technology and not tested in real life that much, we need this transitional period with crew on board," Prof Tannum says. "Then gradually, we can trust the autonomy to do more."

Autonomy opens up possibilities for new designs though, he adds. "Without crew you can have more capacity for goods, because you don't need the living quarters, galley, heating, air conditioning and other systems," Prof Tannum adds.

There's scepticism whether large unmanned ships could be crossing oceans any time soon, though. "First the legal challenges must be resolved. And then the ships needs robust energy and propulsion systems that require very little maintenance," points out Prof Tannum.

One of the biggest hurdle is regulation and new rules will have to be drawn up.

"Current legislation has been developed based on the presumption that the equipment onboard a ship is fully manually controlled," says Sinikka Hartonen, adding that the International Maritime Organization is now working towards a
(cont'd on next page)

Lisa Shaw death: Legal action ‘only option’ for husband

Published BBC NEWS

Coronavirus pandemic



IMAGE SOURCE, GARETH EVE

Gareth Eve's wife Lisa died in May 2021 shortly after she had the AstraZeneca Covid vaccine

The husband of a BBC presenter who died due to complications from the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine says taking legal action is his only option.

Lisa Shaw, 44, who worked for BBC Radio Newcastle, died in May 2021 a week after her first jab.

Gareth Eve said despite trying to “engage with the government, MPs and three

prime ministers” no-one had “reached out” in return.

The Department of Health said all vaccines had “undergone robust trials”.

Father-of-one Mr Eve is among a group of families who lost loved ones, allegedly to side effects caused by the vaccine, who are suing the makers of the Oxford-AstraZeneca jab.

He said: “It’s not in my make-up to turn around and say I want to sue somebody but for almost two years we’ve tried to engage with the government and tried to engage with MPs since Lisa died and not one of them has reached out or engaged with us at all.

“Any engagement is fleeting at best so that’s the reason that we’re left with no alternative - if the government or AstraZeneca don’t want to engage with us then what else are we supposed to do?”

He said all he wanted was “some sort of acknowledgement or recognition that these deaths have occurred”.

Mr Eve added: “We’re not crackpots or conspiracy theorists, we’re husbands and wives and family members who have lost somebody - that’s all it is.

“Whatever the money it’s not going to bring my son’s mam back.”

Lawyers for the group sent the company pre-action protocol letters in November, the first step in a legal claim on behalf of about 75 claimants - some of whom have lost relatives and some who survived with injuries.

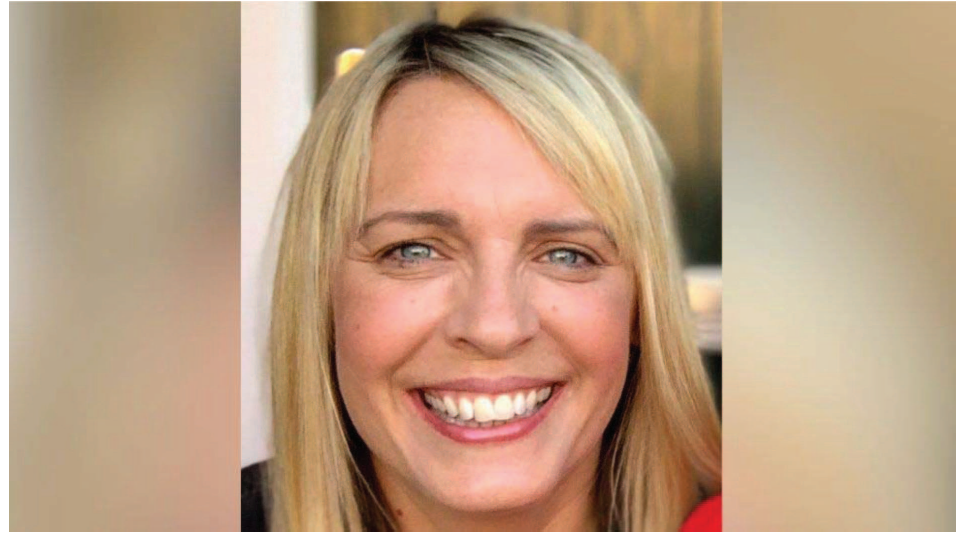


IMAGE SOURCE, FAMILY HANDOUT

Lisa Shaw was a presenter on BBC Radio Newcastle

In August 2021, Newcastle coroner Karen Dilks said Ms Shaw had died from a very rare “vaccine-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenia”, a condition which leads to swelling and bleeding of the brain.

Mr Eve said: “These things have happened to too many people and we’re made to feel like it’s a dirty secret, that we’re talking about something we shouldn’t be talking about.

“It’s established it’s been caused by AstraZeneca’s Covid vaccination - it’s not about Covid, it’s not about how many lives the Covid vaccination has saved, it’s about what this vaccination has done to Lisa and other families and not about how successful it was or whether somebody is anti-vax.”

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was the first approved for use in the UK in December 2020 with the government ordering 100 million doses for its vaccination programme.

A spokesperson for the Department for Health and Social Care said: “More than 144 million Covid vaccines have been given in England, which has helped the country to live with Covid and saved thousands of lives.

“All vaccines being used in the UK have undergone robust clinical trials and have met the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency’s (MHRA) strict standards of safety, effectiveness and quality.”

It added vaccines were the “best way” to protect against disease from Covid and that the vaccine damage payments scheme was available for “individuals who have, in extremely rare circumstances, been severely disabled or died due to receiving a government-recommended vaccine for a listed disease”.

Covid vaccine safety - what we know

In a statement, AstraZeneca said: “We are unable to comment on ongoing legal matters. Patient safety is our highest priority and regulatory authorities have clear and stringent standards to ensure the safe use of all medicines, including vaccines. Our sympathy goes out to anyone who has reported health problems.”

It added evidence from clinical trials and data showed the Covid vaccine had “an acceptable safety profile” and that the benefits “outweigh the risks of extremely rare potential side effects”.

The claimants are taking legal action under the Consumer Protection Act 1987 as well as claiming payment under the government’s Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme.

Solicitor Peter Todd from Scott-Moncrieff and Associates, which is acting for the claimants, said damages were being pursued on the basis that the vaccine was a “defective product in that it was not as safe as consumers generally were reasonably entitled to expect”.

Crewless container ships appear on the horizon

(cont’d from lastpage)



Remote operation centre

IMAGE SOURCE, JAMES BROOKS

On-shore crew will be able to monitor several autonomous ships at once

framework.

“The regulation is totally new territory for the marine authorities and politicians in Norway. What they do will have consequences internationally,” says Yara project manager Jon Sletten.

Whatever happens, progress in autonomous shipping is likely to move more quickly than autonomous cars and trucks, according to Prof Tannum.

“Autonomous cars move in high-speed close to both dynamic and static obstacles, road conditions vary and the complexity that cars in regular traffic faces is more challenging than ships.

“Unmanned autonomous ships with a fixed route and a remote operation center (ROC) will be operating with less risk than unmanned autonomous trucks driving in regular traffic,” he says.

Bob Lee dead: Cash App founder dies after San Francisco stabbing

Published BBC NEWS



IMAGE SOURCE, TWITTER/BOB LEE

Tributes were paid to Bob Lee, who founded the popular Cash App and worked for MobileCoin

By Brandon Drenon

BBC News, Washington

The founder of multibillion-dollar tech company Cash App, Bob Lee, was fatally stabbed near downtown San Francisco on Tuesday, his family said.

San Francisco police found a 43-year-old man with stab wounds and treated him before he later died in hospital.

His father, Rick Lee, confirmed his son - who was also the ex-chief technology officer at Square - had been killed.

San Francisco officials have been criticised for their response to a wave of violent crime in recent years.

The California's San Francisco Police Department said officers responded to reports of a stabbing on Tuesday at around 02:35 local time (10:35 BST).

They found Mr Lee unconscious on the ground with two stab wounds to his chest, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, and started to administer aid before rushing him to San Francisco General Hospital.

Mr Lee's father posted a message on Facebook on Wednesday confirming the circumstances surrounding his son's death.

"I just lost my best friend, my son Bob Lee when he lost his life on the street in San Francisco early Tuesday morning," Rick Lee wrote. "Thank you to those who have reached out in support."

Tim Oliver Lee, Mr Lee's brother, also posted on Facebook: "He really was the best of us. I was so fortunate to grow up with him, and I feel like I've lost part of myself."

At his time of death, Mr Lee was the chief product officer of the cryptocurrency company MobileCoin.

"He was a generous decent human being who didn't deserve to be killed," said Bill Barhydt, CEO of Abra, a cryptocurrency company, on Twitter, noting that Mr Lee also was a father.

Cash App is a smartphone-based payment app that allows person-to-person money transfers and is now worth \$40bn (£32bn), according to Forbes.

Since launching in 2013, its user base has skyrocketed, hitting seven million monthly active users in 2017, and climbing to 30 million in 2020.

Mr Lee's death has prompted renewed criticism of violent crime in the Californian city.

Tesla founder and Twitter chief executive Elon Musk responded to tributes to Mr Lee, saying: "Violent crime in [San Francisco] is horrific and even if attackers are caught, they are often released immediately."

Data from 2021 shows that residents there face a 1-in-16 chance each year of being a victim of property or violent crime, according to the Hoover Institution, a policy research think tank, making the city more dangerous than 98% of US cities.

Homicides have been a particular issue for San Francisco since the pandemic.

There were 56 homicides in the city in 2021 and 2022, and preliminary police

Robert F. Kennedy Jr to challenge Biden for White House

Published BBC NEWS



IMAGE SOURCE, GETTY IMAGES

Robert F Kennedy Jr has filed election paperwork to run for US president in 2024 as a Democrat.

The 69-year-old is the son of assassinated Senator Robert F Kennedy and nephew of President John F Kennedy.

The environmental lawyer's campaign treasurer, John E Sullivan, confirmed the filing to CNN on Wednesday.

Mr Kennedy is an outspoken anti-vaccine campaigner. Instagram removed his account in 2021 for "repeatedly sharing debunked claims", the company said.

US President Joe Biden has

indicated he will run for re-election, though he has not yet formally declared his candidacy.

In March, Mr Kennedy shared on Twitter that he was considering a run for president.

At the time, he said: "If I run, my top priority will be to end the corrupt merger between state and corporate power that has ruined our economy, shattered the middle class, polluted our landscapes and waters, poisoned our children, and robbed us of our values and freedoms."



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data shows there have been 12 homicides in San Francisco so far this year.

San Francisco police have yet to identify a suspect in this case, and no arrests have been made in the ongoing investigation.

Sutherland Springs: Texas church attack victims offered \$144m settlement

Published BBC NEWS

By Holly Honderich

In Washington

The US justice department has reached a tentative \$144.5m (£116m) deal with victims and relatives of those killed in a 2017 mass shooting in Texas.

The massacre at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs left 26 dead.

The settlement marks the end of a legal battle after victims sued the US Air Force for not reporting the gunman's history of violence to the FBI.

That history should have prevented the shooter, a former airman, from legally purchasing the guns used in the attack.

Victims of the shooting ranged from five to 72 years old.

Sutherland Springs resident Stephen Willeford told the BBC his small, rural community remains devastated by the tragedy, five years on.

"We will always miss those that we lost that day," he said. Mr Willeford confronted the attacker, grabbing his own rifle and running barefoot from his house to the church when he heard gunfire.

"When you hear the shots, you can't take time to put shoes on when you know each shot may cost someone their life," he said.

Mr Willeford exchanged fire with the gunman, who then escaped in a truck from the scene. The suspect died by suicide later that day.

In July 2021, US District Judge Xavier Rodriguez found that Air Force officials had failed to submit key documents - including a 2012 conviction for domestic assault - about the gunman, to the national firearms background check system.

Katy Novak helps to lead dozens of people standing in the rain in prayer and song at the memorial crosses near the Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church one week after 26 people were killed inside in Sutherland Springs, Texas on November 12, 2017



IMAGE SOURCE, THE WASHINGTON POST VIA GETTY IMAGES

That conviction should have barred the suspect from buying the semiautomatic rifle used in the attack from a licenced gun dealer.

The omission, Judge Rodriguez ruled, rendered the military branch 60% responsible for the attack.

The judge said in 2021 that if the government had done its job and inputted the suspect's history into the database, "it is more likely than not" that he would have been deterred from carrying out the church shooting.

The judge later ordered the government to pay more than \$230m in damages.

But in January of this year, the justice department appealed, arguing that it should not be held more culpable than the shooter.

Several prominent gun-control advocacy groups lobbied the Biden administration, asking the justice department to drop its appeal.

"The Sutherland Springs families are heroes," Jamal Alsaffar, a lawyer for the victims' families said on Wednesday. "They have gone through so much pain and

Johnson & Johnson offers \$9bn to settle talc claims

Published BBC NEWS



IMAGE SOURCE, REUTERS

Johnson & Johnson has proposed to pay almost \$9bn to resolve tens of thousands of lawsuits it faces in North America that claim its baby powder and other talc-based products cause cancer.

The healthcare giant said it still believed the claims were "specious" but was hoping the new settlement offer would help conclude its legal battle.

The figure marks a big boost over the \$2bn it had proposed previously.

The new offer has significant support from people tied to the case, it said.

The company is facing more than 40,000 lawsuits from former customers who say using its talc-based baby powder caused cancer, including some who allege the product contained cancer-causing asbestos.

It stopped US sales of its talc-based baby powder in 2020, citing "misinformation" that had sapped demand for the product, applied to prevent nappy rash and for other cosmetic uses, including dry shampoo. Last year, it announced plans to end sales globally.

Before that decision, the company had sold the baby powder for almost 130 years. It continues to sell a version of the product that contains cornstarch.

The company has been trying to resolve the lawsuits in bankruptcy court since 2021, after creating a subsidiary responsible for the claims.

But its efforts ran into trouble after an earlier bankruptcy court ruling found the subsidiary was not in financial distress and could not use the bankruptcy system to resolve the lawsuits.

"The company continues to believe that these claims are specious and lack scientific merit," said Erik Haas, worldwide vice president of litigation for Johnson & Johnson.

But he said "resolving these cases in the tort system would take decades and impose significant costs on LTL and the system, with most claimants never receiving any compensation."

"Resolving this matter through the proposed reorganisation plan is both more equitable and more efficient, allows claimants to be compensated in a timely manner, and enables the company to remain focused on our commitment to profoundly and positively impact health for humanity."

Johnson & Johnson said it had won a majority of the talc lawsuits against it. But it has been stuck with some significant losses, including one decision in which 22 women were awarded a judgement of more than \$2bn.

Johnson & Johnson said it had commitments from about 60,000 current claimants to support the new settlement terms.

loss in the most horrific way. But despite that, these families fought for justice, endured and won two trials against the federal government."

The settlement, described as an "agreement in principle" by the US government, still needs the approval of the judge, who is expected to agree. It will resolve claims by more than 75 plaintiffs, the justice department said.

"Today's announcement brings the litigation to a close, ending a painful chapter for the victims of this unthinkable crime," said associate attorney general Vanita Gupta in a statement.

Charlestown Primary reigned supreme at 2023 Gulf-BONI Inter-Primary Schools Championship

NIA CHARLESTOWN NEVIS (April 06, 2023)- The Charlestown Primary School (CPS) continued its reign of the annual Gulf Insurance Ltd. and Bank of Nevis International Ltd. 2023 Inter-Primary Schools Championship, amassing a total of 51 medals to be declared preliminary winner of the meet held on April 05, 2023.

Racking up the school’s fourth successive win, CPS Tigers dominated at the Nevis Athletics Stadium taking 21 gold medals, 18 silvers, and 12 bronzes.

This year’s meet saw nine schools from across Nevis participating. St. Thomas Primary Jaguars placed second with a total of 32 medals, while Joycelyn Liburd Primary Falcons took third for their 30 medals.

Ivor Walters Primary scored 26 medals, Elizabeth Pemberton Primary 22, St. James Primary 13, Violet O. Jeffers Nicholls 8, Nevis Academy Eagles 6, and Maude Crosse Preparatory 4.

Hon. Mark Brantley, Premier of Nevis, was among members of the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) who offered

congratulations to the winner and other young competitors.

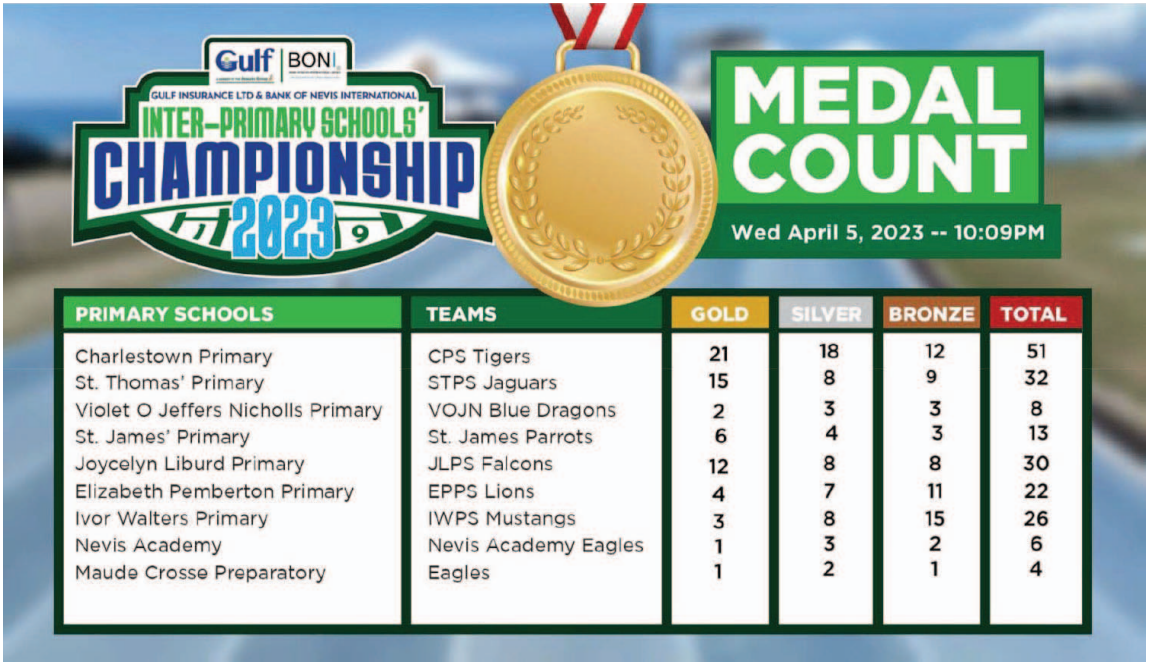
“I extend heartiest congratulations to all the schools that participated in the

exciting Inter-Primary Championship yesterday, but say special kudos to perennial champions Charlestown Primary School. Absolutely Phenomenal,” he said.

Thousands of citizens from Nevis and St. Kitts attended Wednesday’s track meet, supporting their favourite school teams and enjoying the entertainment and socializing.

The Nevis Department of Sports is expected to issue a press statement formalizing the results later today.

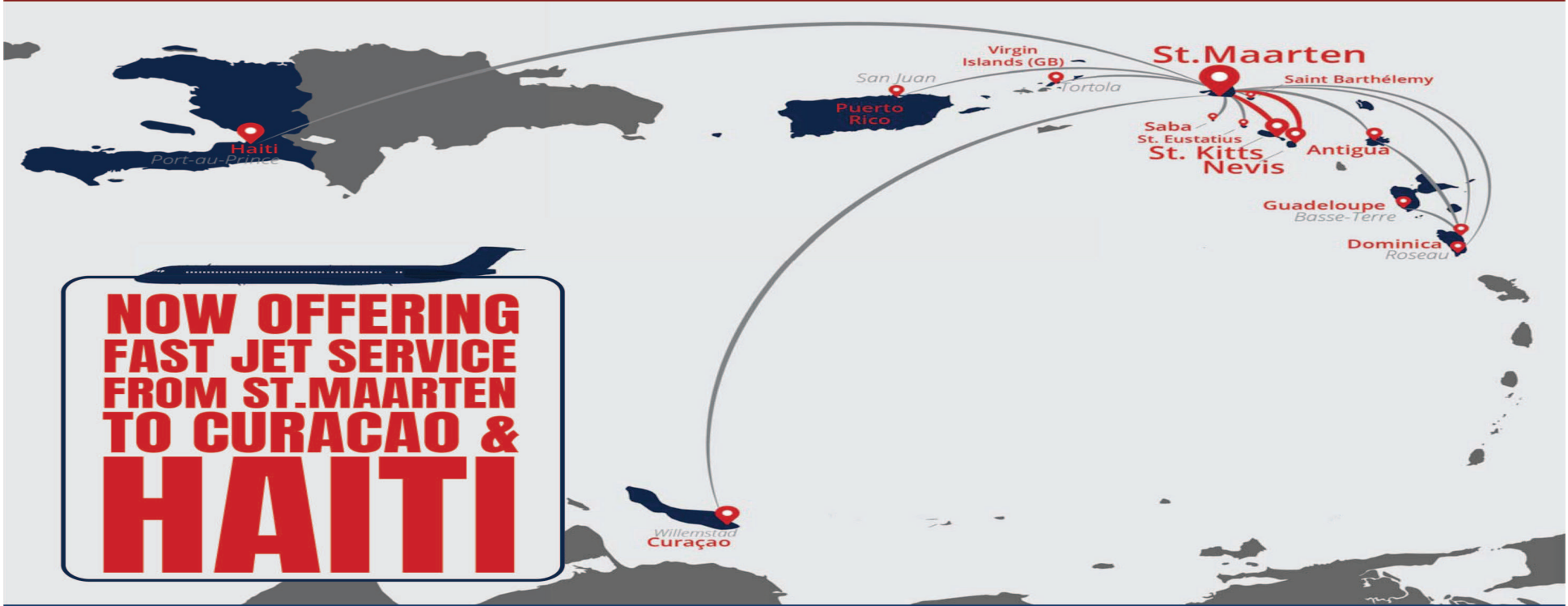
Photo caption: Charlestown Primary wins 2023 Gulf-BONI Inter-Primary Schools Championship held on April 05, 2023 based on preliminary results



PRIMARY SCHOOLS	TEAMS	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Charlestown Primary	CPS Tigers	21	18	12	51
St. Thomas' Primary	STPS Jaguars	15	8	9	32
Violet O Jeffers Nicholls Primary	VOJN Blue Dragons	2	3	3	8
St. James' Primary	St. James Parrots	6	4	3	13
Joycelyn Liburd Primary	JLPS Falcons	12	8	8	30
Elizabeth Pemberton Primary	EPPS Lions	4	7	11	22
Ivor Walters Primary	IWPS Mustangs	3	8	15	26
Nevis Academy	Nevis Academy Eagles	1	3	2	6
Maude Crosse Preparatory	Eagles	1	2	1	4

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Paris 2024: Ukraine's boycott of qualifying events 'raises serious questions', says the IOC.

From the section Olympics BBC SPORTS



Russia flag at Olympics Games

The International Olympic Committee has recommended that Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to compete but only under a neutral flag

Ukraine's decision to boycott Paris 2024 Olympics qualifying events if Russians are taking part "raises serious questions", says the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The decision to boycott was made by Ukrainian government minister Oleh Nemchinov on 1 April.

The IOC has recommended that Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to compete under a neutral flag.

But it has yet to make a decision on the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024.

"If implemented, such a decision would hurt only the Ukrainian athlete community," said the IOC in response to Ukraine's stance.

"It would in no way impact the war that the world wants to stop, and that the IOC has so vehemently condemned.

"This raises serious questions about the autonomy of Ukrainian sport. The IOC has always maintained that it is not up to governments to decide which athletes can participate in which international competitions."

The IOC added that the decision goes against "the position of a number of Ukrainian athletes and other members of the Ukrainian Olympic community".

Wimbledon lifts ban on Russian & Belarusian tennis players UK among countries to support ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes

Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky said in January that Russian athletes should have "no place" at the Paris Games.

And at the beginning of April, minister Nemchinov indicated that any Ukrainian sporting body allowing athletes to compete in qualifying events against Russians could lose its national status.

But the IOC says that any athlete choosing to compete "could count on the direct support of the Olympic Movement's Solidarity Fund".

A statement from the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) said it "expressed alarm" at the boycott.

"Any government calls for boycotts represent a direct interference in the autonomy of sport," it said.

"These will only contribute to the isolation of National Olympic Committees from the global sporting community and will directly

affect the dreams and aspirations of athletes."

World Aquatics supports IOC's stance

World Aquatics says it has set up a taskforce to explore the possibility of Russian and Belarusian athletes competing under a neutral flag at its international events.

Mexican referee Fernando Hernandez gets 12-match ban for kneeing player in groin

From the section Football BBC SPORTS

Hernandez gave out six yellow cards and dismissed both managers in an incident-filled match

Mexican referee Fernando Hernandez has been suspended for 12 matches after kneeing a player in the groin during America's match against Leon on Sunday.

Hernandez kneed Leon's Lucas Romero as he and his teammates angrily demanded a video assistant referee review after America's equaliser in the 2-2 draw.

Romero was also given a two-match ban for the reaction.

"To the fans and public in general, I offer an apology, as well as to Romero, for my reaction," Hernandez had said.

"I would never attack him or any other player. I am aware of this and I will abide by the decision of the Disciplinary Commission."

Romero said after the match that he had not called for Hernandez to be punished and that it had been a misunderstanding.

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It added its support for the IOC's recommendation of the same stance.

But it is in contrast to World Athletics' ruling which says Russian athletes remain banned "for the foreseeable future".

"The taskforce, made up of athletes and representatives from across the aquatics community, will begin work immediately on developing a recommendation to the World Aquatics Bureau," World Aquatics said.

In 2022, World Aquatics moved the short-course world swimming championships from Kazan, Russia, to Melbourne.

Kazan has been replaced by Singapore for the 2025 World Aquatics Championships.

The taskforce will report its findings to the World Aquatics Bureau in July, which makes it unlikely that any Russian or Belarusian athletes will compete in the World Swimming Championships which take place in Fukuoka, Japan, between 14-30 July.

Equestrian maintains Russia and Belarus ban

The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) announced on Wednesday that a ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes, horses and officials from participating in its events will remain in place until further

LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCES, 1906 SCHEDULE A

To the Magistrate, District "A"

To the Superintendent of Police.

I, **David Heyliger** now residing in **Bird Rock** in the town of **Basseterre** do hereby give you notice that it is my intention to apply on 03rd day of **July 2023**, to the **District Magistrate** at **Basseterre** for a **Retail Liquor Licence** in respect of my premises in **Samanther's Diner** in **North Independence Square Street** in **Basseterre**.

Dated this 23rd day of **March, 2023**.

Signed : **D. Heyliger**

notice.

The FEI introduced the measure in March 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

FEI president Ingmar de Vos said the board discussed the IOC's proposal for the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes as neutrals but agreed that "at this stage neutrality cannot be defined and evaluated in a sufficiently satisfactory way".

De Vos added that no events organised in Russia and Belarus will be entered in the FEI calendar for 2023.

"Obviously [referees] are human beings, many times they can make mistakes and those mistakes end up developing what happened, a lot of misunderstandings," the Argentinian told Mexican broadcaster TUDN.

Leon and America sit third and fourth, respectively, in the Mexican league and the heated match also saw head coaches Fernando Ortiz and Nicolas Larcamon dismissed during the game for coming to blows with each other on the touchline.

Images of Leon coach Larcamon with his shirt torn after fighting with the America bench circulated on social media after the match and the two managers have each been given two-match bans.



Guyana Harpy Eagles win West Indies Championship Title

Leon Johnson “proud” to lift Headley Weekes Trophy in his final match

Georgetown, Guyana - Guyana Harpy Eagles secured a thrilling 17-run victory over the Leeward Islands Hurricanes to win the West Indies Championship title and claim the Headley-Weekes Trophy. Kevin Sinclair's six-wicket haul sealed the deal for Guyana as they bowled out Leewards for 125 on the fourth and final morning on Saturday at Guyana National Stadium.

Off-spinner Sinclair's career-best figures of 6-33 from 16.5 overs combined with left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul, who took 3-44, as nine wickets fell on the final morning. Captain Leon Johnson had the honor of raising the Headley-Weekes Trophy, capping off the final day of his professional career. The presentation was done by Enoch Lewis, Director of Cricket West Indies.

“This was a great performance - a great team performance and I'm massively proud of everyone who contributed towards us winning. We worked hard before the season, and we worked hard throughout this season. We were really tested in this final match, and we responded to the challenge with

a magnificent win,” Johnson said.

“One of the great things about the season was the progress made by the young players in the team. As various time they stood up with major performances and that was great to see. We made progress. Also, tribute to the senior players who also led from the front, offered invaluable advice and made my job as captain easier on and off the field. Thanks to the fans and all those persons who backed us from start to finish. As a proud Guyanese I retire from the game lifting this prestigious trophy and also happy that I can bring smiles to the faces of the supporters.”

Chasing 143 to win, the Hurricanes started the day on 81-1, and at 91-1, they looked set for a comfortable victory. However, Sinclair's incredible spell of bowling removed two key Hurricanes batsmen and caused a collapse that led to their defeat.

Guyana ended the tournament with 84.0 points, Windward Islands Volcanoes were second on 74.2 points, while last year's champions Barbados Pride ended third on 55.6 points.

Looking ahead, the new Headley Weekes Series will feature two teams drawn from the top performers in the 2023 West Indies Championship and players outside the starting West Indies Test XI. The two teams will play each other and the West Indies Academy in a three-match Series running from April 18 to May 6, to be played at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

FULL POINTS

Guyana Harpy Eagles - 84
Windward Islands Volcanoes - 74.2
Barbados Pride - 55.6
T&T Red Force - 49.4
Leeward Islands Hurricanes - 46.2
Jamaica Scorpions - 25.6

LEADING PERFORMERS

Most Runs - Alick Athanaze (647)
Most Wickets - Rahkeem Cornwall (35)
Most Dismissals - Jahmar Hamilton 19 (17 catches, 2 stumpings)
Most Catches - Zachary McCaskie (13)

Shai Hope: Yorkshire sign West Indies batter for start of County Championship

From the section Cricket BBC SPORTS



Shai Hope has played 106 one-day internationals for West Indies

Yorkshire have signed West Indies batter Shai Hope for the first three games of the County Championship.

The 29-year-old will make his debut in Thursday's opening game of the Division Two season against Leicestershire.

Hope became the first player to hit two centuries in the same first-class match at Headingley when he did so for West Indies against England in 2017.

New Yorkshire captain Shan Masood will miss the start of the season after being called up by Pakistan.

“He [Hope] brings so much experience - one thing we are lacking is just a little bit of experience so he just gives us that and comes into the squad for this first game,” managing director Darren Gough told the club website.

“Hope has literally just got home a few days ago so it is a straight turn around. He will have to adjust to playing red ball, from white ball but he is a fantastic player and it's good to have someone of his quality to come in at short notice for three games.”



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