



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

# POINTVILLE EXPRESS

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# LIAT 2020 TAKES TO THE SKIES!!!

*Story on Page 2*



Lead singer of New Gen Band, Young Vice, collected two trophies on behalf of the band, as they captured the Road March title for Carnival 2024 along with winning the Party Monarch competition on Sunday night. *Story on page 5.*

# Local News



## LIAT 2020 takes to the skies!!!

The much-anticipated commencement of commercial flights by the newly created airline – LIAT 2020 – took to the skies from VC Bird International Airport on Tuesday bound for St. Lucia.

The flight took off moments after a ribbon-cutting ceremony that was held at the new airline’s counter at the airport. Prime Minister Gaston Browne, accompa-



nied by Tourism Minister, Charles Max Fernandez and the airline’s Chief Executive

Officer, Hafsa Abdulsalam, all took part in the exercise. On Monday night, of-

officials of the government, industry partners and the airline’s officials gathered at Sandals Resort for a special dinner to mark the launch of the airline.

LIAT 2020 is a joint venture between the Antigua and Barbuda government and the Nigerian company, Air Peace, which is the major shareholder. The company has also made available

*cont'd on pg 3*



*cont'd from pg 2*

two Embraer jets to LIAT 2020's fleet, which will also include three ATR's previously owned by the now defunct, LIAT (1974) Ltd.

Abdulsalam said the airline's schedule for the next two weeks will feature St. Lucia only, following which, it will add other destinations to include Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica. She also anticipates that negotiations for the acquisition of the ATR's will be completed soon. Following which, she said they will be added to the fleet after un-



dergoing scheduled maintenance.

"I am very excited and happy that after much challenges, we are finally

at a point where we have started commercial operations of LIAT 2020. It has been a long journey with many nay-sayers opining that the airline would never make it to this stage; however, here we are," she stated.

According to Abdulsalam the airline looks forward to adding the ATR's to its fleet, as these will mainly operate the shorter routes while the Embraer jets would do the longer journey flights.



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## PM Browne: Inaugural flight marks ‘rebirth’ of LIAT

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is welcoming the inaugural flight of the new airline – LIAT 2020 – as a rebirth of LIAT (1974) Ltd., the now defunct airline that served the Caribbean with exemplary service for more than 60 years.

PM Browne was speaking Tuesday at the VC Bird International Airport at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the first flight of the new airline; a flight destined for St. Lucia.

“I recall writing a re-or-

ganisation plan for LIAT back in 2020 in which I was trying to convince the other shareholder governments not to collapse LIAT, not to liquidate LIAT, and that was entitled ‘LIAT: Rising like a Phoenix’,” the prime minister noted.

Despite this, the other shareholders agreed to permanently ground LIAT (1974) Ltd. This happened in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader however had

other ideas and he pursued a vision to have a new airline, LIAT 2020, take to the skies and providing critical inter-regional travel services for the people of the Caribbean. That dream became reality when LIAT 2020 took to the skies on Tuesday.

He also expressed the view that the new airline will help to stimulate the Antigua and Barbuda economy.

“The jobs that will be created; the airport taxes



Prime Minister Gaston Browne that will be generated and it will also be important for our tourism product with moving individuals within the islands to and from Antigua and Barbuda,” he observed.

The inaugural flight took several government officials, airline staff and others to St. Lucia. They returned to Antigua Tuesday afternoon. The new airline was greeted with a water cannon salute on the tarmac at the VC BIA.



## New Gen band wins Road March, 2024

Antigua and Barbuda’s newest musical sensation, the New Gen Band has scored another impressive win in the 2024 Carnival festivities.

The band won the Road March title with its song Gravity Falls, which was played 70 times on the road during the Jouvèrt morning jump up. Lead singer of the band, Young Vice, on Sunday night captured the Party Monarch title, in what was the band’s first entry into the competition.

The first runner-up slot went to Kaution Band/Kid Fresh whose tune, Top of the Morning, was played 33 times. Tian Winter’s Cyan Contain captured second



runner up.

Meanwhile, in the band of the year competition, the top prize went to Insane

Carnival with Myst Carnival taking second place and Sechuns the Band placing third.

Pointe Xpress will provide a more comprehensive review of the 2024 Carnival results in a later edition.



## We're Hiring

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- Team Management:** Lead and manage a team of security officers and oversee contracted security firms, ensuring adherence to standards and optimizing security operations.
- Stakeholder Relations:** Collaborate with internal departments, cruise lines, agents, and local authorities to develop effective security strategies and maintain strong relationships.
- Security Policy Development:** Create and enforce security policies and procedures, translating organizational strategy into actionable security goals.
- Security Coordination:** Monitor security systems, conduct regular inspections, and integrate security protocols across departments.
- PSO Duties:** Conduct comprehensive security surveys, develop and implement the port facility security plan, ensure adequate training, and coordinate with ship security officers.

**Minimum Requirements**

- Bachelor's degree in security management, law enforcement, or a closely related field.
- Minimum of Ten years of experience in law enforcement, security services in maritime security, or regulatory compliance, or an equivalent combination of experience and training.

**Other Key Requirements**

- In-depth knowledge of security principles, practices, and local security policies and regulations.
- Strong ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- Excellent Customer Service skills

process improvements to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of the accounts payables function.

- Inventory Management:** Oversee and manage inventory records, ensuring accuracy and consistency in stock levels. Coordinate with relevant departments to monitor inventory usage and maintain adequate stock levels.

**Minimum Requirements**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- At least two years of experience in accounts payables or a similar financial role.
- Proficiency in accounting software and Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Excel.

**Other Key Requirements**

- Strong attention to detail and accuracy.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong communication skills and a proactive approach to problem-solving.

### Marketing & Communications Manager

**Key Responsibilities**

- Media Relations:** Cultivate and maintain relationships with media outlets, develop press releases, and manage media inquiries.
- Social & Digital Media:** Implement social media strategies, create engaging content, maintain a content calendar, and manage online reputation.
- CSR Initiatives:** Develop and promote CSR programs supporting local communities and sustainability.
- Brand Management:** Ensure consistency of the GPH and ACP brand identity, and develop brand-building strategies.

**Other Key Requirements**

- Port Event, Advertisement Management & Coordination: Plan and execute port-related events, coordinate logistics, and promote events through various channels.

**Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Communications, or related field; advanced degree preferred.
- Experience in marketing and communications, preferably in tourism or hospitality.
- Strong media relations, social media management, and digital marketing skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication.
- Experience in CSR initiatives and event management.
- Creative thinking and problem-solving abilities.

### Accounts Officer

**Key Responsibilities**

- Accounts Payables Management:** Oversee and manage the accounts payables process, including the verification, processing, and reconciliation of invoices and payments.
- Vendor Relations:** Build and maintain positive relationships with vendors and suppliers, addressing any payment-related inquiries and resolving discrepancies.

**Other Key Requirements**

- Financial Record Keeping:** Maintain accurate records of all transactions, ensuring compliance with company policies and accounting standards.
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# Photo Essay

## Young bands dominate Carnival



## Fightings mar J'ouvert celebrations

The Police have reported that they had to bring an early end to Monday's J'ouvert street celebration following a series of fights among some revellers.

In a statement, the police said several fights broke out among revellers armed with weapons, during Monday's J'ouvert Morning Street Jam in St. Johns.

"This resulted in the police taking a decision to bring an early end to the J'ouvert celebrations after careful assessment and consideration for the safety and security of thousands of revellers on the streets in the



city. "The crowds were asked to disperse to prevent a further breach of the peace, and this was done without any further incidents," a STRATCOM release stated.

It said two persons were taken to the hospital with stab wounds, following a fight on Redcliffe Street. They are said to be in stable condition and their injuries are not life-threatening.

Meanwhile, the police issued several appeals for a safe end to Carnival 2024.

Members of the public were warned against carrying around sharp or blunt objects, such as knives, scissors, pieces of wood, or iron on their person. Anyone found with these items would have been arrested.

The police also renewed an appeal to street vendors and bar owners to cooperate with authorities and desist from selling drinks in glass bottles and cans. They warned that failure to comply could result in sanctions for those involved.

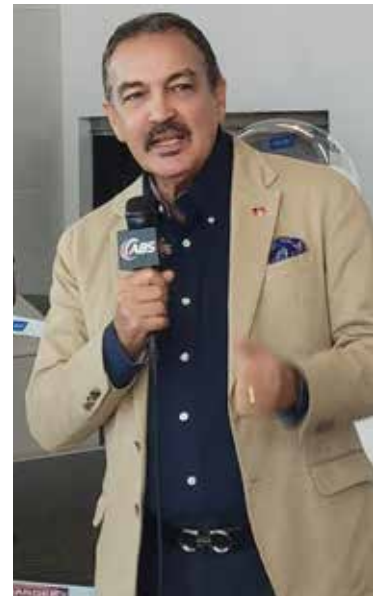
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# Photo Essay





# Photo Essay



# Opinion



## Tony Deyal and hair, there and every which where

By Tony Deyal

A few days ago, I was within a hair's breadth of getting the police after me when a politician named Scotland, who calls himself "an Afro-Trinidadian of Parliament with natural hair", was sworn in as minister in the Ministry of National Security. One of my friends, Thomas, called me and showed me the newspaper article about the new minister. "Look hair Tony," he said. I thought he had said "hear" and not "hair". "I don't see anything wrong with that," I responded.

"Our first prime minister, Dr Eric Williams, had a hearing aid and used to shut it off when the Opposition was speaking in Parliament." My friend corrected me with, "This is real long, kinky hair or what Jamaicans call a Marley Braid with 'faux locs' and 'krinklepuff'." At this point, I stopped him: "Tom, whether it is Marley, Shenseea, Koffee or Spice, that is not my business and should not be his. And even if his hair gets in his way and ours, in politics, it is always hair, or hear, today, and gone tomorrow." Thomas had the last word, "Not if the present leader of the opposition is still in charge when election comes. The Prime Minister of Scotland will make her bawl, and bald, like 10 Tar-

zan."

It is like when my grandmother (Mama) died and it was just my mom, aunts and I sitting disconsolately after the funeral. My Auntie Shirley, who called herself a "hairstylist", told me, "Let me curly your hair!" My mother and other aunts joined her, "Yes, Tony. Make us feel better. Your granma would be happy. You know how much she liked you since you born." Immediately, I was almost in tears and I told my aunt, "Go ahead! Mama will like that." I went back to my job as the person in charge of television in the Office of the Prime Minister. The hairstyle created more than a stir. Most people liked it. However, I left my job with the Government and ended in Caroni Ltd, the sugarcane company. The big-boss there was the leader of the Opposition and head of the sugar workers, Basdeo Panday.

I had taken a short 'lime' (holiday) in the US before taking up my new job. I met Mr Panday on the flight returning to Trinidad and told him that I wanted to meet him so I would have a sense of what I could do to make things better for the company and the workers. He told me how glad he was that I was there to help his people, and he agreed



Tony Deyal

to see me "anytime". The next day, Panday, as leader of the Opposition, and his members, went after me in Parliament. There are about 32 pages still in the archives about me, my hairstyle, and my being involved in the "government" party. This was not all. Panday and his people threatened me to the extent that I had to demand a gun from the government minister at the time. But I eventually got my revenge. Mr. Panday's wife bought a product which was the rage in Trinidad for hair dyeing. It was known as 'TONY'. I called Panday and told him, "You don't like me, but everybody knows your wife likes, uses and rubs up with TONY all the time."

Using the real Tony for jokes, and what Trinis call "old talk", was something I grew up with. The story about me, Mirtle and the cinema was one of those

that my friends created. I call it a grim hairy tale. In those days, when you were on the verge of getting really close with a young woman, you took her to the cinema. Instead of taking her to 'pit' (down at ground level making noise and throwing bottles at the screen), or 'house' (where the price was relatively low and you could still shout and applaud a bit), I paid big money for 'balcony', the most expensive place in the cinema where the purpose was generally misunderstood. As soon as the lights went out, the men reached out and the action there was generally hotter and heavier than the one showing on the screen. The story was that I reached out with my hands to touch, tingle and even taste Mirtle. However, she became more aghast than angry saying loudly, "Look here, Tony!

*cont'd on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

What you thing you're doing? I tell you, look here, man!" In Trinidad, "Look here" means "Watch it." This is why my friends still laugh at my response to Miss Mirtle. I asked her, "Where? Where?" Now, when my friends go after me with the story of me and Mirtle, I always cut in with, "So what you wanted me to do? Cut holes in my pockets?"

This reminds me of a joke one of my Barbadian friends shared with me. A retired man went into the job centre in Oistins and saw a card advertising for a gynaecologist's assistant. Interested, he went in and asked the clerk for details. The clerk pulled up the file and read:

"The job entails getting the ladies ready for the gynaecologist. You have to help the women out of their underwear, lay them down and carefully wash their private regions, then apply shaving foam and gently shave off the hair, then rub in soothing oils so they're ready for the gynaecologist's examination. The annual salary is \$65,000 and, if you are interested, you'll have to go to Pie Corner, St. Lucy." "Good grief," the man said, "Is that where the job is?" "No sir ... that's where the end of the line is right now."

It is like what my own response will be when my friends start on me next Saturday, August 10. It will be my 79th birthday and I still remember how they be-

haved on my 69th. The number 69 is slang for "when two partners arrange their bodies to perform oral sex on one another at the same time, in a way said to look like the number 69." My favourite calypsonian, the Mighty Sparrow, sang **Meh No. Is 69**. The chorus includes, "... But if you want

really good performance/ And you really want to enjoy this romance/ You got to make up your mind, she said, / meh number is 69." But I'm ready and waiting for my friends when they come after me next week. From the time they start on "Tony and 79", I will reply, "No problem for me. It will

be me, my lady and 10 people watching!"

*Tony Deyal was last seen laughing about "Hair cut while you wait". He used to think it couldn't be otherwise. Then the singer, Dolly Parton, said, "People ask me how long it takes to do my hair. I don't know. I'm never there."*

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## What could Google monopoly ruling mean for you?

By Tom Gerken

The tech world is digesting a US judge's potentially seismic ruling that Google illegally monopolises online search and related advertising

It took four years to get to this point, and Google-owner Alphabet's inevitable appeal means this the legal process is likely to carry on for some time yet.

But already the potential consequences of the judge's decision are being considered, ranging from cash fines to other, more complicated remedies.

The US government specifically wants "structural relief" - so what could that look like?

The nuclear option would be to demand Google breaks itself into smaller chunks - a move US officials have not ruled out.

Google is much more than just search.

Just look at Android, a firm it bought for \$50m (£39.3m) in 2005, which now runs on the majority of smartphones - or YouTube, a \$1.65bn acquisition in 2006, which now generates many multiples of that in revenue each year.

The argument might be that all of these can remain under Google, but the actual search engine should be spun off into a separate business.

That might cause con-



sternation for Alphabet executives. But as long as Google remained the default search engine on devices, the average consumer would be unlikely to notice the difference.

"Any such move would certainly be met with years of litigation and regulatory bun-fighting, but it seems to be far more 'on the table' than at any time in Google's history," said Gareth Mills, Partner at legal firm Charles Russell Speechlys.

"There will now be a separate hearing where the Judge will have no option to consider the divestiture of Google from all or part of its search engine part of the business, or imposing other corporate governance controls to negate the anti-competitive conduct found to have already occurred."

Another potential remedy centres on Google's

practice of paying other companies to use it.

The US said Google was currently paying firms like Apple huge amounts of money each year to be pre-installed as the default search engine on their devices or platforms.

The judge agreed.

The contention is, had Google never spent that money, the big firms might have been encouraged to develop their own search experience.

Instead, Apple's Safari browser for example uses Google by default whenever you use it to search the web.

If remedial action significantly affected Google's ability to pay other companies to use it, perhaps those firms might start a rival.

Here though they would run up against Google's incredibly strong custom-

er recognition for search. Despite its own high brand profile, it is hard to imagine telling someone to "Apple" something.

The iPhone-maker will of course be keen to keep the money from Google rolling in, which according to one analyst amounted to \$20 billion in 2022.

"Any disruption to the revenue stream will have significant implications for Apple," said Dipanjan Chatterjee from Forrester Research.

"As the case works through the legal system, and the likely outcome appears to be opening up search engine exclusivity, you can fully expect a brand as obsessed as Apple is about customer experience to have a Plan B to ensure a smooth transition for its customers."

*cont'd on pg 13*

*cont'd from pg 12*

Something that's easier to imagine is some kind of choice screen, where people opening a browser for the first time are asked whether they'd like to use Google or an alternative like Microsoft's Bing.

It is somewhat harder to picture that causing people to abandon Google in their droves, however, for the simple reason that for most people it simply works well.

Those of us with grey hairs will recall Google being one of several search engines to emerge at the dawn of the internet, with familiar rivals including Yahoo and Ask (formerly AskJeeves), and possibly less-familiar rivals including Lycos and AltaVista.

But over the next decade, Google didn't just become the dominant player in the market, it became part of the

way we speak.

Despite Microsoft launching its rival, Bing, in 2009, nothing has yet knocked Google off its perch.

Microsoft boss Satya Nadella testified in Google's trial, perhaps hoping a judgment like this could finally help give Bing wings.

"The court may seek other ways to dismantle Google's position as a default search engine but some of those remedies likely go beyond the facts driving this case," said Professor Anu Bradford of Columbia Law School.

"For example, the EU is going further with its recent Digital Markets Act that forces even Google's own Android phones to present users with a 'choice screen' that lets the user choose one's preferred search engine when setting up the phone.

"One question is whether this new

ruling paves way for such regulatory demands in the future."

Whatever happens next, past experience suggests it won't happen quickly.

Back in 1999, Microsoft found itself in a very similar situation to where Google is now.

The firm had just been found by a US judge to have created a monopoly, and a year later a court ordered the firm to be broken up.

Microsoft appealed the decision, and in 2001 the original decision to break it up was overturned.

By the end of 2002 Microsoft had agreed a settlement with the US Department of Justice, which a judge accepted.

But some US states disagreed, and it wasn't until 2004 - five years after the original ruling - that the settlement was officially signed off.

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# Regional News



## Caribbean nationals victims of immigration scam

CMC - The United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) says a Queens, New York woman has been indicted for allegedly defrauding 10 Caribbean nationals out of US\$73,000 by promising to improve their immigration status.

HSI said Windella Sanderson Wells, 54, was arraigned on July 31 before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Raymond Bruce on a 44-count indictment

charging first-degree scheme to defraud, second-degree grand larceny, third-degree grand larceny, third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, third-degree unlawful possession of personal information, practicing or appearing as attorney-at-law without being admitted and first-degree falsifying business records.

HSI said Wells was placed on supervised release and is due back in court November 1.



“As alleged, Windella Sanderson Wells posed as an attorney and targeted a growing number of Caribbean

victims, whom she deceived into paying thousands of dollars for services that were never rendered as promised,” said HSI New York Special Agent in Charge, Ivan J. Arvelo.

“The defendant is accused of joining a growing population of criminals committing what has been dubbed a ‘dream scam’. She allegedly preyed upon individuals who were seeking to legitimately undergo the immigration process, and, in turn, exploited their pursuits of the American dream,” Arvelo said.

He said HSI New York’s Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force is unwavering in its dedication to protecting all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable.

HIS said an arrest and search warrant executed early July 31 at Wells’ home resulted in the seizure of US\$425,000 in cash, along with thousands of client applications.

According to the investigation *cont’d on pg 15*

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## Former British Virgin Islands premier jailed for 11 years

CMC - The former premier of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Andrew Alturo Fahie, has been sentenced to more than 11 years in jail after he was convicted of cocaine trafficking and money laundering.

US District judge Kathleen M Williams sentenced Fahie to 135 months (11 years and two months) in Federal prison after having been convicted at trial of cocaine trafficking and money laundering conspiracies for agreeing to facilitate the safe passage of tons of Colombian cocaine through BVI ports headed to Miami.

The Court was told that in exchange for his assistance, Fahie would make millions, which would be funnelled through different businesses or smuggled back to the BVI to hide the money's source.

Over the weekend, Fahie's attorney, Richard Della Fera, submitted a collection of letters, including heartfelt testimonials from



Former British Virgin Islands Premier Andrew Fahie.

Fahie's wife and daughters, portraying Fahie as a highly respected man in his community.

Fahie's wife describes him as a "dedicated loving husband and father" whose life's goal was "to enrich the lives of those he served." His daughters echoed this portrayal, illustrating his dual role as a nurturing family man and a benevolent community leader who "uplifted those around him with unwavering integrity and kindness."

Judge Rosalind Toulson also discussed Fahie's significant contribution to

young athletes in the BVI, helping them navigate the complexities of US college admissions. She praised his "unwavering integrity, deep compassion, and tireless advocacy for educational opportunities."

According to evidence introduced at trial, during March and April 2022, Fahie, 53, who served as premier from 2019 to 2022, as well as the managing director of the BVI Ports Authority, Oleanvine Pickering Maynard and her son, Kadeem Stephan Maynard participated in a series of meetings with the purport-

ed Sinaloa Cartel drug trafficker to broker the arrangement.

Fahie and the BVI port executive agreed to secure licenses, shield the cocaine-filled boats while in BVI's ports, and grease the palms of BVI government officials and employees.

They discussed bringing 3,000 kilograms of cocaine through a BVI port as a test run, followed by 3,000 kilograms once or twice a month for four months. Fahie and Maynard would get a percentage of the millions of dollars in cocaine sales.

In April 2022, Fahie and Maynard were arrested in Miami as they prepared to pick up a US\$700,000 cash advance on their deal, while the other Maynard was arrested in St Thomas.

The mother and son previously pled guilty to conspiracy to import cocaine and were sentenced by Judge Williams to 112 months and 57 months in prison, respectively.

*cont'd from pg 14*

tigation, in February 2023, HSI New York and US Citizenship and Immigration Services referred this matter to the Bronx District Attorney's Financial Frauds Bureau.

HSI said Wells allegedly targeted nationals from the Guyanese, Jamaican and Haitian communities and that between September 1, 2019, and May 1, 2023, she allegedly posed as a licensed attorney and accredited im-

migration preparer, claiming she was experienced in assisting undocumented immigrants.

HSI said she promised her victims she would get their applications approved and directed them to sign the documents, while allegedly collecting exorbitant fees varying in amount. In one case, she demanded and received US\$22,000 in cash.

HSI said she allegedly took a total of US\$73,000 from 10 people, and

that all the applications she filed were rejected.

"The defendant allegedly preyed upon vulnerable members of our undocumented community — men and women who were simply seeking to legally work and provide for their families," Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark said.

"The defendant's alleged exploitation turned their American dreams into a nightmare."

## US arrests Pakistani national in alleged plot to kill Trump

By Nadine Yousif

A Pakistani man with ties to the Iranian government has been charged by the US Department of Justice for allegedly plotting to assassinate US government officials.

Asif Merchant, 46, is accused of attempting to hire a hitman to target US officials and politicians on American soil.

FBI investigators believe that former President Donald Trump and other current and former US government officials were the intended targets, according to the BBC's US media partner, CBS News.

Security for Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, was increased in June after authorities learned of an Iranian plot to kill him, national security officials said last month.

FBI Director Christopher Wray called the scheme a "dangerous murder-for-hire plot" that is "straight out of the Iranian playbook".

"A foreign-directed plot to kill a public official, or any US citizen, is a threat to our national security and will be met with the full might and resources of the FBI," Mr Wray said in a statement on Tuesday.

Mr Merchant was arrested by police in July and is now in federal custody in New York. The FBI said it believes it foiled his alleged plot before any attack could be carried out.

According to the Justice Department's indictment, Mr Merchant had initially arrived in the US from Pakistan in April after having spent time in Iran.

Upon his arrival, he allegedly contacted a person whom he believed could help him with the assassination plot. That unnamed individual later reported Mr Merchant to law enforce-



ment.

The US Department of Justice said that Mr Merchant told the individual that he wanted him to carry out a killing by making a "finger gun" motion with his hand.

They added that he indicated it would not be a "one-time opportunity" and that individual's services would be needed on an ongoing basis. He also said that the intended victims would be "targeted here," on US soil.

Mr Merchant told the individual the assassination would take place after he had left the US, and that he would communicate with him from overseas using code words. He also said that an unidentified "party" back home told him to "finalise" the plan and leave the US, according to the indictment.

The suspect asked the individual to arrange a meeting with would-be assassins. The unnamed individual then connected him in June to undercover FBI agents posing as hitmen.

Mr Merchant told the undercover agents that he required them to carry out three orders: steal documents from the home of an intended assassination target, arrange protests at political rallies, and kill a "political person".

According to the indictment, Mr Merchant told the hitmen that he would receive instructions on who to kill either in the last week of August or the first week of September.

Mr Merchant then planned to leave the US on 12 July, but was arrested by law enforcement before he could do so.

While the indictment does not mention Trump by name, sources cited by CBS News said that the former president was one of the intended targets.

Security was tightened around Trump in June after the US Secret Service and the Trump campaign were notified of an Iranian-backed plot to kill him.

The plot is unrelated to the assassination attempt on the former president at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on 13 July, which was allegedly carried out by 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, who was shot and killed by a Secret Service sniper on site.

Trump and officials including his former secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, have faced threats from Tehran since ordering the drone strike assassination of Qassim Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Quds force, in Iraq in 2020.



## Hezbollah vows retaliation for killing of commander

The leader of the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah has said the response to the Israeli assassination of a senior commander in Beirut is coming.

Speaking in a televised speech to mark one week since Fuad Shukr's killing, Hassan Nasrallah said the retaliation would be "strong" and "effective", and that the assassination could not be treated as an ordinary attack.

He added that the group might act alone or in co-ordination with other Iranian-supported factions in the region.

Countries around the world have urged their citizens to leave Lebanon in recent days, amid concerns that a possible attack from the heavily armed Hezbollah on Israel could lead to a wider war between the two sides.

Iran has also vowed to retaliate following the assassination of the Hamas political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran last week. Both Hamas and Iran blame Israel, which has not commented.

On Tuesday afternoon, low-flying Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier above Beirut, in the minutes before Nasrallah was due to begin his speech.

Nasrallah, who spoke for more than an hour and a half, said that the son-



Hezbollah is an Iran-backed militia and political movement based in Lebanon.

ic booms were intended to provoke those who had gathered to listen to him.

Earlier on Tuesday, Israel said it had carried out an air strike against what it said was a "military structure" used by Hezbollah, the militia and political movement, in southern Lebanon.

Four people were killed in the strike on a house in the town of Maifadoun, around 19 miles (30km) from the Israeli border, the Lebanese health ministry said.

The four men were Hezbollah fighters, security sources told the AFP news agency. In an apparent response, the group launched drone strikes on towns in northern Israel, injuring two people.

Several countries, including the US, have urged citizens to leave Lebanon as soon as possible. The country's foreign minis-

ter said on Tuesday that he was working to ensure that Hezbollah did not trigger a major escalation with its response to Shukr's death.

The Israeli attack on Maifadoun was carried out by fighter jets, and was guided by intelligence agencies, the Israeli Defense Forces said in a statement posted to social media. Officers from the internal security agency Shin Bet and military intelligence agency Aman provided assistance to the military.

In response, Hezbollah fired what it called a "swarm" of drones at Israel, injuring two people in the northern town of Mazra'a. But a source in the group told the Reuters news agency that the attack was not part of its response to the death of Shukr.

US President Joe Biden met his senior national se-

curity team on Monday as concerns of a retaliatory attack on Israel grew.

Mr Biden said he had been briefed on preparations to support Israel, should it be attacked, while Secretary of State Antony Blinken said officials were working "around the clock" to prevent an escalation.

The United Nations' rights chief Volker Turk called on "all parties, along with those states with influence, to act urgently to de-escalate what has become a very precarious situation".

Elsewhere, several US military personnel have been injured in a strike on a base in Iraq. The rocket fire on the Ain al-Assed base is the latest in a series of attacks on the facility, which hosts American forces fighting the Islamic State group.

## Grenades claim runner-up spot at CFU Club Shield Championship

The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades have captured the runner-up position in the 2024 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Shield Championship in Willemstad, Curacao.

The Grenades narrowly missed out on capturing the title after suffering a one-nil loss to Arnett Gardens FC of Jamaica in a hard-fought final at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca in Willemstad, Curacao, on Sunday night.

Following a goalless first half, Rushane Thompson struck the winner for the Jamaican team with a 73rd-minute conversion.

Earlier on Sunday, Club Atlético Pantoja of the Dominican Republic clinched third place.

Club Atlético Pantoja prevailed 9-8 on penalties over CCCUL Dublanc FC of Dominica after both teams finished deadlocked at 1-1 at the end of regulation in the play-off for third place at Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca.

However, it was Arnett Gardens that made the brighter start to the final, looking to dominate with speed and precision and carved out a few early half chances in the opening moments of the game.

First came a free-kick just outside the penalty area in the 3rd minute, but Rushike Kelson hit over the crossbar. In the 12th min-



Jamaica's Arnett Gardens celebrate after winning the 2024 Caribbean Football Union Club Shield Championship in Willemstad, Curacao, Sunday, August 4.

ute, Rushane Thompson pulled off an audacious bit of skill to flick the ball over the head of his marker, but he failed to keep his volley attempt on target.

As the first half wore on, Grenades seemed content to sit in deep and play on the counterattack, but their early attempts to play Malcolm Stewart behind the Arnett Gardens defense were unsuccessful.

Quinton Griffith, the Grenades FC skipper, gave his team some respite with a spell of pinpoint switching of play that put the Arnett Gardens defense on their heels.

This brought momentary success as Luis Labrada found space on the top of the penalty area, but his full-blooded drive solicited a spectacular diving save from Asher Hutchinson in goal for Arnett Gardens in the 24th minute.

Moments later, defend-

er Kurt Frederick came to the rescue of Zaiem Scott as the Grenades goalkeeper failed to collect a speculative cross from the left side.

Arnett Gardens, dominant in possession at this point, continued to press the advantage, and in the 36th minute Kelson created space with some good footwork and skill but fired his shot into the waiting arms of Scott.

The Jamaican outfit failed to capitalize on their advantage in possession, and, after withstanding the initial onslaught, Grenades began to grow in the game.

An increased spell of possession saw the men from Antigua and Barbuda earn a free-kick from a dangerous position on the top of the box.

Griffith stepped up, but his 41st-minute effort sailed narrowly over the crossbar, and a few minutes later, Keanu Barrett shot over the

goal in the 45th minute after a knocked-down header by Stewart, ensuring the team remained deadlocked at 0-0 at halftime.

The match now balanced on a knife's edge, both teams resumed the second stanza in earnest, and it was Arnett Gardens again creating the first opportunity of the second half. Jahiem Thomas shot high and wide of the mark after the Grenades turned the ball over deep in their own half.

With the game opening up, there were chances at both ends of the pitch. Stewart finally got in behind defense in the 52nd minute, but his squared pass was cleared. Arnett Gardens midfielder Jerome Shepard shot over the bar moments later, after a neat layoff by Thompson.

Stewart again was in the thick of things a minute *cont'd on pg 19*

## Antigua and Barbuda lose opening match at Americas Group III in Billy Jean Cup

Antigua and Barbuda's female tennis players made a losing start to their campaign in the Americas Group III of the Billy Jean Cup Competition, formerly the Federation Cup, which started on Monday in Trinidad and Tobago.

Antigua and Barbuda lost 2-0 to the Bahamas in their opening encounter in Pool A round-robin play in the women's tournament, which is taking place at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, from August 5 to 10.

Sydney Nicole Clarke of the Bahamas trounced Janae George-Alexander 6-0, 6-0, in the opening singles. Simone Pratt of the Bahamas dispatched Sibley Charles 6-0, 6-1 in the second singles.

Jolie George-Alexander and Sydney Kentish are the other members of the Antigua and Barbuda four-member team, and the players are accompanied

by coach Cordell Williams, who is also the president of the Antigua and Barbuda Tennis Association (ABTA).

Ten teams from Aruba, Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago are contesting the event.

Panama and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) withdrew from the competition, and the 10 participating teams are divided into two groups to contest Pool A and Pool B.

Antigua and Barbuda are contesting Pool A along with the Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago. Pool B comprised Costa Rica, El Salvador, Aruba, Bermuda, and St. Lucia.

In other opening round ties, Jamaica beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 in Pool A, while Costa Rica defeated

Bermuda 3-0 and El Salvador prevailed 3-0 against St. Lucia in Pool B.

The top two teams at the end of round-robin matches in Pool A and B will advance to the promotion play-offs. The two top teams at the end of the promotion playoff will be promoted to compete in Americas Group II in 2025. Nations finishing third, fourth, and fifth in the pools will compete in positional play-offs.

Antigua and Barbuda lost all five matches, four in round-robin pool play and the playoff for ninth place, to finish in the cellar of the 10-team competition at the 2023 Americas Group III Billy Jean Cup, which took place at the same venue in Trinidad and Tobago.

This is the seventh year Antigua and Barbuda will be competing in the women's Billy Jean Cup competition since making its debut in 1997.

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later, being played through by Labrada, but Hutchinson was smartly off his line to block the effort.

Kurt Frederick's free kick evaded the wall but was saved by Hutchinson in the 58th minute.

Thompson finally broke the deadlock in the 73' when he fired a fierce, right-footed shot that beat Scott for pace. The sensational strike sent the Arnett Garden's contingent into frenzied celebration.

Needing an equalizer, Grenades coach Derick Edwards introduced Daryl Massicot and Sean Tomlinson, and it was Tomlinson who found Stewart with a headed pass in the 81st minute, but Hutchinson



The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades celebrate after finishing as runner-ups in the 2024 Caribbean Football Union Club Shield Championship in Willemstad, Curacao, Sunday, August 4. (CFU Media)

was again equal to the task, pushing the forward's effort around the post.

It was not to be for Grenades, as the rest of the match saw Arnett Gardens expertly manage the game to be crowned 2024 CFU

Club Shield champions.

By virtue of finishing as the top two teams in the CFU Club Shield, both teams qualified for the CONCACAF Caribbean Cup, which will commence later this month.

Arnett Gardens will open their campaign against compatriots Mount Pleasant FC on August 27. Grenades, meanwhile, will play Cibao FC from the Dominican Republic on August 28.

# Dominant Thomas lands first 200-meter global title

PARIS (Reuters) - American Gabby Thomas finally claimed the global title she has promised for so long when she delivered a dominant performance to take Olympic 200 metres gold on Tuesday, denying silver medallist Julien Alfred of St. Lucia a sprint double.

Thomas, 27, took bronze in Tokyo and silver in last year's world championships, but gold had eluded one of the sport's most recognisable athletes and she had been vocal about her quest for an Olympic title.

In control of the final throughout the race, Thomas came home in 21.83 seconds and broke into a wide smile of disbelief, hands on her head, as she crossed the finish line.

"Honestly, I kind of blanked out for all of it, I can't even remember what I was doing, I just wanted to win," said Thomas.

"The only moment I remember was crossing the finish line and being in disbelief, that was it."

Alfred, who claimed St. Lucia's first Olympic medal when she won the women's 100-meter on Saturday, was fastest out of the blocks but was a clear second in 22.08, with Brittany Brown taking bronze for the USA in 20.20 seconds.

"I'm tired. Long five



The United States of America sprinter Gabrielle Thomas, right, completes in the women's 200-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024. (AP)

days," Alfred told reporters.

"I did feel ready for the 200-meter tonight. I feel good, no complaints at all. This means a lot.

"First Olympics, to go back with gold and silver, I can't ask for more than that."

Thomas arrived in Paris with the world's fastest time this season of 21.78 and made an emphatic statement in Monday's semi-finals when she pulled away from the field with ease over the final 50 meters to cross the line smiling in 21.86 seconds.

The race, which kicked off with a dazzling light show at Stade de France,

was a blur for Thomas, who has a Harvard degree in neurobiology and Master's in public health from the University of Texas.

"I have actually never forgotten a race so quickly in my life," said Thomas, who emphatically rang the track-side victory bell cloaked in an American flag.

"I was just on autopilot, but I practiced for it, everything that I did up until that moment was to prepare myself to run that race, so I just knew how to do it, so I did it," she said.

"I was only able to have one bite of the famous croissant cookie you guys have here, so I'm gonna go get

one tomorrow."

There was more frustration for British duo Dina Asher-Smith, and Daryll Neita who finished fourth and fifth, with Asher-Smith missing a medal by two hundredths of a second.

"I just really enjoyed that. I just got told myself 'when the gun goes, just run' and whatever happens, happens. It was a great race," Asher-Smith said.

"I was so focused on my race, I had no idea where I finished."

Jamaica's reigning world champion Shericka Jackson withdrew from Sunday's heats due to injury.

## Antigua crush Grenada in CONCACAF Girls Under-15 Championship

Antigua and Barbuda recorded their first win in League B of the 2024 CONCACAF Girls Under-15 Championship in Trinidad and Tobago on Tuesday.

Forward Keitonia Skepple scored four goals to lead the young Benna Girls to a 5-0 drubbing of Grenada in their second match of the competition at the Hasely Crawford Stadium.

Antigua and Barbuda fought to a goalless draw with host Trinidad and Tobago in their opening encounter at the same venue on Monday.

Trinidad High Performance, an invited club team from the host country, also began the competition with a goalless draw against the United States Virgin Islands (USVI).

Emelie Asenjo scored twice as the Dominican Republic opened their campaign in League B with a 2-0 victory against the Cayman Islands.

In the other opening round matches in League B, Guatemala trounced St. Kitts and Nevis 8-0,

Curaçao prevailed 3-0 against Grenada, Cuba beat Barbados 6-2, Honduras defeated Belize 5-1, and Bermuda snatched a 2-1 victory against Suriname.

The 2024 CONCACAF Girls Under-15 Championship also kicked off on Monday with matches in League A in Costa Rica and League C in Aruba to see which national team will become champion.

The battle to become League B winners features the next 15 best-ranked national teams, after the top teams in the CONCACAF region, and one local team, Trinidad High Performance, at the Hasely Crawford and Larry Gomes stadiums.

League A features the best-ranked CONCACAF teams, which are competing at the Proyecto Gol Fields in Costa Rica. Among them are the defending champions, the United States of America (USA), Canada, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, and Haiti.

League A hosts Costa Rica shined in their first match at home, taking a



Antigua and Barbuda's Latoya Williams (#10) challenges a Trinidad and Tobago player during their opening game of the Caribbean Football Union's Under-15 Girls Challenge Series in Trinidad on Monday, August 5, 2024. ABFA Media)

9-0 win over Haiti.

Defending champions USA started their quest for another championship with an 11-0 win over Jamaica. Carolina Reyna was the leader in the attack, scoring four goals to help her team get the first three points.

In the other opening round matches in League A, Canada prevailed 1-0 against Puerto Rico, and Mexico claimed a 2-0 win against El Salvador.

Zyana Rogers scored a

hat-trick as League C host Aruba trounced St. Vincent and the Grenadines 5-0 in their opening encounter at the Guillermo P. Trinidad Sport Center in Aruba.

In the other encounters, the Turks and Caicos Islands snatched a 2-1 win against Bonaire, French Guiana beat Dominica 3-1, Guadeloupe recorded a 2-0 victory against St. Lucia, and Anguilla prevailed 3-0 against invited guest team, Aruba All Stars.

*cont'd from pg 22*

to make his debut as Kirk McKenzie has been dropped from the side following a dismal run in England.

South Africa will be without the likes of Anrich Nortje and Gerald Coetzee but they have enough depth in their pace attack to compensate for the two right-arm seamers.

Piedt has performed consistently in recent times and he could be played as the second spinner alongside Keshav Maharaj. This would add a lot of depth to South Africa's bowling unit.

West Indies predicted XI: Kraigg Brathwaite (captain), Mikyle Louis, Keacy Carty, Alick Athanaze, Kavem Hodge, Jason Holder, Joshua Da Silva

(WK), Gudakesh Motie, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, and Shamar Joseph.

South Africa Predicted XI: Aiden Markram, Tony de Zorzi, Tristan Stubbs, Temba Bavuma (C), David Bedingham, Kyle Verreynne (WK), Wiaan Mulder, Keshav Maharaj, Dane Piedt, Kagiso Rabada, and Lungi Ngidi.

## West Indies face South Africa in first Test

The two-match Test series between West Indies and South Africa gets underway with the first game beginning on Wednesday, August 7, at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The hosts are coming into this clash on the back of a 0-3 drubbing against England. Kraigg Brathwaite's men lost the first game at Lord's by an innings and 114 runs, the second at Trent Bridge by 241 runs, and the third at Edgbaston by 10 wickets.

However, in the second and third Tests, the Caribbean side showed glimpses of improvement. At home, the West Indies will look to give a good account of themselves against an upbeat South African side.

On the tour of England, Kavem Hodge finished as the third-highest run-getter, scoring 216 from six innings at an average of 36. He scored a brilliant 120 off just 171 balls in the second Test and would want to go from strength to strength against South Africa.

Meanwhile, Jayden Seales was the second-highest wicket-taker, bagging 13 wickets from three games at

an average of 27.23 and a strike rate of 35.69. He can cause a lot of discomfort for the South African batters if he can find his rhythm.

Meanwhile, the Proteas played their last Test series against New Zealand in February. However, most of their star players skipped the tour to play in the SA20. While New Zealand won both the games in the series, many young South African players got to showcase their skills at the international level.

David Bedingham was the third-highest run-scorer in the series as he registered scores of 32, 87, 39, and 110 in the four games. The 110-run knock in the second Test at Seddon Park came off just 141 balls. Meanwhile, off-spinner Dane Piedt picked up eight wickets in the second Test, averaging 22.75.

South Africa played a warm-up game against West Indies Championship XI in Tarouba, Trinidad, ahead of the first Test against the Caribbean side.

After conceding 397 runs in the first innings, the tourists declared at 408 for nine. The home side were 46



West Indies' Gudakesh Motie, left, celebrates taking the wicket of England's Ben Stokes on day two of the first Test match between England and West Indies at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, Thursday July 11, 2024. (AP)

for four in their second innings when the match ended in a draw.

Kagiso Rabada and Piedt bagged three wickets apiece in the first innings. In the second innings, Lungi Ngidi picked up three wickets. With the bat, Aiden Markram, captain Temba Bavuma, Bedingham, Ryan Rickelton, and Kyle Verreynne scored half-centuries.

The West Indies went to South Africa last year to play a two-match Test series. The Rainbow Nation won both

games comprehensively. The Windies would want to turn the tables this time.

The West Indies will need to back their players who showed promise at certain stages of the Test series against England. The return of the experienced Kemar Roach, who missed the England series due to injury, will bolster the fast-bowling attack.

However, Alzarri Joseph has been rested and he would be a huge miss for the hosts. Keacy Carty is in line  
*cont'd on pg 21*