

# NO CHANGE IN FUEL PRICES

*Story on Page 2*



Regional heads of government at the 46th meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government in Guyana.

## Sir McClean Emmanuel 'King Short Shirt' Day - Wednesday 28th February 2024

**Special programming throughout the day on Pointe FM Radio.**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 6:15AM - 6:30AM   | - Morning News                             |
| 6:30AM - 9:00AM   | - Morning Pointe                           |
| 9:00AM - 12:00 PM | - Tony White "The Musical sheikh" Tribute  |
| 12:00PM - 12:15PM | - Midday News Brief Package                |
| 12:20PM - 2:00PM  | - Tony White "The Musical sheikh" Tribute  |
| 2:00PM - 3:00PM   | - University Hour "Tribute to the Monarch" |
| 3:00PM - 6:00PM   | - Bad Company                              |
| 6:00PM - 12:01AM  | - Blinds "Tribute"                         |

# Local News



## No change in fuel prices

The West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) has reported a one (1) per cent decline in the cost of gasoline and a nine (9) per cent increase in the cost of diesel. Based on the refined pass-through mechanism for fuel prices, which takes into account revenue assurance, price stability, and maintenance of subsidies for certain petroleum products, the Government has decided to maintain the retail prices at the pump.

Effective Wednesday 28, February 2024, fuel prices will be as follows:

- Gasoline: \$13.99 per gallon
- Diesel: \$14.25 per gallon
- 20 Pound LPG: \$32.00 per Bottle
- 25 Pound LPG: \$40.00 per Bottle

100 Pound LPG: \$155.00 per Cylinder

The average regional prices for gasoline and diesel are currently \$15.36 and \$15.88 respectively while the regional average for the 20 pound and 100-pound cylinder of LPG is \$38.58 and \$200.36 respectively.

To support affordability for consumers, the Government continues to provide the following subsidies:

- 20 Pound LPG: Subsidy of \$5.16 per bottle
- 25 Pound LPG: Subsidy of \$6.45 per bottle
- 100 Pound LPG: Subsidy of \$17.64 per cylinder

Margins for WIOC, inland transport, and gas station dealers remain unchanged.

### NOTICE

TO: The Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John`s  
Antigua

TO: Your Worship  
St. John`s Magistrate Court  
Gray`s Farm  
St. John`s  
Antigua

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Notice-Application for Tavern License

I, ISRAEL SIMMONDS of Villa in ST. JOHNS ANTIGUA. With registered business situated at villa St. John`s Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate`s Court, Gray`s Farm, St. John`s Antigua on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 next ensuing for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992, in respect of premises known as **"ISRAEL GROCERY"** situated at Villa in the Parish of St. John`s, Antigua and Barbuda.

Date 7<sup>th</sup> day of FEBUARY 2024

ISRAEL SIMMONDS

**TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS**

**2 DAYS WAYS SAVE**

**\$16.99**  
- \*2 pcs  
- Biscuit  
- Drink

**\$19.99**  
- Zinger / CCB  
- Drink

KFC logo and social media handles: @kfcanu

\*limitations apply\*

## Air Peace to send three aircraft to Antigua 'within weeks'

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is leading the Antigua and Barbuda delegation to the 46th meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government, has provided an update to his colleagues on the progress being made towards setting up LIAT 2020.

PM Browne reported that the government is partnering with Air Peace out of Nigeria to spend an estimated US\$80 million to establish the new regional air service. As part of that undertaking, he further reported, Air Peace will fly three aircraft to Antigua shortly to join with the other three that are being sourced from the Caribbean Development Bank, and which were leased by LIAT (1974) Ltd.

Air Peace is also assisting the government with acquiring the LIAT (1974) headquarters building along with the aircraft it will supply initially.

According to Browne the first three Air Peace supplied aircraft are Embraer E-145's 50-seater aircraft and will arrive by mid-March. He said



The Antigua and Barbuda delegation at the CARICOM Heads meeting in Guyana

Air Peace has given a commitment that it will expand the fleet as the demand suggests, including a jet aircraft sometime in the future.

"There will be a fourth aircraft – the Embraer E-195 – which can carry up to 125 persons. They have given an understanding that they will make additional assets available to meet the demands. As it stands now, we are likely to run LIAT 2020 with six aircraft; three from LIAT (1974) Ltd, through the CDB and the other three from Air

Peace. We are making progress as we are meeting the CDB on Wednesday to finalise the arrangements for the three planes formerly owned by LIAT (1974) Ltd.," he disclosed.

According to PM Browne the search for a suitable individual to head the airline is progressing with interviews now being conducted.

The focus, he informed his colleagues, is to acquire the Air Operations Certificate for LIAT 2020, but that this is contingent upon the airline first acquiring an aircraft.



PM Browne with Ambassador Daven Joseph (left) holding discussions with Saudi Arabia Minister of State Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with Shirley Ayorkor Botchway.

## PM Browne urges Haiti's interim leader to step aside

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Monday said that Haiti's interim leader, Dr. Ariel Henry, needs to "step aside" and allow for efforts to continue unimpeded in finding a solution to the socio-economic and political situation in Haiti.

PM Browne is among Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders attending the 46th regular summit of regional leaders in Guyana where the Haitian issue has so far dominated the four-day gathering.

In a telephone interview with the Caribbean Media Corporation, (CMC) Prime Minister Browne said he believes Henry's presence in the government is "part of the problem" as various stakeholders look to find a lasting solution to Haiti's problem that has been increased with the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in July 2021 and the emergence of criminal gangs terrorising citizens.

"With no disrespect, my dear friend Henry is part of the problem and I think there are many in Haiti who believe that the interventions that are planned by the stakeholder groups (are) intended to prop up Henry.

"Now, even though that is not so, we have to deal with that perception and we

are of the view that Henry has to transition and to become an honest broker and to have a power sharing agreement with the others in Haiti so it doesn't appear as though we are trying to stabilise Haiti for his benefit for him to continue....

"At the end of the day he barely has any legitimacy and we have to be careful that perception is not seen as the reality of the Haitian people which could only serve to inflame the situation," Browne told CMC.

Earlier, CARICOM chairman and host President, Dr. Irfaan Ali told the opening of the plenary session that discussions on Haiti by the regional leaders started over two days ago.

"CARICOM heads met on Saturday and commenced discussions on the challenges we have with Haiti. Monday morning with the Friends of Haiti, an expanded grouping that included all the stakeholders and partners working with Haiti," Ali said.

"We are hopeful that sometime after we will be able to point the Haitian people, the region and the global community in the direction through which we believe long lasting sustainable solutions can be achieved.

"Of course, this re-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with Sir Hilary Beckles

quires all stakeholders in Haiti, especially, to give a bit, to compromise a bit and to express a collective willingness to achieve the outcomes that we are setting ourselves to achieve," Ali told the meeting which is also being attended by Haiti's Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry.

Prime Minister Browne told CMC that he is of the view that even before any intervention in Haiti to stabilise the French-speaking CARICOM country "the political situation with Henry has to be addressed and he has to be magnanimous as possible.

Last month, the Kenya High Court ruled against

sending troops to Haiti as part of the Multinational Security Mission (MSS) to restore peace and security in Haiti.

Last October, the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of the MSS to back Haiti's beleaguered police force, which Kenya offered to lead. A 2022 sanctions regime, targeting gang leaders and their financiers, was also renewed.

Earlier this month, President of the Dominican Republic, Luis Abinader, urged the international community to do more to help deal with the security, political and economic situation in Haiti.

## Taneisha S. Richardson makes history

Taneisha S. Richardson, the Owner/Lead Planner & Designer of Unique Events by TSR, has emerged victorious at the Wedding Planners Institute of Canada (WPIC) Wedding Awards, honored with the prestigious “Best Wedding Under \$50,000” award. This remarkable achievement not only recognizes Taneisha’s outstanding expertise and dedication to Wedding/Event Planning but also marks a historic moment for Antigua and Barbuda as she becomes the first individual from the nation to receive this esteemed award.

The prestigious accolade was officially awarded to Taneisha Richardson on Saturday, February 24, 2024, in Canada at the WPIC Wedding Awards Ceremony.

Taneisha excitedly expressed, “I still can’t find words to fully express how I feel. My heart is full, and I feel like I am having an out of body experience. I am still pinching myself and asking, “Am I really in Canada? Did I just win this award? It all feels surreal. This has been a life-changing experience. I did not know what to expect when I got to Canada as the only persons, I knew were the founders of the

WPIC. I must say I met some amazing talented wedding professionals at the Gala and Awards Ceremony. Everyone was so warm, and I felt right at home. This award means a lot to me. I discovered I had this passion some years ago, ran with it and never looked back.”

Taneisha further expressed that “This journey has not been an easy one and there have been challenges but I persevered. This is a big win for me personally, my business Unique Events by TSR and for Antigua and Barbuda; being the first wedding planner to receive such a prestigious award. I love what I do, and it shows through the quality of work that I put out. I want to say thank you to WPIC, for their partnership with the ABHTA in bringing a wedding course to Antigua and for acknowledging my work through this award. Thank you, Donely & Raymond Smith, for trusting me to plan and design their dream wedding, which led to this award.”

Craig Marshall, Chairman of ABHTA, congratulates Taneisha on the well-deserved recognition and applauds her for her outstanding



Taneisha S. Richardson receives award at WPIC Wedding Awards (L-R Co-Founder Tracey Manailescu, Taneisha Richardson, Co-Founder Danielle Andrews)

achievements. Craig Marshall stated that “Taneisha’s win underscores the importance of continuous collaborative training courses with organizations like WPIC through the ABHTA Professional Learning Series. Training opportunities are one of the core activities of the ABHTA.

“We recognize the importance of the development of our human resources if we are going to advance the hospitality sector of Antigua and Barbuda.

“Taneisha’s success paves the way for aspiring professionals, inspiring them to reach for excellence and showcasing the limitless possibilities within our vibrant wedding and event planning community.”

Taneisha Richardson started out in the industry after planning her own dream wedding in 2015. She quickly recognized she had a passion for wedding and event planning, which led to the birth of her business, Unique Events by TSR.

Taneisha’s success serves as an inspiration to aspiring Wedding/Event planning professionals in Antigua & Barbuda and beyond.



Donely & Raymond Smith Wedding, planned by Taneisha Richardson, Awarded \_ Best Wedding Under CAD \$50,000\_ (photo credit Watkins Multimedia)

## Chamber calls for more consultations between public and private sectors

The Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce says it wants to have more consultation and interactions between the public and private sectors as these will redound to their mutual benefit.

This comes following the recent conclusion of a public consultation held as part of the Chamber’s biennial General Meeting on the Economy.

“As part of its Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices Pillar, following the BGM, the Chamber held a public discussion on the effects of the recently increased ABST on the business community,” a Chamber press statement

noted. According to the release the panelists from the Public Sector were; the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Ralph Warner, Director of Prices and Consumer Affairs, Orrin Steele, Senior Statistician Statistics Division, Jerry Aska, Debt Manager, Ministry of Finance, Peter Abraham Jr.

The Private Sector was represented by the Director of Tax Services, Grant Thornton, Neil Coates.

The discussion was moderated by the treasurer of the Chamber, Bertram Alexander.

The two-hour session was extremely informa-

tive, as the audience was very pleased as they were served by the breadth and depth of knowledge of the panelists, from both private and public sectors.

During the question-and-answer session, the audience was thoroughly engaged as they expressed concerns and even disappointments with the process of government’s recent increases of the ABST and the amendments of the reporting periods.

Generally, there were concerns about the way the information about the changes is coming to the public: not giving sufficient response time, and the cost of adjusting to ac-

commodate those changes.


Specifically, concern was also aired about the lack of meaningful engagement with taxpayers before increasing our tax burden. The public sector panelists promised to take the concerns and feedback on board and to seek to have more meaningful engagements.

From the perspective of the business community, the members of the Chamber recognize the fiscal responsibility it bears to pay for the services provided by the public sector, but agreed that there must be better consultation.

The Chamber also wishes to acknowledge the cordial relationship it has with the Inland Revenue Department, as well as other government departments, divisions, and ministries.

The Chamber sincerely desires that there will continue to be the type of access which will redound to richer level of consultations, which should enhance the ease of doing business, and so reduce the cost of doing business as well.


The new board looks forward to the term of office ahead as the Chamber seeks to serve the country in a bigger and better way through more engagement by and advocacy of the private sector.






### CBH PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER

#### TIP OF THE WEEK

Monday February 26, 2024



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Cover Infected Wounds, Cuts or Boils When Handling Food to Ensure Food Safety

Infected wounds, cuts and boils contain pus. They must be covered if they are open or draining, to prevent pathogens from contaminating food and food contact surfaces. How the wound, cut or boil is covered depends on where it is located.

- ◆ If it is on the hand, finger or wrist, then cover it with an impermeable cover such as bandage or finger cot. Impermeable means that liquid from the wound not pass through the cover. Place a single-use glove over the cover.
- ◆ If it is located on the arm, then cover it with an impermeable cover such as a bandage. The wound must be covered completely.
- ◆ If it is located on another part of the body, then cover it with a dry, durable, tight-fitting bandage

Office of the Chief Health Inspector  
Tel: 268-462-2936

Complaints Line  
Tel: 268-562-9300

Vector Control Unit  
Tel: 268-764-4327

Central Board of Health-Upper Church Street centralboardofhealthantiguaandbarbuda



## Food security focus of one-day workshop

How can livestock farmers in Antigua and Barbuda protect their animals from the effects of climate change and thereby helping to strengthen the country's food security?

That was a central theme running through a one-day workshop for livestock farmers organized by the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary and Livestock division and the University of the West Indies Climate Change and Health Leaders Fellowship Program. It was held Monday at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute.

In her opening remarks, Veterinary Officer, Dr Nneka Hull James noted that the livestock sector in Antigua and Barbuda remains highly vulnerable to impacts from climate change.



"These impacts have been well documented: extreme weather conditions; heat waves; more frequent strong and devastating hurricanes; recurring and extended periods of drought followed by excessive rainfall; increased levels of air pollution and sea level rise.," she stated.

Additionally, she said these conditions negatively affect lifestyles, food security, water security among other impact.

In delivering the featured remarks, Chief Veterinary Dr. Tubah Edwards noted that the workshop aimed at teaching livestock farmers how to 'climate smart' their business. "The Veterinary and Livestock Division will aim to teach farmers and others several cli-



mate smart options that are available for land-based systems which would help build resilience along supply chains, improving energy use efficiency and animal breeding, grazing management, improved feed conversion and improved waste management," he outlined.

During the workshop, presentations were made by panelists; Dr. Hull James, Dr Chere Kellman, Climatologist, Orville Paige, NODS Director, Sherrod James, Director of Agriculture, Gregory Bailey and Agricultural specialist, Craig Thomas.

Attendees included livestock farmers as well as staff of the Veterinary and Livestock Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

## RCA and its partners launch Sewing Project in Parham

The Rotary Club of Antigua is expanding the sewing programme it launched 16 years ago with assistance from two U.S-based Rotary Clubs.

The RCA on Monday opened its 11th Sewing Centre in Parham in collaboration with the Bellevue Breakfast Club of Washington State and the Rotary Club of Kirkland Downtown.

The facility is being housed in the former constituency branch office utilized by the caretaker for the St.

Peter's Constituency, Rawdon Turner.

Project Coordinator, Past President of the Rotary Club of Antigua, Cordell Josiah MBE, explained that he is very happy that the project has finally been initiated in Parham after several attempts over the years. He added that the joint effort continues to provide a unique opportunity for participants to develop a skill that has the potential to make them marketable and profitable.

President of the Rotary



Club of Antigua, Michael Spencer, added that the Club is encouraged by the presence of yet another sewing facility, which will provide a platform for both men and women to develop a useful skill. He extended thanks to Rawdon Turner for em-

bracing the programme and the possibilities involved for community development.

International Coordinator, Past President Jan Martinka, expressed that it is always a joyous occasion for partnership with the Rotary

*cont'd on pg 9*

### Community Notice

March 15 is World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD), an annual occasion for celebration, impact and global solidarity within the international consumer movement. Each year, consumer organizations mark WCRD by joining together to highlight and raise awareness of an issue that is important to consumers around the world. The theme this year is *"Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers"*.

To mark this event, the Division will be hosting a series of activities as follows:

Sunday, March 10th: Church Service at the Ebenezer Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m.

Monday, March 11th: Barbuda Day – Presentations at the Secondary and Primary schools and Public Information Desk.

Tuesday, March 12th: Student's Forum at 9 a.m. and Business Forum at 5 p.m. Both at Villa Poly Clinic

Wednesday, March 13th: Media Day

Friday, March 15th: Annual Awareness March at 10 a.m. starting at our office on Redcliffe Street.

To this end, we extend an invitation for **the public** to join us for these activities which would be a great learning opportunity. For more information please call 462-4347.

Anticipating your usual cooperation in this matter as the Division looks forward to the staging of a successful **World Consumer Rights Day 2024**.





## Non-profit group donates food vouchers

Simple Support, a non-profit volunteer organization committed to making a positive impact in communities, has announced a donation of grocery vouchers to Greenbay community and its surrounding areas.

Simple Support is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization that focuses on

mobilizing communities to help people in need. “We are dedicated to making a positive impact in our communities. Through various initiatives and partnerships, Simple Support strives to address critical needs and provide essential support to individuals and families facing adversity. With a commitment to fos-

tering unity and compassion, Simple Support works to create positive change and build stronger, more resilient communities,” the organisation said in a media release.

The contribution from Simple Support aims to alleviate food insecurity and provide essential support to families in need within the

Greenbay community.

Through the provision of grocery item vouchers, the organization seeks to ensure that individuals and families have access to nutritious meals and essential household supplies during these challenging times.

“We are thrilled to partner with Greenbay School and extend our support to the surrounding communities,” said Dwayne Simon, Executive Director at Simple Support. “At Simple Support, we believe in the power of community and the importance of lending a helping hand to those facing adversity. Through this donation, we hope to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity,” the release noted.

*cont'd from pg 8*

Club of Antigua on another project. She encouraged the residents of Parham and surrounding areas to visit the centre and take advantage of the chance “to learn something new”.

The sixteen (16) year partnership between the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club (BBRC) of Washington State District 5030; started in 2008, after two years of planning between Past District Governor Steve Lingenbrink and Past President John Martinaka of the BBRC and Past President Cordel Josiah MBE of the Rotary Club of Antigua

(RCA) in 2006.

Community Member and Caretaker for the St. Peter’s Constituency, Turner, welcomes the opening of the centre, indicating that the community is in need of an empowerment initiative that will teach the skill of sewing promoting self-sufficiency.

Over six hundred (600) persons have been trained to sew over the years through the Rotary Sewing Project.

Sheralyn Debbie Black will facilitate the courses, which will take place at the centre on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm -7pm.

## Leeds City College students visit Governor General

Seventeen (17) students and four (4) staff members from Leeds City College of Music and City College Plymouth paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda.

The students are visiting as part of the Caribbean Elective cultural exchange tour in Antigua and Barbuda being hosted by the Ministry of Education and Antigua and Barbuda’s High Commission to the United Kingdom.



Photo, courtesy Wayne Marriette, features the Governor General and students from the Caribbean Elective Cultural Exchange Programme to Antigua and Barbuda at Government House.

# Opinion

## Cleon Athill's epiphany...more to follow

By Student of Politics

This can only be interpreted as Cleon Athill's warning to Antigua and Barbuda to steer clear of the UPP.

Her comments documented after her departure from the UPP are based entirely on her personal experiences with that organization (UPP), as a part of its leadership and come from a place of considered study and represents a deep caution to the citizens, especially the electors of our country.

When Dr. Athill says that her decision is grounded in 'principles about democracy, people power, integrity and truth ....' she exposes the charade and unmask the lie that the UPP was ever concerned about anything but power. This declaration is coming from inside the belly of the UPP and leaves no room for people to wonder anymore. It could not be made any clearer.

'Our politics is toxic and political parties exploit people's anxieties, and fears and vulnerabilities for their benefit. The people suffer, and development is stymied.'

Again this is an unbri-dled reflection of the UPP coming from deep within. We saw it during the pandemic and even now during the post pandemic period.

The ABLP administration did everything possible to protect the citizens and our economy. The UPP



Dr. Cleon Athill

worked overtime to create an environment of fear and doubt. They even refused to participate in the creation of a national agenda geared at protecting and preserving national interests.

To this day, while the government continues to promote hope and an inclusive society, the UPP latches on to global inflationary tagline, opposes every positive measure taken for the socio-economic growth and advancement of Antigua and Barbuda.

A short list of examples would read this;

1. No support for the rebirth of LIAT, a critical element in the national economic recovery plan
2. Nary a word of support for the reset of the tourism sector and the recorded growth
3. Nothing but criticism

for efforts to diversify the country's economy

4. Irresponsible chatter over social issues like youth violence

5. Not even a word of support or encouragement for the country's hosting of major events like the upcoming SIDS conference, Cricket World Cup

6. No recanting senseless, thoughtless and undermining comments about UWI Five Islands and I could go on and on. The readers know that this is a short list in support of Cleon Athill's unbearable chafing.

It is clear that Cleon Athill has had an epiphany; that her conscience could not abide the realities of UPP and the 'anti-democratic, power at any cost, greed, vengeful and hateful' politics. While her Saul on Damascus-like encounter with

truth allows her confession, it is disingenuous of her to attempt to the broad-brush approach. Doctor, go heal thyself.

Like the members of your former UPP cabal, you are not fit for the purpose of building a modern democracy, an egalitarian nation or to propel Antigua and Barbuda beyond the 'toxic, tribal' nation you have worked so hard to create.

Your recently discovered solution of 'bipartisanship and support and participation of the general citizenry' are the daily tools with which this administration has staved off your vile and unfounded attacks.

This very engaging, empowering and participatory style which you once condemned in your 'need for power' is projected and reflected in the daily leadership style of a representative who is easily the best community brand in local politics, Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, in St. Paul.

This was bound to happen and more will follow because we are reminded by the Bible in the Book of Psalms, Chapter 6 and Verse 10;

All (not some) my enemies will be confounded, completely (not partially) terrified; they will turn back and be suddenly put to shame.'

This is the word of God.....and the people say.....

## US challenges Kroger Albertsons deal warning of higher prices

The US is taking legal action to block the merger of two major grocery chains, warning it would lead to higher prices.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and a number of US states, said Kroger's planned \$24.6bn purchase of rival Albertsons would eliminate important competition "exacerbating the financial strain consumers across the country face today".

The two firms vowed to defend the deal.

The court battle comes as rising prices remain a key political issue.

US food prices have risen by 25% over the last four years and US President Joe Biden has been under pressure to show that his administration is taking action to address the problem.

Kroger, operator of brands such as Harris Teeter and Fred Meyer, is one of the biggest grocers in the US by sales.

It announced plans to purchase Albertsons Companies in October 2022, saying it would put it in a better position to compete with the likes of Walmart and Amazon.

The tie-up would create a firm with about 5,000 stores across 48 states, employing about 700,000 people and serving an estimated 85 million households.



However, critics of the deal urged regulators to block it, saying Americans have suffered as the grocery industry has become increasingly dominated by a smaller number of big players.

In its announcement on Monday, the FTC said the deal would result in store closures, job losses and fewer choices for buyers, as well as higher prices. It has filed a lawsuit to stop the deal.

Stacy Mitchell, co-executive director of the anti-monopoly watchdog, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, cheered the move to block the merger.

"This decision shows that the FTC understands how the outsized power of big retailers is damaging the entire food system," she said.

"There was no upside to this merger for anybody other than the top executives at these two companies and their investors."

Kroger had proposed selling more than 400 stores to address monopoly concerns - a collection of sites the FTC criticised as a "hodgepodge" that did not adequately address concerns.

The two firms have denied there were any plans for store closures or job cuts and said they planned to invest in lower prices.

After the FTC's announcement, Kroger said blocking the merger would lead to higher prices and fewer stores, while strengthening rivals who, unlike Kroger and Albertsons, do not employ staff who belong to a labour union.

"Contrary to the FTC's statements, blocking Kroger's merger with Albertsons Companies will actually harm the very people the FTC purports to serve: America's consumers and workers," Kroger said in a statement.

"The merging parties look forward to litigating this action in court."

The FTC during Mr Biden's presidency has taken a sceptical view toward mergers, suing to block deals in a range of industries including tech, health care and airlines.

Its stance has drawn criticism of over-reach, while its record has been mixed.

Though some firms have abandoned deals after being challenged, the FTC has also lost some high profile court battles.

# Education



## New York medical school eliminates tuition after \$1bn gift

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

A New York City medical school will offer students free tuition following a \$1bn donation from the 93-year-old widow of a major Wall Street investor.

The gift to Albert Einstein College of Medicine came from Dr Ruth Gottesman, a former professor at the Bronx school.

It is one of the largest ever donations made to a US school and is the largest ever made to a medical school.

The Bronx, New York City's poorest borough, is ranked as the unhealthiest of New York's 62 counties.

In a statement, university dean Dr Yaron Yomer said that the "transformational" gift "radically revolutionises our ability to continue attracting students who are committed to our mission, not just those who can afford it".

Tuition at the school is nearly \$59,000 each year, leaving students with substantial debt.

The statement from Einstein noted students in their final year will be reimbursed for their spring 2024 tuition, and from August, all students, including those who are currently enrolled, will receive free tuition.

The donation "will free up and lift our students, enabling them to pursue proj-



Dr Ruth Gottesman studied learning disabilities and developed screening protocols at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx.

ects and ideas that might otherwise be prohibitive", Dr Yomer added.

Dr Gottesman, now 93, began working at the school in 1968. She studied learning disabilities, ran literacy programmes and developed widely used screening and evaluation protocols.

Her late husband, David Gottesman, founded a prominent investment house and was an early investor in Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffet's multinational conglomerate. He died in September 2022 at the age of 96.

Dr Gottesman said in a statement that the doctors who train at Einstein go on to "provide the finest

healthcare to communities here in the Bronx and all over the world".

"I am very thankful to my late husband, Sandy, for leaving these funds in my care, and I feel blessed to be given the great privilege of making this gift to such a worthy cause," she added.

About 50% of Einstein's first-year students are from New York, and approximately 60% are women. Statistics published by the school show that about 48% of its medical students are white, while 29% are Asian, 11% are Hispanic and 5% are black.

In an interview with the New York Times, she recalled that her late husband

had left her a "whole portfolio of Berkshire Hathaway stock" when he died with the instructions to "do whatever you think is right with it".

"I wanted to fund students at Einstein so that they would receive free tuition," Dr Gottesman said she immediately realised. "There was enough money to do that in perpetuity."

She added that she occasionally wonders what her husband would have thought of the donation.

"I hope he's smiling and not frowning," she said. "He gave me the opportunity to do this, and I think he would be happy - I hope so."

# GERM BUSTER

## HABITS

### HELP KEEP YOUR HOME AND ENVIRONMENT CLEAN



Put your toys and school supplies away neatly.

Clean up after you eat.

Make sure garbage goes in the trash bin.

Make sure to recycle.

Wash your hands frequently.



**BE HEALTHY**



**BE SAFE**



**BE KIND**

GRAFINKZ



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & THE ENVIRONMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

For more information or assistance:  
Call (268) 462-5522  
or visit us on Lower High Street,  
St. Johns, Antigua.

unicef   
for every child

## Three men suspected of involvement in disappearance of US nationals in court

CMC - Three Grenadian nationals suspected of being involved in the disappearance of the United States owners of a yacht that had been anchored in that Caribbean island, Monday pleaded guilty to four immigration-related charges in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The men, Ron Mitchell, 30, Trevon Robertson, 25, and Atiba Stanislaus, 23, of Paradise, St Andrew, Grenada pleaded guilty to charges that on February 21, at Petit Bordel, being a prohibited immigrant, entered the island by boat without a passport.

They were also charged with entering the state other than at a port of entry, entered the state by boat and disembarked without the consent of an immigration officer; and knowingly and wilfully allowed themselves to be landed as a prohibited immigrant.

The men, who appeared before Senior Magistrate, Colin John, had fled to St Vincent and the Grenadines after escaping prison in their home country.

They have been remanded into custody and will return to court within a week.

The prosecutor, acting Corporal of Police Corlene Samuel had just begun to



Missing American sailors- Ralph Hendry and Kathy Brandel.

give the facts in the case when the magistrate told her that he would remand the men in custody and hear the facts on March 4.

The men were escorted to court by heavily armed officers from tactical units of the police force, armed with assault rifles in addition to short arms.

Mitchell held his side and appeared to have tears

flowing from his eyes during his arraignment. He had to be assisted in exiting the unmarked police vehicle in which they were taken to court.

The Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) has been able to confirm that police shot Mitchell while apprehending the trio in Petit Bordel, a village on the west coast of St Vincent

last Wednesday.

The trio are said to be among five Grenadians arrested in North Leeward over the last week.

One of the other two Grenadians is said to be wanted in his home country on rape charges.

Grenadian and Vincentian detectives have been combing the catamaran  
*cont'd on pg 15*

## Sentencing hearing for former BVI Ports authority director pushed back

CMC - The sentencing hearing date for the former managing director of the BVI Ports Authority Managing Director, Oleanvine Maynard, has been deferred once again.

Last year, Maynard confessed to helping former Premier Andrew Fahie orchestrate a drug and money laundering conspiracy to smuggle thousands of kilos of cocaine through the territory's waters and to hide the proceeds coming from their efforts.

Maynard's initial sentencing date was set for August 21, 2023, after her guilty plea and agreement to provide testimony against Fahie in exchange for a reduced sentence.

However, the court continued to shift that date as



Oleanvine Maynard.

repeated delays arose with the start of Fahie's trial.

The court did not give a reason for the latest change in the sentencing date for Maynard, but announced in a brief notice last Thursday, that the sentencing hearing was reset to March 28 — just one month ahead of the expected sentencing date for Fahie.

Maynard's son, Kadeem

Stephan Maynard was sentenced on November 20, 2023, to serve 57 months in prison after he also pleaded guilty last year to a single count of conspiracy to import cocaine.

Meanwhile, Fahie's sentencing date has been put into question after an unprecedented post-verdict conundrum arose following his conviction on February

8.

Moments after Fahie was led out of the court, two jurors who agreed that Fahie was guilty of four counts of conspiracy communicated with the judge and indicated second thoughts about their verdicts, which initiated a rare conflict after the trial's conclusion.

Judge Kathleen Williams called discussions between the two sides so far meaningful and said lawyers should continue examining past cases in South Florida and around the country to find a just solution for Fahie.

The court is expected to hear more from the defence and prosecution on March 7 when a potential legal solution to Fahie's post-verdict issue may be decided.

*cont'd from pg 14*

"Simplicity" for evidence as they investigate the disappearance of the two US nationals, who have been identified as Ralph Hendry and Kathy Brandel.

On Saturday, two of the couple's relatives stood on the dock at the St Vincent and the Grenadines Coast Guard Service Calliaqua Base, where the yacht is docked, as investigators continued their probe.

The relatives of the missing couple are said to have helped detectives to identify some of the missing couple's personal items.

The yacht was allegedly stolen in Grenada on February 19 and sailed to St Vincent overnight, allegedly by the three escaped prisoners.

Officers from the Major Crime Unit and the Criminal Records office in Kingstown were joined by their Grenadian counterparts, including a forensic investigator, aboard the vessel last Friday.

Caribbean Safety and Security Net's (CSSN), which collects and disseminates information relating to crimes against yachts in the Caribbean, reported that a cruising catamaran that had been anchored off Grand

Anse, Grenada, was found poorly anchored with a shredded jib off the coast of Wallilabou on the west coast of St. Vincent last Tuesday.

"Upon inspection, it was found that the yacht had been ransacked, and it was apparent a violent act had taken place. Copious amounts of blood were found in the master stateroom, and the two owners were missing," CSSN reported.

The yacht's dinghy was also missing but was later recovered. However, passports found onboard the vessel allowed authorities to make contact with the victims' emergency contact.

# Hungary's parliament clears path for Sweden's Nato membership

By Paulin Kola

Sweden has cleared its final obstacle to joining Nato after Hungary's parliament voted to ratify the bid.

The Nordic nation applied to join the defence alliance after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Every member must approve a new joiner, and Hungary had delayed, accusing Sweden of being hostile to it.

But last week Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban said the two countries were now "prepared to die for each other".

All Nato members are expected to help an ally which comes under attack.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said it was a "historic day" and a "big step" for Sweden to abandon 200 years of neutrality.

"Sweden is an outstanding country, but we are joining Nato to even better defend everything we are and everything we believe in," he said.

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the Hungarian decision made the alliance "stronger and safer".

The parliament's approval must now be signed by the president - after which a formal invitation



Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson and Hungarian PM Viktor Orban met in Budapest on Friday.

is sent to Sweden to join the 31-member group.

The process usually lasts a few days.

Mr Orban is a nationalist politician with close ties to Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

He has often blocked EU efforts to send military aid to Ukraine.

Sweden is one of the EU countries which have accused Hungary of backsliding on the EU's democratic principles.

In turn, Mr Orban's spokesman Zoltan Kovacs accused officials in Sweden of sitting on a "crumbling throne of moral superiority".

Last week, however, Mr Orban hosted his

Swedish counterpart Ulf Kristersson and announced his support for Sweden's membership.

Monday's vote of Hungarian MPs was almost unanimous - 188 to 6.

In his speech, Mr Orban sharply criticised unnamed Nato allies for exerting pressure on his government to end the 21-month delay.

"Hungary is a sovereign country and does not tolerate being dictated to by others, on the content or timing of decisions," he said.

Turkey had been the other Nato country to withhold approval of Sweden's application in a row over what it called Sweden's

support to Kurdish separatists. It eventually lifted its veto in January.

Sweden and its eastern neighbour Finland, both long considered militarily neutral, announced their intention to join Nato in May 2022.

Finland formally joined in April last year, doubling the length of the alliance's border with Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his army into Ukraine in 2022 in the expectation it would check Nato's expansion and weaken Western collectivism.

In fact, with the addition of Sweden and Finland, the opposite has happened.



## US airman dies after setting himself on fire outside Israeli embassy in Washington

A US airman has died after setting himself on fire in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington DC.

The man was identified by police as Aaron Bushnell, 25, of San Antonio, Texas.

Officers from the US Secret Service extinguished the flames before the man was taken to hospital on Sunday afternoon.

Before setting himself on fire, he said he would “no longer be complicit in genocide”.

In a video aired live on streaming site Twitch, the man identified himself and said he was a serving member of the Air Force.

Dressed in military uniform, he said he was “about to engage in an extreme act of protest.” After setting himself on fire, he repeatedly shouted “free Palestine”.

No embassy staff members were injured in the incident, said a spokeswoman for the embassy.

The incident happened at 13:00 local time (18:00 GMT) on Sunday. A bomb disposal unit was sent to the site over concerns about a suspicious vehicle that could have been connected to the individual.

This was later declared safe after no hazardous materials were found.

Washington police said



The Washington police department is investigating the incident. officers were working with the Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to investigate the incident.

Mr Bushnell was taken to the hospital in a critical condition.

The Air Force would not confirm details of Mr Bushnell’s service, citing family notification policies. A Pentagon spokesman called the incident a “tragic event” during a news conference Monday.

Before setting himself alight, Mr Bushnell emailed a number of reporters and left-wing and anarchist news websites. The Atlanta Community Press Collective, a group that received the email, provided a copy to the BBC.

“Today, I am planning to engage in an extreme act of protest against the genocide

of the Palestinian people,” the email reads, warning it would be “highly disturbing.”

In his LinkedIn profile, Mr Bushnell stated that he graduated from basic training “top of class” in November 2020 and that he was seeking “to transition out of the US Air Force into software engineering”.

The Israel-Gaza war erupted on 7 October last year when Hamas gunmen infiltrated southern Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking 253 others hostage.

Israel responded by launching a military campaign in Gaza, during which 29,300 people have been killed, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

As of mid-January, 1.9

million civilians in Gaza have been displaced amid Israel’s military operations, according to the United Nations, accounting for 85% of its population.

In an interview with CBS News on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended the offensive in the face of international criticism, saying America would be “doing a hell of a lot more” if it had suffered such an attack.

It is not the first time someone has set themselves on fire in front of an Israeli diplomatic mission in the US.

In December, a protester self-immolated in front of the Israeli consulate in the US state of Georgia.

A Palestinian flag found at the scene was part of the protest, police said.

# Sports News



## Liberta Blackhawks among winners in ABCA's two-day contest

Defending champions Liberta Blackhawks were among four outright winners during the seventh round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day championship over the weekend.

The Blackhawks crushed the bottom team, the Bolans Blasters, by an innings and 71 runs at the



Malique Walsh

Pigotts playing field.

The Bolans Blasters were dismissed for 22 in 18.1 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Javy Benjamin grabbed four wickets for nine runs, and Elroy Francis Jr. took three wickets for two runs.

In reply, Liberta declared their first innings at 127 for two off 13.3 overs, with opener Malique Walsh smashing 77 off 49 balls.

Trailing by 105 runs, the Bolans Blasters were bundled out in their second innings for 34, with Chamiqueko Landerfort snapping up six wickets for just one run.

The Pigotts Crushers, Jennings Tigers, and the New Winthorpes Lions also claimed outright wins.

The Crushers trounced the Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles by an innings and 82 runs at Bethesda. The Golden Eagles made 86 in 44.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Pacer Jawakie Joseph took three for 15, while spinners Kadeem Henry, who is also the Crushers' captain, and Demari Benta claimed three for 22 and three for 24, respectively.

In reply, Pigotts Crushers made 222 in 54.3 overs. Henry, who opened the innings, cracked 80, Deran Benta hit 53, and Essan Warner struck 33. Pacer Mekali Tonge claimed four for 50, and Oshane Simon

took four for 89.

Trailing by 136 runs, the Golden Eagles crashed to 54 all out in 29.2 overs in their second innings. Demari Benta captured four for 18, and Jawakie Joseph claimed four for 19.

The Jennings Tigers beat the All Saints Pythons by six wickets at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Scores: All Saints Pythons 119 off 36.5 overs (Michael Hayne Dover 49; Jedidiah Martin 5-36, Glenton Williams 4-29); and 87 off 35.1 overs (Glenton Williams 8-37); Jennings Tigers 157 off 42.3 overs (Dahri Francis 57, Glenton Williams 50; Demetri Lucas 4-22, Akeem Blackman 3-16); and 51 for four off 18.5 overs.

The New Winthorpes Lions defeated Combined Schools by four wickets at New Winthorpes.

Scores: Combined Schools 61 off 28.1 overs (Orandel Boston 5-11, Ishmael Peters 4-15) and 145 off 61.5 overs (Shamar Pereira 36, Malique Jacobs 33; Ishmael Peters 4-30, Orandel Boston 3-43); New Winthorpes Lions 111 off 37.5 overs (Kyian Joseph 40; Glen Williams 5-17); and 96 for six off 32.2 overs (Damon Valentine 40; J'Quan Athanaze 3-21).

WES Rising Sun Spartans and Empire Nation played to a draw at Ris-



Glenton Williams ing Sun in the other seventh-round encounter.

Scores: Rising Sun Spartans 157 off 33.5 overs (Junior Henry 45, Melvin Charles 33; Justin Athanaze 8-31) and 195 off 50 overs (Kerry Mentore 74, Owen Graham 34; Javaughn James 3-33); Empire Nation 123 off 36.5 overs (Xaveek Toppin 44, Kershaski Jno Lewis 40; Owen Graham 3-20); and 145 for 4 off 35 overs (Tanez Francis 35 not out, Xaveek Toppin 34).



Barbados are the defending champions in both the CG United Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze after winning both titles in St. Kitts in 2023. (CWI Media)

## Regional Women's Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze tournament return to St. Kitts

The best women's cricketers in the West Indies will be back in action as Cricket West Indies (CWI) returns to St. Kitts for the hosting of the CG United Super50 Cup and the T20 Blaze regional tournaments next month.

The CG United Super50 Cup matches will be played at three venues – Warner Park, the Conaree Cricket Centre, and St. Paul's Sports Complex -- from March 4 to 25, with the 50 over matches starting at 10 am local time.

The T20 Blaze will feature five full days of entertainment for the fans from March 17 to 25 at Warner Park. There will be three matches per day – starting at 10am, 2:30 pm, and 7 pm (under lights).

Barbados are the defending champions in both the CG United Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze. The other teams are the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force Divas, Guyana, Jamaica, Windward Islands and hosts Leeward Islands.

The Tournament starts a busy year for the West Indies Women, which see them play all their international matches away, starting with Pakistan in April, Sri Lanka in June, the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in October, and finishing with a tour of India in December.

CWI's Director of cricket, Miles Bascombe said, "This year's CG United Super50 Cup and T20 Blaze will be a great opportunity to build on what we

started in 2023, with the creation of the West Indies Women's Academy and the commendable performance of the Under 19 Women's team in the historic inaugural ICC Women's U19 Cricket World Cup last year.

"2024 is a packed year in the women's calendar with three away bi-lateral series in Asia along with an ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.

"The ladies have the perfect opportunity to put their names forward for selection into any of these squads by their performances in the CG United Super50 and T20 Blaze tournaments. We are all looking forward to some scintillating performances over in St. Kitts."

# 'Tourist-unfriendly' India dim England's 'Bazball' aura

RANCHI, India (Reuters) - India have remained test cricket's most tourist-unfriendly destination for over a decade and even England's gung-ho 'Bazball' approach could not change that reality on Monday.

India's five-wicket victory in the fourth Test on a spiteful track in Ranchi was not really a cakewalk, thanks to England's never-say-die spin attack.

But it fetched Rohit Sharma's team an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series, and consolidated their second place, behind New Zealand, in the World Test Championship standings.

This was India's 17th consecutive Test series win at home, where they have not lost a Test series since an Alastair Cook-led England team bested them in 2012.

For England, who won the opening test in Hyderabad and have been competitive as well as entertaining in Visakhapatnam and Ranchi -- it was their first series defeat under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon 'Baz' McCullum.

India will be particularly happy they clinched the series despite the absence of batting mainstay Virat Kohli (personal reason) and frontline seamer Mo-



India's Shubman Gill, right, plays a shot on the fourth day of the fourth cricket Test match between England and India in Ranchi, India, Monday, Feb. 26, 2024. (AP)

ammed Shami (injury).

Middle order batter KL Rahul missed tests after hurting himself in the Hyderabad opener, while they rested pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for the match in Ranchi to manage his workload.

It forced India to field four debutants in the first four matches and three of them -- wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, batter Sarfaraz Khan, and seamer Akash Deep -- impressed immediately.

Player-of-the-match Jurel struck 90 in the first innings to kept India alive in the contest and his un-

broken 72-run stand with Shubman Gill on Monday helped India pull off a nervy chase.

In a match where there were hardly any dull moments, England's second innings meltdown left India needing 192 runs to win.

The hosts raced to 84 for no loss before Shoaib Bashir's triple strikes turned the match on its head, reducing India to 120 for five.

On a pitch where the ball turned sharply and often kept low, Jurel and Gill proved immovable despite the mounting pressure.

They gritted their teeth through a 30-over stretch when they could not hit a single boundary in a defensive masterclass on a treacherous track.

Gill, an all-format batter known for his clean-hitting prowess, showed immaculate match awareness and did not hit a boundary in the first 119 balls he faced.

When victory was in sight, the elegant right-hander smacked Bashir for two sixes in the same over en route to his fifty.

The fifth and final Test, scheduled in Dharamsala, begins on March 7.

## Stingerz get second win in ABBA's Division I League

Northside Stingerz claimed their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division I League on Sunday.

The Stingerz clinched a hard-fought 71-65 victory against the Potters Steelers in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Kareem Edwards shot a game-high 23 points and grabbed eight rebounds, and Keroi Lee was just one assist away from recording a triple double. Lee produced 16 points, 18 rebounds, nine assists, and five steals for the Stingerz.

They get good support from their teammates. Kenroy Telemaque had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Devonte

Carter chipped in with 14 points, seven rebounds, and seven steals for the Stingerz.

Cohen Desouza converted 20 points and snapped up 15 rebounds, and Jaheem James had 19 points and five assists for the Potters Steelers.

The Steelers veteran guard, Marlon "Buju" Charles, had a poor shooting display. The usually reliable scorer could only score four points in 29 minutes, shooting just 25 percent from the field as he was only able to convert one of his 10 field goals, including missing all six pointers he attempted.

Kennedy's Club Limited Ottos Full Throttle recorded their first victory by snatching a narrow 70-68 victory

against the Spanish Heat in Sunday's opening Division I encounter.

Warren Bogle had 18 points and five assists, and Akeem Davis scored 15 points and snatched eight rebounds for Full Throttle.

Giving good support were N'Kenge Drew with 10 points and 11 rebounds and Morlon Davis, who contributed 17 rebounds, nine points, nine assists, and five blocked shots for the Full Throttle.

Coy Quinland had 23 points and 11 rebounds; Steven Matthew produced 18 points, eight rebounds, and five assists; and Antonio Cruz chipped in with 11 points, five rebounds, and five assists for the Spanish Heat.

*cont'd from pg 22*

The competition concluded with a brief presentation of awards after the final.

Menover Govia won the award for the Most Valuable Female Player.

Govia and her Buckley's 3J's teammates, Ashfield Weatherhead and Steve Martin, claimed the awards for the most wickets.

Govia was the leading female wicket taker with 12 scalps, while Weatherhead and Martin shared the award for the most wickets for the males. Both players captured seven wickets apiece. Deran Benta of Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets won the award for the Most Valuable Male Player.

Benta claimed the award



Buckley's 3J's Menover Govia, left, accepts an award from President of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association Kathyann Payne at the Dredgers playing field on Sunday, February 25, 2024.

for the most runs by a male, with a total of 401. Kusha-

na David of PMS won the award for the most runs by

a female. She scored a total of 62 runs.

## Bullets capture ABSCA's Mixed T10 softball title

Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets are the champions of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) T10 mixed (male and female) competition.

The Bullets captured the title by beating Buckley's 3J's by 63 runs in the final at the Dredgers playing field on Sunday.

The Bullets won the toss and batted, scoring 133 for six from their allotted 10 overs. Essan Warner hammered 65, including nine sixes and one four, and Delron Frederick hit 34 not out. Gale Lee claimed two for 10, and Steve Martin took two for 16.

In reply, Buckley's 3J's were dismissed for 70 in 9.1 overs. Steve Martin struck 24, and Ashfield Weatherhead made 17. Vaughn Charles grabbed four wickets for six runs.

Both teams booked their places in the final by claiming wins in the semi-finals at the same venue on Sunday.

Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets beat the Dredgers by 29 runs in the second semi-final.

Essan Warner slammed



The Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets won the Antigua & Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) T10 mixed (male and female) competition at the Dredgers playing field on Sunday, February 25, 2024. (Photos courtesy of the ABSCA)

a century as the Bullets won the toss and batted, scoring 182 for two from their allotted 10 overs.

Warner cracked 104 not out, including 14 sixes and two fours, and Deran Benta struck 71, with 10 sixes and a four. Mike France claimed a wicket for eight runs.

In reply, the Dredgers made a good attempt but fell short as they were restricted to 153 for four from their

10 overs. Mervin Higgins slammed 92, including 12 sixes and two fours, and Tyrone Williams Jr. made 37. Annette Frank picked up a wicket for four runs.

Buckley's 3J's snatched an eight-run victory against Rackaman Construction Strictly Business in the first semi-final.

Buckley's 3J's won the toss and batted, scoring 101 for two from 10 overs. Den-

ley Thomas hit 38, Randino Turner got 30, and Lokhuel Pelle scored 13 not out. Rosemarie Davis captured a wicket for 15 runs.

Strictly Business was restricted to 93 for two off their 10 overs. Kim George struck 52 not out, including seven sixes, and Adrian Abbott made 29. Ashfield Weatherhead snapped up two wickets for two runs.

*cont'd on pg 21*