

PM EXPOSES COVID QUACKS!

SEE PAGE 10

61 NATIONAL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 16-19

JCI Antigua



SG Therese Mills



PRO Donté Walter



JC Angelica O'donoghue

DEBATE COMPETITION TEAM

The Antigua chapter of Junior Chamber International (JCI Antigua) has just made what seems like a clean sweep of regional awards meted out by JCI West Indies, with the local Prez now the regional VP. The face to the right in our triple-photo graphic looks more than a tad familiar. But we're giving away nothing lest we get ourselves in trouble for mis-identification. So, find out for yourself what's gone down by proudly reading the tale of triumph for local youth on PAGES 6-7

- INSIDE:**
- Veteran government communications officer Debbie Francis has died
 - This could be last cycle of pandemic State of Emergency
 - YEEP students perform well in recent CSEC/CAPE exams

US throws out millions of doses of COVID vaccine as world goes wanting

The United States is wasting millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses even as shortages plague many parts of the world.

At least 15 million doses were scrapped in the US between March and September, according to one analysis of CDC data. A separate investigation found one million doses were discarded in 10 states between December and July.

States continue tossing unused shots. Louisiana has thrown out 224,000 unused doses of the COVID vaccines – a rate that has almost tripled since the end of July, even as a deadly fourth wave of the virus gripped the state. Some of the lost doses came from opening and not finishing vials, but more than

20,000 shots simply expired.

Thousands of doses are reportedly wasted each day in Wisconsin. In Alabama, more than 65,000 doses have been tossed. In Tennessee it's almost 200,000.

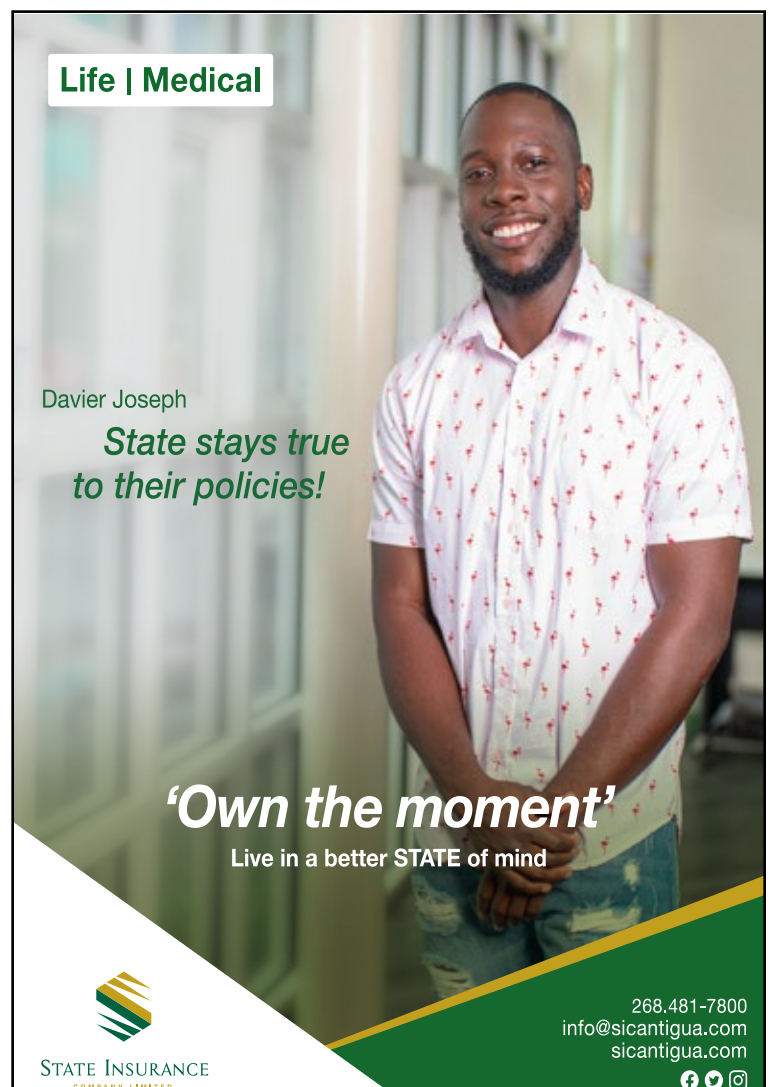
The wasted doses represent a small fraction of the number of shots administered in these states. In Louisiana, for instance, 4.4 million doses have been given out successfully.

But the news comes as millions of people around the world wait for their first doses. Only 1% of the populations of low-income countries had received first shots as of July, compared with more than half of those living in a handful of high-income countries.

Many of the discarded doses came from pharmacies. In May, two pharmacy chains had wasted more doses than US states, territories and federal agencies combined, for almost three-quarters of tossed doses. Now, at least 7.6 million

discarded doses come from four major pharmacies: Walgreens, CVS, Walmart and Rite Aid.

There are multiple reasons why doses have been wasted: sometimes a vial is cracked or doesn't contain as many doses as



Life | Medical

Davier Joseph

State stays true to their policies!

'Own the moment'
Live in a better STATE of mind

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

268.481-7800
info@sicantigua.com
sicantigua.com

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons

promised; sometimes needles malfunction; freezers break down or the power goes out. Frequently, people don't show up for appointments and the dose set aside for them in a vial isn't used.

But as vaccinations across the country have stalled after peaking in mid-April, a growing issue is simply that the vaccines are expiring amid vaccine hesitancy in the US that is more wide-

spread than first imagined.

Before June, a little over two million doses had gone to waste, NBC News reported. But over the summer, those figures surged six-fold (alongside the virus itself) as doses expired and vaccinations flagged.

The Biden administration has pushed to use the US vaccine stockpile for boosters, sometimes clashing with scientific agencies on who needs the added

protection of an additional shot.

Officials are also working with vaccine manufacturers to reduce the number of doses in each vial.

In the face of global inequities, it's not as simple as states donating unused vaccines. The doses already distributed to states can't be repurposed internationally because of bureaucratic and safety concerns about storing vaccines correctly.

Joe Biden has vowed to vaccinate 70% of the world in the next year and has committed to donate several million doses for use abroad. But, in the meantime, many countries are struggling to provide shots to the most vulnerable and those working on the frontlines of the pandemic, while Americans refuse the immunizations.

(Reprinted with minor editing from The Guardian)

ALL BRANCHES NOW OPEN 10:30AM - 9PM!!

KFC

Order Pickup + Delivery on **AllMart** allmartplace.com

FOR DELIVERY **QUICK SERVE** 736-7845 / 562-9444 or DOWNLOAD THE APP... Apple Store / Google PlayStore

#StaySafe [@kfcanu](https://www.facebook.com/kfcanu) [@kfcanu](https://www.instagram.com/kfcanu) #KFCANU #SOCIALDISTANCING #MADEFRESHEVERYDAY

KEEP ANTICU CLEAN



Give us a call 481-2500 and Roll Like a PRO

Media veteran Debbie Francis is no more

by *Shelton Daniel*

The shocking news broke on Sunday that Debbie Francis, a career government communications officer – whose last posting was within the Ministry of Agriculture – had passed away.

Francis, remembered by everyone who knew her as particularly hard-working – began her career in the information media as a reporter at State-owned Antigua and Barbuda Broadcasting Services (ABS).

She took a particular liking and demonstrated corresponding aptitude for health journalism, and was more than once recognized for this with awards from the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

Perhaps this was the demonstrated interest and ability which resulted in Debbie serving as a communications officer in the Ministry of Health where her commitment to facilitating the dissemination of information to the local media was well-noted and appreciated by colleagues in both governmental and private circles.

Always personable, polite, courteous and

hospitable, it was impossible to regard or treat Debbie Francis as just a means or a gateway to information and interviews, or as a reliable notifier of press conferences, tours and demonstrations.

She was all that, but her personality commanded all who encountered her to almost instantly regard her as a friend. She would invite you to share her office while waiting until the Minister or Permanent Secretary (or whoever else you had that appointment with) was ready. She was quiet, most times, but her silence was no dampener of the kindness that she never stopped radiating – even wordlessly – ever so often inquiring if you were comfortable, if she could make you some tea, etc.

At some point she transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Agriculture and the then Minister Dean Jonas was never short or shy of praise for her. Debbie was always on the ball, sending out a never-ending stream of emails about the Ministry's work programs and other activities. They



The late Debbie Francis

were sometimes a bit of a load on the inbox, but Debbie was the last person to whom anyone with a heart would wish to convey the faintest hint of ingratitude. Behind the steely exterior you sensed the tenderness of a sincerity that could become undeservedly hurt.

At times she didn't seem well, at least to the eye, but to my inquiries she would insist that she was just fine; delving into some task at hand, as if to disprove the query.

It seems Debbie took ill last week Wednesday or thereabout and was subsequently diagnosed with COVID. She had received one dose of vaccination, with the second and final one pending, but underlying conditions would make this not enough, according

to a family member.

Debbie was not an anti-vaxxer or COVID-denier, he told me. Her doctor had advised her to delay taking the vaccine until certain issues pertaining to her underlying conditions had cleared up. She duly complied and made it as far as the first dose, but COVID tragically beat her to that race against time.

Debbie Francis was 52 and the mother of a daughter fathered by one of our very own here at Pointville Communications Inc. – sports producer and Platinum FM manager Veron "Epilus" Edwards. Our condolences to him, her daughter and entire family – not to mention all others affected by this bereavement that we deeply share.

JCI Antigua captures most awards in regional convention; Tammie Gage elected West Indies Vice President

This year marks 61 years that Junior Chamber International (JCI) – a 106-year-old international NGO – has existed in the Caribbean.

Despite hosting the highly anticipated convention virtually, local organization JCI Antigua placed its best foot forward, having captured almost two dozen awards while having the largest delegation with 80 registered members participating.

According to JCI West Indies, “Each year, JCI local organizations from the region come together for a national convention to share ideas and experiences on creating positive change in the region.”

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the regional convention, which was scheduled to take place in Dominica, was held virtually with approximately eight countries (their local organizations) actively participating. The weeklong event commenced on Sunday 10 October and concluded on Saturday 16th October. It featured several meetings, training sessions, debates and public speaking, island showcase events, elections, and an awards ceremony. The annual



Antiguan Tammie Gage is the new vice president of JCI West Indies.

awards ceremony awards for JCI Antigua has been described as a ‘clean sweep’ for JCI Antigua. The local NGO walked away with most of the awards that night.

The accolades included several Most Innovative, Most Hardworking, Most Empathetic, Most Respectful, Most Understanding, among her JCI

West Indies colleagues.

Antigua also snatched the Most Outstanding Local Organization award, Largest Delegation award, Best Organization for Disaster Risk Management, Best Local Growth & Development program, Best Inter-Organization Collaboration Project Award for the new members' project (a cleanup of the York's community), and Best Local-Global Goals Project with the annual Senator Leandra James Cancer Awareness Campaign, to name a few.

The local NGO, through a series of inter-island competitions, also won the JCI West Indies Public Speaking Champion with Latisha Browne and the JCI West Indies Debating Champion with debaters Donte Wal-

ter, Angelica O'Donoghue and Therese Mills.

Head of the local organization, President Leycia Samuels, remarked that she is elated and proud of the work of the local organization.

"I am indeed proud of my entire membership. I thank them for seeing my vision with the theme of creating a sustainable future through dynamic leadership. We found creative ways to modify our traditional projects and programs and had them remain impactful. We dealt with a very fluid situation, including COVID restrictions and protocols, while still finding ways to give back to the community and remain financially viable.

"We continue to grow our numbers and utilize

technology to our advantage. This allowed us to have international facilitators at our webinars, which brought a new perspective to all participants. This means that we have developed dynamic leaders and that is the goal of any president, to develop your replacement and future leaders. It is a true testament of your leadership and what I want my legacy to be."

The apex of the regional convention was the national elections which saw Antiguan and Barbudan national Ms. Tammie Gage being elected to serve as JCI West Indies Vice President for 2022.

JCI Antigua was also successful in its bid to host the national convention in 2023



APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Tuesday, 19th October 2021	Wednesday, 20th October 2021	Thursday, 21st October 2021	Friday, 22nd October 2021
Section of Liberta and Horsford Hill 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Section of Bolans north of the Primary School 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Glanvilles, Seatons, Carty's Hill, Willikies, Emerald Cove and Long Bay 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Luna Park near Richard's Property 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Section of Yeptons north of Royalton 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Section of Follies and John Hughes 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM		Section of Herberts near Cell Site 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

State of Emergency likely on its last legs – PM



by *Shelton Daniel*

That declaration by Prime Minister Gaston Browne is a further extension of his government's mandatory vaccination for public servants, to now include a wider net of persons serving in the broader public.

All members of Boards that fall under the auspices of Central Government or Statutory bodies must be vaccinated against COVID-19 or they cannot serve on such a capacity.

SQUARE ONE LTD
"SOLD FROM THE GROUND UP"

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

CARPENTERS

MASONS

SITE SUPERVISOR/FOREMANS

LABOURERS

DRIVERS

MUST HAVE:

- Experience in the Industry
- Legally entitled to work
- Proof of full Vaccination
- References from past projects

Police Record must be submitted with application

JOIN OUR TEAM BUILD YOUR CAREER

Email Your RESUME
office@squareone.ag

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **MS. QUISQUEYA AMADA MARTES MARTES. OF GAMBLE'S, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA** is applying to the Minister for Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

sector. “All Board members must be vaccinated. If you are not vaccinated, you cannot serve on any Board within the Central Government or within Statutory organizations; and we expect full compliance unless they have some medical or religious exemption.”

Prime Minister Browne took the opportunity to warn those seeking medical exemptions on the basis of what he termed “bogus claims”, that their requests would not be honored.

He then turned his attention to medical practitioners who are believed to be indulging their patients in obtaining unwarranted certification for sick leave and for exemptions from vaccination.

“I recognize, too, that the doctors are

becoming a little more circumspect because there is a form in which they have to sign a declaration, and that declaration comes with consequences ... Health officials are not simply allowing doctors to give a simple doctor’s letter saying that the person is suffering from XYZ and therefore cannot be vaccinated. They have to literally execute a declaration.”

PM Browne referred to “a particular one” – meaning a doctor who he chose not to name – “somewhere down by market, I’m told, who normally signs those things indiscriminately; I’m told that he’s now refusing to sign the declaration, because he recognizes that he could get into trouble. So we are on to those who try

to scheme the system.”

However, turning to some good news, the Prime Minister said that “based on the present trajectory”, Antigua and Barbuda is “well on its way to achieving herd immunity by the end of the year”.

Because of this, he stated, “We do not expect to renew the State of Emergency, and hopefully – at its expiration – we

can end it ... We will continue to further curtail the curfew until it is eliminated.”

The Prime Minister cautioned that many of the freedoms such as patronizing bars, clubs and cinemas would continue to be reserved for vaccinated persons “until such time as we achieve herd immunity”.

Life | Medical

Ockealia McFarlane
It's reliable support for my family!

‘Own the moment’
Live in a better STATE of mind

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

268,481-7800
info@sicantigua.com
sicantigua.com

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons

Prime Minister lays into 'naturopathic quacks'

by *Shelton Daniel*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has pleaded with the public "to please avoid those bush doctors who are now becoming a serious threat to the health of our people".

To the audible chuckles of those in studio sharing the *Pointe FM* radio program with him on Saturday, Browne added: "Some of them call themselves naturopathic doctors [but] they are really naturopathic quacks. They come with the pseudo-scientific information and their sorcery. In fact, I remember I said some time ago on this program they are like modern day obeah men who are swindling people out of their money, because they don't know what they are doing. I know one of them, for example, he never graced a secondary school or any tertiary learning institution, but he is parading like some kind of naturopathic specialist. And I know, too, that at least two of the young individuals who died from COVID were following the advice of those naturopathic quacks."

Browne made clear that his remarks were not meant to be a blanket dismissal or discrediting of naturopathic medicine, but of the unsubstantiated claims that it could cure COVID.

"These quacks are telling people that they have remedies that can cure COVID, which is not true; and, as a consequence, you have at least two young people that I am aware of who are now residing permanently at the St. John's cemetery because of bad advice. We have to call out these people who are now risking the lives of our people – young productive people – who, ordinarily, could have been alive today if they had gotten vaccinated."

The Prime Minister contrasted this with the fact that by following sound science and medical practice, the number of persons requiring hospitalization due to illness associated with COVID-19 infection have fallen to about half the high they had climbed to in recent weeks.

Speaking on Saturday during his weekly radio program, Browne announced being informed by health-care officials that the number of persons hospitalized for COVID at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center was 26.

It was a steep drop from the peak of 54 which was said to be overwhelming beds available in the hospital's COVID-19 ward.

"I checked with hospital officials today and was advised that there are 26 persons hospitalized. Only five are serious

– five too many – but down from 11 or more individuals that were seriously ill, and at least 10 intubated. So we have made significant progress and we give thanks.

The Prime Minister noted that even "a couple of vaccinated persons with co-morbidities" had succumbed, largely because they had "presented themselves extremely late to the hospital" when they were already in acute respiratory distress.

"They subsequently died even though they were vaccinated. The problem, I'm told, is that by the time they got to the hospital, they were so far behind that there was nothing our medical practitioners could have done to save them. It is evident that these individuals who have these co-morbidities, they are struggling to manage their co-morbidities while at the same time managing their COVID infection... Individuals who have co-morbidities should be paying more attention to their health to manage those co-morbidities more effectively while, at the same time, pay attention to their COVID risk management – in other words, to avoid, as far as practicable, contracting COVID."

Browne urged such persons, should they contract COVID, to "seek medical attention soonest."

PM hints at another major Sandals investment here

by *Shelton Daniel*

Despite a testy episode in their relationship a few years ago over unpaid taxes, regional hotel chain Sandals Resorts International (SRI) now acknowledges the good governance provided to Antigua and Barbuda by the Gaston Browne administration.

So said Prime Minister Browne on Saturday – in not exactly the above words – during his weekly radio program, *The Browne & Browne Show* on **Pointe FM 99.1**.

The Prime Minister was at the time refuting what he said were falsehoods being publicly spewed by the political leader of the main opposition United Progressive Party (UPP).

Mr. Harold Lovell reportedly accused PM Browne of unilaterally withdrawing tax concessions that had been granted to the all-inclusive hotel enterprise during the previous administration in which Lovell served as minister for finance and tourism, among other portfolios.

Said the Prime Minister of Lovell's allegations: "He knows that is not true. He knows that Sandals' concessions are still intact. He knows what happened is that the UPP administration unlawfully allowed Sandals to pocket 65% of our ABST (Antigua and Barbuda

Sales Tax), and we stepped in and ... stopped it; and we didn't even make it retroactive. We wrote off \$100 million that was given away by the UPP administration. Harold Lovell was tourism minister and, subsequently, Finance Minister. We stopped the hemorrhaging and those funds are now being collected. Sandals [are] paying."

According to PM Browne, "Sandals is so happy that they have indicated – and I don't want to pre-empt them – that they will be making a very important announcement shortly about an investment here in Antigua and Barbuda. I'm not going to go any further, but it shows how strong the relationship is with Sandals at this point."

He continued: "In fact, [Sandals chairman] Adam [Stewart] and I spoke extensively about developing the Sandals and, possibly, Beaches hotel here in Antigua and Barbuda. Our tourism minister, Max Fernandez, was part of the discussions too ... And they are absolutely excited about the Antiguan brand ... They are also very happy with our management of COVID, which has given the Sandals brand chain here in Antigua and Barbuda a leg up on the others in the region."

Prime Minister Browne expressed the view that, "Based



Adam Stewart,
chairman of Sandals
Resorts International.

on the demand for Antigua Sandals, they (the resort chain) must expand; they have to expand in Antigua because the demand is there."

The Antigua and Barbuda leader said, never mind the disagreement they had over the tax issue, he had maintained a "strong relationship" with the late Gordon "Butch" Stewart, Sandals founder and chairman until his death in January this year.

"Butch Stewart said to me [that] notwithstanding the fights we had ... if there is one leader within the Caribbean whose word he could rely on, is Gaston Browne's word ... We were on very good terms ..."

Events announced to celebrate 40th Anniversary of Independence

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission (ABFC) has announced the schedule of events to commemorate Antigua and Barbuda's 40th Anniversary of Independence under the theme *Resilience, Reflection and Recovery*.

Chairman of the ABFC, Mr. Maurice Merchant, has outlined that for the second consecutive year, due to the current epidemiological circumstances involving the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda – and, by extension, the ABFC – was forced to scale down the Independence celebrations, resulting in the exclusion of some of the more popular events; namely, the National Youth Rally, National Junior Panorama Competition, Independence Fash-







ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
**ANNIVERSARY
OF INDEPENDENCE**
"Resilience, Reflection and Recovery"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2021

FRIDAY 22ND OCT. ALL DAY	40th Anniversary Media Day Media Houses	THURSDAY 28TH OCT. ALL DAY	National Flag Day 1 Across Antigua and Barbuda
SATURDAY 23RD OCT. ALL DAY	Launch of Independence Magazine	FRIDAY 29TH OCT. ALL DAY	National Dress Day Across Antigua and Barbuda
SUNDAY 24TH OCT. ALL DAY	Golden Age Celebrations Various Constituencies	8:00 PM	This Is Pan Competition Dean William Lake Centre
MONDAY 25TH OCT.	Antigua and Barbuda 40 Years of History Media Houses	SATURDAY 30TH OCT. ALL DAY	National Flag Day 2 Across Antigua and Barbuda
8:30 PM	Festival of Choirs National Media	ALL DAY	Barbuda Day Activities Barbuda
TUESDAY 26TH OCT 10:00 AM	National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony Heroes Park - Tomlinson's	8:30 PM	Wadadli Warri War National Media Social Media
WEDNESDAY 27TH OCT. 10:00 AM	Mural Unveiling ARG South Wall	SUNDAY 31ST OCT. 4:00 PM	National Service of Thanksgiving Cathedral of St. John the Divine
		MONDAY 1ST NOV. 5:00 PM	Ceremonial Parade and Awards Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium

Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission 2021

ion Show, and the National Food Fair.

Merchant however advises that the ABFC wishes to encourage food vendors and restaurants to continue the tradition of preparing scrumptious local cuisine across the islands on November 1st, for take away service.

Interested persons should contact the Festivals Commission at 462-0194 for marketing assistance, or send emails with their Independence menus to abfestivals@ab.gov.ag.

Minister responsible for Education, Sports & the Creative Industries, Honourable Daryll Matthew, has said it is his ministry's full intent to keep the Independence spirit alive for this milestone anniversary celebration.

Minister Matthew further announced that this year – in addition to the National Dress Day slated for Friday 29th October – a new initiative, National Flag Day, will be staged on Thursday 28th October and

Saturday 30th October, respectively.

For that occasion, all citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda – as well as those in the diaspora – are encouraged to show patriotism by displaying or wearing themed attire representing the country's national flag.

Said the Minister: "For our National Flag Day, we hope to see the Antiguan and Barbudan flag on all cars, on all homes and office buildings and, even more, populating every social media platform."

Flag distribution outlets will be announced, for persons desirous of obtaining the national flag.

This year's calendar of events commences on Friday 22nd October with the 40th Anniversary of Independence Media Day, and culminates on Monday 1st November with the Independence Ceremonial Parade & Awards at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium at 5:00 p.m.



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
of ANTIGUA

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The American University of Antigua is seeking to employ a

Bursar Assistant.

Job Summary:

A Bursar Assistant will contribute to the efficient and effective operations of the Bursar department. This role will utilize some accounting knowledge, data entry and management, time management skills and effective problem solving to ensure success. This position is highly demanding and requires keen attention to detail. Candidates must be able to work well under pressure and meet strict deadlines.

Duties & Responsibilities (include but not limited to):

- Responsible for the efficient and effective organization and operation of all functions of the billing, collections, deposit, student tax reporting, insurance reporting, loan positing and refunds, subsidiary ledger for housing, knowledge of all forms and procedures, Title 4 compliance and audit due diligence, disbursement and maintenance of student records, as well as participate in the establishment of policies regarding the above activities as directed by the University Bursar.
- Coordinate and assist the Bursar with student registrations.
- Assist in all areas of student communications – phones, Bursar emails, mass emails, website updates, updating of student handbook information.
- Participate in the maintenance of accurate financial records so as to facilitate information flow between the Bursar's department at Head Office and the Finance department, Registrar's department and the Student Services department.
- Provide financial information (*scholarship, tuition payment plan options etc.*) to students on an as need basis.
- Prepare reports and analyses as required by the department and/or management.
- Assist in calculating and processing refunds for students.
- Communicate directly with students, or others, to resolve all problems and complaints concerning student accounts.

Qualifications:

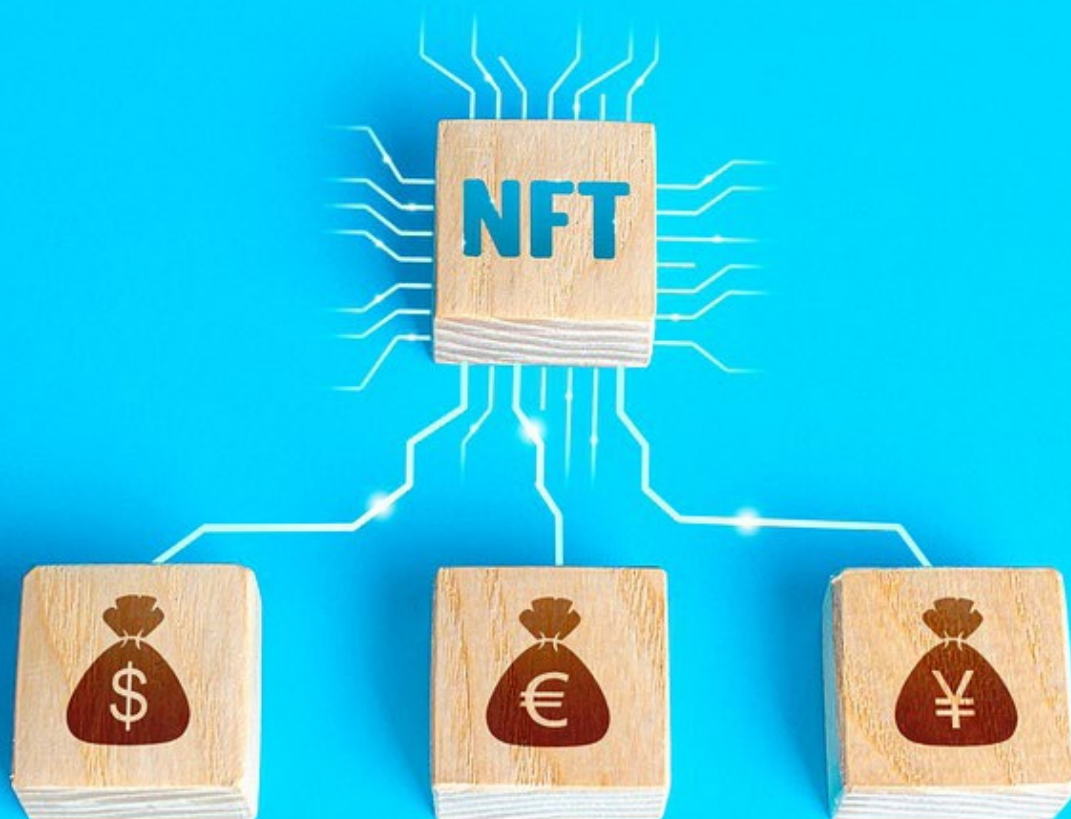
- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting or Business Administration, and at least one (1) year of accounting experience would be an asset; or an Associate's Degree with a minimum of three (3) years' accounting experience.
- Solid understanding of basic book-keeping.
- Proficient computer skills and in-depth knowledge of relevant software such as MS Office, Document Control, and Data Base Management.
- Knowledge of standard office administrative practices and procedures such as filing and record keeping.
- Customer service experience would be an asset.

Interested persons should apply to:

hr@auamed.net

Deadline for receipt of application is **October 21st, 2021.**

Crypto for Collectables



by Christal Clashing

Imagine if your old stamp collections, from back in the days before emails were a thing, could be easily monetised. So much so that if you sold pieces of your collection, you would not only receive the money from the sale but a portion of every subsequent third party sale into perpetuity.

This is how NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) work. NFTs are typically used for collectables. The difference between the collectables of the past and the collectables of the future is that collectables now are digital. This could be a digital copy of a physical item or a wholly original digital piece of work.

Each of these collectables, as an NFT, would have a limited num-

ber of digital copies, each of them built on the same blockchain technology as cryptocurrency. As NFTs are built on blockchain technology, each has a unique identifying key and the creator of a collection can automatically collect royalties from each piece of the collection, whenever an item from their collection is re-sold, no matter how many times

it is resold. This makes NFTs an attractive route for artists around the world to monetise their work. At a recent CoinGeek conference held physically in New York City on October 5-7 and streamed virtually all over the world, several use cases for NFTs were presented. The use cases were all built on the Bitcoin Satoshi's Vision (BSV) cryptocurrency blockchain that Antigua and Barbuda's Special Economic Envoy, Ambassador Calvin Ayre, supports. Of these use cases, collectables such as sports-related artwork, music concert tickets, and fine art collections show the versatility of using NFTs in various spheres of cultural life.

In the first use case, mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter Rory MacDonald commissioned an artist and a blockchain developer to create an NFT in the form of a digital piece of artwork commemorating a notable win in the ring. Complete with moving elements in the artwork, almost like a GIF, the piece was auctioned on the newly-launched BSV NFT marketplace called FabriikX.

The second use case came from Shawn Ryan of SmartLedger, who is working on making tick-

ets to music concerts (Rihanna, Beyonce, etc.) be NFTs in themselves. That way the tickets not only become collectables but ensure that pirated and black-market tickets are a thing of the past. If those tickets are resold there is a digital trace of ownership.

Digital traceability was important for the third use case by Victor Tang of NiftyCo. They plan to digitise the world's most exclusive art collections so that original pieces like that of Monet and Picasso can be preserved in climate-controlled basements of art galleries and museums. Instead, digital copies of great pieces of fine art can be exhibited in public. Interestingly, because there will only be one digital copy per art piece, only one gallery location can have a copy of the artwork at any given time, mimicking the realities of licensing collections to various galleries around the world. Each of these use cases indicates the application of NFTs for collectable items. If you, as an individual, wanted to purchase an NFT, a local Antiguan NFT investor outlines that you have one of two options.

The first, and the preferred option, is to buy directly from a cre-

ator, preferably through a set-up called a vending machine which automates the buying process and ensures fairness and transparency. Prices of NFTs bought directly from the creator may yield a better rate than if one were to buy it on a secondary market, which is the second option.

Prices on secondary markets, like OpenSea, are market-driven and really do reflect what value persons place on a given item in how much they are willing to spend to get it. Market demand can be driven by sentimentality or by the creator themselves. For example, if a music artist sends out a message saying that those who have in their possession all of the NFT concert tickets for a given year will get a special reward, then that drives the value up for those wanting to collect the ticket NFTs for each concert.

With NFTs being all the rage in the crypto world, it is sometimes asked if NFTs are a fad or if they are here to stay? Given that major players in the crypto space are investing in their own NFT marketplaces means that they are taking the future of NFTs seriously. Maybe, so should we.

Barbados: Intensified calls for British MP Drax to return plantation property



British MP Sir Richard Drax

Barbados Today - Special Envoy on Reparations & Economic Enfranchisement Trevor Prescod is adding his voice to the public protests which have been ongoing in England, asking British MP Sir Richard Drax to surrender Drax Hall Plantation to the people of Barbados.

Prescod believes now is the time to educate persons on who Sir Richard Drax is and the history of the plantation that he has inherited.

"I was thinking about it over the past few days that we need to sensitise and educate Barbadians to this Drax affair. Because Mr. Richard Drax is the richest parliamentarian

in the House of Commons in England – he represents the constituency of South Dorset.

He is the owner through succession rights of the Drax Hall Plantation in St. George, which is over 621 acres of land. His family owns the Drax Hall Plantation which is the oldest plantation from the 17th Century until now, that remains in the hand of the same family who owned the plantation," he said.

Prescod, who is the representative for St. Michael East, said he believes that now is the opportune time for Barbados to request that Sir Richard Drax do right to the people of Barbados and give the estate

back to Barbados.

"I do not know how Mr. Drax could even think that he can escape from some form of reparations. But if he is not saying sorry for the criminal act, you would know what kind of battle we have to put on with Mr. Drax because this man is standing proud in the House of Commons knowing the truth and denying the truth, and that goes for a lot of British leaders too. And for me it extends itself to the Queen of England as well as her family, especially with the Belle Plantation in St Michael," he said.

The former Minister of The Environment & National Beautification said now is the time for Barbados to rid itself of colonial systems.

"This form of education is not known to many Bajan people. We have to rid ourselves of a lot of these colonial systems. We have to seek compensation for the harm that was done to us. It is that harm that was done to us that helped to under-develop the Caribbean and Africa itself.

Our people suffered a lot as a result of improper nourishment during the period of slavery and some of the major diseases that we have had to go through today derive from malnutrition and all types of challenges that we

faced as a people. Some of the diseases that we face, apart from the foods and so on, were diseases that came because of the interaction between African people and the Europeans," he said.

As it pertains to Sir Richard Drax, Prescod said he wonders how someone with Drax's colonial past could become a parliamentary representative.

"So, I do not know ... without any malice, how any person that finds himself being a beneficiary of all of those criminal acts can feel comfortable being a Parliamentary representative in any House in the world representing the people of any constituency and, worse of all, an entire sovereignty," he said.

Back in September, protesters in Dorset had a virtual protest in which they stated that Sir Richard Drax should be made to give back to Barbados the property he owns on the island.

During a virtual workshop entitled Reparations in the 21st Century, Slavery, Colonialism and The Meaning of Reparations, chairman of the Caribbean Reparations Committee, Sir Hilary Beckles, also argued that countries such as England should give reparations to their former colonised states.

Belize sends humanitarian aid to Cuba



Loop Caribbean - The Government of Belize is sending the first of two humanitarian donations to Cuba in solidarity with the nation's government and people.

The shipment, which departed Belize on October, included food supplies, sanitation and assorted hygiene products valued at BZ\$200,000.

The Government of Belize says Cuba faces both the COVID-19 pandemic and a strengthened embargo which affected tourism revenue as well as the ability to source supplies for their population of 11.33 million.

Despite these challenges, Cuba produced four vaccines and was the first country in the world to

vaccinate children. Cuba has also shared its vaccines with several countries. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belize was one of the first countries to be aided by Cuba's Henry Reeve Brigade.

Belize states that it recognises the exceptional efforts of Cuba over the last 60 years in consistently providing medical

and technical assistance in times of global public health emergencies such as the Ebola epidemic, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

Belize and Cuba share 26 years of diplomatic relations founded on deep respect and admiration for the significant role Cuba has played in the region and globally.

World Food Programme warns of severe threat to Caribbean food security

CMC - The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) says the climate crisis poses a severe threat to food security in the Caribbean, as vulnerable communities — a vast majority of whom rely on agriculture, fishing and livestock, which contribute the least to the climate crisis — bear the brunt of the impacts with limited means to cushion the blow.

“The world faces an exponential increase in hunger fuelled by the climate crisis, if urgent global action to help communities adapt to climatic shocks and stresses is ignored,” warned WFP on Friday ahead of World Food Day on Saturday.

“The climate crisis has the potential to overwhelm humanity,” said WFP Executive Director David Beasley. “The climate crisis is fuelling a food crisis.

“The world is not prepared for the unprecedented rise in hunger we will see if we do not invest in programs that help vulnerable communities adapt and build resilience to our changing climate,” he added.

WFP said that, in the last 70 years, 324 disasters impacted the region.

In 2017, it said, Dominica lost 200 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) as a result of Hurricane Maria, stating

that the agriculture sector — which employed 25 percent of the population — was wiped out.

WFP said flooding in Trinidad in 2018 left farmers with losses of equipment and crops.

“The annual Atlantic hurricane season from June to November is a period of high anxiety for people throughout the Caribbean, as storms put at risk lives, livelihoods, personal property, agricultural production, and trade and imports — with the destruction of logistics infrastructure — all of which can lead to increased food insecurity,” WFP said.

“Climate change is expected to intensify the severity of natural hazards in the Caribbean in the years to come,” it added. “The result will be a further reversing of significant development gains, paralyzing national response capacities, and reducing people’s access to food. Rising sea levels threaten the very existence of the Caribbean.”

Building on this year’s theme for World Food Day, Our actions are our future — better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, WFP has called on world leaders to recognise the close link between hunger and the climate crisis, and is urging them to redouble



their efforts to address the changing climate as focus shifts to the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26).

“While the Caribbean as a region has contributed very little to the causes of the climate crisis, these same countries and territories are some of the most severely impacted,” said Regis Chapman, country director and representative of the WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office.

“The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 have now exacerbated the situation in the region with

significant increases in food insecurity because of job and income loss and rising food prices,” he added. “Greater support is urgently needed for Caribbean SIDS (Small Island Developing States) to strengthen their resilience to the climate crisis.”

Chapman said that, across the Caribbean, regional institutions, national governments and civil society will be implementing a number of activities that highlight the importance of agriculture, food security and healthy consumption.

COVID-19: US donates field hospital to St. Kitts-Nevis

SKNIS - In the fight against the deadly COVID-19 virus, globally diplomacy has assisted the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis in securing much-needed resources.

On October 13, 2021, Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris accepted the donation of the first of two field hospitals and other equipment (vehicles and computers) from the US Government.

"We are extremely grateful to the USA for their generosity in its various forms as we increase national capacity. However, I must focus on the Field Hospitals which are extremely significant donations. I am informed that a field hospital is a temporary hospital where emergency health services can be provided in the short and medium-term to victims injured in epidemics, war and natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes and floods.

"This field hospital will certainly be utilized as the need arises to address any disaster we experience as we exist in a multi-hazard environment. This donation is timely because, as everyone is aware, we are in the middle of the COVID pandemic and we have adopted a life-first strategy in the fight. We have said that we will do all within our power to prevent our health system from being



overwhelmed," said Prime Minister Harris.

The field hospitals will greatly assist in the fight against COVID-19 by strengthening the health infrastructure already in place.

Prime Minister Harris described the 40-bed field hospital as a critical tool, noting that field hospitals have been used around the world in times of crisis over the years and will indeed be a benefit to the Federation.

"It is our hope that the facility will have a positive impact in stemming the spread and managing persons with COVID-19. This field hospital, with its additional 40 beds, is produced

with the highest quality of international standards in mind. We have strengthened our health system today, not just by the physical structure of the field hospital – the one here now and the one to be commissioned in Nevis – but also the support and equipment that will make these hospitals run effectively. The field hospital, for example, is equipped with patient rails, intravenous polls, mattresses, and a power generator. It also has its own plumbing and water treatment system in accordance with the best international standards and practices ... Our intentions as a government have always been and will

always be that our patients receive the best care in the best facilities," said Prime Minister Harris.

Prime Minister Harris has previously stated that the United States is a vital ally of St. Kitts and Nevis, with the US government recently donating, in the first instance, over 11,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to the Federation.

Considerable training has been done in setting up the field hospitals through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to ensure that the local agency is well equipped to manage this vital piece of infrastructure.

China condemns US, Canada for sending warships through Taiwan Strait

Reuters - The Chinese military on Sunday condemned the United States and Canada for each sending a warship through the Taiwan Strait last week, saying they were threatening peace and stability in the region.

China claims democratically-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has mounted repeated air force missions into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ) over the past year, provoking anger in Taipei.

China sent around 150 aircraft into the zone over a four-day period beginning on Oct. 1 in a further heightening of tension between Beijing and Taipei that has sparked concern internationally.

The US military said the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Dewey sailed through the narrow waterway that separates Taiwan from its giant neighbour China, along with the Canadian frigate HMCS *Winnipeg* on Thursday and Friday.

"Dewey's and *Winnipeg*'s transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the commitment of the United States and our allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific," it added.

China's People's Liberation Army's Eastern



Theatre Command said its forces monitored the ships and "stood guard" throughout their passage.

"The United States and Canada colluded to provoke and stir up trouble ... seriously jeopardising peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait," it said.

"Taiwan is part of Chinese territory. Theatre forces always maintain a high level of alert and resolutely counter all threats and provocations."

US Navy ships have been transiting the strait roughly monthly, to the anger of Beijing, which has accused Washington of stoking regional tensions. US allies occasionally also send ships through the strait, including Britain last month.

While tensions across the Taiwan Strait have risen, there has been no shooting, and Chinese aircraft have not entered Taiwanese air space, concentrating their activity in the

southwestern part of the ADIZ.

While including Taiwanese territorial air space, the ADIZ encompasses a broader area that Taiwan monitors and patrols, and that acts to give it more time to respond to any threats.

Taiwan's defence ministry said on Sunday that three Chinese aircraft (two J-16 fighters and an anti-submarine aircraft) flew into the ADIZ again.

Spanish PM vows to abolish prostitution



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was addressing his party conference in Valencia

(£3.1bn; \$4.2bn).

A 2009 survey found that up to one-in-three Spanish men had paid for sex.

However, another report published in 2009 suggested that the figure may be as high as 39% and a 2011 UN study cited Spain as the third biggest centre for prostitution in the world, behind Thailand and Puerto Rico.

Prostitution is currently unregulated in Spain and there is no punishment for those who offer paid sexual services of their own will, as long as it does not take place in public spaces. However, pimping or acting as a proxy between a sex worker and a potential client is illegal.

The industry has boomed since its decriminalisation and it is commonly estimated that around 300,000 women work as prostitutes in Spain.

In 2019, Mr. Sanchez's party published a pledge in its election

manifesto to outlaw prostitution, in what was seen as a move to attract more female voters.

The manifesto called prostitution "one of the cruellest aspects of the feminisation of poverty and one of the worst forms of violence against women".

However, two years on from the election, no legislation has yet been tabled.

Supporters of Spain's current system say it has brought huge benefits to the women working in the trade and made life safer for them.

However, in recent years, significant concerns have grown around the potential for women to be trafficked into sex work. In 2017, Spanish police identified 13,000 women in anti-trafficking raids, stating that at least 80% of them were being exploited against their will by a third party.

BBC - Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez pledged on Sunday to outlaw prostitution in the country.

Speaking to supporters at the end of his Socialist Party's three-day congress in Valencia, Mr. Sanchez said the practice "enslaves" women.

Prostitution was decriminalised in Spain in 1995 and in 2016 the UN estimated the country's sex industry was worth €3.7bn

Sudan protesters call for military coup as political crisis deepens

(CNN) - Thousands of demonstrators gathered in front of the presidential palace in Khartoum on Saturday calling for the military to seize power as Sudan grapples with the biggest political crisis in its two-year-old transition.

The military and civilian groups have been sharing power in the east African country in an uneasy alliance since the toppling of long-standing President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

But following a failed coup attempt in September attributed to forces loyal to Bashir, military leaders have been demanding reforms to the Forces of Freedom & Change (FFC) coalition and the replacement of the cabinet.

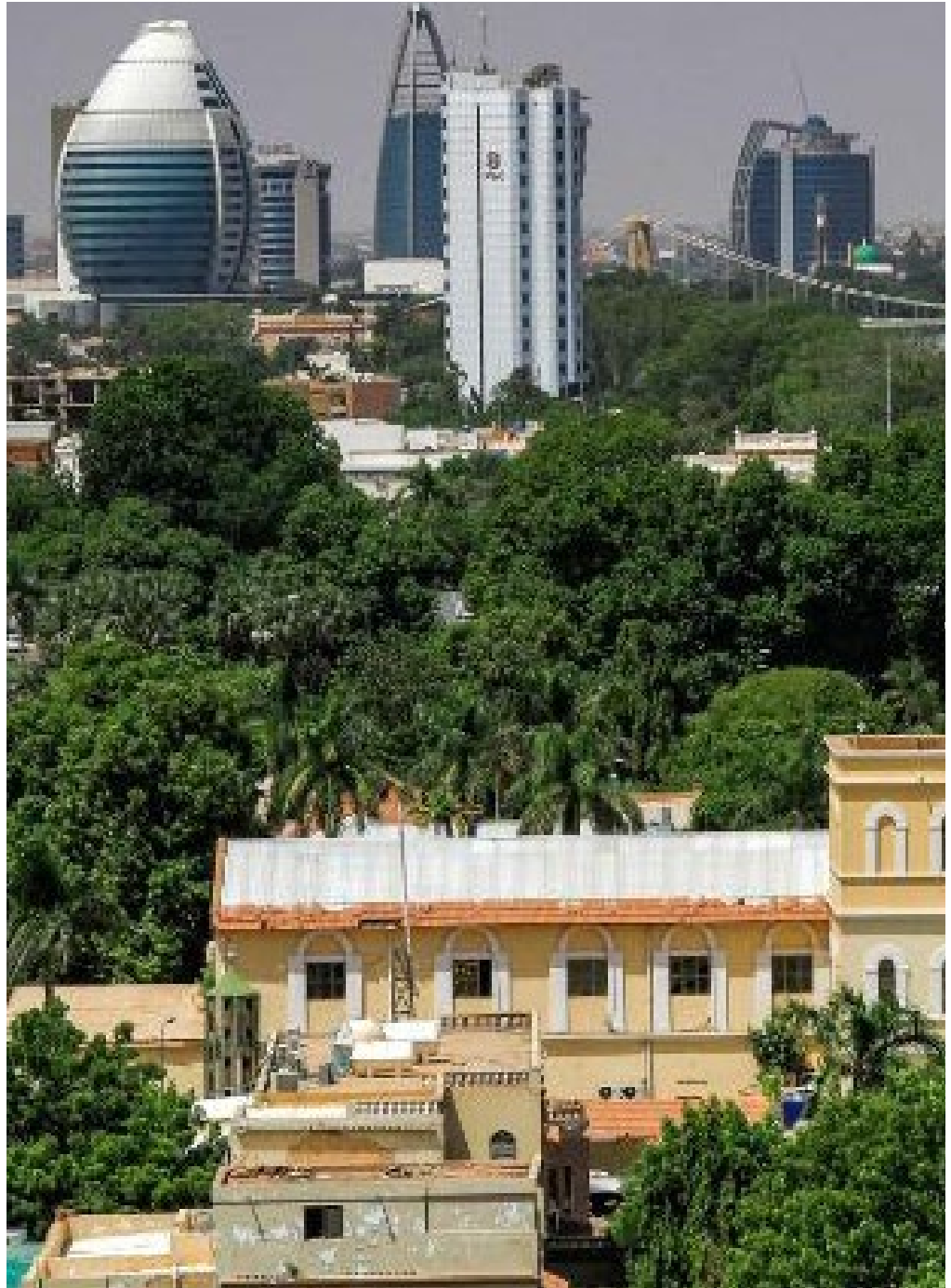
Civilian leaders, however, have accused them of aiming for a power grab.

A military-aligned faction of the FFC, including armed groups that rebelled against Bashir, called for Saturday's protests and held a short event in a nearby convention hall.

The protesters chanted "down with the hunger government" and called for General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the armed forces and Sudan's joint military-civilian Sovereign Council, to initiate a coup and overthrow the government.

Unlike previous demonstrations, protesters were able to reach the gates of the presidential palace which is typically barricaded. There was little police presence at the protest.

The demonstrators, who were seen arriving in central Khartoum on dozens of buses, clashed with pro-civilian protesters.



Earlier, members of an unidentified armed group removed security barriers around government buildings and prevented the police and security forces from preparing for the march, Khartoum State governor Ayman Khalid said in a statement.

In a speech on Friday, civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok

presented a roadmap out of the crisis and warned that failure to find a resolution would throw the country's future "to the wind."

At the root of the crisis are disputes on issues of justice, military restructuring, and the dismantling of the financial apparatus of Bashir's regime, analysts say.

Syrian government, opposition to start drafting constitution

Al Jazeera - The Syrian government and opposition groups have agreed to start drafting new constitutional provisions during renewed United Nations-mandated negotiations in Geneva this week.

"The two co-chairs now agree that we will not only prepare for constitutional reform, but we will prepare and start drafting the constitutional reform," UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir Pedersen said at a brief news conference on Sunday.

The drafting committee is comprised of 45 members from the Syrian government, opposition and civil society. They have not met since last January.

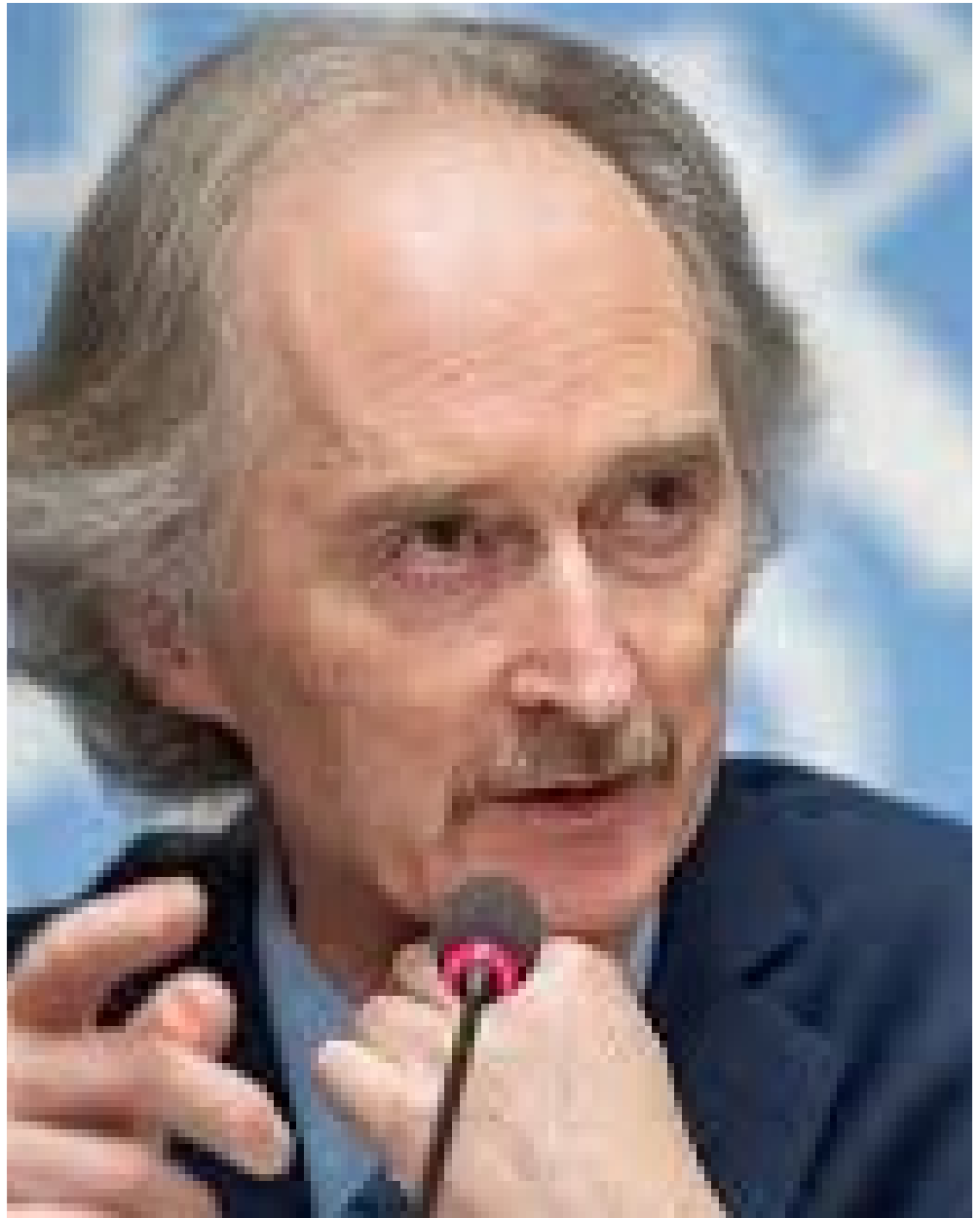
"We concluded that we were not making sufficient progress, and that we could not continue the way we have been working," Pedersen said. "Since then, close to nine months, I've been negotiating between the parties, trying to establish a consensus on how we are going to move forward."

The delegations arrived in Geneva and held preliminary discussions with Pedersen before a series of talks over the week that starts on Monday morning.

In January 2018 at the Russia-hosted Syrian peace conference in Sochi, an agreement was reached to form a 150-member committee to draft a new constitution until September 2019, equally represented by the Syrian government, political opposition, and civil society.

A smaller committee of 45 individuals of that same proportion is tasked with negotiating and drafting the new constitutional provisions.

Syria's war has killed about



United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, announced the deal at a brief news conference on Sunday.

500,000 people over the past 10 years, starting in 2011 with a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests. It later turned into a complex battlefield involving foreign armies, local militias, and foreign fighters.

Pedersen said Syria continues to face compounding crises and called for the international community to address the "other aspects" of the situation.

"We daily have civilians being

killed and injured," Pedersen said. "There are more than 13 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance and close to 90 percent are living below the poverty line."

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was re-elected for a fourth time in May with 95.1 percent of the vote in government-held areas. Western countries and opposition groups say the elections were not free and fair.



**TELL US WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN YOUR
COMMUNITY.**

Submit community notices to

news@pointville.ag

Do you want to print?

- Business Cards •
- Letter Heads •
- Flyers •
- Booklets •
- Annual Reports •
- Certificates •
- Business Forms •
- Invoices •
- Receipt Books •
- Brochures •
- Calendars •
- Magazines •
- Invitations •
- ID Cards •

We print it for you.

QUICK DELIVERY
LOWEST PRICE
INSTANT PRINTING

INTER SOLUTIONS
268-562-4989
268-725-0636
268-770-4518

Lower Road, P.O. Box 111, John's Bay, Antigua
Email: inter.solutions@pointville.ag

YOU THINK IT WE PRINT IT

OCTOBER Breast Cancer AWARENESS MONTH

SALUTE TO WOMEN BEHIND THE WHEEL

ABTB
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

ICC announces 21 member commentary panel for T20 World Cup

Cricket and sports fans across the world will be able to enjoy unparalleled coverage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, [upon] the tournament's return after five years on Sunday 17 October.

Nearly 10,000 live hours of coverage – more than ever before – offered across TV and digital platforms in 200 countries

The pinnacle of the shortest format of cricket offers explosive cricket and entertainment for everyone and features cricket's biggest names and best teams.

The event, the biggest-ever to be staged in the UAE and Oman, began Sunday in Muscat and finishes with the final in Dubai on 14 November.

ICC TV will produce live coverage of all the matches in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, and a full world feed service for licensees including a pre-match show, an innings interval fill and a post-match wrap-up.

The stellar commentary line-up includes the last captain to hold aloft the Men's T20 World Cup

trophy, Daren Sammy, who will be joined by former South Africa pace-man Dale Steyn; Player-of-the-Tournament of the 2012 edition, Shane Watson – and a host of other experienced broadcasters like Nasser Hussain, Harsha Bhogle, Ian Bishop, Natalie Germanos, Sunil Gavaskar, Michael Atherton, Simon Doull, Russel Arnold, Anjum Chopra, Murali Kartik, Athar Ali Khan, Bazid Khan, Mpu-melelo Mbangwa, Preston Mommsen, Danny Morrison, Mark Nicholas, Niall O'Brien and Alan Wilkins.

Commenting on the game and how it has evolved, former defending captain Darren Sammy said: "Twenty20 cricket provides maximum thrills to fans and it's no wonder that it is considered to be the vehicle for the growth of the game worldwide. Believe me, there are no easy games in this tournament and it has been nothing less than a dream for me to lift the trophy twice for my team. I still back the West Indies to defend their ti-



tle, but I really wish all the teams the very best. It will be a great pleasure being in the commentary box this time."

Dale Steyn added: "It's an honour to be part of the commentary team at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup and a pleasure to be watching all the action from close quarters. The game has changed a lot in recent times and there is some really exciting talent out there waiting to make its mark. I am sure there are lots of explosive performances and close finishes in store. I can't really pick a team to win it yet, and that is what makes the tournament all that more exciting – all the unpredictability, along with the anticipation."

Speaking ahead of the tournament, Nasser Hus-

sain said: "This is going to be a massive tournament with the world's top players in action in the fastest evolving format of the international game. Not only do we get to see the leading teams, but we also get a chance to see the emerging teams fancying their chances in the T20 format. I can't wait for the tournament to begin and I'll enjoy working on these mouth-watering contests."

Ian Bishop added: "It seems unfathomable that five-and-a-half years have passed since the last edition in 2016. In that time, the format has developed, and grown exponentially. The power hitting of the modern batter, the mystique and skills of the spinners, the pace and variations of some of the fastest and best fast

bowlers, in addition to the dynamic athleticism of fielders, promise to make this the most exciting and entertaining edition of the Men's T20 World Cup yet. Each competing nation has invested heavily in enhancing their team's resources in preparation for their attempt to be crowned world champions. I am thrilled and honored to be a part of a diverse and dynamic commentary team covering and conveying the many narratives of this auspicious global event. We all remain mindful of the damage wrought in the ongoing fight against the glob-

al pandemic. As such, we endeavor to communicate to you all the joy, beauty and healing that cricket can deliver to every nation."

ICC TV is supported by production services and broadcast partner Star Sports and equipment services partner NEP Broadcast Solutions. AE Live will deliver the on-air graphics for the coverage.

The ICC TV production will see a minimum of 35 cameras at all venues. Viewers will be treated to state-of-the-art coverage that will include live player-tracking and a dynamic field plot provided by

Quidich Tracker.

For the first time in cricket we'll also see tracking off the bat which will be provided by Hawk-Eye in select matches, in addition to their ball tracking and edge detection services. Stunning multi-angle "spin around" replay sequences from 4DReplay – facilitated in partnership with Star Sports, will also be available for select matches in the Super 12 phase. Cable-suspended camera system Spidercam and cricket analytics service CricViz will also be integral elements of the ICC TV coverage.

T20 World Cup 2021 to introduce bat-tracking for the first time ever

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has promised an "unparalleled" experience to cricket fans all across the globe for the T20 World Cup 2021, which is said to have the most extensive coverage.

In an announcement, ICC revealed the introduction of bat-tracking for the first time ever.

"For the first time in cricket, we'll also see tracking off the bat, which will be provided by Hawk-Eye in select matches, in addition to their ball tracking and edge detection services," reads a post published on ICC's official website.

The viewers will be able to enjoy the action with cable-suspended camera system Spidercam and other features. ICC further expanded on its plans to broadcast 10,000 hours of live-action from the Council's broadcast partners across 200 countries and more.



"The ICC TV production will see a minimum of 35 cameras at all venues. Viewers will be treated to state-of-the-art coverage which will include live player-tracking and a dynamic field plot," ICC revealed.

The fans will be able to go through key events, match highlights, and other breaking stories on ICC's website as well as Facebook and Instagram pages. Former England captain Nasser Hussain praised the efforts made for the tournament.

"This is going to be a massive tournament with the world's top players in action in the fastest evolving format of the international game," he said.

"Not only do we get to see the leading teams, but we also get a chance to see the emerging teams fancying their chances in the T20 format. I can't wait for the tournament to begin and I'll enjoy working on these mouth-watering contests," he concluded.



Africa's top scoring Premier League players are Didier Drogba, Mo Salah (both 104 goals) and Sadio Mane (100)

Egyptian Mohamed Salah equals Premier League goals record for Africa

On Saturday, Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah became the joint top-scoring African in Premier League history.

One goal against Watford was enough to equal the record of Chelsea and Ivory Coast legend Didier Drogba, who accumulated 104 goals over two spells with the London club before his eventual departure, for a second time, in 2015.

Salah, who also has a previous affiliation with the European champions, has become one of the Premier League's most prolific forwards since joining Liverpool from Italy's Roma in 2017.

Didier Drogba - 104 goals: Drogba's goals helped Chelsea end a 50-year wait for a league title and re-establish themselves as one of England's top clubs following Roman Abramovich's takeover.

He won three league titles in his first spell, and a fourth following his return to Stamford Bridge.

Throw in an integral role in winning four FA Cups, three League Cups and the Champions League in 2011-12, and Drogba is undoubtedly a modern-day legend in west London.

Mohamed Salah - 104 goals: Dubbed the 'Egyptian King' by Liverpool fans, Salah netted 19 goals as the Reds ended their 30-year wait for a domestic top-flight title last year.

The 29-year-old, a two-time BBC and Caf African footballer of the year, also opened the scoring as the Anfield side beat Spurs to win the Champions League in 2018-19.

In his four full seasons on Merseyside, Salah has not dipped below 15 league goals, a level of con-

sistency which has swiftly lifted him up the African Premier League scoring chart.

He initially moved to England in January 2014, joining Chelsea from Basel, but only scored twice in 13 league outings for the Blues before two loan spells in Italy.

Sadio Mane - 100 goals: Senegal international Mane first shone at Southampton, netting 21 times - including the fastest hat-trick in Premier League history - in two seasons with the Saints in the top flight.

Since his switch to Liverpool in 2016, Mane has dovetailed with Salah to bring the Premier League, Champions League, European Super Cup and Fifa Club World Cup trophies to Anfield.

Twenty 20 World Cup began on Sunday.
Photograph: Scott Barbour/Getty Images

INDIA, ENGLAND OUT TO FOIL WINDIES IN T20 WORLD CUP

West Indies will again rely on a hardened bunch of Twenty20 specialists as they bid to retain their World Cup title, but are set for a stern test from India – out to secure a first global trophy under Virat Kohli – and an England team bidding to become champions in two formats.

The seventh edition of the showpiece Twenty20 World Cup was set to take place in India, but a COVID-19 surge in the country forced it to relocate.

The tournament began on Sunday 17 October 2021 with co-hosts Oman playing debutants Papua New Guinea in a preliminary Group B match in Muscat.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the Super

12 stage and the knockout matches across three venues – Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi – with 70% fan capacity.

The 16-team tournament is the biggest global cricket event since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and the event had to be shifted even though the Indian board retains its host status.

Kohli will step down as India's Twenty20 captain after the tournament and his team mates will hope to give him – and outgoing head coach Ravi Shastri – a fitting farewell.

Each member of the team has played the UAE leg of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and are familiar with local conditions.

Kohli will be able to tap

into the experience of team mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni who led India to the inaugural title in 2007.

England will be out to become world champions in both white-ball formats, two years after winning their maiden 50-overs World Cup under Eoin Morgan.

Morgan has endured a lean IPL and they will be without explosive all-rounder Ben Stokes who is addressing mental health issues, as well as injured fast bowler Jofra Archer.

Bowling all-rounder Chris Jordan believes they still have the “talent and chemistry” to win a second world 20-overs title.

“Having been together for so long, the chemistry is there, the talent is there -

all the ingredients are there for us to make a decent run in this campaign,” said Jordan. “The squad is very, very strong and I am pretty optimistic.”

T20 MERCENARIES

West Indies, the only team to have won the tournament twice, will once again bank on their awe-inspiring bunch of Twenty20 mercenaries – cricketing guns-for-hire who ply their trade in the world's lucrative T20 competitions – to accomplish a treble.

Captain Kieron Pollard and fellow all-rounders Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo are the three pillars of a side teeming with match-winners.

IDEWS