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# COVID-19 MANAGEMENT TO FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN THRONE SPEECH

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*Hummingbirds are rarely seen in the wild anymore, however at one time they were plentiful in Antigua and Barbuda. This tiny little fellow, a bronze tailed plumeleteer which weighs about 7 grams, was photographed in English Harbour. What makes this image even more unique is that finding a hummingbird at rest is a very rare sight indeed.*

## COVID-19 management to feature prominently in Throne Speech

The annual Throne Speech will be delivered this morning by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams during a joint sitting of Parliament.

The speech marks the opening of a new session of parliament.

Today's presentation is expected to highlight the accomplishments of the ABLP administration over the past year, which includes management of the COVID-19 pandemic and will give insight into plans for economic recovery.

"I think it will come as no surprise if the Governor General dwelt a little bit on the subject of COVID-19," Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst responded when asked what can be expected in the Throne Speech.

"After all it nearly destroyed our economy, except for some very smart moves by the Gaston Browne ad-

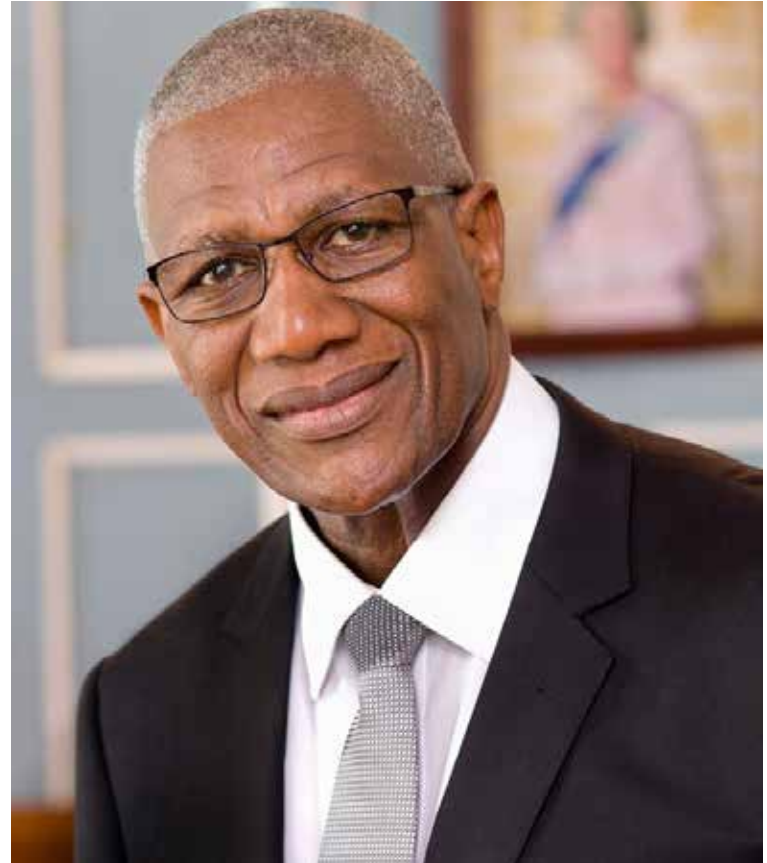
ministration; the economy of Antigua and Barbuda has been salvaged and in fact has grown in a year when growth was not even anticipated by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank," he posited.

Ambassador Hurst noted the presentation will also include other "smart things" that were done by the government to make the impact on Antiguan, Barbudans and those who reside here far less harmed than they would have been otherwise.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams is also expected to make predictions on what the future will hold.

"Clearly, 2022 means we're going to be facing some conditions which are known and some of course which are impossible to know, because no one knows how this virus will mutate and what kind of harm it may further inflict," Ambassador Hurst pointed out.

He noted the COVID-19



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

pandemic remains a serious issue and concerns continue to linger about the rate of transmissibility and whether the unvaccinated will be convinced to inoculate against the virus.

"This is a very import-

ant constituent, the percentage of non-vaccinated Antiguan and Barbudans and residents and it is important to try to get them vaccinated... So I think this will dominate the statement by the governor general," Mr. Hurst revealed.

He has given the Gaston Browne administration high marks for their performance in leading the country in the midst of challenges.

"It is clear that the Antigua and Barbuda management team has done a magnificent job in undertaking the business they were assigned in March of 2018," Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst affirmed.

<p>Thu 20   Day</p> <p><b>81°</b> </p> <p>24%  E 16 mph</p> <p>Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p> <p>Humidity <b>71%</b>    UV Index <b>9 of 10</b></p> <p>Sunrise <b>6:40 am</b>    Sunset <b>5:56 pm</b></p>	<p>Thu 20   Night</p> <p><b>74°</b> </p> <p>23%  E 15 mph</p> <p>A mostly clear sky. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p> <p>Humidity <b>76%</b>    UV Index <b>0 of 10</b></p> <p>Moonrise <b>8:25 pm</b>    Moonset <b>8:40 am</b></p> <p> Waning Gibbous</p>
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## Another government official tests positive for COVID-19

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst is the latest government official to have contracted the COVID-19 virus.

Hurst, who is fully vaccinated and has received a booster shot, told this publication a rapid antigen test returned a positive result yesterday morning and he has since gone into isolation.

A PCR test was also done, the results of which will be made available later this week.

Ambassador Hurst, a kidney transplant recipient who takes immunosuppressant drugs daily, said he has no symptoms.

"Thus far all of my coworkers have also taken the tests and they have

all proven negative.

"My sister, with whom I share a home, has also taken the test and she is proven negative," Mr. Hurst reported.

"My close family members they too have taken the test and they've proven negative also."

In addition to Hurst and Cabinet Secretary Konata Lee, four ministers of government have tested positive for the virus.

They have since been cleared to resume their ministerial duties.

Ahead of today's Throne Speech, COVID-19 testing was carried out on all MPs and senators who will attend the joint sitting of parliament.

It is unclear what provisions have been made to accommodate a full parliamentary chamber.



Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst

## UPP: COVID-19 should not impact right to vote

Signs of a pending general election are everywhere in Antigua and Barbuda and with last minute legal challenges in Barbados which sought to prevent the government from disallowing persons infected with COVID-19 from voting, political actors here are taking note and seeking to ensure that all persons able to vote, regardless of

their medical status, are allowed to do so.

Recently, all eyes were on Barbados where ultimately several hundreds, if not thousands of people, were barred from voting on Wednesday because they were either infected by, or in quarantine due to, COVID-19.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, no discussions

concerning what will happen to the COVID-19 affected when an election is called have as yet been entertained, however the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP), in a preemptive strike, has indicated that it will stand firmly against any attempt to disallow eligible voters the right to do so, whether or not they are infected with

the highly contagious and potentially life threatening disease..

While they have not themselves proposed circumstances under which COVID-19 infected persons, or those who have been exposed, can be safely included in the democratic process, the UPP stated, "...not even illness should deprive an eligible voter from casting his/her ballot."

The party further issued a call for the Electoral Commission, and by extension the government, to devise mechanisms by which all voters can, "safely exercise their franchise."

**Voting & COVID-19**



# The pandemic is birthing billionaires and killing the poor

By Nabil Ahmed

As we enter year three of this cruel pandemic, amid its turmoil, we are still tempted to reimagine our world.

When the pandemic first struck, rich and poor united in fear. Mighty politicians decried nationalistic selfishness, chided “greedy as hell” corporate conduct, and promised a vaccine would be a public good.

It felt like there was solidarity. But only at first.

As we grieve all those killed by the virus – over 5.5 million deaths have been officially reported, but the pandemic’s true death toll is estimated at over 19 million lives lost – we see that greed has been busy at work.

We enter 2022 witnessing the biggest increase in billionaire wealth since records began. A billionaire was created every 26 hours during this pandemic. The wealth of the world’s 10 richest men alone has doubled, rising at a rate of \$15,000 per second. But COVID-19 has left 99 percent of humanity worse off.

Our malaise is inequality. Inequality of income is now a stronger indicator of whether you will die from COVID-19 than age. In 2021, millions of people died in poorer countries with scant access to vaccines as pharmaceutical monopolies, protected by rich countries, throttled their supply. We



People are burying victims of COVID-19 at a cemetery on the outskirts of Lima, Peru on May 27, 2020 [File: AP/Rodrigo Abd]

minted new vaccine billionaires on the backs of denying billions of people access to vaccines.

Because inequality harms us all, we are all put at risk from the variants that inevitably emerge from man-made vaccine apartheid. In the same way, we all lose in our democracy from elite power and from a climate crisis driven by the over-consumption of the top 1 percent, who are responsible for double the emissions of the bottom 50 percent.

This is not rich versus poor anymore: It is the super-rich versus us all.

New Oxfam estimates show that inequality contributes to the death of at least one person every four seconds. And that is a con-

servative figure. This economic violence exists not in spite of extreme wealth, but because of it.

It would be tempting to view this all as simply business-as-usual rich-doing-well once again. But these data, compiled and calculated in Oxfam’s new paper “Inequality Kills”, are off the charts. Billionaire wealth, for example, has risen more since the pandemic began than in the previous 14 years combined. The IMF, World Bank, Crédit Suisse, and World Economic Forum (WEF) all project a spike in inequality within countries.

The super-rich are having a great pandemic. So much of the trillions of dollars, pumped by central

banks into financial markets to save economies, have ended up in the pockets of billionaires riding a stock market boom, while the surge in monopoly power, growing privatisation, the erosion of workers’ rights and wealth and corporate tax rate and labour market liberalisation have continued in full speed.

In parallel, billions of people face the impact of deepening inequality. In some countries, the poorest people have been nearly four times more likely to die from COVID-19 than the richest. Some 3.4 million Black Americans would be alive today if their life expectancy was the same as white Americans’, which is

*cont’d on pg 8*

## India to provide funding for solar projects

Antigua and Barbuda is to benefit from funding from the Indian Government that will aid in the implementation of solar energy projects. On 4th January, 2022, Antigua and Barbuda became the 102nd nation to sign the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance Agreement.

The ISA, the brainchild of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande, seeks to advance solar energy technologies by providing “energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries,” specifically Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Indian High Commissioner accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. K. J. Srinivasa speaking recently to members of the Indian community on island said the government in St. John’s can begin accessing funds once the agreement is finalized.

“The government of Antigua and Barbuda has promised to ratify this agreement within the next few weeks and once that is done, Antigua and Barbuda will become eligible for funding for small projects, especially in solarization of hospitals, solarization of cold storage projects and also solar powered water pumps,” the Indian diplomat said.

According to Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, each project can receive funding of up to US \$ 50,000 in the form of a grant.

“We believe this opens up abundant opportunities for the Antigua and Barbuda government to harness the power of the sun.”

In addition to the Solar Alliance Agreement, India has offered the Gas-



*Indian High Commissioner accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. K. J. Srinivasa*

ton Browne administration US \$ 10 million line of credit at concessional interest rates for the rolling out of solar energy projects. The High Commissioner said it is part of an initiative by the Indian prime minister to commit approximately US \$ 150 million to CARICOM member states to implement renewable energy projects to combat climate change.

“As you all know, Antigua and Barbuda has been regarded as a vulnerable nation under the climate change issues, a small island developing state with which India wants to work closely with,” he declared.

The developments come following meetings held as part of an exchange and outreach programme. During his visit, Dr. Srinivasa engaged in discussions with Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene, Utilities Minister Sir Robin Yearwood and President of the

Senate Alincia Williams-Grant. Meetings were also held with the Chamber of Commerce.

The Indian diplomat announced the provision of ten scholarships for studies in India geared toward building capacity nationally. India has also indicated its readiness to provide qualified nurses and more COVID-19 vaccines, along with experts in electricity generation and distribution and water purification and storage.

“The funding of this will be done by the Government of India, while the local hospitality will be taken care of by the host government. We believe that this type of cooperation, which has been monumental in over 160 countries across the world, where India has trained about 60,000 nationals of various countries, will go a long way in helping this country to achieve what it wants,” Dr. Srinivasa told Indian nationals last week.





## Signal Hill faces deforestation threat, says WNR Chief Executive Director

Chief Executive Director of the Wallings Nature Reserve Refica Attwood is warning that Signal Hill is under threat of deforestation.

Speaking to Pointe on De Streetz's host, Vernon Springer earlier this week, Attwood informed that deliberately set fires are posing a serious threat to the park.

Most of [Signal Hill] was forest and it's alarming that every year that hill was lit on fire because persons could not find the pathway and we are losing forest.

"So unless you're on the ground working you would not understand the significant impact of the reforestation efforts that are being undertaken now by Wallings Nature Reserve.

"It's to protect the island of Antigua and Barbuda, save some trees, plant

new trees and think about the future generations that [are] coming behind of us," she said.

Meanwhile, Attwood also disclosed that there is presently an exercise underway for which the Wallings Nature Reserve team will be calling on members of the public to contribute their views.

She explained that the management impact assessment of the Wallings Nature Reserve which will seek, with the public's help, to determine how the management of the park can be strengthened, how the wider community can benefit from the work being undertaken by the reserve's staff and strategise

ways in which the Wallings Nature Reserve can continue to benefit the economy.

"Wallings Nature Reserve has significantly contributed to tourism growth and we would have shared this information with the Ministry of Tourism.

"They are our biggest supporters - the Ministry of Tourism, the Environment Department, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority - and other non-governmental organisations and ministries across the island.

"But I must say when we're having any challenges, the Ministry of Tourism is right there along with the Environment Department," said Attwood.

### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that **HECTOR A. CARBELLEA RICARDO** of **Brownes avenue St Johns Antigua** is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



## 305 new COVID-19 cases, largest spike so far in January

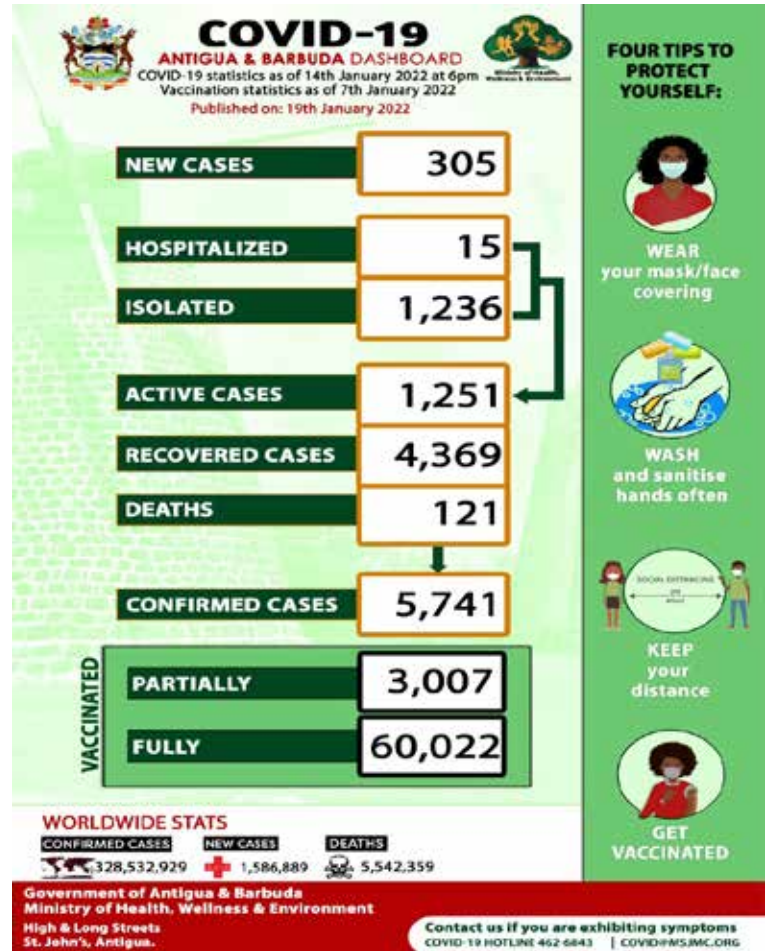
The most recent report received by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment revealed three hundred and five (305) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda as of Friday 14th January, 2022 at 6pm.

Three hundred and eighty-two (382) samples were processed.

Seventy-eight (78) recovered cases were record-

ed. Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is five thousand seven hundred and forty-one (5,741); which is inclusive of one thousand two hundred and fifty-one (1,251) active cases.

There are fifteen (15) hospitalised cases; two (2) severe, seven (7) moderate and six (6) mild.



## New moms and babies celebrate safe deliveries with gifts from Sagicor

The Sagicor team visited the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre early last week to deliver packages for the new mothers and their babies who were delivered safely on January 1st, 2022.

As a result of ongoing protocols instituted in light of the pandemic, the gifts were handed over to the hospital staff for delivery to the new families.

The hospital administration was delighted to receive Sagicor's visit and receive the accompanying welcome gifts which comprised mostly baby-care items.

Marisia James, Branch Manager for Sagicor said, "My team and I were happy to bring a moment of joy to these new families who are starting 2022 on a very positive note and in a blessed way. Kudos as well to the team at the Medical Centre who continue to do service beyond the call, to ensure



that all those who need medical care receive it. We wish the families health and happiness in the new year and beyond."

Sagicor Advisors Jeden Samuel and Cametia Everlie Simon made

the hamper presentation to Ethlyn Weekes, Maternity Nurse Manager and Departmental Manager, Anne Marie Browne-Isaac.

The medical staff delivered three girls and one boy in good health.

## The Last Word: Do You Really Need to Take 10,000 Steps a Day?

By **Lauren Bedosky & Justin Laube, MD**

The goal of reaching 10,000 steps per day has inspired countless movement challenges and remains the default setting on many fitness trackers. Maybe hitting that step goal, which is equivalent to about 5 miles, is part of your own wellness routine.

But does getting 10,000 steps per day really make

a difference in our overall health? Or is it just another fitness trend?

**The Claim About 10,000 Steps a Day**

The origin of this standard is a little murky. But researchers believe the number can be traced back to 1965, when a Japanese company made a pedometer named Manpo-kei, or “10,000 steps meter” in English. As Shawn Arent, PhD,

CSCS, professor and chair of the department of exercise science and director of the sport and science lab at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, explains, the rationale behind 10,000 steps was more about marketing than science.

Clearly, that marketing was wildly successful, as the recommendation to take 10,000 steps a day has become ingrained in Western

culture. This inspired researchers to check if reaching that number offered any actual health benefits. Spoiler alert: It does.

**The Scientific Research on the Benefits of Taking 10,000 Steps a Day**

One of the most recent studies investigating the benefits of taking 10,000 steps a day was published in May 2019 in JAMA Internal

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up from an already shocking 2.1 million pre-pandemic. Gender parity is set back by a generation, while women in many countries face a second pandemic of increased gender-based violence.

Vaccine apartheid fuels every inequality. And now the prospect of IMF-backed austerity in more than 80 countries threatens to make matters much worse.

We are making history for all the wrong reasons. Inequality is now as great as it was at the pinnacle of Western imperialism in the early 20th century. The Gilded Age of the late 19th century has been surpassed.

Hoping that change can come from the failed, narrow straitjacket of neoliberalism is the definition of insanity. The unprecedented nature of today's crisis demands extraordinary, systemic action – and a shift in imagination of the politics of the possible.

Every government needs a 21st century plan to pursue far greater economic equality and combat gender and racial inequality. That is what social movements demand. That is the lesson of progressive governments

after World War II and the wave of liberation from colonialism.

We can start by redirecting trillions of dollars to the real economy to save lives. It is achievable and necessary for governments to immediately begin to claw back huge gains made by the super-rich during the pandemic through one-off solidarity taxes, taking the example of countries like Argentina.

That is a start. To address wealth inequality on a more fundamental level, we need permanent progressive taxes on capital and wealth. History offers inspiration: US President Franklin D Roosevelt set a top marginal income tax rate of 94 percent in the wake of World War II (until 1981, that rate would average 81 percent).

Governments can invest revenues raised from progressive taxation in the proven, powerful means to create more equal, healthier and freer societies, such as universal healthcare – as Costa Rica has done – and universal social protection. Nobody should pay a health user fee again. We can invest in ending gender-based violence and creating a fossil-fuel free world. Imagine the lives saved, the opportunities

created.

But redistribution alone is not enough. We must change the rules of the market, the private sector, and globalisation so they do not produce such huge inequality in the first place. This means shifting power: strengthening workers' rights and protecting them; abolishing the sexist laws that legally prevent nearly 3 billion women from having the same choice of jobs as men; and addressing monopolies that menace democracies.

At this moment, the most urgent task is for rich governments to break the pharmaceutical monopolies held over COVID-19 vaccines, so we can get vaccines to the world and end this pandemic. How we exit this global emergency is up to us. It could be more of the same: violent economies in which billionaire wealth booms, inequality is ever-deadlier and self-defeating greed reigns.

Or, if we demand it, there could be profound change: economies centred on equality in which nobody lives in poverty, nor with unimaginable billionaire wealth, in which inequality no longer kills... in which hope reigns.

It is up to us.



*cont'd from pg 8*

Medicine. The aim? To see if more daily steps are associated with fewer deaths in older women.

In the study, more than 16,500 women between ages 62 and 101 (their average age was 72) from the U.S. Women's Health Study wore a step counter during waking hours for at least four days. Their devices measured the total steps taken per day and the intensity of their steps, which they calculated using various measures such as time spent stepping at a rate of at least 40 steps per minute. Researchers followed up with the women after four years to assess their health status.

Researchers found that women who averaged 4,400 steps per day had a 41 percent lower mortality rate than sedentary women who averaged 2,700 daily steps. Mortality rates were progressively lower with more steps taken before tapering off at 7,500 steps per day — that's 25 percent fewer steps than the common goal of 10,000 steps. In addition, researchers didn't find a clear link between stepping intensity and lower mortality rates after accounting for total steps per day.

Other studies have examined the potential benefits of taking 10,000 steps per day on body composition and heart health. For example, a study revealed that averaging 9,500 or more daily steps helped a group of adults who were overweight or had obesity



lose about 5.3 pounds and 2 percent body fat and increase HDL ("good") cholesterol by 3 milligrams per deciliter after 36 weeks. Despite these researched benefits, there are limitations to the 10,000-step target.

For starters, there's more to overall health than steps. Lifestyle factors like sleep, stress management, and diet all play a role. Yet these habits and activities may not be reflected in your daily step count. "Let's face it, if your diet is atrocious, you have poor stress management, or you're not sleeping, well, those 10,000 steps won't be the cure-all you need," Dr. Arent says.

In addition, there are types of exercises that, while beneficial, won't add much to your daily step counts, such as yoga, strength training, rowing, and cycling. This means your step total probably doesn't provide an accurate picture of your daily movement.

The Final Word on Whether You Need 10,000

Steps a Day

"There's nothing magical about 10,000 steps," Arent says. It can be a great target to aim for, but it's not the be-all and end-all of health and fitness.

"I encourage people to not focus on one number or one part of their health," says Larry Nolan, DO, a sports medicine physician at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus. Instead of fixating on a single number, aim to improve different factors that affect your health, such as sleep, diet, stress management, and lack of sufficient exercise.

Still, counting steps may help you stay on top of your physical activity and reduce your sitting time. "There are a lot of people who are actually shocked at how little they move in a day, so if nothing else, counting steps can be a great wake-up call," Arent says.

You don't have to aim for 10,000 steps necessarily, but as you get accustomed

to counting steps, you may be able to identify times during the day when you can squeeze in extra movement. "Find a target that works for you and pursue it," Dr. Nolan says.

Arent also recommends using the CDC's physical activity guidelines to help you focus on not only quantity but also the duration and the type of movement you're getting. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity such as brisk walking, 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity like running, or an equivalent mix of the two every week. Be sure to do at least two full-body strength workouts per week, too.

Most importantly, enjoy the process. Find activities you like and remember to appreciate the things your body is capable of doing. "Movement is something that we're fortunate enough to be able to do, and the more you do it, the longer you'll be able to maintain that ability," Arent says.

# Grenadians urged to stop making COVID prank calls to hospital

Grenada's acting Medical Director Dr Tyhiesia Donald on Wednesday called for an end to the number of prank calls being made to the Accident and Emergency Department of the island's General Hospital, saying they are affecting the level of health care to be provided to citizens.

"I can confirm that we have had these pranks calls and it's actually very sad that this is happening in the midst of the pandemic with the number of cases that we have and persons seeking medical care," Donald said, pointing out that the operation at the hospital is already affected because of the number of coronavirus diagnoses among medical staff including doctors.

Grenada began its second wave of an upsurge



Grenada's acting Medical Director Dr Tyhiesia Donald. (Photo: CMC)

in COVID-19 active cases from late December last year and Donald shared that as of January 19, 16 doctors, 32 nurses, and other auxiliary staff within the public health care system have been infected with COVID-19.

Pleading with the public to put an end to making such calls, Donald said when an ambulance is de-

ployed, people's lives are at stake because they are being deprived of urgent care.

"So, I will really like to ask the public to work with us, please work with us. If you do a prank call and there is someone, a family member who actually needs to have that ambulance call, what could have happened is that the resources would have been deployed to an

area where it is not needed," she stressed. "So it means that what will happen is that someone who needs urgent care will be deprived of that care because of your prank call," Dr Donald told reporters at the weekly post-cabinet news conference on Wednesday.

"We have instances where an ambulance goes to a household and the persons there, they don't have any idea why it is there and then you have the other instances where ambulance go out and no one is there. We have two scenarios, no one is there, and the other scenario is the person within the household have no idea why the ambulance is there," she added.

"They should really stop that practice because it's affecting our system."

## Martinique court dismisses slavery reparations lawsuit

AP - An appeals court in the French Caribbean island of Martinique on Tuesday dismissed a request from groups seeking slavery reparations in a blow to efforts that began more than 15 years ago.

The court provided several reasons for its ruling, noting there's a statute of

limitations for those crimes and that a French law already allows the implementation of certain measures meant to "bring a memorial contribution to the recognition of slavery and the slave trade" and that it is not for the judiciary to decide if those measures are sufficient.

Patrick Baudouin, one of two lawyers representing the French state, said the judgment "is not a negationist decision that calls into question the abomination of slavery," but that the plaintiffs are picking the wrong target: "It is not the responsibility of a judge

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## US Navy seizes \$22M in cocaine in Caribbean Sea

Loop - The US Navy's USS Milwaukee together with US Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) seized an estimated \$22 million in suspected cocaine on January 7 while operating in the Caribbean Sea.

While on patrol, a maritime patrol aircraft spotted a suspected drug smuggling go-fast vessel. Packages were also observed being thrown into the water.

After receiving permission to conduct a boarding, the authorities recovered the packages and five suspected drug traffickers were detained.

An estimated 315 kilograms of suspected cocaine worth an approximated street value of over \$22 million was recovered.



"We are very pleased with the effectiveness of everyone's response and the integration of all parties involved," said Lt Jordan Lachowsky, the LEDET's officer in charge.

"We're looking forward to more opportunities and more successes in the near future."

USS Milwaukee was deployed on December 14 to the US 4th Fleet area of

operations to support Joint Interagency Task Force South's mission, which includes counter-illicit drug trafficking missions in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.

*cont'd from pg 10*

to grant reparations, centuries later."

Slavery was abolished in France in 1848, and government lawyers have argued that the so-called Taubira law, dating from 2001 and named after a 2022 French presidential candidate, has made it possible to recognize the slave trade and slavery as crimes against humanity but that the issue of financial reparations had been dismissed.

Undeterred by Tuesday's ruling, the International Movement for Reparations and others who joined the lawsuit against the French government vowed to seek a Supreme Court ruling on a civil legal procedure they

launched in 2005.

French courts have repeatedly rejected their request, but it was the European Court of Human Rights that kept it alive by making their claims admissible.

"History will prove us right, and time is on our side," said Garcin Malsa, the movement's president, adding that "this issue will lay bare the horrors of French and European colonialism. We are going to encourage as many Afro-descendants as possible to file a complaint."

The issue of reparations is widely debated across the Caribbean, where an estimated 5 million slaves were brought over by colonial pow-

ers including England and France and forced to toil on sugar plantations and other fields under brutal conditions.

Aimé Césaire, a poet and politician from Martinique and a founder of the Négritude movement, said in a 2001 interview with the French newspaper L'Express that he did not favour repentance or reparations.

"There is even, in my opinion, a danger to this idea of reparations," he was quoted as saying. "I would not like it if one fine day Europe says to itself, 'Well, here is the note or the check, and we are not talking about it anymore!' There is no possible repair for something that is irreparable and that is not quantifiable."

# Covid pandemic 'nowhere near over,' WHO says

CNN - How will the pandemic end? Nearly two years since it was officially declared by the World Health Organization (WHO), we're still no closer to knowing the answer.

The highly transmissible Omicron variant has swept the globe since it was first detected in South Africa in November.

But the fact that it is less likely to cause severe disease than previous coronavirus variants has led to heavy speculation over whether it might mark a turning point, or a conclusion, to the pandemic.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus poured cold water on that theory on Tuesday, saying: "This pandemic is nowhere near over."

Omicron is continuing to infect the world at a startling speed, with more than 18 million cases reported last week alone, according to WHO. The number of Covid patients in the United States is at a record high and continues to climb, overwhelming hospitals. From Australia to Germany, infections are leaping to never-before-seen levels, putting a significant strain on health care systems.

"Omicron may be less severe -- on average, of course -- but the narrative that it is mild disease is mis-

leading, hurts the overall response, and costs more lives," Tedros said. "Make no mistake, Omicron is causing hospitalizations and deaths and even the less severe cases are inundating health facilities. The virus is circulating far too intensely with many still vulnerable."

The same message was echoed a day earlier by Dr. Anthony Fauci, US President Joe Biden's top medical adviser. Fauci was asked at the online World Economic Forum if the coronavirus may this year transition from pandemic to endemic level, when a disease has a constant presence in a population but is not affecting an alarmingly large number of people. He replied: "I would hope that that's the case, but that would only be the case if we don't get another variant that eludes the immune response."

Fauci added that the world is still in the first of what he described as five pandemic phases: "the truly pandemic phase," where the world is "very negatively impacted," which is followed by deceleration, control, elimination and eradication.

And yet some governments seem to be ignoring such phased steps, resigning themselves to the virus ripping through their populations indefinitely. Accord-



Government workers investigate a pet shop that closed after some pet hamsters tested positive for the coronavirus in Hong Kong on January 18. [Photo: CNN]

ing to their logic, "We need to learn to live with this virus." But what exactly does that look like, and how long will it last?

In some European countries, pandemic strategy continues to down-shift toward fewer mitigation measures, reduced quarantine periods and fewer restrictions on travel.

In fact, in places such as Spain, the thinking is to treat Omicron more like the flu — despite public health officials, including WHO, cautioning against that approach.

"I think we have to evaluate the evolution of Covid to an endemic illness, from the pandemic we have faced up until now," Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said last week.

In Britain, which flirted with a controversial "herd

immunity" strategy at the start of the pandemic and has continued to raise eyebrows with its "keep calm and carry on" attitude to the virus, an Omicron spike threatened to put the country's health service on a "war footing."

But now that the wave seems to have crested — 93,890 new cases were reported on Tuesday compared to 129,544 on the same day last week — the limited "Plan B" restrictions imposed in December, which included masks on public transport, will be eased next week.

"Decisions on the next steps remain finely balanced," Downing Street said in a statement, which emphasised that "the Omicron variant continues to pose a significant threat and the pandemic is not over."



## Major airlines cancel, change flights to US over 5G dispute

AP - Major international airlines cancelled flights heading to the U.S. or changed the planes they're using Wednesday, the latest complication in a dispute over concerns that 5G mobile phone service could interfere with aircraft technology.

Some airlines said they were warned that the Boeing 777, a plane used by carriers worldwide, was particularly affected by the new high-speed wireless service. The aircraft is the workhorse for Dubai-based Emirates, a key carrier for East-West travel, and its flight schedule took one of the biggest hits. It was not clear how disruptive the cancellations would be. Several airlines said they would try to merely use different planes to maintain their service.

The cancellations and changes came a day after mobile phone carriers AT&T and Verizon said they would postpone new wireless service near some U.S. airports planned for this week. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has cleared a number of aircraft to fly into airports with 5G signals, but the Boeing 777 is not on the list.

Similar mobile networks have been deployed in dozens of other countries — sometimes with concessions like reducing the power of the networks near airports, as France has done. But in the U.S., the issue has pitted the FAA and the airlines against the Federal Communications Commission and the telecoms companies.

The 5G service uses a seg-



Airlines across the world, including the long-haul carrier Emirates, rushed Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, to cancel or change flights heading into the U.S. over an ongoing dispute about the rollout of 5G mobile phone technology near American airports. (AP Photo/Jon Gambrell, File)

ment of the radio spectrum that is close to that used by radio altimeters, which are devices that measure the height of aircraft above the ground and help pilots land in low visibility. The FCC, which set a buffer between the 5G band and the spectrum that planes use, determined that it could be used safely in the vicinity of air traffic. AT&T and Verizon have said their equipment will not interfere with aircraft electronics.

But FAA officials saw a potential problem, and the telecom companies agreed to a pause while it is addressed.

On Wednesday, Emirates announced it would halt flights to several American cities due to “operational concerns associated with the planned deployment of 5G mobile network services in the U.S. at certain airports.” It said it would continue flights to Los Angeles, New York and Washington. Of particular concern appears to be the Boeing 777. Emirates only flies that model and the Airbus A380 jumbo jet.

Air France said it planned to continue flying its Boeing

777s into American airports. It did not explain why it didn't change its aircraft as many other carriers have.

Chicago-based Boeing Co. did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Air India also announced on Twitter it would cancel flights to Chicago, Newark, New York and San Francisco because of the 5G issue. But it also said it would try to use other aircraft on U.S. routes — a course several other airlines took.

Korean Air, Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific and Austrian Airlines said they substituted different planes for flights that were scheduled to use 777s. Korean Air spokeswoman Jill Chung said the airline was also avoiding operating some kinds of 747s at affected airports. Germany's Lufthansa also swapped out one kind of 747 for another on some U.S.-bound flights.

British Airways cancelled several planned U.S.-bound Boeing 777 flights and changed aircraft on others.

The FAA has said it will allow planes with accurate,

reliable altimeters to operate around high-power 5G. But planes with older altimeters will not be allowed to make landings under low-visibility conditions. Part of the problem, according to the FAA, are the signal strength of the 5G towers and the orientation of their antennae.

“Base stations in rural areas of the United States are permitted to emit at higher levels in comparison to other countries which may affect radio altimeter equipment accuracy and reliability,” the FAA said in December.

The FCC's chairwoman said in a statement that the 5G “deployment can safely co-exist with aviation technologies in the United States, just as it does in other countries around the world.” However, Jessica Rosenworcel urged the FAA to conduct its safety checks with “both care and speed.”

AT&T and Verizon spent tens of billions of dollars for the 5G spectrum known as C-Band in a government auction last year.

Choi Jong-yun, a spokeswoman of Asiana Airlines, said the company hasn't been affected so far because it uses Airbus planes for passenger flights to the U.S.

However, Choi raised a new wrinkle, saying airlines have also been instructed by the FAA to avoid automatic landings at affected U.S. airports during bad weather conditions, regardless of plane type. Asiana will redirect its planes to nearby airports during those conditions, she said.

## Russia says it will take nothing less but NATO expansion ban

AP - Russia maintained a tough posture amid the tensions over its troop build-up near Ukraine, with a top diplomat warning Wednesday that Moscow will accept nothing less but “watertight” U.S. guarantees precluding NATO’s expansion to Ukraine.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, who led the Russian delegation at the security talks with the U.S. in Geneva last week, reaffirmed that Moscow has no intentions of invading Ukraine as the West fears, but said that receiving Western security guarantees is the categoric imperative for Moscow.

The talks in Geneva and a related NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels last week were held as Russia has amassed an estimated 100,000 troops near Ukraine in what the West fears might herald an invasion.

In a move that further beefs up forces near Ukraine, Russia has sent an unspecified number of troops from the country’s far east to its ally Belarus, which shares a border with Ukraine, for major war games next month. Ukrainian officials have said that Moscow could use Belarusian territory to launch a potential multi-pronged invasion.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday that some of its troops already have arrived in Belarus for the Allied Resolve 2022 drills that will run through Feb. 20. It said the exercise will be held at five firing ranges and other areas in Belarus and involve four Belarusian air bases.

Amid the soaring tensions, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Ukraine on Wednesday to reassure it of Western support in the face of what he called “relentless” Russian aggression while French President Emmanuel Macron urged the European Union to quickly draw up a new security plan containing proposals to help ease tensions with Russia.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Wednesday it’s too early to tell whether



*A convoy of Russian armoured vehicles moves along a highway in Crimea, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022. Russia has concentrated an estimated 100,000 troops with tanks and other heavy weapons near Ukraine in what the West fears could be a prelude to an invasion. (AP Photo)*

talks could defuse the crisis, adding that “after years of rising tensions, staying silent is not a sensible option.”

“The Russian side is aware of our determination,” Scholz said in a speech to the World Economic Forum. “I hope they also realise that the gains of cooperation outweigh the price of further confrontation.”

Russia has denied that it intends to attack its neighbour but demanded guarantees from the West that NATO will not expand to Ukraine or other former Soviet nations or place its troops and weapons there. It also has urged NATO to roll back the deployments of its troops and weapons to Central and Eastern European nations that have joined the alliance after the end of the Cold War.

Washington and its allies firmly rejected Moscow’s demands but kept the door open to possible further talks on arms control and confidence-building measures to reduce the potential for hostilities.

Ryabkov insisted, however, that there can’t be any meaningful talks on those issues if the West doesn’t heed the main Russian requests for the non-expansion of NATO.

He warned that the Russian demands

contained in draft agreements with the U.S. and NATO “constitute a package, and we’re not prepared to divide it into different parts, to start processing some of those at the expense of standing idle on others.”

The Russian diplomat said Ukraine’s increasingly close ties with NATO allies pose a major security challenge to Russia.

“We see the threat of Ukraine becoming ever more integrated in NATO without even acquiring a formal status of a NATO member state,” Ryabkov said, pointing at Western powers supplying Ukraine with weapons, training its troops and conducting joint drills. “This is something that goes right to the centre of Russia’s national security interests, and we will do our utmost to reverse this situation, to re-balance this situation through diplomatic means.”

Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 after mass protests prompted Ukraine’s Moscow-friendly leader to flee to Russia. At the same time, Russia also cast its support behind a separatist insurgency that swept over large areas in eastern Ukraine. More than 14,000 people have been killed in nearly eight years of fighting there.

Asked if Russia could accept a moratorium on NATO’s expansion eastward, an idea circulated by some political experts, Ryabkov answered with a firm no, saying that Moscow has seen the West backtrack on previous promises.

He emphasised that “for us, the matter of priority is achievement of watertight, bulletproof, legally binding guarantees” that Ukraine and other ex-Soviet nations will not join the alliance.

Ryabkov suggested that the U.S. could also take a unilateral obligation to never vote for NATO membership for Ukraine and other ex-Soviet nations.

Russia has urged the U.S. and NATO to provide a quick written response, and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday it expects to receive it “within days.”



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# West Indies 'batting quality not there' - Phil Simmons

CricInfo - Phil Simmons has echoed his limited-overs captain Kieron Pollard's analysis that West Indies "have a batting problem" but insists he is not worrying about his job as head coach after a shock 2-1 ODI series defeat at home to Ireland.

West Indies were bowled out for 269, 229 and 212 in their three ODIs against Ireland at Sabina Park in Jamaica, with Pollard describing their scores in the last two games as "totally unacceptable", adding that "overall, holistically, I think we have a batting problem".

Speaking from Barbados ahead of West Indies' five-match T20I series against England, which starts on Saturday, Simmons said that his batters were failing to translate their progress in training into results on the pitch, but stressed that scapegoating players already in the squad would only serve to mask the systemic failings to develop them at a domestic level.

"It's there to see: our batting quality is not there," Simmons said. "Everything comes from lower down: if you're coming into our squad and you're averaging 30s when you come to the top level, you're not going to average 40 or 50.

"The holistic approach means that all through the ranks, all the way from the Under-19s, we have to be looking at preparing people to play at the international level. Averaging 20s and 30s at the domestic level doesn't prepare you for the international level.

"How much the players are assessing the situation and playing the situation... it's not really happening. Yes, [Sabina Park] was a difficult pitch to bat on for all three days at the start [of the innings], but we got through most of the difficult period and then things



West Indies head coach Phil Simmons [Photo: CricInfo]

went astray. It's about bad shot selection ... that's a huge part of the batting failure."

Simmons, who was re-appointed as head coach in October 2019 and oversaw West Indies' failed defence of the T20 World Cup he won with them in 2016, insisted that he was only focused on improving the players at his disposal, not his future in the role.

"If I start worrying about my job then I have problems," he said. "I am worrying about the success of the team and I am worrying about how we get players to be playing their roles. That's all I'm concerned about. You're always under pressure as coaches when the team's not doing well, in any sport you play, and when the team is doing well, the coaches are forgotten. That's the nature of the job.

"I enjoy it everyday. My role is seeing the players and working with them, trying to bring out different things in them. To be honest, when we practise, there's a lot coming out, there's a lot being shown. It's just how they adjust and assess the situation when they cross the rope ... because that's where it's falling down.

"Every ball is a situation in the game and we've got to be able to assess that situation and know how to play. If you're 20 for 3, you play differently to if you're 40 for 0. These are the situations that we need to highlight and need to assess properly."

West Indies' squad for the England T20Is contains only six players who made appearances during their Super 12s exit at the T20 World Cup, with a handful of young players including Dominic Drakes, Romario Shepherd and Odean Smith included. The trio all featured in December's 3-0 series defeat in Pakistan - where the squad was depleted due to a Covid-19 outbreak - and Simmons said that he hoped they would continue to bring "energy" to the group.

"There's a lot of difference from the World Cup, as you saw in Pakistan," he said. "Yes, we lost the three games, but there was a lot more energy, a lot more enthusiasm and that's the same with this group for this series against England. There's an influx of maybe six or seven guys who were not there against Ireland and there's a lot of ener-

*cont'd on pg 17*



## University of Michigan reaches \$490M settlement over sexual abuse

AP - The University of Michigan has agreed to a \$490 million settlement with more than 1,000 people who say they were sexually assaulted by a former sports doctor at the school during his nearly four-decade career, those involved in the agreement said Wednesday.

Attorney Parker Stinar said that 1,050 people will share in the settlement, which was reached the night before. The university had been in mediation to resolve multiple lawsuits by mostly men who said Dr. Robert Anderson sexually abused them during routine medical examinations.

"It has been a long and challenging journey, and I believe this settlement will provide justice and healing for the many brave men and women who refused to be silenced," said Stinar, who represents about 200 victims.

Stinar said \$460 million will be paid out to the 1,050 victims, while \$30 million has been set aside for future accusers.

University spokesman Rick Fitzgerald confirmed



*Disgraced former University of Michigan gynaecologist, Dr. George Tyndall*

the settlement and said a statement would be released later Wednesday.

Anderson worked at the university from 1966 until his 2003 retirement and was director of the university's Health Service and a physician for multiple athletic teams, including football. A number of football players and other athletes have come forward to accuse Anderson, who died in 2008, of sexually abusing them.

A report by a firm hired by the school determined that staff missed many opportunities to stop Anderson over his 37-year career.

The university regular-

ly is ranked among the top public universities in the U.S.

The deal came just after two men who say they were sexually assaulted by Anderson said they were hoping that a change in leadership with the weekend firing of university President Mark Schlissel would allow the school be more accountable toward abuse victims.

Keith Moree and Robert Stone told reporters Tuesday that the Ann Arbor school is ripe for a culture change as its board conducts a search to permanently replace Schlissel,

who was removed Saturday due to an alleged "inappropriate relationship with a university employee."

The settlement with Anderson's victims is one of several agreed to by universities following sex abuse scandals, including Michigan State University's agreement to pay \$500 million to settle claims from more than 300 women and girls who said they were assaulted by Larry Nassar, who was a campus sports doctor as well as a doctor for USA Gymnastics.

That settlement, announced in May 2018, was considered the largest at the time, far surpassing the \$100 million-plus that Penn State University has paid to settle claims by at least 35 people who accused assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky of sexual abuse.

Last year, the University of Southern California agreed to an \$852 million settlement with more than 700 women who have accused the college's long-time campus gynecologist, Dr. George Tyndall, of sexual abuse.

*cont'd from pg 16*  
 gy coming in.

"It [would be] a difficult situation if we had the same team from the World Cup but we have a lot of new faces and a lot of guys who want to make an impression and be a part of the team going forward. From that point of view, it's not as difficult as it might seem.

"We as a cricketing nation always have players who have the ability to hit the ball over the fence and it's something I don't want to take away from my players, but I also want my players to be clinical. In situations where you don't need to do that, well, we must be able to get ones, to get twos.

"[I want them] to bowl yorkers at

the end instead of missing them, and hitting them more consistently than we are right now. There's a few things that we haven't been doing properly and we're working very hard on them. The important thing now is for the youngsters to come in and hone their skills and be able to execute them in the middle, not just in practice."

## Qatar 2022 World Cup tickets go on sale with Final tickets reaching \$1,600

CNN - In a little over 10 months, the world's best football players will descend on Qatar for the World Cup and tickets have now been made available to the general public.

Prices vary depending on the game and what category seat you opt for, with tickets for the Final match ranging from \$604 to as much as \$1,600.

That may seem steep but, in comparison, some official tickets for this year's Super Bowl are starting at \$5,950.

"This is a FIFA World Cup for Qatar, the region and the world, and the products launched today reflect FIFA's goal of bringing the beautiful game to as many fans globally as possible," said FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura.

Qatari residents will benefit from subsidised tickets, with prices starting from just under \$11 for the exclusive Category 4 seating, in a bid to fill stadiums for the tournament.

There will also be cheaper accessibility tickets available for those with disabilities.

Fans will also be able to purchase package deals to follow their chosen team throughout the tournament,



*The Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Doha will host seven matches during Qatar 2022.*

as well as buying multiple tickets for different games in the same stadium.

FIFA said visitors must follow the travel advice from the Qatari authorities and that the latest Covid-19 measures will be communicated in advance of the tournament.

"It will be a festival of football that will see fans experience the rich culture and history of the region through the platform of football at top-class stadiums and we look forward to bringing people from

different cultures together to live football at the FIFA World Cup," Samoura added.

Questions have continuously been raised about human rights issues going into this year's World Cup in Qatar, notably involving migrant workers and anti-homosexuality laws.

A report published last year by Amnesty International found that Qatari authorities failed to investigate the deaths of thousands of migrant workers, despite evidence of unsafe

working conditions.

A number of national teams have already drawn attention to their human rights concerns, staging protests in the qualifying rounds.

Nasser Al Khater, the chief executive of the tournament's organising committee, insists that Qatar has been treated "unfairly and unjustly" since it earned the right to host the tournament 11 years ago.

He promised the host nation would be "tolerant" and "welcoming."



# Batsmen warm-up with solid batting ahead of Betway T20I Series

CWI - West Indies made good use of their preparations ahead of the Betway T20 International Series, when they defeated BCA President's XI on Tuesday night. The home side batted first and made 131-6 off their 20 overs.

The target was revised to 160 off 20 overs and West Indies reached 165-3 off 18.3 overs to win by seven wickets.

The top five batsmen made good use of a firm, true pitch and with all of them getting starts.

Kyle Mayers got off the mark with a six which laid down a marker as he added 62 in 4.5 overs for the first

wicket with Brandon King. The strongly-built left-hander made 38 off 32 balls, while King smashed 32 off 13 balls with two sixes and four fours across the lush, carpet-like outfield.

King was the first wicket to fall – well caught by Kadeem Alleyne at deep mid-off off Roshon Primus. He was replaced by stand-in Nicholas Pooran, who made 27 off 21 balls with two sixes – one of which sailed onto the roof of the Greenidge & Haynes Stand at deep midwicket.

Mayers followed soon after as he was bowled by off-spinner Ashley Nurse – as he tried to hit a full



length delivery through the off-side. Roston Chase then joined Darren Bravo and the pair added an unbroken stand 54 for the fourth wicket. Left-hander Bravo looked in good touch with 32 not out off 27 balls, while the elegant Chase (23

not out) ended the match in style with a big six over long-on into the 3Ws Stand.

The BCA President's XI played a second match against England on Wednesday at Kensington Oval. First ball was 4pm (3pm Jamaica).

## cont'd from pg 20

saps your energy, the heat down there - you have to have young guys who can run around and concentrate properly.

"If you look at all the other sides, Australia had a near perfect test side playing that one day tournament and that's why they won. They played their best players. We have to stop thinking that we have this island problem. We have to pick the best team," said Sir Clive.

He took a clear shot at some of the more senior members of the West Indies line up who have passed their athletic prime.

"We have to tell people, "Thanks very much for what you've done," and move on. We can't just keep playing people as long as they want. No, the other countries are not doing that and we must follow them. That's how we were successful [in the past].

"We had young guys coming in all

the time. We didn't wait until a guy got old; they left! And they were still good when they left! But they knew when to leave," said Sir Clive.

Sir Clive Hubert Lloyd captained the West Indies between 1974 and 1985 and oversaw their rise to become the dominant Test playing team, a position that was only relinquished in the latter half of the 1990s.

He is one of the most successful Test captains of all time.

During his captaincy, the side had a run of 27 matches without defeat, which included 11 wins in succession (Sir Vivian Richards acted as captain for one of the 27 matches, against Australia at Port of Spain in 1983-84).

He was the first West Indian player to earn 100 international caps.

Lloyd captained the West Indies in three World Cups, winning in 1975 (with Lloyd scoring a century) and 1979 while losing the 1983 final to India.

Lloyd was a powerful middle-order batsman and occasional medium-pace bowler. In his youth he was also a strong cover point fielder.

Over his career, Lloyd scored 7,515 runs at Test level, at an average of 46.67. He hit 70 sixes in his Test career, which is the 14th highest number of any player. He played for his home nation of Guyana in West Indies domestic cricket, and for Lancashire (he was made captain in 1981) in England.

Since retiring as a player, Lloyd has remained heavily involved in cricket, managing the West Indies in the late 1990s, coaching and commentating. He was an ICC match referee from 2001 to 2006. In 2009, Lloyd was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

He was knighted in the 2020 New Year Honours for services to cricket, an honour for which the formal ceremony had to be delayed until this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Sports

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## Sir Clive Lloyd: Urgent changes need to be made in Windies Cricket

By Eboni Brandon

Cricketing legend Sir Clive Lloyd says he plans to write to Cricket West Indies (CWI) outlining his observations in respect of urgent changes that must be made if the reputation of the West Indies team is to be saved.

On Wednesday, speaking to Pointe FM's Vernon Springer, Sir Clive was candid in expressing the issues he believes are impacting the regional team negatively.

From the Board of Selectors to the attitude of the players, Sir Clive believes that critical adjustments need to be made to the management of the West Indies senior men's team.

As far as players are concerned, Sir Lloyd's position is that the administrators of the sport and senior members of the squad's attention is divided which is resulting in the regional team's under-performance.

He said if their attention is focused on the Indian Premier League (IPL), and other international franchises which may be more financially lucrative, that leaves little time for them to focus on the needs of the West Indies.

Sir Clive also opined that the valuable human assets the sport has produced in the region are not adequately utilised at all.

"We're just doing little things and not the big ones. We have to start at the bottom and give our guys the impetus that playing for the West Indies is it. Not playing for some franchise company.

"You notice now that South Africa [is not] allowing their players to go to the IPL; their cricket is important. The



Sir Clive Lloyd

South Africans merged states together so that they can have a stronger set of players, they're coaching, they're all singing from the same hymn book. They have invested in ex-players. We haven't done so.

"We seem to think that bringing people from outside is the ultimate. No! We have people who can do things.

"Someone like Desmond Haynes should be teaching our players how to play. Gordon Greenidge, they are batsmen of class, at all levels, and I think that we need to use those guys - the Andy Roberts, I notice they have [Curtley] Ambrose - we have guys there who can impart the knowledge, said the Guyana-born former cricketer.

He added that like India, Australia, South Africa and many other countries, CWI needs to include more of its former

players on the selection panel, who are keenly attuned to the attributes of players who will excel.

Sir Clive said these critical areas affecting the sport must be addressed so that future generations of cricketers will understand and aspire to live up to the rich and proud history of West Indies cricket.

In respect of the West Indies' recent performances in the World Cup where they were unable to hold onto the title and their most recent loss to Ireland, Sir Clive believes there were definitely mistakes made in respect to selection.

"There's a bit of [problems] with selection. There are players who I think could have been included.

"We don't understand that when we play in places like Dubai, it's warm - it

*cont'd on pg 19*