

'SNAPBACK' SANCTIONS ON IRAN UNSC dismisses US's demand

AFP, United Nations

United Nations has blocked a controversial bid by the US to reimpose international sanctions on Iran, with the Security Council saying it could not proceed with the disputed move.

The presidency of the Council, assumed in August by Indonesia, is "not in a position to take further action" on Washington's request, said Indonesian ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani.

In a video conference on the Middle East, he cited the lack of consensus in the UN's highest body on the US strategy as the main reason.

The Trump administration accuses Tehran of failing to comply with the terms of the historic 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and is demanding the Security Council reimpose sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Washington insists on its legal right to trigger the disputed procedure, called "snapback" -- despite pulling out of the deal two years ago.

The move threatens to torpedo the Iran accord and plunge the Council into crisis, while widening the gulf between the US and almost every other member on Iran policy.

Thirteen of the 15 Council members had written to the Indonesian presidency to reject its validity.

One diplomat, on condition of anonymity, said with the sound rejection of the US bid by almost the entire Council, "normally the matter is closed."

Washington has previously accused Council members of "siding with the ayatollahs."

The move, never before used, comes after the US suffered a humiliating defeat at the Security Council earlier this month when it failed to muster support for a resolution to extend a conventional arms embargo on Iran.



Protesters run for cover as police fire teargas in an effort to disperse crowd outside the County Courthouse during demonstrations against the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Tuesday night. Inset, Residents confront protesters near the Kenosha County Courthouse. Story on page 16.



NEWS IN BRIEF

EU eyes initial vaccination for 40 pc of population

European Union nations, Britain and EU partners have agreed on a blueprint for a Covid-19 vaccination plan envisaging inoculation of at least 40% of their populations, a step that may set back the World Health Organisation's own vaccine blueprint. The EU target for early vaccinations is twice as high as the goal set by the WHO, which is aiming to buy vaccines initially for 20% of the world's most vulnerable people through a global procurement scheme. The EU estimates that the share of its population in need of initial vaccination, should a shot be developed, would be at least 40%, effectively reducing the availability of possible doses for less developed countries. There is so far no approved Covid-19 vaccine, except one authorised in Russia before large-scale trials. EU initially eyes to vaccinate "priority groups" over 200 million of the EU population of 450 million, including people with chronic diseases, the elderly and health workers.

2 lawmakers among dozens arrested in HK

Two prominent Hong Kong opposition lawmakers were among more than a dozen people arrested yesterday in a police operation focused on last year's huge protests, part of a widening crackdown against the city's democracy camp. Lam Cheuk-ting and Ted Hui were detained after early morning raids on their homes, adding to the mounting prosecutions targeting Beijing's critics in the restless financial hub. Police said yesterday's arrests were related to two anti-government rallies last year -- one on 6 July and the other on 21 July, the latter on a day that saw a notorious attack by government loyalists on protesters in the town of Yuen Long. In late June Beijing imposed a sweeping new security law, tightening Communist Party control over the semi-autonomous city and ending the legal firewall between the two territories. Certain political views -- such as advocating independence or greater autonomy for Hong Kong -- became illegal overnight, and arrests have followed.

Turkey says 'no concessions' in east Mediterranean row

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday warned Turkey would make "no concessions" in the eastern Mediterranean and told Greece to avoid taking steps that could lead to its "ruin". His remarks come just hours after Athens said it would launch military exercises with France, Italy and Cyprus in the region, where tensions between the two neighbours have escalated in recent weeks. Greece and Turkey are already divided on significant issues including migration and Byzantine heritage in Istanbul, formerly Constantinople. But the discovery of hydrocarbon reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has further strained relations, with Turkey rejecting calls from the EU and Athens to immediately stop energy exploration in the region. Turkey sent the Oruc Reis research vessel accompanied by warships to disputed waters on August 10. Its activities were meant to end on last Sunday but were extended to Thursday.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP

India's Covid cases top 3.2m

Myanmar expands Rakhine virus lockdown to cover one million

AGENCIES

India recorded more than 60,000 cases of Covid-19 for the eighth day in a row yesterday, as total cases crossed 3.2 million, data from the federal health ministry showed.

The world's second-most populous country is third behind the United States and Brazil in terms of total caseload, and has recorded the world's highest single-day caseload consistently since August 7, a Reuters tally showed.

Deaths in the last 24 hours stood at 1,059, taking the total number of fatalities from the infection to 59,449 in the country.

West Bengal will be under total lockdown on September 7, 11 and 12 in view of rising number of coronavirus cases in many areas of the state, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said yesterday. Mamata said schools and colleges would remain closed till



September 20 and the decision would be reviewed later.

The pandemic has killed at least 820,180 people worldwide since surfacing in China late last year, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP yesterday. More than 23.9 million cases have been registered in 196 countries and territories.

Meanwhile, Myanmar expanded a lockdown in conflict-racked Rakhine state to cover four more townships yesterday, halting the movement of about 1 million people as the number

of coronavirus cases climbs steadily.

One hundred new infections were confirmed across Myanmar in the last 24 hours -- bringing the total to 574 -- with the northwestern state registering the bulk.

Rakhine is home to about 130,000 Rohingyas displaced by conflict and confined to camps under what Amnesty International describes as "apartheid" conditions. Another 150,000 displaced ethnic Rakhine are scattered across the state h.

Meanwhile, Britain yesterday reversed its policy on wearing facemasks in schools in England, prompting fresh criticism about its handling of the pandemic.

Ministers had insisted face coverings were not necessary when children go back to school next week, but in new guidance the government advised secondary school students and staff should wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas.

Flash floods kill more than 70 in Afghanistan

AGENCIES

A violent flash flood killed more than 70 people and destroyed hundreds of homes just north of Afghanistan's capital yesterday, officials said.

The floods swept through Parwan province, which borders Kabul, in the early hours of the morning, washing away men, women and children and destroying 300 homes, according to Ministry of Disaster Management spokesman Tamim Azimi.

Rescuers searched through mud throughout the day for bodies, with the confirmed death toll at 72, and at least 90 injured, Azimi added.

Floods had also swept through eight other northern provinces, killing two in Maidan Wardak and two in Nangahar, according to the Ministry of Disaster Management spokesman, who added that climate change was exacerbating the amount of flooding hitting the country.

A spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani said on Twitter that his office had instructed authorities to provide emergency disaster relief to survivors, adding the floods were causing severe financial losses.

Many children were among the dead in Charikar, which was hit by heavy rains overnight, the Ministry of Disaster Management said in a statement. Ahmad Jan, a resident of Shahrak-Malimin village in Parwan province, said most people are still stuck under the rubble of their houses.

"More than 50 houses in his area are completely damaged. Don't know how many have died but most people are under their roofs. It was early morning, so most people were sleeping. Rescue team is helping take out dead bodies and injured," Jan told Al Jazeera.



A man gestures towards Australian white supremacist Brenton Tarrant during Tarrant's third day in court for a sentence hearing in Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday. Tarrant waived his right to speak at his sentencing hearing in Christchurch yesterday, in a dramatic twist after the court heard more than 90 horrific victim statements. Tarrant, who sacked his lawyers last month, had admitted 51 charges of murder, 40 of attempted murder and one of terrorism over the attacks at the Al Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch on March 15 last year. The court is expected to deliver its verdict today.

PHOTO: AFP

Melania Trump makes plea for racial harmony

REUTERS, Washington

First lady Melania Trump offered sympathy for victims of the coronavirus pandemic and a plea for racial harmony in a Republican convention speech on Tuesday aimed directly at the women voters who have abandoned US President Donald Trump.

On the convention's second day, the speech's warm tone was out of step with a Republican gathering that featured harsh rhetoric about Democratic challenger Joe Biden and sometimes apocalyptic warnings about the dangers of Democratic governance.

Trump's wife acknowledged the pain of the pandemic in sharp contrast to most other speakers at the party's national convention, notably her husband, assailed by Democrats for his lack of solace during a US health crisis that has killed more than 178,000 people.

She offered her deepest sympathies to everyone "who has lost a loved one."

The first lady also reflected on the racial unrest that has swept the country in the months since the death in May of a Black man, George Floyd, under the knee of a white policeman in Minnesota.

"I urge people to come together in a civil manner so we can work and live up to our standard American ideals," she said. "I also ask people to stop the violence and looting being done in the name of justice and never make assumptions based on the colour of a person's skin."

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking from a Jerusalem rooftop with the city lights visible in the background, praised a recent deal to normalize relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Trump will deliver his convention speech from the White House lawn today.

Sri Lanka will adopt 'India first approach'

Says top diplomat, vows to honour Delhi's interests

NDTV ONLINE

Sri Lanka will adopt an "India first approach" as its new foreign policy plank and protect New Delhi's strategic security interests, the country's Foreign Secretary Jayanath Colombage has said, seeking to allay concerns amid China's growing presence in the island nation.

Admiral Colombage, the first-ever foreign secretary to have a military background, was appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to head the Foreign Ministry on August 14.

In an interview published by Daily Mirror on Wednesday, Colombage said Sri Lanka is to adopt an "India first approach" as its new regional foreign policy plank.

"This means Sri Lanka will not do anything harmful to India's strategic security interests," said r Colombage, who was the chief of the Sri Lanka Navy between 2012-14 and later became a foreign policy analyst mostly on the Chinese initiatives in Sri Lanka and the immediate region.

Jayanath Colombage said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will have an "India first

approach" as the key to strategic security. "China is the second-largest economy and India is considered the sixth-largest. In 2018, India was the world's fastest-growing economy. That means we are between two economic giants," he said.

"Sri Lanka cannot afford, should not afford and will not afford any particular country to use it as a staging area to do anything against another country -- especially India," he said.

Commenting on the Chinese investment in Sri Lanka's southern port of Hambantota, Colombage said that Sri Lanka had offered India Hambantota first.

"India did not undertake it for whatever reason, then it went to a Chinese company," he said.

"Now we have given 85 per cent stake of Hambantota port to China Merchant Holding Company. That should be limited to commercial activities. It is not for military purposes," he said.

In 2017, Sri Lanka had handed over the Hambantota port to China on a 99-year lease. There are regional concerns, mostly from India, that China may make a military presence at Hambantota, located on a key international shipping route.



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ "মুজিব বর্ষ-২০২০" উদযাপন উপলক্ষে জাতীয় পর্যায়ে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা অনুষ্ঠান।

স্বাধীনতার মহান স্থপতি জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ১৯৭৫ সালে বেতুনিয়া ভূ-উপগ্রহ কেন্দ্র স্থাপনের মধ্য দিয়ে বহিঃবিশ্বের সাথে তার বিহীন যোগাযোগ ব্যবস্থার সূচনা করেন এবং মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক বঙ্গবন্ধু-১ স্যাটেলাইট উৎক্ষেপণের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ এখন তথ্য-প্রযুক্তির সুপার হাইওয়েতে অবস্থান করছে। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক ঘোষিত ও বাস্তবায়িত ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশে তথ্যের নিরাপদ আদান প্রদান ও ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা বিধান দেশে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রচলন করা হয়েছে। তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি আইন, ২০০৬ বাস্তবায়নের মাধ্যমে দেশে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট বাস্তবায়ন, তথ্যের নিরাপদ আদান প্রদান ও ডিজিটাল নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতকরণে সরকারের কার্যক্রম সর্বসাধারণকে অবহিতকরণ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যক্রম বিষয়ে সর্বস্তরে জনসচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করার লক্ষ্যে সিসিএ কার্যালয় কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় দেশের তরুণ প্রজন্মকে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট বিষয়ে অবহিত ও সচেতন করার লক্ষ্যে সিসিএ কার্যালয় জাতীয় পর্যায়ে কুল, কলেজ এবং বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষার্থীদের নিম্নোক্তভাবে প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রচনা আহ্বান করছে:

বিভাগ	পর্যায়	বিষয়	পুরস্কার (প্রত্যেক বিভাগের জন্য)
'ক'	মাধ্যমিক (৮ম-১০ম শ্রেণী/ সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী)	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশে বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষরের গুরুত্ব" (সর্বোচ্চ ২৫০০ শব্দ)	১ম পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল ক্রেস্ট, সনদপত্র এবং ১৫,০০০/- টাকা; ২য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল ক্রেস্ট, সনদপত্র এবং ১০,০০০/- টাকা; ৩য় পুরস্কার: ডিজিটাল ক্রেস্ট, সনদপত্র এবং ৫০০০/- টাকা।
'খ'	উচ্চমাধ্যমিক (একাদশ-দ্বাদশ শ্রেণী/সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী)	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশে বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষরের গুরুত্ব" (সর্বোচ্চ ২৫০০ শব্দ)	
'গ'	স্নাতক/ স্নাতকোত্তর/ সমপর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী	"ডিজিটাল বিপ্লবে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের উদ্যোগ ও নিরাপদ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশে বিনির্মাণে ডিজিটাল স্বাক্ষরের গুরুত্ব" (সর্বোচ্চ ৩০০০ শব্দ)	

রচনা পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখঃ ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২০	রচনা পৌঁছানোর ঠিকানাঃ নিয়ন্ত্রক সিসিএ কার্যালয় তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ আইসিটি টাওয়ার (২য় তলা), আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ ইমেইল- info@cca.gov.bd
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প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের নিয়মাবলীঃ

- রচনা বাংলা ভাষায় লিখতে হবে;
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- লেখার সাথে নিজের ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম, শ্রেণী/বিভাগ, বর্ষ, রোল ও শাখা, মোবাইল নম্বর ও যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রদত্ত শিক্ষার্থীর পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি পাঠাতে হবে;
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- খামের ওপর 'মুজিব বর্ষ-২০২০' উদযাপন উপলক্ষে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা ও রচনার বিভাগ (ক/ খ/ গ) লিখতে হবে;
- ই-মেইলে প্রেরণের ক্ষেত্রে সাবজেক্ট এ "মুজিব বর্ষ-২০২০" উদযাপন উপলক্ষে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা ও রচনার বিভাগ (ক/ খ/ গ) লিখতে হবে;
- বিচারকদের রায় চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

উল্লেখ্য, পুরস্কারপ্রাপ্ত রচনা ইলেক্ট্রনিক স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রক (সিসিএ) -এর কার্যালয় এর ওয়েবসাইটে প্রকাশিত হবে।

বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্যঃ রচনা লেখার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের ক্ষেত্রে তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি আইন, ২০০৬ এবং এই আইনের আওতা প্রকাশিত বিধিমালা/গাইডলাইনসমূহ, সিসিএ কার্যালয় কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত বিভিন্ন প্রচার বিজ্ঞপ্তি, পুস্তিকা এবং এ বিষয়ে যে কোন জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক প্রকাশনা ও টেলিভিশন এর সাহায্য নেয়া যাবে। বিতরিত তথ্যের জন্য ইলেক্ট্রনিক স্বাক্ষর সার্টিফিকেট প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রক (সিসিএ)-এর কার্যালয় এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.cca.gov.bd) ও ফেসবুক (https://www.facebook.com/ccabangladesh/) ডিজিট করা যতে পারে।

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