

## US lifts sanctions on ICC prosecutor

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden on Friday revoked sanctions imposed by Donald Trump on the top prosecutor of the International Criminal Court as the new administration seeks a more cooperative approach, resolving an intense disagreement with European allies.

Former secretary of state Mike Pompeo last year denounced the "kangaroo court" in The Hague and imposed both financial sanctions and a US visa ban on its Gambian-born chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda.

Pompeo acted after she launched an investigation into alleged war crimes by US military personnel in Afghanistan.

The court in The Hague further annoyed the United States by opening an investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories by Israel, a US ally which rejects the authority of the court.

Biden said the United States still has concerns with the ICC. But "the threat and imposition of financial sanctions against the Court, its personnel, and those who assist it are not an effective or appropriate strategy," he said in a statement.

Pompeo's successor, Antony Blinken, said the United States continued to "disagree strongly" with the moves on Afghanistan and Israel.

Biden revoked an executive order by Trump on the sanctions, also lifting sanctions against senior ICC official Phakiso Mochoko and visa bans on other court staff.

Bensouda is leaving her job in June and will be replaced by British human rights lawyer Karim Khan, who now can open his work without the burden of looming sanctions.

France, which like other European allies had been aghast by the last administration's move, hailed the reversal and pledged support for the ICC. EU also welcomed the decision.



Demonstrators take part in a 'Kill The Bill' protest against the Government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, in central London, yesterday. The police, crime, sentencing and courts bill would give police in England and Wales more power to impose conditions on peaceful protests, including those they deem to be too noisy or a nuisance to the community. Critics argue this infringes on the right to free and peaceful expression.

PHOTO: AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Officer killed in US Capitol car-ramming attack

A US Capitol police officer was killed and a second injured Friday after a vehicle rammed through security and crashed into a barrier at the Washington complex, forcing it into lockdown less than three months after a mob assault on Congress. Capitol Police shot dead the driver after he jumped out of the car and lunged at them with a knife, Acting Chief Yogananda Pittman told reporters. US media said officials had identified the attacker as Noah Green, a 25-year-old Black man from Indiana and an adherent of the Black nationalist Nation of Islam movement. Pittman said there was no immediate indication of his motivation or police file on him. "It does not appear to be terrorism-related, but obviously we will continue to investigate," Washington Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee added. Some of Noah's online postings in March suggested a level of despair and paranoia. He said he was unemployed and had health problems, and made references to biblical concepts of the end of times.

#### LinkedIn gives staff week off for well-being

Professional social network LinkedIn is giving nearly all of its 15,900 full-time workers next week off as it seeks to avoid burnout and allow its employees to recharge, the company told AFP Friday. The Microsoft-owned firm said that the "RestUp!" week starting Monday is meant to give employees time for their own well-being. "There is something magical about the entire company taking a break at the same time," LinkedIn said in reply to an AFP inquiry. "A core team of employees will continue to work for the week, but they will be able to schedule time off later," LinkedIn said.

#### Argentine president tests positive for Covid-19



Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez, who has been vaccinated against Covid-19, announced late Friday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus. "At the end of today, after presenting a fever of 37.3 and a slight headache, I performed an antigen test, which was positive," he tweeted, adding he was waiting for the results of a PCR test to confirm the diagnosis. The president, who turned 62 on Friday, was in isolation as a precaution but said he was "physically well." Fernandez was inoculated with the Russian Sputnik V vaccine and had his second shot on February 11, sources in the presidency told AFP.

#### Al-Shabaab attacks two key Somali bases: army

Al-Shabaab Islamist fighters attacked two key military bases in Somalia yesterday, detonating car bombs at both locations before engaging in an intense gun battle, an army official and witnesses said. The attacks happened in the southern region of Lower Shabelle on bases in the towns of Awdheegle and Bariire -- some 30 kilometres (17 miles) apart. Both are forward operating bases in the fight against the Islamist group. Army chief General Odowa Yusuf Rage told reporters that the attacks were over with dozens of insurgents dead or injured. Al-Shabaab claimed it had killed dozens and captured military vehicles and supplies in the attacks.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## Blinken seeks Israel's 'equal' treatment of Palestinians

AFP, Washington

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has called on Israel to ensure "equal" treatment of the Palestinians as the new US administration cautiously steps up efforts for a two-state solution.

In a telephone call with Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, Blinken "emphasized the administration's belief that Israelis and Palestinians should enjoy equal measures of freedom, security, prosperity and democracy," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

The Biden admin has in recent days made clear that it believes that Israel's control of the West Bank is "occupation."

Blinken's predecessor Mike Pompeo broke precedent by saying he did not consider Israeli construction on land seized in 1967 to be illegal.

Blinken has nonetheless made clear that the administration will not roll back some of Trump's signature moves, including recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

## 'Game on' vs 'Game over'

Mamata, Modi trade barbs in simultaneous rallies in Bengal



AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took swipes at each other at simultaneous election rallies in Bengal yesterday as the election campaign for the state assembly heats up a notch further ahead of third-phase of voting in the restive state.

PM Modi added a twist to Mamata's "khela hobe (game on)" dig at him - he said it's "khela sesh (game over)" if players keep criticising "empires", alluding to the Trinamool's repeated criticism of the Election Commission.

Mamata, campaigning at North 24 Parganas district, just 58 km from Tarkeshwar, where PM Modi was giving an election speech, attacked the BJP using the Trinamool's main weapon - that of calling the BJP a party of "outsiders" in Bengal.

"BJP wants to divide Bengal... These people want to end Bengal, its language, its culture," Mamata, on a wheelchair nursing her plastered leg, said. "I request to all the minority brothers and sisters not to allow their vote division," she said.

Mamata on Thursday slammed the Election Commission (EC) over the "inaction to complaints" filed by her party even during the second phase of polling to the West Bengal assembly.

There had been reports of sporadic violence and minor clashes from various constituencies, including the high profile Nandigram, where Mamata locked horns in a high-stakes electoral



battle with her former lieutenant Suwendu Adhikari now with the BJP. Amongst the complaints were allegations of "booth capturing" and massive fake voting in Boyal.

PM Modi used his Lok Sabha constituency, Varanasi, to make the Trinamool's "outsider" comment at BJP rickshaw back to Mamata's party.

"Didi is now looking for a place outside. Welcome to Varanasi. There is a ship that goes from Haldia to Varanasi. One more thing, the people of my Benaras, they are so large hearted they won't call you a tourist or outsider. They are as large hearted as the people of Bengal," the PM said.

PM Modi has been taking a whirlwind tour of Bengal to add power to the BJP's campaign in its bid to dislodge the government run by Mamata's Trinamool Congress for 10 years.

"Didi says people take money to attend BJP rallies. Didi, Bengalis are self-respecting people. Didi, you have insulted the people of Bengal with this statement. Did anyone come here today for money?" PM Modi said in Hooghly yesterday.

"A major reason for Didi's bewilderment is her report card of 10 years. Old industries have been shut down. Possibilities of new industries, new investment, new business and employment have also been closed down," Modi said.

The third of the eight-phase election in Bengal's 294 assembly seats will be held on April 6. Results are expected on May 2.

## BLOOD CLOT FEARS OVER AZ VACCINE

### 30 cases in UK as 18.1m inoculated

AFP, London

The UK medical regulator yesterday said that out of 30 people who suffered blood clots after receiving the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, seven have died.

The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said that the 30 reports of thrombosis, submitted by medics or members of the public via a government website, came after 18.1 million doses of the vaccine had been administered in the country.

"The benefits of the vaccines against Covid-19 continue to outweigh any risks," MHRA said, urging the public to keep taking the vaccine.

The British acknowledgement of deaths comes as several European countries have paused the use of the AstraZeneca jab over a potential link to blood clots.

The Netherlands on Friday halted vaccinations with the AstraZeneca jab for people under the age of 60 after five new cases among women, one of whom died. Germany took a similar decision earlier this week.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), which like the World Health Organization previously declared the AstraZeneca vaccine safe, is expected to announce updated advice on the issue on April 7.

The EMA said again on Wednesday it believes the vaccine is safe and that experts have found no specific risk factors such as age, gender or medical history.

AstraZeneca said last month following US efficiency trials that its vaccine is 79 percent effective at preventing the disease and does not increase the risk of blood clots.

The UK has administered more than 31 million first vaccine doses, using both the Oxford-AstraZeneca and the Pfizer-BioNTech jabs. People cannot choose which one they get.

The UK in June 2020 ordered 100 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine and supported its development. It also ordered 30 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine the same year.



## Taiwan mourns after deadliest train disaster in decades

AFP, Hualien

Grieving relatives of those who died in Taiwan's worst rail disaster in decades held prayers at the crash site yesterday as salvage crews worked to remove the tangled mass of wrecked carriages.

Officials said Friday's devastating collision, which killed at least 50 people and injured more than 170, was caused when a parked railway maintenance vehicle slipped down an embankment and onto the tracks.

A train packed with as many as 500 people at the start of a long holiday weekend then hit the truck just as it entered a narrow tunnel near the eastern coastal city of Hualien.

The truck driver -- who railway officials said may have failed to secure the parking brake properly -- has been released on bail after being interrogated by prosecutors and is barred from leaving Taiwan pending further investigation.

Around one hundred relatives held an emotional Taoist prayer ceremony near the crash site yesterday afternoon, shaded under a canopy of black umbrellas.

Many wept openly as they surveyed the scene, some holding makeshift shrines

inscribed with the names of those who died.

Some called out the names of their loved ones as other family members held their tight.

The Interior Ministry ordered all flags to be lowered to half-mast for three days while President Tsai Ing-wen visited the wounded in Hualien's hospitals.

Friday's crash took place at the start of the Tomb Sweeping Festival, a four-day public holiday when many Taiwanese return to villages to tidy the graves of their ancestors.

A French and an American national were among the foreigners killed, authorities said. The youngest victim was 4-years-old.

Friday's crash looks set to be one of Taiwan's worst railway accidents on record. The last major train derailment in Taiwan was in 2018 and left 18 people dead on the same eastern line.

That crash was the island's worst since 1991, when 30 passengers were killed. Other major crashes that killed dozens have taken place in 1981, 1978 and 1961.

Taiwan's most deadly rail disaster on record was in 1948 when a train caught fire and 64 people perished.



**বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল**  
 ২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরনী  
 ৮৬, বিজয় নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।  
 ফোন : ৯৫৫৫৫৩৮, ৯৫৮৬৭২৭ ফ্যাক্স : ৯৫৫৫২৩৬  
 Email : info@bmdc.org.bd  
 admin@bmdc.org.bd  
 website : www.bmdc.org.bd

---


স্মারক নং-বিএমএন্ডডিসি/১৫৬৫ তারিখ : ৩১/০৩/২০২১

# বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকল নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল/ ডেন্টাল চিকিৎসকদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে :-

১। কাউন্সিলের কার্যক্রমকে আরও গতিশীল করার লক্ষ্যে কাউন্সিল বিভিন্ন উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করিতেছে। ইহার জন্য নিবন্ধিত চিকিৎসকগণের Profile Update করা প্রয়োজন। সকল নিবন্ধিত মেডিকেল/ডেন্টাল চিকিৎসকদের Profile Update করার জন্য কাউন্সিলের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.bmdc.org.bd](http://www.bmdc.org.bd)) এ (Update Registered Doctor Profile) নামে একটি Link দেওয়া আছে। উক্ত Link এ তাঁহাদের (১) পিতার নাম, (২) মাতার নাম এবং (৩) NID নম্বর, (৪) জন্ম তারিখ, (৫) ঠিকানা, (৬) বর্তমান মোবাইল নম্বর, (৭) বর্তমান ই-মেইল ঠিকানা লিখে Profile Update করা যাইবে। ইহার মাধ্যমে কাউন্সিলের সকল তথ্য আদান প্রদান করা সহজ হইবে। এমতাবস্থায় যথাশীঘ্র Profile Update করার জন্য সকল নিবন্ধিত চিকিৎসকগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

২। সকল নিবন্ধিত চিকিৎসক/দস্তচিকিৎসক যেন তাঁদের প্রেসক্রিপশান প্যাড এবং সাইন বোর্ডে আবশ্যিকভাবে তাঁদের বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর উল্লেখ করেন এবং বিএমএন্ডডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত নয় এমন কোন ডিগ্রী ব্যবহার করা থেকে বিরত থাকেন।

  
 ডাঃ মোঃ আরমান হোসেন  
 রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)  
 বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল