

## Biden: Putin 'a worthy adversary'

AFP, Brussels

US President Joe Biden on Monday assured his NATO allies that he would lay down "red lines" to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin at their meeting today.

"I'm not looking for conflict with Russia, but that we will respond if Russia continues its harmful activities," he said. Biden also called Putin "tough" and "a worthy adversary" ahead of their hotly anticipated meeting in Geneva today.

In the summit communiqué, the leaders told Russia that there would be no quick return to "business as usual".

Russia's military build-up and provocative behaviour on NATO's eastern frontier "increasingly threaten the security of the Euro-Atlantic area and contribute to instability along NATO borders and beyond," it added.

## China threat to int'l order

Declares Nato despite 'right balance' calls from European allies; Beijing slams exaggeration

AGENCIES

NATO leaders have declared China a constant security challenge and said the Chinese are working to undermine global order, a message in sync with President Joe Biden's efforts to get allies to speak out with a more unified voice against China's trade, military and human rights practices.

In a summit statement, the leaders said that China's goals and "assertive behavior present systemic challenges to the rules-based international order and to areas relevant to alliance security."

While the 30 heads of state and government avoided calling China a rival, they expressed concern about what they said were its "coercive policies," the opaque ways it is modernizing its armed forces and its use of disinformation.

They called on Beijing to uphold its international commitments and to act responsibly in the international system.

Beijing yesterday, a day after the summit, accused NATO of "creating confrontations".

A statement from the Chinese Mission to the European Union called for NATO to "view China's development rationally, stop exaggerating various forms of 'China threat theory' and not use China's legitimate interests and legal rights as excuses for manipulating



In this file photo, USS Ronald Reagan sails through the San Bernardino Strait in July, 2020. US aircraft carrier group led by the USS Ronald Reagan has entered the South China Sea as part of a routine mission, the US Navy said yesterday, at a time of rising tensions between Washington and Beijing.

PHOTO: US NAVY

group politics".

The language in the summit's final communiqué, which will set the path for alliance policy, came a day after the Group of Seven (G7) rich nations issued a statement on human rights in China and Taiwan that Beijing said slandered its reputation.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an alliance of European

and North American countries formed after World War II as a bulwark against Russian aggression.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said China's growing military presence from the Baltics to Africa meant nuclear-armed NATO had to be prepared.

Stoltenberg also said the leaders had agreed to increase their contributions to the alliance's common budget. The

vast bulk of military spending in NATO is handled separately by member countries.

The new Brussels communiqué states plainly that the NATO nations "will engage China with a view to defending the security interests of the alliance."

However, some allies bristled at the NATO effort to speak out on China.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said NATO's decision to name China as a threat "shouldn't be overstated" because Beijing, like Russia, is also a partner in some areas. China is Germany's top trading partner and is heavily dependent on Russia in fulfilling the country's energy needs.

Merkel noted that "when you look at the cyber threats, the hybrid threats, when you look at the cooperation between Russia and China, you can't just ignore China."

But she added that it was important to "find the right balance" as China is also a partner on many issues.

France's President Emmanuel Macron urged the alliance not to let China distract it from what he saw as more pressing issues facing NATO, including the fight against terrorism and security issues related to Russia.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said there were risks and rewards with Beijing. "I don't think anybody around the table wants to descend into a new Cold War with China," he said.



Israeli security forces detain a Palestinian youth during a protest against the March of the Flags, which celebrates the anniversary of Israel's 1967 occupation of the city's eastern sector, at Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tensions high in Jerusalem

Palestinians protest as new Israeli govt approves nationalist march

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Far-right Israeli groups plan to march in East Jerusalem yesterday in a flag-waving procession that risks reigniting tensions with Palestinians and poses an early test for Israel's new government.

Several hours before the event was due to start, incendiary balloons launched from Gaza caused several fires in fields in Israeli communities near the border with the Palestinian enclave, witnesses and the Israeli fire brigade said.

Such incidents had stopped with a ceasefire that ended 11 days of cross-border fighting last month between Palestinian militants in Hamas-ruled Gaza and the Israeli military.

The marchers hope to pass through Jerusalem's walled Old City, which is home to shrines sacred to Judaism, Islam and Christianity and is the most sensitive site in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But a route of blocked-off streets

published by police showed that marchers would not go through Damascus Gate, the main entry to the Muslim quarter, in an apparent attempt by Israeli authorities to avoid friction with Palestinians.

Assailing the march as a "provocation", Palestinians called for "Day of Rage" protests in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, with memories still fresh of confrontations between Israeli police and Palestinians during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hamas and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction have called on Palestinians to flock to the Old City to counter the march.

Hamas additionally warned of renewed hostilities over the march, which Israel's internal security minister approved on Monday. It is scheduled for 6:00 pm (1500 GMT).

The march was originally scheduled for May 10 as part of "Jerusalem Day"

festivities that celebrate Israel's capture of East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war. At the last minute it was diverted away from Damascus Gate and the Muslim Quarter but even after the re-routing it helped trigger last month's fighting.

The march is being held by Israeli rightists who were angered that the procession in May was diverted from its traditional route and accused former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of caving in to Hamas.

The march poses a challenge for new Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and his alliance of right-wing, centrist, left-wing and Arab parties, who took office on Sunday and ended Netanyahu's long rule.

Bennett heads a far-right party and diverting the procession could anger members of his religious base and expose him to accusations he was giving Hamas veto power over events in Jerusalem.

## 5 Afghan polio vaccinators shot dead

AFP, Jalalabad

At least five polio workers were shot dead in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, officials said, in the area's second attacks on vaccinators in less than three months.

The workers were gunned down in three separate locations within hours in a "coordinated attack", Nangarhar provincial police spokesman Farid Khan said blaming the attacks on the Taliban. Pakistan Health ministry confirmed the attacks. The Taliban denied responsibility.

The Taliban and religious leaders often tell communities that vaccines are a Western conspiracy aimed at sterilising Muslim children, and they also suspect immunisation drives are used to spy on militant activities.

## China minorities targeted in forced organ harvesting

Say UN rights experts; Beijing slams 'clumsy lies'

AFP, Geneva

UN rights experts have said they had "credible information" that detainees from minority communities in China may be being subjected to forced organ harvesting, a claim fiercely rejected by Beijing.

The 12 independent experts, who are mandated by the United Nations but do not speak on its behalf, said in a statement on Monday that they were "extremely alarmed" by the allegations.

Detained members of minority communities appeared to have been forcibly subjected to blood tests and organ examinations such as ultrasound and x-rays, without informed consent, said the UN experts.

This was not something other detainees were required to undergo. The exam results were then registered in a database of living organ sources for transplants, the experts added.

Liu Yuyin, a spokesman for the Chinese mission in Geneva, condemned



the experts for using "disinformation". "We are deeply alarmed that the special procedure mandate holders in question, lacking rudimentary thinking capability and judgement, have fallen for those clumsy lies," he said in a statement.

UN rights experts had previously raised concerns about alleged forced organ harvesting from prisoners with the Chinese government back in 2006 and 2007, they pointed out.

Beijing had not at that time provided sufficient data on questions regarding the sources of organs for transplants.

## DELTA COVID-19 VARIANT IN UK

### 2 vaccine doses mostly prevent hospitalization

AFP, Londres

Two doses of Covid-19 vaccines are "highly effective" in preventing hospital admission with the Delta variant, Public Health England said on Monday.

Scientists said two jabs of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine stopped the need for in-patient treatment in 96 percent of cases. With a double dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca shot, the rate was 92 percent, PHE added.

The findings were published as Britain grapples with a surge in coronavirus cases, most of which were of the Delta strain, which first emerged in India.

The government, which began a mass-vaccination programme with the Pfizer/BioNTech jab in December last year, is pushing for more people to get two jabs.

PHE said the vaccine effectiveness for the Delta variant is comparable to that for the Alpha strain. Head of immunisation Mary Ramsay said: "These hugely important findings confirm that the vaccines offer significant protection against hospitalisation from the Delta variant."

Further investigations were under way to determine the level of protection against death from the Delta variant, PHE said, but added that it was expected to be "high".

Simon Kolstoe, senior lecturer in evidence-based healthcare at the University of Portsmouth, said the inoculation programme was clearly working. Nearly 57 percent of the UK's adult population has had two doses, according to government statistics.

However, Prime Minister Boris Johnson delayed his plans to lift most remaining Covid-19 restrictions by a month on Monday, warning that thousands more people might die if he did nothing because of the rapid spread of the more infectious Delta variant.

Under the final stage of a plan outlined by Johnson in February, he had hoped to lift most social restrictions on June 21, meaning pubs, restaurants, nightclubs and other hospitality venues could fully reopen.

That much-anticipated step was pushed back to July 19.

"I think it is sensible to wait just a little longer," Johnson told a news conference. "As things stand, and on the evidence that I can see right now, I'm confident that we will not need more than four weeks."

On Monday, Britain recorded 7,742 new COVID-19 cases and three deaths.

## AstraZeneca hits snag in Covid drug development

Covid vaccine-maker AstraZeneca yesterday revealed it had hit a setback in trials of a treatment for the coronavirus. The drug, made from a combination of two antibodies, failed its main goal to treat Covid-19 symptoms in exposed patients, AstraZeneca said in a statement. The treatment has been undergoing phase 3 or final clinical trials to assess its safety and efficacy. AstraZeneca said that 1,121 unvaccinated adults had been exposed to an infected person as part of the trial. Treatment AZD7442 reduced the risk of developing symptoms by only 33 percent - which was "not statistically significant", it added.

## Irreversible warming tipping point may have been triggered

The tipping point for irreversible global warming may have already been triggered, the scientist who led the biggest-ever expedition to the Arctic warned yesterday. "The disappearance of summer sea ice in the Arctic is one of the first landmines in this minefield, one of the tipping points that we set off first when we push warming too far," said Markus Rex. Rex, who led the world's biggest mission to the North Pole, an expedition involving 300 scientists from 20 countries, said we might have already stepped on the mine. He said the next year's data is crucial to confirm his fear.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

"বাঁচবে নদী বাঁচবে দেশ, বাঁচবে শ্রিয় বাংলাদেশ"

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১৫ জুন ২০২১

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশনের সহকারী প্রধান (পানি প্রকৌশল) ও হিসাব রক্ষক পদে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা কমিশন কার্যালয়ের ১১তম লেভেলে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার পদে লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের প্রোগ্রামিং-এ এ্যাপটিটিউড টেস্ট কমিশন কার্যালয়ের ৮ম লেভেলে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষা কমিশন কার্যালয়ের ১১তম লেভেলে নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে:

ক্রম	পদের নাম	তারিখ/দিন	সময়	প্রার্থীর রোল নম্বর
১।	সহকারী প্রধান (পানি প্রকৌশল)	২৮ জুন ২০২১ সোমবার	২:০০	১১০০০৩, ১১০০০৪, ১১০০০৫, ১১০০০৬, ১১০০০৭, ১১০০০৮ মোট = ৫ জন
২।	হিসাব রক্ষক	২৮ জুন ২০২১ সোমবার	১০:৩০	১৩০০০১, ১৩০০০২, ১৩০০০৩, ১৩০০০৪, ১৩০০০৫, ১৩০০০৬, ১৩০০০৭, ১৩০০০৮, ১৩০০০৯, ১৩০০১০, ১৩০০১১, ১৩০০১২, ১৩০০১৩, ১৩০০১৪, ১৩০০১৫, ১৩০০১৬, ১৩০০১৭ মোট = ১০ জন
৩।	সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার	২৯ জুন ২০২১ মঙ্গলবার	১০:৩০	১২০০০১, ১২০০০২, ১২০০০৩, ১২০০০৪, ১২০০০৫, ১২০০০৬, ১২০০০৭, ১২০০০৮, ১২০০০৯, ১২০০১০, ১২০০১১, ১২০০১২, ১২০০১৩, ১২০০১৪, ১২০০১৫ মোট = ১০ জন

২। সহকারী প্রধান (পানি প্রকৌশল) ও হিসাব রক্ষক পদের প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা এবং সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার পদের প্রোগ্রামিং-এ এ্যাপটিটিউড টেস্ট ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় নিম্নোক্ত নির্দেশাবলী সাপেক্ষে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(ক) মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণকারীদের প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশ পত্র, সকল শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতার মূল সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে প্রদর্শন করতে হবে;

(খ) প্রবেশ পত্র, এপ্রিক্যান্টস কপি, সকল শিক্ষাপত্র সনদ ও জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের কপি সত্যায়িত করে একসেট মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বোর্ডে দাখিল করতে হবে;

(গ) সহকারী প্রোগ্রামার পদে প্রোগ্রামিং-এ এ্যাপটিটিউড টেস্ট শেষে মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে;

(ঘ) মৌখিক ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না;

(ঙ) যেকোন প্রকার ভুল-ত্রুটি সংশোধন/পরিবর্তন/সংযোজনের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে; এবং

(চ) সকল পরীক্ষা সরকারি নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক স্বাস্থ্যবিধি মেনে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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