

Tehran not seeking nuke weapons Says Raisi at UN, urges US guarantees

AFP, United Nations

Iran's president yesterday told the United Nations that his country was not seeking an atomic weapon and demanded US guarantees it would abide by any revived nuclear deal.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is not seeking to build or obtain nuclear weapons and such weapons have no place in our doctrine," President Ebrahim Raisi told the UN General Assembly.

He denounced the lack of pressure on Israel, an undeclared nuclear power, saying that Iran has complied with international commitments.

Raisi voiced doubt about the Biden administration's sincerity.

"They keep repeating the same stories of the past which puts a great deal of doubt on their true commitment to return to the agreement," he said.



An Iranian woman living in Turkey cuts her ponytail off during a protest outside the Iranian consulate in Istanbul, yesterday. She was protesting against the death last week of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was arrested by morality police in Tehran for "unsuitable attire". Iranian authorities yesterday said three people including a member of the security forces had been killed during unrest sweeping the country, as anger at the death of a woman in police custody fuelled protests for a fifth day. Rights groups reported at least one more person was killed on Tuesday, which would take the death toll to least seven.

PHOTO: AFP

FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT World leaders vow urgent response

AFP, United Nations

Global leaders on Tuesday called for urgent efforts to address global food insecurity amid fears of disastrous harvests next year, as Ukraine's president blamed Russia for the crisis and sought the world's "toughest reaction" against Moscow.

On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, ministers from the European Union, US, African Union and Spain met on food shortages which are seen as a key factor in conflicts and instability.

Appearing by video link was Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky, who directly accused Moscow of willingly triggering a food crisis.

"Any state that provokes famine, that tries to make access to food a privilege, that tries to make the protection of nations from famine dependent on... the mercy of some dictator -- such a state must get the toughest reaction from the world," Zelensky said.

The Group of Seven major industrial powers at a June summit in Germany promised \$5 billion to fight food insecurity but German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said there was still "great urgency."

"The Russian war of aggression has caused and accelerated a multidimensional global crisis. Countries in the Global South with prior vulnerabilities have been hit hardest," Scholz said.

US President Joe Biden yesterday announced another \$2.9 billion for a fund aimed at helping to resolve global food insecurity.

The money "builds on the \$6.9 billion in US government assistance to support global food security already committed this year," the White House said.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said Russian President Vladimir Putin, with his February invasion of Ukraine, "is trying to blackmail the international community with food."

"There is no peace with hunger and we cannot combat hunger without peace," Sanchez said.



US doesn't seek 'Cold War' with China

Says Biden, supports expanding UNSC, slams Russia for violating UN charter, says US ready to negotiate arms treaties

AGENCIES

The United States is determined to promote its vision of global freedom and prosperity but does not seek "conflict" with rival China or a new Cold War, President Joe Biden told the United Nations yesterday.

"Let me be direct about the competition between the United States and China," Biden said in an address to the UN General Assembly. "As we manage shifting geopolitical trends, the United States will conduct itself as a reasonable leader. We do not seek conflict, we do not seek a Cold War."

Washington will not call on countries to "choose" between US and other partners, Biden stressed, though "the United States will be unabashed in promoting our vision of a free, open, secure and prosperous world."

Biden said that Washington supports the expansion of the UN Security Council to better represent areas including Africa and Latin America.

"The United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the council," Biden told the UN General Assembly.

"This includes permanent



seats for those nations we've long supported -- permanent seats for countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean. The United States is committed to this vital work," he added.

The US President tore into Vladimir Putin as he addressed the United Nations, saying the Russian leader "shamelessly violated" the UN Charter when he invaded neighbor Ukraine.

"Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the United Nations Charter," Biden said as he addressed the UN General Assembly.

He said Moscow was making "irresponsible" threats to use nuclear weapons.

"A permanent member of the United Nations Security Council invaded its neighbor, attempted to erase a sovereign state from the map. Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the

United Nations Charter," Biden said.

Earlier yesterday, Putin ordered a Russian mobilization to fight in Ukraine and made a thinly veiled threat to use nuclear weapons, in what Nato called a "reckless" act of desperation in the face of a looming Russian defeat.

"A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," Biden said.

Biden said no one had threatened Russia, despite its claims to the contrary, and that only Russia had sought conflict. He pledged the United States would stand in solidarity with Ukraine.

The United States and Western allies are competing with Russia for diplomatic influence. The United States has acknowledged that some countries are concerned the Ukraine war had drawn global attention away from other crises.

He also said that Americans "stand with the brave women of Iran" during growing protests over the death of a young woman arrested by the country's morality police.

"Today we stand with the brave citizens and the brave women of Iran who right now are demonstrating to secure their basic rights," Biden told the UN General Assembly.

Nepal in fresh political crisis

President refuses to sign citizenship law passed by House

REUTERS, Kathmandu

A clash between Nepal's government and its head of state over controversial citizenship legislation threw the nascent republic into turmoil yesterday, after President Bidhya Devi Bhandari refused to sign proposed amendments in the law.

The bill proposed, among other changes, to give citizenship certificates to children whose parents' whereabouts were not known. Under the amendments, children born to a Nepali mother but whose father is unknown could get citizenship documents after the mother makes a declaration.

The changes would have entitled more than 500,000 people to citizenship certificates and eventually given them voting rights.

It would also give citizenship documents to Nepalis who are citizens of foreign nations to do business and conduct economic activities in the country.

The deadline for Bhandari, a ceremonial head of state under the 2015 constitution, to approve the amendment to the 16-year-old Nepal Citizenship Act, expired at midnight.

Legal experts said the president was required to approve the changes, passed twice by a majority of parliament.

Five top leaders of the political parties in the ruling centre-left alliance said the president had deprived many Nepalis of their right to citizenship by failing to approve the bill.

"The unconstitutional move of the president has seriously insulted and devalued the federal parliament elected by the people," they said in a joint statement.

Non-communicable diseases cause 74pc of global deaths: WHO

AFP, Geneva

Non-communicable diseases like heart disease, cancer and diabetes are responsible for 74 percent of deaths globally and cracking down on risk factors could save millions of lives, the WHO said yesterday.

A report from the UN health agency shows that so-called NCDs, which are often preventable and caused by an unhealthy lifestyle or living conditions, kill 41 million people every year, including 17 million under the age of 70.

Heart disease, cancer, diabetes and respiratory disease now outnumber infectious diseases as the top killers globally, said the report, titled "Invisible Numbers".

NCDs are not only the world's biggest killers, but they also have serious impacts on how people weather infectious diseases, as the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated. People living with NCDs like obesity or diabetes were at greater risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from the virus, the report said.

A full 86 percent of the global premature NCD deaths happen in low- and lower middle-income countries, the study said.

A new NCD data portal launched by WHO shows the highest prevalence of deaths from cardiovascular disease -- the world's biggest killer -- are in countries like Afghanistan and Mongolia.

Tobacco use, unhealthy diet, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity and air pollution are seen as the main causes driving the soaring NCD numbers.

Tobacco use alone is responsible for more than eight million deaths each year. Another eight million deaths are attributable to unhealthy diets, meaning either too little, too much or too poor quality food, the report said.



A picture shows a roof of a residential building damaged after shelling in Kharkiv, yesterday. Inset, Police examine the location of a missile strike at a freight railway station in Kharkiv. Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday called up 300,000 reservists to fight in Ukraine and backed a plan to annex parts of the country, hinting to the West he was prepared to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia.

PHOTO: AFP

বাংলাদেশের
স্বাধীনতা
Bangladesh

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন এর টেলিফোন নম্বরসমূহ (পিএবিএক্স) ও ফ্যাক্স নম্বর নিম্নোক্তভাবে পরিবর্তিত হয়েছে

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