

Trump, Vance heap scorn on Biden, Harris

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump and running mate J D Vance on Sunday slammed the record of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, as the incumbent bowed out of the White House race and sought to pass the torch to his number two.

Biden's momentous decision to ditch his reelection bid was met with quick scorn from Republican presidential candidate Trump, in a series of posts on his Truth Social platform.

"Crooked Joe Biden was not fit to run for President, and is certainly not fit to serve - And never was!" Trump wrote. "Whoever the Left puts up now will just be more of the same."

Then his campaign team piled on, lashing into the vice president after Biden endorsed her to take his place atop the Democratic Party's presidential ticket, saying she would be "even worse" than the outgoing leader.

"Harris will be even worse for the people of our nation than Joe Biden. Harris has been the Enabler in Chief for Crooked Joe this entire time. They own each other's records, and there



is no distance between the two," the campaign said in a statement.

Later, it was Vance's turn to heap scorn on Biden and Harris.

"Joe Biden has been the worst President in my lifetime and Kamala Harris has been right there with him every step of the way," the Republican senator wrote on X, saying Harris had "lied for nearly four years about Biden's mental capacity."

"President Trump and I are ready to save America, whoever's at the top of the Democrat ticket. Bring it on," Vance concluded.

The Republican convention last week has put the party unity on display, in contrast to the divisions roiling Democrats. Trump's former top rivals for the nomination, former UN envoy Nikki Haley and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, offered strong endorsements of his candidacy despite their past criticisms.

IT, BPO firms

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introduced so that the export-oriented firms can use internet to serve their global clients.

Apart from the daily financial losses of Tk 70-80 crore due to the internet outage, the country will face a long-term image crisis in the international market, said Rashad Kabir, managing director of software firm Dream71.

"The international buyers won't consider Bangladesh as an outsourcing destination in the future because commitment and timely delivery are most important for them."

There is a high chance that these buyers will shift to India, Vietnam, the Philippines and other competitor countries, according to Rashad.

3 bodies

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bodies and informed police.

Police sent the bodies to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

The victims were Selim Mondol, 29, Abdul Salam, 27, of Kushtia's Kumarkhali upazila, and Md Sohel, 21, Sylhet's Beanibazar upazila.

Golam Mostofa Russel, superintendent of Narayanganj police, said the Shimrail highway police camp was on the 7th floor of the building. On July 20, some agitators threw stones at the camp and police opened fire.

At one point, the agitators set the building on fire. The trapped police personnel went to the roof and were rescued by a helicopter.

Judicial body

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on July 16 and identify the persons responsible for the deaths and recent incidents of violence.

The commission was asked to submit its probe report to the government within 30 working days.

Meanwhile, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Sunday said it expects the commission to unearth the reasons behind the death of each and every student and the government to take necessary legal steps against those responsible as per the recommendations of the commission.



Palestinians walk past destroyed buildings to refill containers with water from a nearby supply point in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE What happens after Biden exit?

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden's decision Sunday to withdraw from the presidential race at such a late date -- just over 100 days until the November 5 election -- is unprecedented in modern US electoral history.

In the coming days, Biden's fellow Democrats "will undertake a transparent and orderly process to move forward as a united Democratic Party with a candidate who can defeat Donald Trump in November," chairman Jaime Harrison said in a statement.

Here's a look at how replacing the 81-year-old could work.

CHAOTIC CONVENTION?

To designate a formal nominee, delegates chosen from all 50 states, the US capital and overseas territories attend their party's summer nominating convention to officially anoint a candidate.

Biden overwhelmingly won the primary votes, and the party's roughly 3,900 delegates heading to the convention -- scheduled to begin August 19 in Chicago -- are pledged to back him.

Party leaders had previously planned to formally nominate Biden via a virtual

roll call ahead of the convention, due to potential legal issues regarding Ohio.

With Biden exiting, it is unclear if or when that early meeting will occur, but naming his replacement will ultimately fall to the delegates.



"Our delegates are prepared to take seriously their responsibility in swiftly delivering a candidate to the American people," Harrison said, adding that the "process will be governed by established rules and procedures of the Party."

The last-minute change could bring US politics back to the old days, when party bosses jostled to pick a nominee through deal-making in smoke-filled back rooms

and endless rounds of voting.

On March 31, 1968, then-president Lyndon Johnson made the shock announcement in the middle of the Vietnam War that he would not seek reelection.

The move -- though announced far earlier in the campaign than Biden's -- turned that year's convention, also in Chicago, into a political crisis, with protesters in the streets and left-leaning delegates angry at the pro-war stance of party-picked candidate Hubert Humphrey. Following that debacle, states more widely embraced primary process and conventions have become well-oiled affairs whose outcomes are effectively known in advance.

WHO MIGHT STEP IN?

A natural -- but not automatic -- pick to take Biden's place would be Vice President Kamala Harris, whom Biden quickly endorsed Sunday -- and who vowed to pick up the baton.

Otherwise, any of a number of strong Democratic politicians -- Governors Gavin Newsom of California, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania have been mentioned -- might be called on.

Ukrainian drone strikes spark fire at Russian oil refinery

AFP, Kyiv

A barrage of Ukrainian drones sparked a blaze overnight at an oil refinery and separately killed one person in southern Russia, officials in Russia and Ukraine said yesterday.

Kyiv and Moscow have intensified fatal cross-border missile and drone attacks over recent months with both sides primarily targeting energy infrastructure.



Authorities in the Russian Black Sea town of Tuapse in the Krasnodar region said debris from one downed drone sparked a fire at an oil refinery.

The governor of Russia's southern Belgorod region meanwhile said one person driving a tractor was killed by a Ukrainian drone and his wife had been injured. A source in the Ukrainian defence sector said drones linked to the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine were behind the oil refinery attack and that the facility was operated by Russian state energy giant Rosneft.

Taiwan remodels war games in the face of China's threats

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan launched annual war games yesterday aiming to more realistically simulate an attack from China, dropping drills deemed to be out-of-touch with the growing threat of conflict.

Self-ruled Taiwan's military has discarded exercises "that were more for demonstration purposes", such as live-fire drills laid on for the media on the main island, said new Defence Minister Wellington Koo.

Officials have said such drills will now be held on Taiwan's outlying islands, where Chinese vessels and warplanes have edged closer in recent months, and that troops would now take part in "impromptu" exercises.

The changes come as Beijing, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, has increased its military presence in skies and waters around the island. "Nowadays the situation is more threatened than before, so this type of public relations exercise is useless," Ou Sifu of Taiwan's Institute of National Defense and Security Research said of previous drills.

Biden exit offers scope, pitfalls for Democrats 4hr break in curfew

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in the strongest position to replace him and may be able to consolidate support in the coming days -- a coronation that would allow Democrats to turn their fire on Trump.

If that doesn't happen then a chaotic -- and potentially damaging -- fight for the votes of almost 4,000 delegates at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in just four weeks looks more likely.

The party's national chairman Jaime Harrison promised a "transparent and orderly process" to replace Biden, the first president since Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 not to seek a second term.

His campaign began collapsing after his dismal debate performance against Trump last month prompted concerns over his advanced years and mental capacity.

Trump, who would be 82 at the end of a second term, appeared more robust -- but opposition from a younger candidate would turn

the spotlight on his speeches and interviews, where he often appears incoherent and confuses names.

Several rising Democratic stars -- all younger than 60 -- have been floated as Biden alternatives, including governors Josh Shapiro, Gretchen Whitmer and Gavin Newsom.

Whitmer immediately appeared to suggest she would not be running and Newsom has previously said he would not challenge Harris, but neither explicitly ruled themselves out.

A campaign led by Harris and backed up by a moderate mid-western running mate could present the best chance for Democrats -- helping turn out more women, who historically vote in greater numbers than men and are a weakness for Trump.

Harris would also give Democrats a chance to redefine the race at their convention as a clash of cultures between a former prosecutor and a convicted felon.

"While she has largely been in

the shadows for the last four years it is time for Kamala the prosecutor... to make her comeback," said Sara Sadhwani, an assistant professor of politics at Pomona College in Claremont, California.

A new survey from Democratic polling firm Public Policy Polling released Thursday found that Harris -- with the right running mate -- could defeat Trump and Vance in Pennsylvania and Michigan, two of the three "Blue Wall" states seen as critical to electing a Democratic president.

Ryan Waite, a political marketing expert from Brigham Young University-Idaho, told AFP a contested nomination might actually benefit Democrats by depriving Trump of headlines for several months.

"A new Democrat candidate will benefit from a short vetting window and significant earned media impact right before the election," he told AFP. "The story is now who will it be and that will take the air out of the room through their convention."

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He also said the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway, considered the country's lifeline, is now under the control of law enforcers and could be operational during the curfew break.

"Everything is now under the control of the law enforcement agencies. After the Supreme Court's verdict, we believe they [the quota reform protesters] have

accepted it and those who wanted to take advantage of the movement for their own vested interests will no longer be able to do so."

Meanwhile, the public administration ministry in a gazette notification extended the general holiday for all government and non-government offices for today. Emergency services will be out of the purview.

Philippines 'to assert rights' after China sea deal

AFP, Manila

Manila insisted yesterday it will continue to "assert our rights" over a hotspot South China Sea reef, after reaching a deal with Beijing for resupplying Filipino troops stationed on a grounded warship.

The Philippine foreign ministry also rejected suggestions by China that the "provisional arrangement" announced Sunday required Manila

to give Beijing "prior notification" and verification of deliveries to the BRP Sierra Madre on Second Thomas Shoal.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, including Second Thomas Shoal, which lies about 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the western Philippine island of Palawan and more than 1,000 kilometres from China's nearest major landmass, Hainan island.

Trial starts for Vietnam tycoon in \$146m graft case

AFP, Hanoi

A former Vietnamese property and aviation tycoon charged with \$146 million in fraud and stock market manipulation went on trial in Hanoi yesterday, the latest corruption case targeting the communist country's business elite.

Trinh Van Quyet, who owned the FLC empire of luxury resorts, golf courses, and the budget Bamboo Airways, had nearly \$2 billion in stock market wealth before his arrest, according to state media estimates.

But yesterday, the 48-year-old -- handcuffed and dressed in a white shirt -- was led into court by police officers.

The trial comes just days after the death of former Communist Party of Vietnam leader Nguyen Phu Trong, who is credited with spearheading a crackdown on graft at the highest levels.

Trong, 80, died on Friday at a military hospital in Hanoi "due to old age and serious illness", the party said, a day after announcing he was

standing down to seek medical care.

Tycoon Quyet is accused of illegally pocketing more than \$146 million between 2017 and 2022.

Following his arrest in March 2022, 49 other alleged accomplices were picked up -- including his two sisters and the former chairman of the Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange and its chief executive officer.

According to the prosecution indictment, Quyet set up several stock market brokerages and registered dozens of family members to, ostensibly, trade shares.

Tigresses

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Meanwhile, Sri Lanka thrashed Malaysia by 144 runs in the first match of the day to secure six points from two matches in Group B.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu smashed an unbeaten 119 off 69 deliveries to become the first batter to hit a Women's Asia Cup century in T20 format.