

USD	01	GBP	01	INR	1000	PKR	1000	EUR	01	IRR	1000	AED	01
AFN	79.68	AFN	109.98	AFN	1886	AFN	501	AFN	84.46	AFN	0.37	AFN	21.22

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## Biden taps former Republican senator, opposed to Trump, as US ambassador to Turkey

President Joe Biden tapped a former Republican senator to become the next US ambassador to Turkey on Tuesday.

Jeff Flake, who was an Arizona senator from 2013 to 2019, posted remarks confirming his appointment. "Given the strategic importance of the United States' relationship with our long-time NATO ally, the Republic of Turkey, I am honored and humbled by the trust President Biden has placed in me with this ambassadorial nomination," Flake said in a statement.

"This is a pivotal post at an important time for both of our countries. Cheryl and I are grateful for the opportunity to serve, and eager to get to know the extraordinary people of Turkey," the former senator said.

Flake took over from former President Donald Trump and supported Biden during the 2020 presidential election.

On Tuesday, Flake, who also served in the House, praised Biden.

"With this nomination, the Biden Administration reaffirms the best tradition of American foreign policy and diplomacy: the search for common ground between different nations, people, and public health authorities."

"It is a privilege to be a diplomat in a country that has been a great friend and ally of the United States. I will be a scholar, a student, and a listener, and I will be working to build a second, a third, and a fourth decade."

Swarmsthen had called mixing "a little bit more" but later clarified his remarks in an overnight tweet.

"Individuals should not decide for themselves, public health agencies can be a valuable resource, and in the end, it's up to you," he said.

## WHO warns individuals against mixing and matching COVID-19 vaccines

The World Health Organization's chief scientist has advised individuals against mixing and matching COVID-19 vaccines from different manufacturers, saying that decision should be left to public health authorities.

"It is a little bit of a dangerous question," Swamsthen said during a briefing on Monday after a question about booster shots.

"It will be a chaotic situation in countries if citizens start deciding when and how to build a second, a third, and a fourth dose."

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The WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on vaccines said in the interim the vaccine could be used as a second dose if the latter is not available.

A clinical trial led by the University of Oxford in the UK is ongoing to investigate mixing the regimen of AstraZeneca and Pfizer.

"The trial was recently expanded to include the Moderna Inc and Novavax Inc vaccines."

People are giving the right to anyone who wants to get it, and they are trying to manage the situation. Lawyers are trying to access stores and shops even with police escorts," Meltzer said.

"We are also seeing crowds starting to get built towards the police and throwing stones at them. There are some other buildings that are being targeted."

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## Death toll rises as violence and looting spreads in South Africa

Protesters clashed with security forces in several areas of South Africa and looting spread in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

The police said 27 deaths were being investigated in KwaZulu-Natal province, one and 45 in Gauteng province.

Security officials said the government was working to ensure the violence and looting did not spread further, but they stepped short of declaring a state of emergency.

"No amount of ambiguous or personal circumstances can be used to justify the violence," the police said in a statement late on Tuesday.

Most of the deaths occurred in KwaZulu-Natal province, where looting and violence were reported during incidents of looting of shops, it said, as thousands of people used food, clothing, appliances, liquor and clothing from shops.

Others were linked to shooting and explosions of bank ATMs.

Troops were moving in to hotspots on Tuesday as nationwide police searched for people who had been involved in the violence and looting.

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## Saudi Arabia COVID-19 death toll passes 8,000

Saudi Arabia has registered 1285 new cases of COVID-19 and 16 more deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the Kingdom's Ministry of Health.

After the latest figures, Saudi Arabia's total death toll from the virus has now reached 8,000.

The majority of the new cases were detected in the capital Riyadh, which saw 127 new infections recorded.

Mexico had the second-highest number with 283, while the East on Region saw third with 189.

The Kingdom has now administered more than 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to its population of around 34 million.

The country's King Salman has also issued directives to provide financial support to private businesses with one million dollars in aid to help them survive the economic crisis.

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## Relatives of Lebanon blast victims scuffle with police

Carrying mock coffins, relatives of those killed in Lebanon's port blast scuffled with police Tuesday outside the residence of caretaker interior minister Mohammad Fakhri when he went to a funeral.

The demonstration of anger over the port blast was the latest in a series of protests against the government's handling of the crisis.

A blast investigation launched in the wake of the tragedy has yet to hold any officials to account, with the victims' families charging that political interference has delayed the process.

On Tuesday, dozens gathered outside Fakhri's Beirut apartment after he rejected a request by the judge investigating the blast to question Abbas Ibrahim, head of the General Security bureau, one of the country's top security agencies.

"By refusing to let Abbas Ibrahim's legal immunity, the interior minister is standing between us, the relatives of blast victims, and justice," said Paul Najjar, who lost his three-year-old daughter Abbas in the explosion.

"He is killing us in a second time," Najjar said, referring to Fakhri.

Less than a month before the blast, the government of the tragedy, the relatives lost off all the gates at the entrance of Fakhri's apartment building, an AFP correspondent said.

They displayed portraits of the deceased in makeshift shrines and piled up white coffins just outside the block, the correspondent said.

These are the coffins of our children," Najjar said.

The demonstration sparked a stand-off with police who tried to push families back.

Last month, right groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch called for a UN investigation into the explosion.

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