

MORE NEWS



Musk bets \$21b on online poll

Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk on Saturday asked his 62.5 million followers on Twitter in a poll if he should sell 10% of his Tesla stock. The world's richest person had previously said he could face a "massive" tax bill this year as he has to exercise a large number of stock options coming due next year. "Note, I do not take a cash salary or bonus from anywhere. I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," Musk said on Twitter on Saturday. "Much is made lately of unrealized gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock," Musk said, referring to a "billionaires' tax" proposed by Democrats.

21 scientists snub medals in row with Bolsonaro

Twenty-one scientists awarded one of Brazil's highest honors, the National Order of Scientific Merit, rejected their medals Saturday after President Jair Bolsonaro withdrew two colleagues whose work apparently discomfited his government from the list of honorees. The far-right president named 25 people Wednesday to receive the honor, which Brazil created in 1992 to recognize the most important contributions to science and technology. However, two days later, he withdrew the names of two prominent scientists from the list. They were critical of Bolsonaro's view on Covid-19 and homosexuality.

Court suspends Biden vaccine mandate for businesses

A US federal appeals court Saturday halted a vaccine mandate by President Joe Biden's administration that is intended to push millions of workers at businesses with more than 100 employees into getting Covid-19 shots. The traditionally conservative court ordered the government to reply to the motion for a permanent injunction by 5:00 pm today. Petitioners include five strongly Republican US states -- Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Utah and Mississippi -- as well as several private companies and religious groups.

Iran's military holds annual drills near mouth of Gulf

Iran's military launched an annual exercise near the mouth of the Gulf yesterday, Iranian state television reported, a few weeks before resumption of talks between Tehran and world powers to review a 2015 nuclear deal. "The military exercise in Iran's coast on the Gulf of Oman is to display the country's military might and readiness to confront our enemies," Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi, the spokesman for the Zolfaghar-1400 drill, told state television. The exercise covers an area from the eastern part of the Strait of Hormuz to the northern parts of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea, state television reported. About a fifth of oil that is consumed globally passes through the strategic Strait of Hormuz waterway in the Gulf.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Pledges pile up amid ghosts of past failures

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

Dozens of nations pledged on Saturday to do more to protect nature and overhaul farming at the COP26 UN climate talks, amid misgivings about past failures.

Agriculture, deforestation and other changes in land use account for about a quarter of humanity's planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions, making reforms vital to safeguard nature and feed a rising global population without stoking global warming.

"Nature and climate are interlinked, and both our people and our surroundings are facing the very real impacts of rising temperatures," Alok Sharma, the British president of the Glasgow summit, told a news conference.

He said that 70% of tropical corals, which are nurseries for fish, would be lost if temperatures rise 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times.

"If we get to two degrees they are all gone," he added.

Temperatures are already up nearly 1.2C and the overriding goal of the Glasgow negotiations is to keep alive hopes of limiting warming to 1.5C, the toughest goal set by almost 200 nations in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Britain said 45 nations were making pledges to safeguard nature on Saturday, including the United States, Japan, Germany, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Vietnam, the Philippines, Gabon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uruguay.

Sharma said the pledges included \$4 billion in public sector investment which would help spur innovation such



A man prays along the banks of river Yamuna, which is suffering from man-made pollution, in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

as developing crops resilient to droughts, floods and heatwaves that could benefit "hundreds of millions of farmers".

Campaigners said needed shifts to agriculture to curb emissions and protect food security should have a larger share of the global spotlight.

"We need to shine a light on climate justice, and we need to make food and farming sexy," said Idris Elba, a British actor and goodwill ambassador for the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Vanessa Nakate, 24, a climate justice advocate from Uganda, warned that in her country, "we're watching farms collapse" with floods, droughts, heatwaves and swarms of locusts making hunger more widespread.

Among pledges on Saturday, Canada said it would allocate about \$1 billion - out of \$5.3 billion previously pledged for climate finance - to "nature-based climate solutions" in developing countries over the next five years.

Britain said it would give a 500-million-pound (\$675 million) boost to protect more than 5 million hectares - equivalent to more than 3.5 million football pitches - of tropical rainforests across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Nations including Peru and Cameroon said they would increase support for small-scale farmers, while Nepal and Madagascar said they would join efforts to protect at least 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030.

But other similar past pledges have fallen short.

A UN report last year found that the world had failed to fully meet any of the 20 global goals it set in 2010 to protect biodiversity.

Those ranged from phasing out harmful agricultural subsidies to limiting the loss of forests and raising sufficient finance for developing nations.

British officials said there was hope the Glasgow pledges would be different. They pointed to plans to track pledges, as well as the promises of cash and innovative technologies, such as high-yielding drought-resistant crops.

Britain said 28 nations that are big consumers of deforestation-linked commodities such as beef, soy, palm oil and cocoa had joined a Forest Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) roadmap launched in February this year.

FACT says it promotes sustainable land use as a step to unlock investments to create jobs and protect forest livelihoods.

"The next challenge is to go from bold statements to real implementation," said Yadvinder Malhi, a professor of ecosystem science at the University of Oxford.

Britain grabbed headlines this week by announcing a range of new alliances such as one by more than 40 nations to phase out coal and another by major investors with \$130 trillion at their disposal to boost the green economy.

"Important as these announcements may be, they are not legally binding," noted Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa, a Kenya-based climate and energy think-tank.

CLIMATE CHANGE
Experts warn of 'unimaginable' health crisis

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

From extreme heat to worsening hunger and water shortages, accelerating climate change threatens "unimaginable" health consequences, scientists and health officials warned on Saturday on the sidelines of the COP26 UN climate talks in Glasgow.

As with the Covid-19 pandemic, "it won't be long before the entire population of the world is affected, directly or indirectly," said former Australian prime minister Julia Gillard.

Making those shifts happen will require not just investment and efforts to make the health benefits clearer but also, crucially, bringing on board people who do not normally work on health issues.

With huge influence on air pollution and how people choose to travel, for instance, "the minister of transport is probably more a minister of health than the minister of health," noted Richard Smith, president of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change.

Climate change is already driving diverse health threats around the world, said Andy Haines of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Air pollution kills about 7 million people a year, but the numbers might go up dramatically if climate issues aren't settled.

For instance, the ranges of insect-carried diseases such as malaria and dengue are altering as weather patterns shift, and heat deaths are swiftly rising, with over a third of those recorded from 1990-2018 attributed to climate change, he said.

A rising toll of wildfires, floods, droughts and extreme heat is also having "really devastating effects" on mental health, alongside worries among many people about the future under worsening climate change, Haines said.

As permafrost melts in the fast-warming Arctic, it could even expose "Methuselah organisms" - long frozen and potentially deadly bacteria and viruses, he said.

"As we release these we don't know what is going to happen to human health," he said.



Russian Communist party activists and supporters carry communist flags and a portrait of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin as they attend a flowers-laying ceremony at the Lenin's Mausoleum on Red Square in downtown Moscow yesterday, marking the 104th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution also known as the October Revolution.

PHOTO: AFP

Iraq PM survives assassination bid

Urges restraint after drone attack on his residence; world condemns attack

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi escaped unhurt from an "assassination attempt" in which an explosives-packed drone hit his Baghdad residence early yesterday, a new escalation in the country's post-election turmoil.

Washington condemned the "apparent act of terrorism" while Iraqi President Barham Saleh called the attack, which was not immediately claimed by any group, an attempted "coup against the constitutional system".

Kadhimi, aged 54 and in power since May 2020, appealed for "calm and restraint" before chairing a security meeting at his office in the high-security Baghdad Green Zone, where the overnight attack took place.

Three drones were launched from near a Tigris River bridge but two were intercepted, according to security sources, who said two bodyguards



were wounded.

Gunfire rang out and smoke rose from the Green Zone after the strike, which the premier's office labelled a "failed assassination attempt".

Photos issued by Kadhimi's office showed debris strewn on the ground below a damaged exterior stairway and a door that had been dislodged.

Kadhimi said in a short video that "my residence has been the target of a cowardly assault. Praise God, I am fine."

The attack came two days after security forces clashed with supporters

of Iran-backed parties that lost support in the October 10 parliament election and who have charged they were the victims of vote irregularities.

The United States, which has around 2,500 troops in the country, said it was "relieved to learn the Prime Minister was unharmed".

Iran condemned the attack and urged "vigilance to foil plots aimed at the security and development" of Iraq.

The attack was also condemned by the Arab League, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and United Arab Emirates as well as the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq.

Moqtada Sadr, an influential Shia Muslim preacher whose political movement was the big election winner, condemned the drone attack as "against Iraq and the Iraqi people".

The strike came amid soaring tensions over the elections, the fifth such vote since the 2003 US-led invasion.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOVEMBER 08

392 - Roman Emperor Theodosius declares Christian religion the state religion.

1519 - 1st meeting of Aztec Emperor Moctezuma II and Spanish Conquistador Hernán Cortés in Tenochtitlan, Mexico.

2016 - Political outsider Donald Trump defeats Democrat Hillary Clinton to be elected President of the United States.

SOURCE: REUTERS

ANTI-COUP CAMPAIGN IN SUDAN
Security forces fire tear gas on protesters

AFP, Khartoum

Sudanese security forces yesterday fired tear gas at an anti-coup rally by teachers at the start of a two-day civil disobedience call against last month's military takeover.

Dozens of teachers carried banners reading "no, no to military rule" and demanded a transition to "full civilian rule" at a rally outside the education ministry in the capital Khartoum.

Nationwide anti-coup protests -- including by tens of thousands on October 30 -- have occurred since the October 25 coup but have been met by a deadly crackdown. At least 14 demonstrators have been killed and about 300 wounded, according to the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors.

There were no confirmed reports of casualties but about 87 teachers have been detained, according to the Sudanese Professionals Association, an umbrella of unions which called for the Sunday-Monday civil disobedience.

Selfie ruined kidnap-ransom plan
Claims Maharashtra minister on ordeal of SRK's son

NDTV ONLINE

Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik yesterday said Aryan Khan, the son of Shah Rukh Khan, was kidnapped for ransom and "their game was ruined because of one selfie".

Malik also accused the Narcotics Control Bureau's Mumbai Zonal director Sameer Wankhede of being part of the kidnapping plot, which he said was hatched by BJP leader Mohit Kamboj. He also said there was a conspiracy to lure people like Aryan Khan onboard the ship and frame them in the drugs case.

The 23-year-old was arrested last month following a raid led by Wankhede on a cruise ship off Mumbai coast, in which drugs were allegedly seized. He was later granted bail by the Bombay High Court.

"It was said in court that Aryan Khan did not buy a ticket and go on a cruise. That he went there because of Pratik Gaba and Amir Furniturewala... I want to say straight off that is a matter of kidnapping and ransom," Malik said at a press conference yesterday morning.

A "trap was laid" by a relation of BJP leader Mohit Kamboj, Malik said. "Aryan Khan was taken there. And game of kidnap and ransom of 25 crore was started. A deal was made for 18 crore. Rs 50 lakh was paid. But a selfie ruined the game and this is the truth," he said.

Though he did not name anyone, the reference was apparently to the selfie of private investigator KP Gosavi with Aryan Khan, which went viral online after the raid.

Govt. College of Commerce

Chattogram

www.gov.commercecollege@gmail.com

Date: 07/11/2021

Memo No. CEDP/GCOM/2021-22/G-11/

e-Tender Notice Goods-11/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	625520	Procurement of Furniture for Seminar rooms and Classrooms for Govt College of Commerce, Chittagong.	29-Nov-2021 2:00pm	29-Nov-2021 3:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 28 November 2021, 4pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Professor Sushen Kumar Barua
Principal
Govt. College of Commerce
Agrabad, Chittagong
Phone: 031-721900
E-mail: gcomdp@gmail.com

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Medical Education & Family Welfare Division
National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIORT)
13/1, Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205
www.niort.gov.bd

Ref. No. 59.12.0000.001.07.059.21-681

Date: ১৫ কার্তিক ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৫ অক্টোবর ২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Director General, National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIORT) for the procurement of the following work described below:
Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Scheduled tender/ proposal publication/ selling/ downloading date and time	Tender/ proposal/ closing and opening date and time
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