



Members of the Israeli forces watch as people walk through the ruins of a Palestinian house in the sensitive east Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah, yesterday. Israeli police demolished the home and arrested at least 18 people as they carried out a controversial eviction order. The looming eviction of other families from Sheikh Jarrah in May last year fuelled an 11-day war between Israel and armed Palestinian factions in Gaza. PHOTO: AFP

'Tax us now' Millionaires make unusual plea

AFP, Paris

More than 100 millionaires made an unusual plea yesterday: "Tax us now".

Their appeal came as a study backed by wealthy individuals and nonprofits found that a wealth tax on the world's richest people could raise \$2.52 trillion per year — enough to pay for Covid vaccines for everyone and pull 2.3 billion people out of poverty.

In an open letter to the World Economic Forum's online Davos meeting, 102 millionaires, including Disney heiress Abigail Disney, said the current tax system is unfair and "deliberately designed to make the rich richer".

"The world — every country in it — must demand the rich pay their fair share," the letter says. "Tax us, the rich, and tax us now."

Their plea follows a report by global charity Oxfam this week which said that the world's 10 wealthiest men doubled their fortunes to \$1.5 trillion during the first two years of the pandemic while inequality and poverty soared.

The signatories include wealthy men and women from the United States, Canada, Germany, Britain, Denmark, Norway, Austria, the Netherlands and Iran. The Patriotic Millionaires took part in a the wealth tax study with a network of non-profits and social movements, including Fight for Inequality Alliance, Oxfam and the US-based Institute for Policy Studies think tank.

In addition to funding vaccines worldwide and alleviating poverty, the tax would be enough to provide universal health care and social protection to 3.6 billion people in low- and middle-income countries, the group said.

The tax would be set at two percent for those worth over \$5 million, three percent for over \$50 million and five percent for over \$1 billion.

Russia could attack Ukraine at short notice

Says Blinken in Kyiv, set to meet Lavrov in Geneva tomorrow in 'last stop before the train wreck'

REUTERS, Kyiv

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday said that Russia could launch a new attack on Ukraine at "very short notice" as he met the country's president on the first leg of a new diplomatic push to avert war.

Russia said tension around Ukraine was increasing and it was still waiting for a written US response to its sweeping demands for security guarantees from the West.

The pessimistic statements highlighted the gulf between Washington and Moscow as Blinken gears up for a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov tomorrow that a Russian foreign policy analyst called "probably the last stop before the train wreck".

Blinken told diplomats at the US embassy in Kyiv that a Russian build-up of tens of thousands of troops near the Ukrainian border was taking place with "no provocation, no reason."

"We know that there are plans in place to increase that force even more on very short notice, and that gives President Putin the capacity, also on very short notice, to take further aggressive

action against Ukraine," Blinken said. Russia has also moved troops to Belarus for what it calls joint military exercises, giving it the option of attacking neighbouring Ukraine from the north, east and south. But it continues to deny any such intention. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Western weapons deliveries to Ukraine, military manoeuvres and Nato aircraft flights were to blame for rising tension around Ukraine.

Vladimir Frolov, a former Russian diplomat who is now a foreign policy analyst, said Moscow would not be appeased by West's offer of arms control talks and was pursuing a much more sweeping rearrangement of the European security order.

"The Lavrov-Blinken meet is probably the last stop before the train wreck. But hopes are dim, the positions are incompatible," he said.

Describing Russia's military deployment in Belarus as a "huge escalation", Frolov gave a dire assessment of the crisis. "I think barring a US surrender and their delivering Ukraine to Russia, some kind of a military option is all but inevitable now."



Will not resign

Says UK PM as Conservative MP defects to Labour amid 'partygate' revolt

AGENCIES

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, fighting to save his premiership amid a storm over a series of lockdown parties in Downing Street, yesterday told parliament that he would not resign.

Seven Conservatives said they had filed letters demanding a Tory vote of no confidence in the embattled Johnson, and more than 20 others were reported to have coalesced in an organised revolt.

One of the seven Tories, Christian Wakeford, took the dramatic step of joining the opposition party, minutes before Johnson faced Labour leader Keir Starmer at their weekly joust in the House of Commons.

Johnson, who in 2019 won his party's biggest majority in more than 30 years on a pledge to "Get Brexit Done", has repeatedly apologised for the parties and said that he was unaware of many of them.

Starmer, who welcomed the defection of Wakeford, asked Johnson if a prime minister should resign if he misled parliament.

Asked directly if he would resign, Johnson said: "No".

To trigger a leadership challenge, 54 of the 360 Conservative MPs in parliament must write letters of no confidence to the chairman of the party's 1922 Committee. An analysis by The Times newspaper showed that 58 Conservative lawmakers had openly criticised the prime minister.

Toppling Johnson would leave the United Kingdom in limbo for months just as the West deals with the Ukraine crisis and the world's fifth largest economy grapples with the inflationary wave triggered by the Covid pandemic.

Recognise us

Taliban PM urges Muslim nations to ease pain of Afghans

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban's prime minister yesterday called on Muslim nations to be the first to officially recognise their government, as aid-dependent Afghanistan faces economic collapse.

No country has yet recognised the Taliban, with most watching to see how the hardline Islamists — notorious for human rights abuses during their first stint in power — restrict freedoms.

Although the group has promised a softer rule in line with their interpretation of Islamic Sharia law, women are largely excluded from government employment and secondary schools for girls are mostly shuttered. "I call on Muslim countries to take the lead and recognise us officially. Then I hope we will be able to develop quickly," Mohammad Hassan Akhund told a conference in Kabul called to address the country's massive economic woes.

"We don't want it for the officials. We want it for our public," he said, adding that the Taliban had fulfilled all necessary conditions by restoring peace and security.

UN: 2021 among seven hottest years on record

AFP, Geneva

The past seven years have been the hottest on record, the United Nations confirmed yesterday, adding that 2021 temperatures remained high despite the cooling effect of the La Nina weather phenomenon. "The warmest seven years have all been since 2015," the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in a statement. The datasets showed that the average global temperature in 2021 was around 1.11 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels measured between 1850 and 1900.

Tonga clears runway for aid flights

AFP, Wellington

Tonga finished removing a thick coat of ash from an international runway yesterday after days of painstaking effort, clearing the way for desperately needed emergency aid to arrive in the isolated and disaster-stricken nation. UN crisis coordinator Jonathan Veitch told AFP the runway on the Pacific kingdom's main island was again operational. It is "cleared but not in use yet", he said, adding that Tonga could receive much-stalled flights from Australia and New Zealand from today. Three people were killed when the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano exploded on Saturday, triggering tsunami waves that ripped down homes and caused widespread flooding.

Russia-led troops complete withdrawal from Kazakhstan


AFP, Almaty

A Russia-led military contingent completed its withdrawal from Kazakhstan as the country lifted a state of emergency yesterday after unprecedented unrest in the Central Asian state. The Russian defence ministry said that four military planes carrying its last remaining troops had departed from the capital Nur-Sultan and Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty. Ex-Soviet Kazakhstan has been roiled by clashes that followed peaceful protests over a New Year fuel price increase and which left at least 225 people dead, including 19 fatalities among servicemen.

Three dead in blast on Indian warship

AFP, New Delhi

Three Indian naval personnel were killed in an explosion on one of the country's oldest destroyers at a naval dockyard in Mumbai, authorities said. The blast occurred Tuesday in an internal compartment on the Soviet-built INS Ranvir, commissioned in 1986, according to the Indian Navy. Broadcaster NDTV quoted sources saying the explosion did not involve weapons. Media reports said 11 people were also injured.



Jagannath University
Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences

Master of Pharmacy (Professional) Program
Department of Pharmacy

Admission Circular (Batch 01P)
Spring 2022 (February-July)

Key Features of the program

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Major: 1. Industrial Pharmacy, 2. Pharmaceutical Marketing

Course duration: One year (2 semesters) Total credits : 32

Class time: Friday and Saturday

Application fee: Tk. 1,000.00

Application open: Till February 17, 2022 (9 am – 3 pm, week-days only)

Admission test: February 18, 2022, Friday Result publication: February 19, 2022

Admission period: February 20-24, 2022 Class starts: February 25, 2022 (Friday)

Eligibility for submission of application

A. Minimum 16 years of schooling; having S.S.C. (or equivalent) 10 years, H.S.C. (or equivalent) 2 years and Graduation (or equivalent) 4 years. **B.** Graduated in pharmaceutical sciences or relevant areas (GPA 3.00 or more out of 4.00, or 2nd Class approved by the equivalence Committee of the Department of Pharmacy). **C.** No third class/division (or equivalent).

Application submission

A. Filled-up application form (available in www.jnu.ac.bd), **B.** Attested 3 copies of passport size photographs, **C.** Copies of the certificates and mark-sheets of all the previous examinations (attested by the Chairperson of the department of graduation) and **D.** Application fee

Contact (further information and application form)

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GD-114