



Members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces examine new armament, including NLAW anti-tank systems and other portable anti-tank grenade launchers, in Kyiv, yesterday, amid the ongoing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Ukraine no longer wants to join Nato Zelensky vows to ‘fight to the end’ but also offers olive branch to Russia

AGENCIES

President Volodymyr Zelensky said he is no longer pressing for Nato membership for Ukraine, a delicate issue that was one of Russia's stated reasons for invading its pro-Western neighbor.

In another apparent nod aimed at placating Moscow, Zelensky said he is open to “compromise” on the status of two breakaway pro-Russian territories that President Vladimir Putin recognized as independent just before unleashing the invasion on February 24.

“I have cooled down regarding this question a long time ago after we understood that ... Nato is not prepared to accept Ukraine,” Zelensky said in an interview aired Monday night on ABC News.

“The alliance is afraid of controversial things, and confrontation with Russia,” the president added.

Referring to Nato membership, Zelensky said through an interpreter that he does not want to be president of a “country which is begging something on its knees.”

However, a day later, Zelensky, invoking the wartime defiance of British prime minister Winston Churchill, vowed to “fight to the end” in a historic virtual speech to UK lawmakers.

“We will not give up and we will not lose,” he said, giving a day-by-day account of Russia's invasion that dwelt on the costs in lives of civilians including Ukrainian children.

“We will fight to the end, at sea, in the air. We will continue fighting for our land, whatever the cost.

“We will fight in the forests, in the fields, on the shores, in the streets,” he told the packed chamber, which greeted him with a standing ovation at the start and rose again at the end.

The speech was a conscious echo of Churchill's landmark address to the House of Commons in June 1940, after British forces were forced to retreat from France in the face of a Nazi German onslaught.

Russia has said it does not want neighboring Ukraine to join Nato, the transatlantic alliance created at the start of the Cold War to protect Europe from the Soviet Union. In more recent years the alliance has expanded further and further east to take in former Soviet bloc countries, infuriating the Kremlin. Russia sees Nato enlargement as a threat, as it does the military posture of these new Western allies on its doorstep.



Wait for response to ‘economic war’

Russia tells US; French minister says world heading for 1973-type energy shock

AGENCIES

The Kremlin yesterday accused the United States of declaring an economic war on Russia that was sowing mayhem through energy markets, and it put Washington on notice it was considering its response to a ban on Russian oil and energy.

Russia's economy is facing the gravest crisis since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union after the West imposed heavy sanctions on almost the entire Russian financial and corporate system following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov cast the West's sanctions as a hostile act that had roiled global markets and he said it was unclear how far turbulence on global energy markets would go.

“You see the bacchanalia, the hostile bacchanalia, which the West has sown - and that of course makes the situation very difficult and forces us to think seriously,” Peskov told reporters.

He declined to outline the exact nature of Russia's response.

The West's attempt to cut off Russia - one of the world's biggest exporters of oil, gas and metals - has hit commodity markets and raised

the spectre of spiralling inflation across the world.

Russia said on Monday that oil prices could shoot up to over \$300 per barrel if the United States and European Union banned imports of crude from Russia. Brent hit \$139 on Monday, its highest since 2008.

“The situation demands a rather deep analysis - those decisions announced by President Biden,” Peskov said. “If you are asking me what Russia is going to do - Russia is going to do what is necessary to defend its interests.”

“The United States definitely has declared economic war against Russia and is waging this war,” he said.

Meanwhile, French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire yesterday warned that the spike in energy prices caused by Russia's war in Ukraine will produce effects comparable to the 1973 oil shock.

“In 1973, as you know, the response caused an inflationary shock, leading central banks to massively increase their rates, which killed off growth,” Le Maire added. The first oil shock in the early 1970s was caused by the Yom Kippur war when Egyptian and Syrian forces launched an offensive against Israel.



Putin angry, aggrieved over Ukraine Say US intel chiefs

AFP, Washington

US intelligence chiefs on Tuesday branded Russia's Vladimir Putin an “angry,” isolated leader craving global clout, frustrated about how his Ukraine invasion has not gone to plan, and lobbying provocative nuclear threats at the West.

The long-standing president in Moscow has been “stewing in a combustible combination of grievance and ambition for many years,” CIA Director William Burns told US lawmakers.

He said Putin planned to seize Ukraine's capital Kyiv within two days.

He called the invasion of Ukraine a matter of “deep personal conviction” for Putin, his latest defiant clash with Europe and the United States.

“I think Putin is angry and frustrated right now. He's likely to double down and try to grind down the Ukrainian military with no regard for civilian casualties,” Burns said at a congressional hearing on global threats.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said “Putin's nuclear saber-rattling” has put the West on notice.

The invasion has produced “a shock to the geopolitical order with implications for the future that we are only beginning to understand, but are sure to be consequential.”



RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE Developments

AFP, Kyiv

POWER CUT TO CHERNOBYL

Power has been cut to the Chernobyl power plant, the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster, Ukraine said yesterday, but the UN's atomic watchdog said there was “no critical impact on safety”. The UN atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in a tweet that while the development “violates (a) key safety pillar”, in this case it saw “no critical impact on safety”. On Tuesday the IAEA had said that the site was no longer transmitting data and voiced concern for staff working under Russian guard.

12-HOUR CEASEFIRE

Moscow and Kyiv agree a 12-hour ceasefire to allow civilians to flee six badly battered areas including the capital Kyiv and the besieged southern port of Mariupol, which has been without water and power for nine days.

US REJECTS POLISH FIGHTER JETS OFFER

The Pentagon rejects a Polish offer to deliver its Russian-made MiG-29 fighter jets to a US base in Germany, to be eventually handed over to Ukraine, fearing a wider conflict with Moscow, which called the move a “potentially dangerous scenario”. But Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky pleads, “Look, we're at war! Send us the planes.”

EU TARGETS MORE OLIGARCHS

The EU adds 14 more Kremlin-linked Russian oligarchs and more than 146 senators to its sanctions blacklist, tightens controls on cryptocurrency transfers and targets Russia's maritime sector over the war in Ukraine. Britain impounds a private jet reportedly linked to Russian oligarch Eugene Shvidler.

NORD STREAM 2 ‘DEAD’

Russia's controversial \$12-billion Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany is “dead”, a senior US official says.

2,000 PLUS ‘RUSSIAN TROOPS KILLED’

The Pentagon says it estimates between 2,000 and 4,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in the nearly two-week-old invasion. Russia admitted to 498 killed on March 2.

2.15 MILLION FLEE

The UN says 143,000 fled Ukraine in the last 24 hours, with the number of refugees topping 2.15 million - more than half of those in Poland.

RUSSIA, UKRAINE FMS TO MEET IN TURKEY

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and his Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, will meet in Turkey, Russia's foreign ministry has confirmed. Lavrov will be flying to an international diplomatic forum in Antalya, and his “contact” with Kuleba is planned to take place there, Russian state-owned news outlet RIA Novosti quoted foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova as saying. The meeting was proposed by Turkey's foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, who had proposed holding it in a trilateral format with him, Kuleba and Lavrov at the table.

Anthrax biolab in Ukraine!

REUTERS, London

Russia yesterday said the United States must explain what Moscow claims was a military biological programme in Ukraine - an allegation Washington has already dismissed as “absurd” misinformation.

Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said evidence of the alleged programme had been uncovered by Russia during what it calls its military operation in Ukraine, which its forces invaded on Feb. 24. It involved deadly pathogens including plague and anthrax, she said.

A Ukrainian presidential spokesperson said: “Ukraine strictly denies any such allegation”.

In response to earlier Russian allegations about the purported military biological programme in Ukraine, a Pentagon spokesman said on Tuesday: “This absurd Russian misinformation is patently false”.

Zakharova said Russia had documents showing that the Ukrainian health ministry had ordered the destruction of samples of plague, cholera, anthrax and other pathogens after Feb. 24.

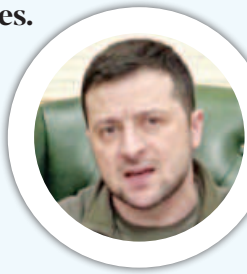
“We can already conclude that in Ukrainian biological laboratories in direct proximity to the territory of our country, development of components of biological weapons was being carried out,” she said.

Zakharova said the alleged programme was financed by the Pentagon. Zakharova said it was not clear if the alleged materials had been destroyed and she asked if they had fallen into the hands of extremists or nationalists.



When will there be a decision? Look, we're at war! We ask you again to decide as soon as possible. Send us planes. ... We don't have time for the media, for all these signals. This isn't ping-pong. It's human lives.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urges Western powers to urgently resolve on a Polish offer that would see his country supplied with fighter jets



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

গোবিন্দ্রী উপশাখা

গোবিন্দ্রী বাজার
গোবিন্দ্রী, মদন
নেত্রকোণা

সর্বাধিক শাখা | সর্ববৃহৎ অনলাইন নেটিওয়ার্ক
সর্বাধুনিক তথ্য প্রযুক্তি | সর্বাধুনিক তথ্য নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা

হাওড় বেস্কিত ভাটি অঞ্চলের জনসাধারণের দোরগোড়ায়
আধুনিক ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানের প্রত্যয়ে
নেত্রকোণা জেলার মদন শাখার আওতাধীন

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের

গোবিন্দ্রী উপশাখার

শুভ উদ্বোধন

১০ মার্চ ২০২২ বৃহস্পতিবার

