

Battle of Adrianople: Roman Emperor Constantine I defeats his co-emperor Licinius, who flees to Byzantium

Battle of Horns of Hattin: Saladin, Sultan of Egypt and Syria, destroys Jerusalem's crusader army



Battle of Gettysburg, largest battle ever fought on the American continent, ends in a major victory for the Union during the US Civil War

Dow Jones publishes its 1st stock index, the Dow Jones Transportation Average

Explosions rock Ukraine southern city

Southern city Mykolaiv warns residents to stay in shelters as powerful explosions rock the city



Aftermath of a missile strike, amid Russia's invasion on Ukraine, in Mykolaiv.

Dmitry Peskov said "Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets".

The Chief of General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, inspected Russian troops involved in what Moscow calls its "special military operation", Russia's defence ministry said, although it was not clear if he was in Ukraine.

The inspection follows slow but steady gains by Russian forces with the help of relentless artillery in east Ukraine, a focus for Moscow after it narrowed its broader war goals of toppling the government following fierce Ukrainian resistance.

"Definitely they are trying to demoralise us. Maybe some people are affected by that, but for us it only brings more hatred and determination," said a Ukrainian soldier returning from Lysychansk, Ukraine's last bastion in Luhansk province.

Russia is seeking to drive Ukrainian forces out of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces in the industrialised eastern Donbas region where Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Kyiv since Russia's first military intervention in Ukraine in 2014.

Russia's TASS news agency quoted a source close to Russia-backed forces in Luhansk saying Ukraine's last forces in Lysychansk were under intense

BETTER YOU KNOW

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attack. "They will be defeated in the near future if they do not surrender," the source said.

It was not possible to independently verify the report. Ukrainian officials did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Houses 'burning down'

Russian forces seized Sievierodonetsk, a major city in Luhansk this month, after some of the heaviest fighting of the four-month-old war that pounded

whole districts into rubble. Other settlements now face similar bombardment.

"Private houses in attacked villages are burning down one by one," Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on Telegram, adding that shelling stopped Lysychansk residents from dousing fires.

Ukraine has appealed for more weapons from the West, saying its forces are heavily outgunned by the Russian military.

Troops on a break from the fighting and speaking in Konstantynivka, a market town about 115 km (72 miles) west of Lysychansk, said they had managed to keep the supply road to the embattled city open, for now, despite Russian bombardment.

"We still use the road because we have to, but it's within artillery range of the Russians," said one soldier, who usually lives in Kyiv but asked not to be named, as comrades relaxed nearby, munching on sandwiches or eating ice cream.

"The Russian tactic right now is to just shell any building we could locate ourselves at. When they've destroyed it, they move on to the next one," the soldier said.

Russia has also struck cities well behind the frontline. A missile slammed into an apartment block near the southern port city of Odesa on Friday, which the authorities said killed at least 21

people. A shopping mall was hit on Monday in the central city of Kremenchuk, leaving at least 19 dead.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy denounced the strikes in an address on Friday as "conscious, deliberately targeted Russian terror and not some sort of error or a coincidental missile strike". Moscow has denied such charges.

Thousands of civilians have been killed and cities levelled since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in what Moscow calls a "special military operation" to root out nationalists. Ukraine and its Western allies say it is an unprovoked war of aggression.

Despite being battered in the east, Ukrainian forces have made some advances elsewhere, including forcing Russia to withdraw from Snake Island, a Black Sea outcrop about 140 km (85 miles) southeast of Odesa that Moscow captured at the start of the war.

Russia had used Snake Island to impose a blockade on Ukraine, one of the world's biggest grain exporters and a major producer of seed for vegetable oils. The disruptions have helped fuel a surge in global grain and food prices.

Russia, also a big grain producer, denies it has caused the food crisis, blaming Western sanctions for hurting its exports.

Earthquake aid, foreign reserves in Doha



A Taliban fighter guards aid at the camp site for the survivors of an earthquake in Gayan district in Paktika province, Afghanistan

YOU KNOW WHAT

Last week's 5.9-magnitude earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, which killed more than 1,000 people and left tens of thousands homeless, adds urgency to the funding debate

pushed the Taliban authorities on women's rights -- a sticking point which led Washington to cancel talks in Doha in March, when the group closed girls' secondary schools in Afghanistan.

"The United States supports the Afghan people's demands that girls be allowed to return to school and that women be allowed to work, contribute to the country's economic growth, and move and express themselves freely," the statement said.

The hardline Islamist Taliban took over in August 2021 after the United States gave up a 20-year military effort.

Washington at the time froze \$7 billion in reserves and the international community halted billions in direct aid that Afghanistan and its population of roughly 40 million people had relied on.

The currency has collapsed and the country descended into a serious economic crisis, although some assistance has been restored.

cerns regarding increased interference by the Taliban in the delivery of humanitarian assistance" and "concerns regarding transparency in delivery of services," the statement said of the aid.

According to the State Department, US representatives also

Biden predicts states will try to arrest women who travel for abortions

Reuters | Washington

President Joe Biden predicted on Friday that some U.S. states will try to arrest women for crossing state lines to get abortions after the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to the procedures nationwide.

Thirteen Republican-led states banned or severely restricted the procedure under so-called "trigger laws" after the court struck down the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling last week. Women in those states seeking an abortion may have to travel to states where it remains legal.

Convening a virtual meeting on abortion rights with Democratic state governors on Friday, Biden said he thinks "people are gonna be shocked when the first state ... tries to arrest a woman for crossing a state line to get health services."

He added: "And I don't think people believe that's gonna happen. But it's gonna happen, and it's gonna telegraph to the whole country that this is a gigantic deal that goes beyond; I mean, it affects all your basic rights".

Biden said the federal government will act to protect women who need to cross state lines to get an abortion and ensure their access to medication in states where it's banned.

New Mexico's governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, told the



US President Joe Biden participates in a virtual meeting with governors while discussing reproductive health care

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JOE BIDEN

meeting her state "will not cooperate" on any attempts to track down women who have

had abortions to punish them. "We will not extradite," she said.

Abortion rights groups have filed legislation in multiple states seeking to preserve the ability of women to terminate pregnancies.

Judges in Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Utah have since issued decisions preventing those states from enforcing new restrictive abortion laws, while Ohio's top court on Friday declined to block the Republican-led state from enforcing an abortion ban.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul told the group that "just a handful of states" are going to have to take care of health of women across the country.

"There is such stress out there," Hochul said. "It is a matter of life and death for American women," she added.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



My thanks and appreciation to #SaudiArabia Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil for your strong partnership and support to @WHO during your tenure in Geneva. I wish you all the best in your next role. Together, for a healthier, safer, fairer world!

@DrTedros

02



The Supreme Court's reversal of Roe v. Wade will upend the lives and impact the health of millions of women. As I've said, this isn't over. In addition to my actions to protect women's right to travel for care and access FDA-approved medication, these Governors are stepping up:

@POTUS

03



For some in the "pro-life" movement, women who have an abortion should be prosecuted for murder and subjected to the death penalty. That awful development may not be so far-fetched: today's US Supreme Court would probably allow it.

@kenroth

04



We have to show strength and unity to deter aggressors. Together, we can achieve a huge amount for the betterment of Europe and for the world.

@trussliz

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)