



Russian strikes cut Kyiv heating

Kyiv mayor calls for temporary evacuation after Russian strikes

● Massive Russian missile and drone attack on Kyiv

● Heating cut to half the capital's apartments

● Four people killed, 24 wounded

AFP | Washington

Russian strikes cut heating to half of the Ukrainian capital yesterday, prompting the mayor to issue an exceptional call for residents to temporarily leave the city with temperatures at -8C and set to drop further.

Four people were killed in the capital in a massive missile and drone attack that ripped open apartment blocks and also saw Moscow fire its feared Oreshnik ballistic missile at western Ukraine, drawing condemnation from Europe.

The barrage came hours after Moscow rejected a plan by Kyiv and its Western allies to deploy peacekeeping forces to Ukraine should a ceasefire be reached.

AFP journalists in Kyiv saw residents running for shelter as the air raid siren echoed and heard Russian drones exploding into residential buildings and missiles whistling over the capital.

“A clear reaction from the world is needed. Above all from the United States, whose signals Russia truly pays attention to,” President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media.

“Russia must receive signals that it is its obligation to focus on diplomacy, and must feel consequences every time it again



Smoke rises from a building after Russia launched an attack with drones and missiles on Kyiv

focuses on killings and the destruction of infrastructure,” he added.

Zelensky said 20 residential buildings in Kyiv had been damaged, adding that a Russian drone had damaged the Qatari embassy building.

Around half of all apartment blocks in the capital were left without heat due to “due to damage to the capital’s critical infrastructure caused by a massive enemy attack,” Klitschko said.

He called on “residents of the capital who have the opportunity to temporarily leave the city for places with alternative sources of power and heat to do so.”

AFP journalists at train and bus stations in the capital saw no signs of large crowds or panic.

Russia fires rarely-used missile

Authorities in Kyiv said four

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UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY

people were killed -- including a medic who died at a building that was struck in a repeat attack -- and that 24 people were wounded.

Nina, 70, who lives in one of the buildings hit, told AFP she was angry that the world was talking about a possible deal to end the conflict at a time when Russia was launching such deadly barrages.

“Where is Europe, where is America? It doesn’t hurt them

the same way,” she said.

Her neighbour, 58-year-old Kostiantyn Kondratchenko fought the second-floor blaze from a drone hit with a hose used to water flowers, he told AFP.

The barrage is just the latest to batter Ukraine as diplomats wrangle for a breakthrough in what has been Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II.

Russia, which launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, has shown no sign of slowing down its ground offensive or aerial bombardments.

Moscow’s defence ministry said it had used the Oreshnik ballistic missile on “strategic targets” -- only the second time the new weapon, which the Kremlin says is impossible to stop, is known to have been used.

Ukrainian authorities said a ballistic missile travelling “at about 13,000 kilometres (8,000

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Russia used its new, highly hypersonic “Oreshnik” ballistic missile, which travels at approximately 13,000 km/h (8,000 mph), for only the second known time, striking a facility in western Ukraine near the Polish border

miles) per hour” had struck an “infrastructure facility” near the western city of Lviv.

Ukraine’s SBU published pictures of fragments from what it said were the missile, found in the Lviv region, close to Ukraine’s border with EU member Poland.

It said Russia had attacked “civilian infrastructure”, without specifying the target or extent of any damage.

The regional military administration said that radiation levels were within normal range.

The European Union and Germany condemned the use of Oreshnik.

“Russia’s reported use of an Oreshnik missile is a clear escalation against Ukraine and meant as a warning to Europe and to the US,” EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on social media.

Across the border in Russia’s Belgorod, the governor said more than half a million people were without power or heating after a Ukrainian attack targeted the region’s utilities.

‘War is back in vogue,’ Pope Leo says

AFP | Vatican City

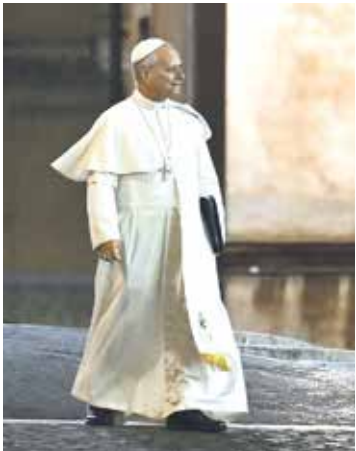
Pope Leo XIV warned Friday that war was “back in vogue” and highlighted the “ambition of belligerents”, as his own country the United States flexes its military muscles.

In a New Year’s message to diplomats at the Vatican, his first since becoming head of the world’s 1.4 billion Catholics last May, Leo lamented the weakness of multilateralism, saying dialogue was being replaced by a “diplomacy based on force”.

He did not name the US but said rising tensions in the Caribbean and Pacific were “cause for serious concern”, particularly in Venezuela -- where US forces recently seized the president.

He was speaking just hours after US President Donald Trump said land operations against drug cartels were on the way following maritime attacks in the eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea.

Leo issued an appeal “to respect the will of the Venezue-



Pope Leo XIV walks to his residence

lan people, and to safeguard the human and civil rights of all”, following Trump’s suggestion the US could effectively control Venezuela -- and its vast oil reserves -- for years.

The pope’s address rounded up a year of increasing global tension, from the Russia-Ukraine war to US strikes in several countries, and rising fears in Europe of a possible US takeover of Greenland.

Storms spark travel mayhem and power cuts in northern Europe

AFP | Paris

Gale-force winds and storms barrelled through northern Europe yesterday, disrupting air and rail travel and cutting power to hundreds of thousands in freezing temperatures.

Some 50 flights were cancelled in London’s Heathrow airport, affecting thousands of passengers, with air travel disrupted across Europe from the Czech Republic to Moscow.

Forecasters from Britain to Germany urged people to stay indoors as they issued weather warnings, including the rare, highest-level red wind alert for the British Isles of Scilly and Cornwall in southwestern England.

All trains were cancelled in Cornwall yesterday.

Some 57,000 homes in the UK remained without electricity, according to the National Grid energy provider, after Storm Gorette brought strong winds and heavy snow to parts of the



A huge wave crashes on the jetty of the harbor of Le Conquet, western France

country overnight.

More than 250 schools remained closed across Scotland, which has struggled through bad weather for much of the first week back after the Christmas break.

In France, Gorette cut power to some 380,000 homes, most of them in the northern Normandy region, the Enedis power provider said.

Overnight, gusts of up to 216 kilometres per hour (134 miles

per hour) were registered in France’s northwestern Manche region, authorities said.

The winds felled trees with at least one crashing on residential buildings in France’s Seine-Maritime region, without injuries, authorities said.

Gusts of up to 160 kph lashed England and Wales with the Met Office forecasting agency warning of “very large waves” bringing “dangerous conditions to coastal areas”.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



In Damascus today with @eucopresident . After decades of fear and silence, Syrians began a long journey toward hope and renewal. Europe will do everything it can to support Syria's recovery and reconstruction.

@vonderleyen

02



Must be nice to be able to tweet from Europe and be able to use the Internet freely to publicly disagree with leaders, without being arrested, beaten or having the country's telecommunications disabled. That's the sort of thing people in Iran's streets are asking for...

@RobertaMetsola

03



It's time for the President of the United States to act like a President for ALL the United States.

@GavinNewsom

04



I've seen a lot of dishonest coverage from the media during my time in politics, but the last 24 hours may have set a new low.

@JDVance

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