

Ukrainian official warns of 'catastrophe' in captured city



AP ■ POKROVSK (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian regional official warned on Friday of deteriorating living conditions in a city captured by Russian forces two weeks ago, saying Sievierodonetsk is without water, power or a working sewage system while the bodies of the dead decompose in hot apartment buildings.

Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the Russians were unleashing indiscriminate artillery barrages as they try to secure their gains in eastern Ukraine's Luhansk province. Moscow this week claimed full control of Luhansk, but the governor and other Ukrainian officials said their troops retained a small part of the province.

"Luhansk hasn't been fully captured even though the Russians have engaged all their arsenal to achieve that goal," Haidai told The Associated Press. "Fierce battles are going on in several villages on the region's border. The Russians are relying on tanks and artillery to advance, leaving

scorched earth."

Russia's forces "strike every building that they think could be a fortified position," he said. "They aren't stopped by the fact that civilians are left there and they die in their homes and courtyards. They keep firing."

Occupied Sievierodonetsk, meanwhile, "is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe," the governor wrote on social media. "The Russians have completely destroyed all the critical infrastructure, and they are unable to repair anything."

Luhansk is one of two provinces that make up the Donbas, a region of mines and factories where pro-Moscow separatists have fought Ukraine's army for eight years and declared independent republics that Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized before he sent troops into Ukraine.

After asserting full control of Luhansk, Putin said Russian forces would have a chance to rest and recoup, but other parts of eastern Ukraine have come under sustained bombardment.

The Russian leader warned Kyiv it should quickly accept Moscow's terms or brace for the worst.

"Everybody should know that largely speaking, we haven't even yet started anything in earnest," Putin said while speaking with leaders of the Kremlin-controlled parliament Thursday.

Ukraine's presidential office said Friday that at least 12 civilians were killed and another 30 wounded by Russian shelling over the last 24 hours. Two cities in Donetsk — the other Donbas province — experienced the heaviest barrage, with six people killed and 21 wounded.

In northeast Ukraine, another four people were killed and nine were wounded in Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, where Russian shelling hit residential areas.

Commenting on Putin's ominous statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian leader was reacting to statements by

Ukraine's government and its Western allies about defeating Russia on the battlefield.

"Russia's potential is so big that just a small part of it has been used in the special military operation," Peskov told reporters Friday. "And so Western statements are utterly absurd and just add to the grief of the Ukrainian people."

In other developments: Germany's parliament overwhelmingly approved Sweden and Finland's requests to join NATO. German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said the two countries' accession would greatly strengthen NATO's northern and eastern flanks, noting their strong naval forces in the Baltic Sea and their land forces that know the region bordering Russia well. She suggested that Putin's efforts to divide and destroy NATO had failed.

"He bet on our weakness," she said. "Now he gets the opposite." All 30 member countries must agree before the Western military alliance can admit Finland and Sweden.

Putin to Ukraine: Russia has barely started its action

AP ■ MOSCOW

With Russia's military action in Ukraine in its fifth month, Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned Kyiv that it should quickly accept Moscow's terms or brace for the worst, adding ominously that Russia has barely started its action.

Speaking at a meeting with leaders of the Kremlin-controlled parliament, Putin accused Western allies of fuelling the hostilities, charging that "the West wants to fight us until the last Ukrainian."

"It's a tragedy for the Ukrainian people, but it looks like it's heading in that direction," he added.

"Everybody should know that largely speaking, we haven't even yet started anything in earnest," Putin said in a menacing note.

He declared that Russia remains ready to sit down for talks to end the fighting, adding that "those who refuse to do so should know that the longer it



lasts the more difficult it will be for them to make a deal with us."

"We are hearing that they want to defeat us on the battlefield," Putin said. "Let them try."

Earlier in the conflict, the Kremlin demanded that Kyiv acknowledge Russian sovereignty over the Crimean Peninsula, which it annexed in 2014, and recognize the independence of Moscow-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine. Moscow also said it expected Ukraine to bow to the

existing situation on the ground, a reference to other land gains it has made since Russian troops rolled into Ukraine on Feb. 24.

After failing to capture Kyiv and other big cities in Ukraine's northeast early in the campaign, the Russian military shifted its focus to the eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian troops since 2014.

Earlier this week, the Russian military claimed control of the Luhansk province, one of the two that make up Donbas, and is preparing to press its offensive into the second one, Donetsk.

In the early stages of the conflict, Russia won control of the southern Kherson region and part of neighboring Zaporizhzhia. Moscow is expected eventually to try to cut Ukraine off from its Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border. If successful, it would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and also create a corridor

to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria, where Russia maintains a military base.

Putin reaffirmed his long-held claim that the West is using the conflict in Ukraine to try to isolate and weaken Russia.

"They simply don't need such a country as Russia," Putin said. "This is why they have used terrorism, separatism and internal destructive forces in our country."

He charged that Western sanctions against Russia have failed to achieve their goal of "sowing division and strife in our society and demoralizing our people."

"The course of history is unstoppable, and attempts by the collective West to enforce its version of the global order are doomed to fail," Putin said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to the Ukrainian president, responded on Twitter: "There is no plan by the collective West" and only a Russian army entered Ukraine.

'Dad, that's it. She's dead': Another day of loss in Ukraine

AP ■ KHARKIV

She had gone out to feed the cats when the shelling began.

It was afternoon, a residential neighbourhood, a time to get errands done. But there is nothing routine about life near the front line in Ukraine.

Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city and a short drive from the Russian border, lives with the low thunder of distant artillery and the sickening booms of shells exploding much closer to home.

Natalia Kolesnik, like other residents, learned to live with the risks. Then, in a grassy courtyard on a hot and sweaty Thursday, the shelling caught

her.

She was one of three bodies on the littered ground.

One body appeared unrecognisable.

A second, with a torn yellow dress and a blue slipper blown off, lay beside a splintered wooden bench. Next to it, there was a box of half-eaten fruit, cherries and apples, speckled with blood.

Inside a purse left on the bench, a mobile phone rang.

Kolesnik was nearby.

Her husband, Viktor, arrived in shock. He didn't want to let her go. He stroked her head.

"Dad, that's it," his son Olexander said, watching as first responders waited to close

the body bag. "She is dead. Get up."

"Don't you understand?" his father asked.

"What don't I understand?" the son said. "This is my mother. Dad, please. Dad, please." Kneeling, Viktor embraced what was left of his wife, one arm cradling her shoulder, his stubbled chin pressed against the grit on her face. He picked up her left hand and placed it again, covering it with his own. The pleading continued. Viktor again shoved his son's hand away.

"Dad, go."

"I can't go."

"Look, you are covered with blood. People need to carry her away."

Russia wants to jail Opposition activist, anti-war official

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian prosecutors on Thursday called for prison sentences for a prominent opposition activist and for a Moscow city council member who opposes the invasion of Ukraine, in a sign the Kremlin's crackdown on dissent continues to gather pace.

Prosecutors asked that Andrei Pivovarov, former head of the Open Russia organization, be given a five-year sentence for "directing an undesirable organization," a criminal offense under a 2015 law, according to his lawyer, Sergei Badamshin.

Pivovarov rejected the charges and pointed out during the court hearing that the criminal case was opened two days after Open Russia shut down.

The group disbanded in an attempt to shield members from prosecution after it was designated an "undesirable" organization.

Pivovarov was pulled off a Warsaw-bound plane at St. Petersburg's airport just before takeoff in May 2021.

He was taken to the southern city of Krasnodar, where he was accused of supporting a local candidate on behalf of an "undesirable" organization. The criminal charge is based on a his social media posts supporting independent candidates in Krasnodar's municipal elections.

Badamshin, the lawyer, said prosecutors also requested that his client be barred from holding office for eight years.

Also on Thursday, a Russian prosecutor asked for a seven-year sentence for a Moscow city council member who spoke up against Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Alexei Gorinov, who was detained in April, is the first Russian elected representative to face prison for spreading "knowingly false information" about the Russian army, a charge that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Gorinov criticized Moscow's military actions in Ukraine at a city council meeting in March, a recording of which is now available on YouTube.

The video shows him voicing skepticism over a planned children's art competition in his constituency while "every day children are dying" in Ukraine.

At a court hearing last month, Gorinov was photographed holding up a sign saying "I am against the war" as he sat in the defendant's cage.

Moscow effectively outlawed independent discussion of its Ukraine operation, including all references to it as a "war" or "invasion," weeks after its troops rolled into Ukraine.

In another development Thursday, Russia issued an arrest warrant for Ilya Krasilshchik, an outspoken tech executive and former publisher of a leading independent Russian news site, Meduza.

G20 diplomats face unity headwinds on Ukraine, war's impact

AP ■ NUSA DUA (INDONESIA)

Top diplomats from the world's richest and largest developing nations are confronting multiple crises as they open talks beset by sharp divisions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its impacts on food and energy security, along with climate change, endemic poverty and the lingering effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Foreign ministers from the

Group of 20 countries begin meeting on the Indonesian resort island of Bali on Friday with little prospect for achieving the kind of lofty consensus on weighty issues that have been a hallmark of past gatherings. And, as they attempt to prepare for a G-20 leaders' summit to be held at the same venue in November, they got a last-minute jolt with Thursday's resignation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, one of the champions

of the West's hard line on Russia.

While Johnson's departure is unlikely to dent U.S. and European efforts to promote a tough line on Russia among other G-20 members, it will almost certainly be seen as a sign of weakness by China and Russia, both of which will be represented by their foreign ministers in Bali, Wang Yi and Sergey Lavrov.

They will face off against U.S. Secretary of State Antony

Blinken and his French and German counterparts who had expected to be joined by British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. She instead left early to return to London to deal with the fallout from Johnson's resignation.

U.S. Officials say they are determined not to allow distractions to divert attention from what they believe should be the primary focuses of the Bali conference: the disruption to world food and energy supplies caused by Russia's war in Ukraine, blaming Moscow for its cause, and marshalling an international response to prevent further shortages that are already wreaking havoc in Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

Yet, with East and West so divided and North-South differences emerging, the potential for a G-20 agreement on a way forward appears negligible. U.S. Officials have said it is less important for the G-20 as a group to present a unified stance than it is for smaller blocs of countries and individ-



ual nations to speak out and take action. In the past, however, the G-20 has produced joint communiqués on key issues like terrorism, transnational crime, climate and economic matters that have been lauded as important international policy blueprints.

Thus, competition for such support among the group has been fierce.

Wang and Lavrov each stopped in various Asian capitals on their way to Bali, drumming up support for various Chinese and Russian positions and fortifying their ties among non-allied nations in the region ahead of the G-20. Blinken, the French, Germans and Brits, meanwhile, all arrived in Bali from two Western-oriented and orga-

nized gatherings in Europe last week: the G-7 and NATO summits at which there was little sign of rancor or debate and unity on Ukraine was assured.

With its broader membership, including countries like host Indonesia and large developing nations like India, Brazil, South Africa and others, the G-20 is far more diverse, skeptical of Western intentions and more open to entreaties and offers from big neighbors like China and Russia and more vulnerable to their threats. Others attending include: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, and the European Union.

Attempting to ply a middle route, this year's G-20 president, Indonesia, has tried to bridge what gaps are possible, laying out an agenda that is not inherently divisive or political.

The country has sought to remain neutral in dealing with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and President Joko Widodo has been guarded in his comments.

Biden to visit CIA as intelligence plays key role in Ukraine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

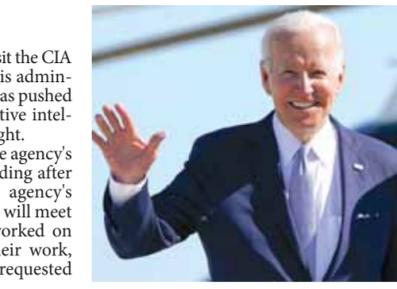
US President Joe Biden will visit the CIA on Friday at a time when his administration's support for Ukraine has pushed the work of the normally secretive intelligence agencies into the limelight.

Biden will commemorate the agency's 75th anniversary since its founding after World War II. While at the agency's headquarters in Virginia, Biden will meet with CIA officers who have worked on Ukraine to thank them for their work, according to a US official who requested anonymity to discuss the plans.

Biden has established a more traditional relationship with the CIA and other agencies after former President Donald Trump repeatedly cast doubt on intelligence findings and attacked what he alleged was a "deep state" of opponents.

Still, there were tensions last year stemming from Afghanistan, with finger-pointing across the government during the fall of the American-backed government as the Taliban overran Kabul.

Current and former intelligence officials worked frantically to evacuate Afghans who had helped the US during the two-decade war. The release of predictions that Russia would invade Ukraine in February was a public boost for spy agencies that are



often criticised and facing new pressure to deliver insights on China and Russia. Biden authorised an unprecedented campaign to declassify findings about Russian President Vladimir Putin's intentions to launch a new war. It has been credited with building support for sanctions that crippled the Russian economy and the ramp-up of military support to Kyiv.

Douglas London, a former CIA officer who has criticised the agency's direction in recent years, said the war had shown the CIA was on its way to becoming "an elite spy service again."

"Its path to redemption has really been facilitated by Ukraine," said London,

author of "The Recruiter: Spying and the Lost Art of American Intelligence."

But the intelligence community also underestimated Ukraine's ability to resist the Russian invasion and wrongly predicted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's government would fall within weeks. The agencies are reviewing how they assess a foreign government's perceived "will to fight" — an issue the US also badly misjudged in Afghanistan last year when it believed President Ashraf Ghani's government would hold out for months, only for Ghani to flee and the Taliban to take Kabul as the US was trying to evacuate. Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who sits on the Senate Intelligence and Armed Services committees, said he's pushed intelligence officials to review why there were "two significant breakdowns in a year."

"The quality of the intelligence pre-invasion was excellent and absolutely world-class," King said in a recent interview. "The problem was the assessment of what would happen after the invasion."

Most of the intelligence community's work since the war began has been kept secret. US officials have disclosed that they are providing Ukraine with information that Ukrainian forces have in turn used to hit high-value Russian targets, including the flagship Moskva.

ORISSA SPONGE IRON & STEEL LIMITED
(Formerly Orissa Sponge Iron Limited)
(An ISO 9001 & 14001 Certified Company)
CIN: L27102OR1979PLC000819

Regd. Office: OSIL House, Gangadhar Meher Marg, Kiti Bhubaneswar - 751024
Corporate Office: A-201, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110 020
Site: PO. Palaspanga, Dist. Keonjhar - 758 031, Odisha
E-Mail: corporate@orissasponge.com; Website: www.orissasponge.com; Tel: +91 11-43742000

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

The Members of "Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited" ("the Company") are hereby informed that in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated December 08, 2021 and 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Regulation 44 and 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") and other applicable provisions including any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and as amended from time to time, a Postal Ballot Notice, seeking consent of the members on the resolutions as set out in the said Notice has been sent electronically to the members whose e-mail address are registered with the Depository Participants/ Registrar & Share Transfer agent i.e. Skyline Financial Service Private Limited ("RTA"), as on Monday, July 04, 2022 (Cut-off Date). The dispatch of the said notice through e-mails has been completed on Friday, July 08, 2022.

The Postal Ballot Notice ("Notice") is available on the website of the Company at www.orissasponge.com and on the website of the National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

Members holding shares either in physical form or dematerialized form, as on the Cut-off date i.e., Monday, July 04, 2022, may cast their vote electronically on the business items set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot dated Wednesday, July 06, 2022, through electronic voting system (remote e-voting) of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL").

The members are further informed that:

- The special business set out in the notice of the Postal Ballot are to be transacted through voting by electronic means.
- The remote e-voting begins at 9:00 a.m. (IST) on Monday, July 11, 2022.
- The remote e-voting ends at 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Tuesday, August 09, 2022.
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means is Monday, July 04, 2022.
- The members may note that i) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting and the voting by electronic means shall not be allowed after the date and time mentioned under point 'c' above; and ii) once the vote on resolution cast by a member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently;
- The manner of remote e-voting for the members holding shares in physical mode or dematerialized mode or who have not registered their email address with the Company/Depository Participant, is provided in the notice of the Postal Ballot as available on the Company's website www.orissasponge.com and NSDL's website www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- Manner of registering/ updating email address:
 - Members holding shares in physical mode, are requested to get their email ids registered by writing to the RTA at compliances@skylinetra.com or to the Company at corporate@orissasponge.com along with signed request letter mentioning the name and address of the Member, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), self-attested copy of the PAN card, and self-attested copy of Address proof.
 - In case shares are held in demat mode, are requested to register / update their e-mail addresses with the relevant Depository Participant(s).
 - Alternatively, members may send a request to evoting@nsdl.co.in for procuring user id and password for e-voting by providing above mentioned documents. The members may also refer the said Notice.
- In case of any queries, the members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in. Further, for any grievance regarding e-voting the members may also write to Mr. Darpan Sharma, Company Secretary at email id: corporate@orissasponge.com
- The Company has appointed Mr. Amit K Mangla, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. FCS 11450, Practicing No. 23164), Proprietor of M/s. Amit K Mangla & Company, Company Secretaries to act as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot including e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner. The Scrutinizer will submit his report to the Chairman / any other Director / person as may be authorized by the Chairman, on or before Thursday, August 11, 2022. The results of the voting conducted by Postal Ballot along with Scrutinizer's Report will be made available on the website of the Company at www.orissasponge.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Additionally, the results will also be displayed at the Registered Office of the Company.

For Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited
Sd/-
Darpan Sharma
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
M. No. A63328

Place: New Delhi
Date: July 08, 2022

