

1780

Pennsylvania becomes 1st US state to abolish slavery (for newborns only)

1869

US Postage stamps showing scenes issued for 1st time. These pictorials showed a post horse and rider, a locomotive, a shield, an eagle and a ship, the Adriatic.

1872

Yellowstone becomes the world's 1st national park



1954

US explodes Castle Bravo, a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll, which accidentally became the most powerful nuclear device ever detonated by the US

es battle for cities



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TWEETS

01



National Science Day greetings to all scientists and science enthusiasts. Let us reaffirm our commitment towards fulfilling our collective scientific responsibility and leveraging the power of science for human progress.

@narendramodi

02



The escalation of military operations inside Ukraine is leading to escalating human rights violations. We know the result of war: civilian casualties, people forced to flee, poverty & hunger. We must show all people in Ukraine that we stand by them in their time of need.

@antonioguterres

03



The candle of freedom may burn low in Ukraine in the days and perhaps months ahead, but the UK will stand by you, by Ukraine, until that candle blazes again, bright in independence and liberty.

@BorisJohnson

04



It was great meeting @Intel CEO @PGelsinger today in Jerusalem and discussing ways to further strengthen our Start-up Nation.

@naftalibennett

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

Ukrainian president signs formal request to join EU

Reuters | Lviv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy yesterday said he had signed an official request for Ukraine to join the European Union.

Zelenskyy has asked the European Union to allow Ukraine to gain membership immediately under a special procedure as it defends itself from invasion by Russian forces.



continued normally, it said.

Ukraine denied that the nuclear plant had fallen into Russian hands, according to the news agency.

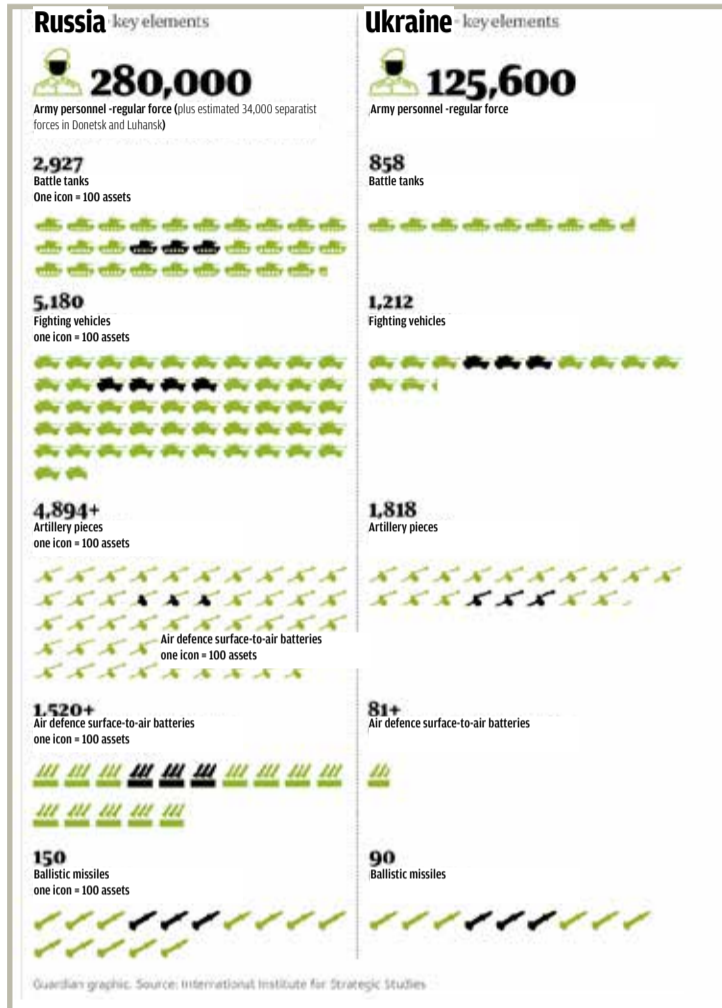
Dozens of people were killed in Russian rocket strikes on Kharkiv on Monday, Ukrainian interior ministry adviser Anton Herashchenko said.

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said at least 102 civilians in Ukraine have been killed since Thursday, with a further 304 wounded, but the real figure is feared to be "considerably higher".

More than half a million people have fled to neighbouring countries, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

Fighting took place around the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol throughout the night, Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration, said. He did not say whether Russian forces had gained or lost ground, or provide any casualty figures.

A US defence official said Russia had fired more than 350 missiles at Ukrainian targets since Thursday, some hitting civilian infrastructure.



Russia yesterday barred airlines from 36 countries including Britain, Germany, Spain, Italy and Canada from using Russian airspace in a retaliatory move after sweeping sanctions targeting its aviation sector.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had taken over the towns of Berdyansk and Enerhodar in Ukraine's southeastern

Zaporizhzhya region as well as the area around the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, Interfax reported. The plant's operations

Embassy in Belarus, OKs from embassy in Moscow



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

rus, Fisher tweeted.

US citizens in Belarus should also depart immediately, the State Department said in a separate travel advisory.

The United States had already relocated its Ukraine embassy operations from the capital Kyiv to the western city of Lviv two weeks ago as Russian forces amassed at Ukraine's borders.

The latest evacuations come after Russian President Vladimir Putin put Russia's nuclear deterrent on high alert on Sunday in the face of a barrage of Western reprisals for his war on Ukraine, which said it had repelled Russian ground forces attacking its biggest cities.

Russian flights bans hit airlines from 36 countries

Reuters | Moscow

Russia has closed its airspace to airlines from 36 countries, including all 27 members of the European Union, in response to Ukraine-related sanctions targeting its aviation sector.

The flight bans are expected to hurt airlines that fly over the world's biggest country to get from Europe to Asia. They are likely to force them to find new routes.

Rosaviatsia said that flights from those countries could in exceptional circumstances be authorised if they secure special clearance from Russia's aviation authority or foreign ministry.

It listed the countries as Albania, Anguilla, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, British Virgin Islands, Germany, Gibraltar, Hungary, Greece, Denmark, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Jersey, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.



NATO sending missiles, weapons to Ukraine

Partners in the US-led NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) defence alliance were providing Ukraine with air-defence missiles and anti-tank weapons, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said.

The Kremlin accused the European Union of hostile behaviour, saying weapons supplies to Ukraine were destabilising and proved that Russia was right in its efforts to demilitarise its

neighbour. "Throughout Russia, the vast majority of the population has friends or relatives who live in Ukraine. Naturally, everyone's hearts are aching for what is happening to these relatives," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

The Kremlin declined to comment on whether there was a risk of confrontation between Russia and NATO. Russia has demanded that NATO never admit Ukraine.

Indian ministers to go to Ukraine's borders to help evacuate citizens

Reuters | New Delhi

India plans to send four senior ministers to Ukraine's border nations, a government source said on Monday, to help in the rescue of thousands of its citizens who remain trapped more than four days after Russia's invasion of the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met senior officials on Monday to discuss evacuation efforts, amid rising concerns back home about the safety of some 16,000 Indians still in Ukraine, most of them students.

Ministers Hardeep Puri, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kiren Rijiju & VK Singh will travel to neighbouring countries of Ukraine to coordinate the evacuation, according to an Indian government source.

Indians make up about a quarter of the 76,000 foreign students studying in Ukraine, mainly on medical courses.

Late on Sunday night, India's embassy in Poland issued an advisory, saying it had arranged for buses at the Shehyni border in Ukraine, for those stranded there, to cross over into Poland.

Belarus may be about to send its troops into Ukraine

The Guardian

Belarus may be preparing to send its soldiers into Ukraine in support of the Russian invasion, perhaps as soon as this week, according to a US defence official, amid mounting concern about Minsk's military preparations.

Belarus has already been used as a staging post by Russian forces, who gathered there on the pretext of joint military exercises before last week's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Now there is increasing evidence that Minsk may be moving towards becoming an explicit participant in the war.

On Monday it announced it was



Military vehicles take part in drills held by Belarusian and Russian troops at a training ground near Brest earlier this month

revoking its non-nuclear status after a referendum, allowing Russian weapons to be placed in Belarus. The move provoked rare protests in the country.