

News in brief

◆ **An adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy**

said yesterday that Russia had not captured Kherson, a southern port city that Russia had earlier said it had seized. Oleksiy Arestovych said fighting continued for the provincial capital of around a quarter of a million people, which sits at the Dnipro river's exit into the Black Sea. "The city has not fallen, our side continues to defend," Arestovych told a live briefing broadcast on the website of the president's office. "Fighting in the streets continues." "Information that Kherson has fallen and so on - that's not true. Our military and local defenders continue resisting in the city and around it."

Ukrainian official says Kherson not captured by Russia, fighting continues

◆ **Ukraine to receive more missiles and Turkish drones, minister says**



◆ **Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov**

said yesterday the country was set to receive Stinger and Javelin

missiles from abroad, as well as another shipment of Turkish drones. Several Western countries have pledged to supply Ukraine with weapons to fend off a Russian invasion.

◆ **Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison**

on Tuesday said he has tested positive for COVID-19 and was experiencing flu-like symptoms, including fever. "I am continuing to follow health guidelines and am isolating at home in Sydney," Morrison said in a statement issued late Tuesday night.

◆ **Australian prime minister tests positive for COVID-19**

◆ **China will not join sanctions on Russia, banking regulator says**

China will not join in sanctions on Russia that have been led by the West, the country's banking regulator said yesterday, adding that he believed the impact of the measures on China would be limited. "As far as financial sanctions are concerned, we do not approve of these, especially the unilaterally launched sanctions because they do not work well and have no legal grounds," Guo Shuqing, chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, told a news conference. "We will not participate in such sanctions. We will continue to maintain normal economic and trade exchanges with relevant parties," he said.

◆ **Russian and Belarusian athletes can compete as neutrals at the Winter Paralympics**

in Beijing, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said yesterday, despite widespread calls to ban them following Russia's invasion of Ukraine for which Belarus has been a key staging area. "They will compete under the Paralympic flag and not be included in the medal table," the IPC said in a statement. "In deciding what action to take, the Board was guided by the IPC's core principles, which include a commitment to political neutrality and impartiality, and an unwavering belief in the transformative power of sport."

◆ **A second Indian student died in Ukraine.**

The student was from Punjab. He suffered a stroke. He was in hospital for quite some time. The Indian national has been identified as Chandan Jindal. "He lost his life due to natural causes. His family is also in Ukraine," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi was quoted as saying by ANI.

◆ **Indian student dies of stroke in Ukraine**

COVID-19 Countries worst affected

Country	Total cases	Total deaths	Global tally
1 USA	80,697,924	977,402	439,421,085
2 India	42,938,599	514,246	
3 Brazil	28,811,165	649,717	
4 France	22,782,609	138,576	Deaths: 5,987,035
5 UK	18,985,568	161,630	Recovered: 372,059,244
6 Russia	16,592,824	353,230	New cases: +793,380
7 Germany	15,009,351	123,763	New deaths: +3,173
8 Turkey	14,149,341	94,648	
9 Italy	12,829,972	155,000	
10 Spain	11,036,085	99,883	
11 Argentina	8,904,176	126,257	
12 Iran	7,066,975	137,267	
13 Netherlands	6,446,603	21,582	
14 Colombia	6,065,801	138,854	

Figures as of closing

Country	Total cases	new cases	Total deaths	New Deaths	Total recovered	Active cases
Egypt	485,093		24,110		415,490	45,493
Saudi Arabia	746,066	+476	9,002	+1	725,107	11,957
UAE	880,970	+519	2,301		837,139	41,530
Kuwait	620,452		2,539		609,349	8,564
Oman	383,389	+1,145	4,246	+2	370,831	8,312
Qatar	357,583	+291	670		354,030	2,883

The battle for Ukraine in pictures



A view shows destroyed Russian Army all-terrain infantry mobility vehicles Tigr-M (Tiger) on a road in Kharkiv, Ukraine



People take cover as an air-raid siren sounds, near an apartment building damaged by recent shelling in Kyiv, Ukraine



A woman sits next to a baby in the hallways of a basement shelter during Russia's invasion of Ukraine

What happened to Russia's Air Force? experts stunned

● **Ukraine's own air force is still flying and its air defenses are still deemed to be viable**

● **Ukrainian troops with surface-to-air rockets are able to threaten Russian aircraft**

● **Military experts have seen evidence of a lack of Russian air force coordination with ground troop formations**



The confusion over how Russia has used its air force comes as President Joe Biden's administration rejects calls by Kyiv for a no-fly zone that could draw the United States directly into a conflict with Russia, whose plans for its air force are unclear.

Reuters | Washington

Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, US intelligence had predicted a blistering assault by Moscow that would quickly mobilize the vast Russian air power that its military assembled in order to dominate Ukraine's skies.

But the first six days have confounded those expectations and instead seen Moscow act far more delicately with its air power, so much so that US officials can't exactly explain what's driving Russia's apparent risk-averse behavior.

"They're not necessarily willing to take high risks with their own aircraft and their own pilots," a senior U.S. defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Vastly outmatched by Russia's military, in terms of raw numbers and firepower,

Ukraine's own air force is still flying and its air defenses are still deemed to be viable - a fact that is baffling military experts.

After the opening salvos of the war on Feb. 24, analysts expected the Russian military to try to immediately destroy Ukraine's air force and air defenses.

That would have been "the logical and widely anticipated next step, as seen in almost every military conflict since 1938," wrote the RUSI think-tank in London, in an article called "The Mysterious Case of the Missing Russian Air Force."

Instead, Ukrainian air force fighter jets are still carrying out low-level, defensive counter-air and ground-attack sorties. Russia is still flying through contested airspace.

Ukrainian troops with surface-to-air rockets are able to threaten Russian aircraft and create risk to Russian pilots trying to support ground forces.

"There's a lot of stuff they're doing

cluding Turkish dro... ti-tank missi... David Dep... three-star gen... the no-fly zo... he was surpr... harder to est... the start.

"The Russ... coordinating... not easy," Dep... they are not... they were."

While the... der-perform... been exceedi... Ukraine's... last eight ye... sian-backed... was domina... style trench... By contras... experience i... vened on the... al-Assad, and... to synchroni... air and drone

that's perplexing," said Rob Lee, a Russian military specialist at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

He thought the beginning of the war would be "maximum use of force."

"Because every day it goes on there's a cost and the risk goes up. And they're not doing that and it just is really hard to explain for any realistic reason."

Military experts have seen evidence of a lack of Russian air force coordination with ground troop formations, with multiple Russian columns of troops sent forward beyond the reach of their own air defense cover.

Ukrainians train to fight with Molotov cocktails

