

1480

Great Stand on the Ugra river: Standoff between forces of Akhmat Khan, Khan of the Great Horde and Ivan III, Grand Prince of all Rus. Ends with a Tatar-Mongol retreat, leading to the disintegration of the Horde



1769

Captain James Cook lands in New Zealand at Poverty Bay on the East Coast of the North Island

1856

The Second Opium War or second Anglo-Chinese War: begins with the Arrow Incident on the Pearl River

1945

Microwave oven patented by US inventor Percy Spencer

Brings risk Men says

Missile Crisis



In the northeastern Kharkiv region where Ukrainian forces regained a large swath of territory in September, the bodies of 534 civilians including 19 children were found after Russian troops left

ments in Kherson in October. There are successes in the east as well. The day will surely come when we will report on successes in the Zaporizhzhia region (in the south) as well, in these areas that the occupiers are under control," the president said. Putin has responded to the losses by ordering the call-up of hundreds of thousands of reservists, a move that sent thousands of men fleeing the country to escape the draft. Public criticism of the authorities - once all but unheard of - has become common, with Kremlin supporters openly making scapegoats and demanding punishment. Anger has been led at Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, a Putin loyalist for decades. Many say, if they were a de-

fence minister who had allowed such a state of affairs, they could, as officers, have shot themselves," said Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-installed administration in Kherson. "But you know the word 'officer' is an incomprehensible word for many."

There was no immediate comment from Russia's defence ministry.

"Please explain to me what the general staff's genius idea is now?" Vladimir Solovyov, one of the most prominent Russian talk show hosts, said on his channel. "Do you think time is on our side?"

In the northeastern Kharkiv region where Ukrainian forces regained a large swath of territory in September, the bodies of 534 civilians including 19 children were found after Russian troops left, said police official Serhiy Bolvinov.

The total included 447 bodies found in Izium. He also said that investigators had found evidence of 22 "torture rooms". Russia denies torturing civilians in areas it occupied.

On Thursday, a suspected Russian missile demolished an apartment block in Zaporizhzhia. Ukraine still controls the city, capital of a province that Russia claims to have annexed.

Ukrainian rescuers had retrieved 11 bodies and rescued 21 people from the rubble of buildings destroyed in missile attacks there, the State Emergency Service said in a statement.

Amid war crisis, Putin turns 70 with a prayer for his health

Reuters | London

President Vladimir Putin turned 70 yesterday amid fawning congratulations from subordinates and a plea from Orthodox Patriarch Kirill for all to pray for the health of the longest-serving paramount leader of Russia since Josef Stalin.

Putin, who rose to the Kremlin's top job on the last day of 1999, is facing the biggest challenge of his rule after the invasion of Ukraine triggered the gravest confrontation with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. His army there is reeling from a series of defeats in the past month.

On his birthday, Putin is due to attend an informal summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States in St Petersburg, the former imperial capital founded by Peter the Great that is his hometown.

Obsequious officials hailed Putin as the saviour of modern Russia while the patriarch of Moscow and All Russia implored the country to say two days of special prayers so that God grants Putin "health and longevity".

"We pray to you, our Lord God, for the head of the Russian State, Vladimir Vladimirovich, and ask you to give him your rich mercy and generosity, grant him health and longevity, and deliver him from all the resistances of visible and invisible enemies, confirm him in wisdom and spiritual strength, for all, Lord hear and have mercy," Kirill said.

Putin, who vowed to end the chaos which gripped Russia after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, is facing the most serious military crisis any Kremlin chief has faced for at least a generation since the Soviet-Afghan war of 1979-89.

Opponents such as jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny say that Putin has led Russia down a dead end towards ruin, building a brittle system of incompetent



A view shows an apartment block with a mural depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin in the town of Kashira in the Moscow region



Putin has dominated Russia for nearly 23 years since being hand-picked by President Boris Yeltsin as his preferred successor in a surprise announcement on New Year's Eve 1999

sycophants that will ultimately collapse and bequeath chaos.

Supporters say Putin saved Russia from destruction by an arrogant and aggressive West.

"Today, our national leader, one of the most influential and outstanding personalities of our time, the number one patriot in the world, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, turns 70 years old!" Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov said.



Putin has changed the global position of Russia and forced the world to reckon with the position of our great state

CHECHEN LEADER RAMZAN KADYROV

"Putin has changed the global position of Russia and forced the world to reckon with the position of our great state."

But the war in Ukraine has forced Putin to burn through vast amounts of political, diplomatic and military capital.

More than seven months into the invasion, Russia has suffered huge losses in men and equipment and been beaten back on several fronts within the past month as Putin's army has lurched from one humiliation to the next.

Putin has resorted to proclaiming the annexation of territories only partly under Russian control - and whose borders the Kremlin has said are yet to be defined - and threatening to defend them with nuclear weapons.

Mourn dozens, mainly kids, killed in day care attack



Relatives mourn during a ceremony for those killed in the attack on the Young Children's Development Center in Uthai Sawan, north eastern Thailand

I can't go on, my wife and my child will be worried about me, and they won't be reborn in the next life," he said.

A stream of people, including Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, other government representatives and relatives, left flowers yesterday at the day care center. By afternoon, bouquets of white roses and carnations lined the wall outside, along with five tiny juice boxes, bags of corn chips and a stuffed animal. Later, relatives received the

bodies at the local Buddhist temple. As the small, white coffins were opened, some screamed, while others fainted and were revived with smelling salts. For a time, the grounds outside the temple were crowded with people overcome by grief.

"It was just too much. I can't accept this," said Oy Yodkhao, 51, sitting on a bamboo mat in the oppressive heat as relatives gave her water and gently mopped her brow. Her 4-year-old grandson,



The massacre is among the worst involving children killed by one person. Anders Breivik killed 69 people, mostly teenagers, at a summer camp in Norway in 2011, while the death toll in other cases include 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut in 2012, 16 at Dunblane in Scotland in 1996 and 19 at a school in Uvalde, Texas, this year

Tawatchai Sriphu, was killed, and she said she worried for the child's siblings. The family of rice farmers is close, with three generations living under one



Rescue workers carry coffins containing the body of victims at Song Serm Tham Foundation after transfer from Udon Thani hospital in Udon Thani province

roof. Som-Mai Pitfai collapsed when she saw the body of her 3-year-old niece.

"When I looked, I saw she had been slashed in the face with a knife," the 58-year-old said, holding back tears.

Elsewhere, King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida arrived at a hospital where some of the 10 people who were wounded were being treated.

In an interview with Amarin TV, Satita Boonsom, who worked

at the day care center, said staff locked the glass front door to the building after seeing the assailant shoot a child and his father out front. But the gunman shot and kicked his way through it.

The children, mainly preschoolers, had been taking an afternoon nap, and photos taken by first responders showed their tiny bodies still lying on blankets. In some images, slashes to the victims' faces and gunshots to their heads could be seen.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Instead of recovery, recession looms. People are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, which is hitting women & young people the hardest. We need responses that are people-oriented and multilateral in approach, cooperative in nature, and global in scope.

@antoniogeterres

02



Putin has changed the global position of Russia and forced the world to reckon with the position of our great state

CHECHEN LEADER RAMZAN KADYROV

"Putin has changed the global position of Russia and forced the world to reckon with the position of our great state."

But the war in Ukraine has forced Putin to burn through vast amounts of political, diplomatic and military capital.

More than seven months into the invasion, Russia has suffered huge losses in men and equipment and been beaten back on several fronts within the past month as Putin's army has lurched from one humiliation to the next.

Putin has resorted to proclaiming the annexation of territories only partly under Russian control - and whose borders the Kremlin has said are yet to be defined - and threatening to defend them with nuclear weapons.

@ZelenskyyUa

03



We're working with our partners around the world to improve our energy security and stand up to Putin's appalling war in Ukraine.

@trussliz

04



We had a thorough first discussion on how to limit gas prices, guarantee the the good functioning of the Single Market and boost investments via #REPowerEU

@vonderleyen

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