'FAKE' NEWS
Russia backs jail time
Restricts media

AFP, *Moscow*

Russian lawmakers yesterday moved to impose harsh jail terms for publishing "fake news" about the army, which a senior lawmaker said will apply to foreigners too, as Moscow moves to muffle dissent over its invasion of Ukraine.

The new legislation sets out jail terms of varying lengths and fines against people who publish "knowingly false information" about the military.

"If the fakes led to serious consequences, (the legislation) threatens imprisonment of up to 15 years," the lower house of parliament said in a statement.

Speaking at the session, the head of the head of the parliament's information committee Alexander Khinshtein said the law "concerns all citizens, not only Russian ones, because we are talking about actions against Russia."

Amendments were also passed to fine or jail people calling for sanctions against Russia with jail terms.

The chairman of parliament Vyacheslav Volodin railed against foreign social media after Facebook was briefly inaccessible in Russia yesterday.

Russia's media watchdog said yesterday it had restricted access to the BBC and other independent media websites, further tightening controls over the internet.

The independent news website Meduza, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, and the Russian-language website of the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Svoboda, were "limited," said Roskomnadzor.

A child runs towards his father after fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the border checkpoint in Medyka, Poland, yesterday. More than 1.2 million people have fled Ukraine into neighbouring countries since Russia launched its full-scale invasion on February 24. The EU is setting up humanitarian hubs to help Ukraine in eastern member countries. PHOTO: **REUTERS**

'We are not part of this'
Nato rejects calls for no-fly zone over Ukraine; Zelensky urges Russians to protest over nuke plant attack

AGENCIES

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg yesterday said the alliance would not impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine after calls from Kyiv to help stop Russia's bombardments.

"The only way to implement a no-fly zone is to send Nato fighter planes into Ukraine's airspace, and then impose that no fly zone by shooting down Russian planes," Stoltenberg said after an urgent meeting with Nato foreign ministers.

"If we did that, we'll end up with something that could end in a full-fledged war in Europe, involving many more countries and causing much more human suffering. So that's the reason why we make this painful decision."

Nato members have rushed thousands of troops to eastern Europe to bolster the alliance's flank closest to Russia and are sending weapons to help Ukraine defend itself.

"We will continue to do what it takes to protect and defend every inch of Nato territory. Nato is a defensive alliance. Our core task is to keep our 30 nations safe," Stoltenberg said.

"We are not part of this conflict and we have a responsibility to ensure it does not escalate and spread beyond Ukraine."

The stance by the US-led bloc comes despite appeals from Ukraine's leadership to help halt indiscriminate bombing against cities around the country, reports AFP.

Stoltenberg warned that "the days to come are likely to be worse, with more death, more suffering, and more destruction as Russian armed forces bring in heavier weaponry and continue their attacks across the country".

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba addressed the alliance via videolink from Kyiv.

He tweeted afterwards: "My message: act now before it's too late. Don't let (Russian President Vladimir) Putin turn Ukraine into Syria. We are ready to fight. We will continue fighting. But we need partners to help us with concrete, resolute and swift actions, now."

Meanwhile, President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday appealed to Russians to stage protests over Russian forces' seizure of the largest nuclear power plant in Europe, reports Reuters.

"Russian people, I want to appeal to you: how is this possible? After all we fought together in 1986 against the Chernobyl catastrophe," he said in a televised address, evoking memories of the world's worst nuclear disaster.

"You have to ... take to the streets and say that you want to live, you want to live on earth without radioactive contamination. Radiation does not know where Moscow is, radiation does not know where the borders of your country are."

WAR CRIMES PROBE
ICC faces 'myriad challenges'

REUTERS, *Amsterdam*

Images of cluster bombs and artillery strikes on Ukrainian cities this week have prompted the world's top war crimes prosecutor to launch an investigation, with the support of dozens of nations opposed to Russia's invasion.

Karim Khan, a British lawyer named as the chief prosecutor of the ICC last year, said the crisis in Ukraine is a chance to demonstrate that those committing war crimes would be held to account.

Khan had dispatched an advance team of investigators and lawyers to the region.

Noting that his office is overstretched as it conducts 16 cases and trials worldwide, Khan himself acknowledged that the Ukraine investigation represents "myriad challenges, opportunities and difficulties".
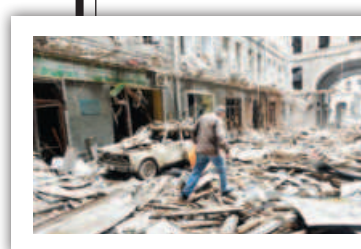
"We need everything," he said.

RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE
Developments

NUCLEAR PLANT SHELLED, TAKEN
A fire at Europe's biggest nuclear power station at Zaporizhzhia is put out after Ukraine accuses Russia of "nuclear terror" in shelling the plant. Russian troops later take the reactors, which generate 40 percent of Ukraine's electricity, after firefighters say they were prevented from reaching the blaze for hours.

33 KILLED IN NORTHERN CITY
Thirty-three people are killed as Russian forces hit residential areas, including schools, in the northern city of Chernihiv, the local governor says.

BELARUSIAN FORCES WON'T TAKE PART IN WAR
Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko said yesterday that the Belarusian armed forces were not taking part and would not take part in Russia's military operation in Ukraine. A close Russian ally, Lukashenko said he spoke to President Vladimir Putin at length by telephone yesterday. Russia has used Belarusian territory to carry out a multi-pronged invasion of Ukraine.

HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS AGREED
Russia and Ukraine agree to create humanitarian corridors to evacuate civilians from as yet unspecified cities.

INVASION GOING 'TO PLAN': PUTIN
Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow's advance is going "according to plan".

'ASSASSINATE HIM'
Senior US Republican senator Lindsey Graham calls for "somebody in Russia" to assassinate Putin.

ZELENSKY CALLS FOR PUTIN TALKS
Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky calls for direct talks with Putin as the "only way to stop the war".

RUSSIA'S BLACK SEA PUSH
Russian forces take the Black Sea port of Kherson as it appears Moscow is trying to cut Ukraine's entire access to the sea, with the besieged port of Mariupol in the east without water or power.

RUSSIANS HEAD FOR FINLAND
Russians pack trains out of the country to Finland, fearful that it is their last chance to escape the impact of swingeing Western sanctions.

LUKOIL CALLS FOR HALT
Sanctioned Russian oil giant Lukoil calls for a halt to fighting in Ukraine, one of the first major domestic firms to speak out against Moscow's invasion.

YANDEX ON ROPES
Russian tech giant Yandex warns it may default on its debt after it was suspended from trading on New York's digital stock exchange.

Firecracker explosion in India kills at least 11

AFP, *Patna*

At least 11 people died in eastern India after a massive explosion at a house where firecrackers were being made illegally, officials said yesterday.

The impact of the blast, which happened Thursday night, also destroyed four adjoining houses, and the sound was heard 15 kilometres (nine miles) away, said the local magistrate of Bhagalpur district in the eastern Bihar state.

"Eleven people have been killed and five others who are injured are undergoing treatment," Subrat Kumar Sen told AFP.

Excavators and cranes were clearing huge mounds of debris, with little chance of anyone being still buried, he added.

Govt planning

three classes every day. Eighth and ninth graders are having three classes twice a week and sixth and seventh graders three classes once a week.

In-person classes at all primary schools and kindergartens resumed on Wednesday. Classes are being held in two shifts. Students of classes 1 and 2 are attending classes in the first shift and the rest in the second.

New faces

According to CPB leaders, four presidium posts remained vacant and would be filled later.

Five outgoing presidium members of the party — Lakkhi Chakrabarty, Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan, Aniruddha Das Anjan, Rafiquzzaman Layek and Abdullah Al Kafee Ratan — did not get any position in the new presidium.

They all, however, secured a place in the central committee.

Besides, Haider Akbar Khan Rono was not at the central leadership because of his health conditions.

The new CPB committee has 11 new faces including Kaberi Gayen, Aslam Khan, Manabendra Deb, Lucky Akter, Nimai Ganguly, Motaleb Molla, Ainun Nahar Lipi and Abid Hossain.

Although the outgoing committee had six female members, the new one has 10.

She hired

advance and promised to give the rest of the money after the job is done," the officer said.

As per the plan, Shefali told her mother to take her to a waz mahfil around 6:00pm on February 10. Sohel accompanied them from CRC intersection on an auto-rickshaw. He gave Minara a soft drink laced with sedatives. They left the auto-rickshaw in Barmi area and then took Minara, who had passed out by then, to the forest.

"Shefali hit her mother with a brick. Then she held her mother while Sohel slit her throat," the IO said.