

Western agencies get rare opportunity to judge Russian army's strengths, weaknesses

A group of people, including a soldier in camouflage, walking outdoors. A woman in the foreground carries a baby in a carrier and holds a large bag of Haribo candy. A man in camouflage carries a baby wrapped in a blanket. A woman in a black coat and a young man in a blue jacket follow behind them.

A Polish soldier carries a child and helps a refugee family after they crossed the border into Poland from Ukraine at the border crossing in Medyka, eastern Poland, on Wednesday. More than 2.3 million refugees have now fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion on February 24, according to United Nations figures issued yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

States would backfill Poland's fleet with American F-16 fighter jets.

"That is something that we are not going to explore right now," Kirby said, adding that adding aircraft to Ukraine's fighter fleet was "not likely to significantly change the effectiveness" of the Ukrainian Air Force against Russian capabilities.

Kirby said intelligence agencies had warned that the MiG transfer to Ukraine "may be mistaken as escalatory and could result in significant Russian reaction that might increase the prospects of a military escalation" with the Nato alliance, reports AFP.

The Biden administration also warned Russia might seek to use chemical or biological weapons in Ukraine as the White House rejected Russian claims of illegal chemical weapons development in the country it has invaded.

This week, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova – without evidence – accused Ukraine of running chemical and biological weapons labs with US support.

In a series of tweets, White House press secretary Jen Psaki called Russia's claim "preposterous" and said it could be part of an attempt by Russia to lay the groundwork for using such weapons of mass destruction against Ukraine itself.

Jin Xing, a former popular talk show host and China's first openly transgender celebrity, told Reuters her account on Weibo - China's equivalent to Twitter - was suspended last week, after she published two posts, including one that made reference to Putin as a "crazy Russian man" and urged her followers to pray for peace.

"All I said was I support life and oppose war, that was it. I did not say I support the US or Russia or Ukraine," said Jin, whose account is followed by 13.6 million users.

Jin is not alone. Award-winning Chinese actor Ke Lan has been banned from posting on Weibo "due to violating relevant rules," according to a notice on her Weibo account.

AGENCIES

HOSPITAL WAS MILITARY BASE

Russia's top diplomat Sergei Lavrov claims the hospital was a base for Ukrainian Azov Battalion and "other radicals" and slams the West for supplying them with "deadly weapons".

1,207 DEAD IN MARIUPOL SIEGE

Some 1,207 civilians have been killed in the 10-day Russian siege of the port, its mayor says. The Red Cross calls the situation there "apocalyptic" after more than a week without water, power or heat.

35,000 EVACUATED

Some 35,000 civilians are evacuated from the badly hit cities of Sumy, Enerhodar and areas around Kyiv during a 12-hour ceasefire, with President Volodymyr Zelensky hoping three more corridors will open for Mariupol, Volnovakha and Izium.

RUSSIANS NEAR KYIV

Fears are mounting Kyiv will also soon be encircled, with Russian tanks in places just a few kilometres (miles) from the city limits to the east.

2.3 MILLION FLEE

The UN says at least 2.3 million people have fled Ukraine, with more than half now in Poland. It has called the exodus Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II.

MORE US AID

US lawmakers pass a \$14-billion aid package for Ukraine with Canada pledging more military equipment. The International Monetary Fund meanwhile approves \$1.4 billion in emergency financing for Kyiv.

PATRIOT MISSILES

Washington deploys two new Patriot surface-to-air missile batteries in Poland to protect its frontline Nato ally.



Activists take part in a lie-in demonstration near the Russian embassy in protest against the country's invasion of Ukraine, in Tokyo, Japan yesterday.



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Centre of Excellence in Higher Education



Private University in Bangladesh



WORLD BANK RANKING



ASIA 2022



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

EXPERIENCE LOCALLY. LEAD GLOBALLY.

Apply Online
<http://apply.northsouth.edu>

We are accepting application
 till April 20, 2022



ADMISSION SUMMER 2022

MS in Economics

Master in Development Studies (MDS)

Eligibility

For MS in Economics:
 A four-year Bachelor's or a three-year Honors degree in Economics or in related disciplines.

For MDS:
 A four-year Bachelor's or a three-year Honors or a Master's degree in Economics, Business, Environmental Studies, Social Welfare, Statistics, Engineering or other related disciplines.

For both:
 A minimum CGPA of 2.75/4.00 or at least a Second Class in all exams. Undergraduate appeared students may sit for the admission test.

Special Features

MS in Economics:
 The first accredited program in Economics in Bangladesh (US based ACBSP) 30-credit program. Up to 9 credits additional Foundation courses depending on background.

MDS:
 39-credit program with maximum waiver/transfer of 2 courses.

- Financial aid for deserving students.
- Evening and weekend classes.
- Internationally recognized degree.
- Free access to International academic resources through the library.
- Faculty members are with PhD from reputed foreign universities.



Dr. Sadat Reza
 NSU MS ECON 2002
 Assistant Professor,
 Nanyang Business School, Singapore

I benefitted immensely from the graduate Economics program at North South University. The program provided rigorous training that I believe was instrumental in my relatively straightforward transition to a North American graduate program. Highly recommend the program, particularly to those with an academic bent.



Shegufa Shahriar
 NSU MDS 2019
 Team Associate, The World Bank

NSU's MDS program provides a comprehensive idea on how the development sector has evolved around the globe and in Bangladesh. The program will help build the bridge between the social, economic and political sector.

Graduate Application Helpline:
01614271717

Contact: Department of Economics
 Email: adba.ecia@northsouth.edu
 Phone: +880-2-55668200 Ext: 1815/1814
 Web: www.northsouth.edu/academic/sbe/economics.html