

Russia says it repelled Ukrainian offensives in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia regions

Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday it had repelled attempted offensives by Ukrainian forces in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions and had hit targets with sea-launched high-precision missile strikes.

Ukraine said on Monday its troops had recaptured a fourth village from Russian forces in a cluster of settlements in the southeast, a day after reporting the first small gains of its long-anticipated counteroffensive, Reuters reported.

Russia said its forces had launched a strike on Ukrainian army reserve locations using long-range precision weaponry, launched from the sea.

Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine and Zaporizhzhia to its southwest are among five regions, including the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea.

Russia also said on Sun-

day it had destroyed at least seven German-made Leopard tanks and five U.S.-made Bradley vehicles over 48 hours while repelling Ukrainian attacks, though Russian bloggers reported Ukraine had briefly pierced part of the Russian line.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy acknowledged on Saturday that his military was engaged in "counter-offensive and defensive operations", a day after President Vladimir Putin said Russia had repelled the first attacks of the offensive.

Russia's Defence Ministry published several videos and pictures over recent days showing numerous strikes on Ukrainian-manned armoured vehicles and tanks from Ka-52 attack helicopters and drones. In footage released by the ministry on Saturday,



drones were shown striking tanks in the Zaporizhzhia region where

Kyiv's forces have so far focused their counteroffensive.

A still image taken from video shows what are said to be destroyed armoured vehicles of the Ukrainian armed forces, in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict in an unidentified location in the southern Donetsk direction in Ukraine, in this image taken from a handout footage released on June 10, 2023.

RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTRY/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi Arabia signs \$5.6b deal with Chinese EV company



REUTERS - Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment signed a \$5.6b deal with Chinese electric car maker Human Horizons to collaborate on the development, manufacture and sale of vehicles, the Saudi state news agency said in a statement.

The agreement accounts for more than half of the more than \$10b in investments signed on the first day of an Arab-China business conference in Riyadh on Sunday, in sectors spanning technology, renewable energy, agriculture, real estate, metals, tourism and healthcare among others.

Trump and his allies escalate attacks on criminal case as history-making court appearance approaches

Donald Trump and his allies are escalating efforts to undermine the criminal case against him and drum up protests as the former president braces for a history-making federal court appearance this week on dozens of felony charges accusing him of illegally hoarding classified information. Trump's appearance in Miami today will mark his second time in as many months facing a judge on criminal charges. But unlike a New York case some legal analysts derided as relatively trivial, the Justice Department's first prosecution of a former president concerns conduct that prosecutors say jeopardized national security and that involves Espionage Act charges carrying the threat of a significant prison sentence in the event of conviction, AP reported.

Ahead of his arraignment, Trump ratcheted up the rhetoric against the Justice Department special counsel who filed the case, calling Jack Smith "deranged" and his team of prosecutors "thugs" as he repeated without any evidence his claims that he was the target of a political persecution. He called on his supporters to join a planned protest at the Miami courthouse Tuesday, where he will be arraigned on the charges.

"We need strength in our country now," Trump said, speaking to his longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone in an interview on WABC Radio. "And they have to go out and they have to protest peacefully. They have to go out." "Look, our country has to protest. We have plenty of protest to protest. We've lost everything," he went on. He also said there were no circumstances "whatsoever" under which he would leave the 2024 race, where he's so far been dominating the Republican primary. Other Trump supporters have rallied to his defense with similar language, including Kari

Lake, the unsuccessful Republican gubernatorial candidate in Arizona who pointedly said over the weekend that if prosecutors "want to get to President Trump," they're "going to have to go through me, and 75 million Americans just like me. And most of us are card-carrying members of the NRA." Trump's calls for protest echoed exhortations he made ahead of a New York court appearance last April, where he faces charges arising from hush money payments made during his 2016 presidential campaign, though he complained that those who showed up to protest then were "so far away

that nobody knew about 'em." And just like in that case, he plans to address supporters in a Tuesday evening speech hours after his court date. Trump supporters were also planning to load buses to head to Miami from other parts of Florida, raising concerns for law enforcement officials who are preparing for the potential of unrest around the courthouse. The Justice Department unsealed Friday an indictment charging Trump with 37 felony counts, 31 relating to the willful retention of national defense information. Other charges include conspiracy to commit obstruction and false statements.

Former Italian PM dies at 86



REUTERS - Silvio Berlusconi, the billionaire media mogul and former Italian prime minister who transformed the nation's politics with polarising policies and often alarmed his allies with his brazen remarks, died on Monday aged 86. Berlusconi, Italy's longest-serving premier who counted Russian President Vladimir Putin as a friend had suffered from leukaemia and recently developed a lung infection.

Palestinian cause remains a central issue in Muslim world



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

A Palestinian official has called the Palestinian cause the present world's most important issue, saying that developments in his homeland are among the issues on which the entire Muslim world is in agreement and can be considered as the main factor in the convergence and solidarity of Muslims. Head of Khulfa al-Rashideen Assembly of Palestine Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Mustafa told Iran Daily, "Muslims may be in disagreement about some issues at the moment, but there is no disagreement on the issue of Palestine, and all Islamic countries agree on the legitimacy of the Palestinian nation and the

need for the Israeli regime to withdraw from the occupied territories and return the Palestinians to their homeland". Referring to the importance of unity in the Islamic world, he stated, Muslims should be aware of the evil plans of the enemies to create division, which can be a great danger for the Islamic world. He believed that holding various gatherings among Muslim scholars and elites will bring the Islamic countries closer together. Islamic countries should emphasize commonalities and main issues of the Islamic world instead of secondary ones, because all Islamic groups and sects with any belief and thinking are of the same origin and in principle have no differences, the official added. The assembly head said that the

solution to the Palestinian cause is the resistance and standing of the Islamic world against the Zionist regime, adding, "For years, Palestinian resistance groups have been standing against the powerful military and army of the Zionist regime, and this path will lead to the final result, which is the liberation of Al-Quds. It is obligatory for all Islamic countries and noble people of the world to support the oppressed Palestinians in this path. He said that today, the danger of the Zionist regime is not only directed at the oppressed people of Palestine, but the Zionists have a problem with the issue of Islam and all Muslims, and on this basis, the entire Islamic society must feel responsible for the conspiracies of this regime. Referring to the normalization

of relations between some Islamic states and the Zionist regime, he said, "Currently, the struggle of resistance groups in Palestine with the Zionist regime has entered a more serious stage, so that Israelis feel threatened about the future of their regime and have organized new conspiracies, including the issue of normalization." By pursuing the issue of normalizing relations, the Zionist regime aims to make the Palestinian cause forgotten among Muslims and, in this way, ensure its security in the region, but most Islamic countries do not accept this issue and do not go along with the political game, Abu Mustafa added. Abu Mustafa pointed out that the regime has shown its true and violent face many times during the years of occupation



IRAN DAILY

of Palestinian lands, clarifying, "In recent years, with the rise of differences within the Zionist regime, the regime has been on the decline, in such a way that the U.S. and its Western allies have doubts about the future existence of this regime.

46 killed in attack on DR Congo displacement camp

AFP - At least 46 people, half of them children, were killed in a militia attack on a camp for displaced people in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, security analysts and a local community leader said Monday. Around 70,000 displaced people arrived in Bule between April 15 and May 15 due to armed violence in the surrounding areas, the U.N. humanitarian office (OCHA) said in its latest report.