



killed in airstrike by Turkey in northern Syria, including Syrian government soldiers

GLOBAL WEATHER table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions.

Blasts rock Crimea ammo depot

Russia blames the explosions in Mayskoye on an 'act of sabotage' without naming anyone

KYIV

EXPLOSIONS and fires ripped through an ammunition depot in Russia-annexed Crimea on Tuesday in the second suspected Ukrainian attack on the peninsula in just over a week, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people.



File photo of rising smoke at the beach at Saky after explosions were heard from the direction of a Russian military airbase near Novofedorivka, Crimea | AP

Russia blamed the blasts in the village of Mayskoye on an 'act of sabotage' without naming the perpetrators.

Separately, the Russian business newspaper Kommersant quoted local residents as saying plumes of black smoke also rose over an air base in Crimea's Gvardeyskoye.

Ukraine stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility for any of the blasts, including those that destroyed nine Russian planes at another Crimean air base last week. Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and has used it to launch attacks against the country.

If Ukrainian forces were, in fact, behind the explosions,

they would represent a significant escalation in the war. The Kremlin has demanded that Kyiv recognise Crimea as part of Russia as a condition for ending the fighting, while Ukraine has vowed to drive Moscow's forces from the peninsula on the Black Sea.

Videos posted on social media showed thick columns of smoke rising over raging flames in Mayskoye, and a series of explosions could be heard. The

Russian Defense Ministry said the fires damaged a power plant, power lines, railroad tracks and apartment buildings. Crimea's regional leader, Sergei Aksyonov, said two people were injured.

Ukrainian officials warned on Tuesday that Crimea would not be spared the ravages of war. Rather than a travel destination, "Crimea occupied by Russians is about warehouses explosions and high risk of

Putin blames US for trying to prolong conflict

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Washington on Tuesday of drawing out the war in Ukraine, as explosions rocked a Russian military facility on the Kremlin-controlled peninsula of Crimea. "The situation in Ukraine shows that the US is trying to prolong this conflict," Putin said, addressing the opening ceremony of a security conference in Moscow. Washington is "using the people of Ukraine as cannon fodder," he said, lashing out at the United States for supplying weapons to Ukraine.

death for invaders and thieves." Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on Twitter. Russia blamed last week's explosions on an accidental detonation of munitions, but satellite photos and other evidence—including the dispersed blast sites—pointed to a Ukrainian attack, perhaps with anti-ship missiles, according to military analysts. AP

Sunak pledges civil service overhaul

LONDON

RISHI Sunak, the British Indian former Chancellor on Tuesday pledged a major overhaul of the country's civil service to create a sharper, leaner bureaucracy if he takes charge at 10 Downing Street on September 5.

Contesting against Liz Truss, Sunak wants civil servants to spend at least a year of their career outside government roles in industry to widen their experience.

"I'll press ahead with cuts to back office Civil Service headcount, recruiting and retaining the brightest and best. I'll strengthen civil servants' experience beyond Whitehall, allow ministers to bring in more external expertise, and bring in performance pay so we have a truly Rolls Royce service delivering for and accountable to the British people," he said.

"The future of the United Kingdom is bright but our union must work together; each nation shoulder to shoulder, to get there. We must defeat the collective challenges threatening the health of our public services," said Sunak. PTI

'Australian ex-PM Morrison took on extra powers in secret'

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday accused his predecessor Scott Morrison of trashing democracy after revealing that while Morrison was in power, he took on five ministerial roles without the knowledge of most other lawmakers or the public.

Albanese said Morrison had been operating in secret, keeping the Australian people in the dark and misleading Parliament over who was in charge of what portfolios.

"This has been government by deception," Albanese said. Adding to revelations first detailed over the weekend by News Corp. media, Albanese said that between March 2020 and May 2021, Morrison was appointed minister of health, finance, home affairs, treasury and industry—moves which appeared

to have given Morrison equal powers to the ministers already appointed to those positions.

"It is completely extraordinary that these appointments were kept secret by the Morrison government from the Australian people," Albanese told reporters in Canberra.

Morrison defended taking on the extra portfolios, saying they were a safeguard during the pandemic and that he would have made the appointments public had he needed to use the powers involved. "Sometimes we forget what was happening two years ago and the situation we were dealing with. It was an unconventional time and an unprecedented time," Morrison said.

He pointed to the coronavirus hospitalisation of the then-British prime minister "Boris Johnson almost died one night," Morrison said. "We had ministers go down with Covid."

Morrison used his additional powers on at least one occasion, to overturn a decision by former minister Keith Pitt to approve a contentious gas project off the New South Wales coast.

Pitt said in a statement he was unaware Morrison had joint oversight over his ministerial portfolio and that he stands by the decisions he made at the time.

In a more detailed account published on Facebook later Tuesday, Morrison wrote that the gas project was the only matter he got directly involved with and that "I believe I made the right decision in the national interest."

Iraq's finance minister quits

Baghdad: Finance minister resigned on Tuesday over the country's worst political crisis in years involving a Shiite cleric and his Iran-aligned rivals.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, Ali Allawi resigned during a Cabinet meeting to protest the political conditions. Oil Minister Insan Abdul-Jabbar will become acting finance minister. Allawi's decision came weeks after members of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's parliamentary bloc resigned from parliament and his supporters stormed the parliament building in Baghdad.

Advertisement for Punjab National Bank featuring a 'POSSESSION NOTICE (For IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)' and details about various properties for sale or lease.

Advertisement for Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation featuring a 'SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE' for the purchase of 20,000 Metric Tonnes of one of dal namely Tur dal (Split - Husked & Fatka).

Advertisement for MoES/NCCR/ADMIN/ DISPOSAL/10/2020 featuring a 'MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES NATIONAL CENTRE FOR COASTAL RESEARCH, CHENNAI TENDER NOTICE' for the disposal of obsolete and unserviceable materials.

Advertisement for Health and Family Welfare Department featuring an 'ENGINEERING WING' tender notice for the construction of a medical college and hospital at Savanuru Taluk in Haveri District.

Advertisement for ICICI Home Finance featuring an 'E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002'.

Advertisement for The New Indian Express featuring a 'SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION' for the construction of a medical college and hospital at Savanuru Taluk in Haveri District.

Advertisement for Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd featuring a 'POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)' with multiple entries detailing property descriptions and auction terms.