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Russia Says Two Military Commanders Killed in East Ukraine

By AFP

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Buildings damaged by months-long fighting in Bakhmut. **TASS**

Russia said Sunday that two of its military commanders had been killed in combat near the frontline hotspot of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine.

In a rare announcement of its losses on the battlefield, the Russian Defense Ministry said the commander of the 4th motorized rifle brigade, Vyacheslav Makarov, and the deputy commander of the Army Corps for military-political work, Yevgeny Brovko, had been killed in fighting in eastern Ukraine.

The announcement came as fighting continued for control over Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region.

Colonel Makarov was killed as his brigade repelled attacks by Ukrainian troops south of the settlement of Krasne, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

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"Two attacks of the enemy have been repelled," the statement said. "As a third attack was being repelled, the brigade commander was seriously wounded and died during the evacuation from the battlefield."

Meanwhile, Brovko was killed as Russian troops repelled attacks elsewhere, with the ministry saying that he "died heroically, having received multiple shrapnel wounds."

Referring to the mercenary group Wagner, Moscow said that "assault detachments" have continued to fight for control over western parts of Bakhmut with the support of airborne forces.

"Over the past day the enemy has made massive attempts to break through the defense of our troops to the north and south of Artemovsk," the ministry said, referring to Bakhmut by its Russian name.

"All attacks of the Ukrainian armed forces have been repelled," it claimed.

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Moscow has kept a tight lid on its military losses.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said last year that 5,937 Russian troops had been killed in Ukraine, but U.S. intelligence documents leaked in April estimate Russia's total casualty count between 189,500 and 223,000.

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