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Ukraine Says Struck Another Bridge in Russia's Kursk Region

By AFP

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Telegram/@ComAFUA

Ukraine said Sunday it had struck a second key bridge in the Kursk region, seeking to disrupt Moscow's supply routes as Kyiv's unprecedented incursion on Russian soil stretched through its second week.

Russia meanwhile ramped up pressure in east Ukraine, claiming to capture another village just a few kilometers from the Ukrainian-held logistics hub of Pokrovsk.

"Minus one more bridge," Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said on Telegram, publishing an aerial video of a blast tearing through a bridge near the Russian town of Zvannoye.

"The Air Force aviation continues to deprive the enemy of logistical capabilities with precision air strikes," he said.

Embed:

> ⚔️ Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk released a video of an airstrike on a bridge in Russia's Kursk region. Local reports confirm the bridge over the Seym River was hit.
>
> Oleshchuk praised the precision of Ukrainian pilots targeting enemy strongholds and logistics. pic.twitter.com/VsCRL4GxhZ
>
> — UNITED24 Media (@United24media) August 16, 2024

It was not clear when Ukraine carried out the attack. Oleshchuk did not give a date and Russian military bloggers shared photos of destruction from what appeared to be the same bridge dated Saturday.

Kyiv sent troops and armored vehicles across the border on August 6, in its biggest attack on Russian territory since the Kremlin launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

On Friday, Ukraine announced it had destroyed a separate bridge in the neighboring town of Glushkovo, both of which lie on the river Seym that winds through the region.

Related article: Ukrainian Army Destroys Bridge in Russia's Kursk Region

The attacks on both bridges have left Russia with limited options to cross the river in the area, according to Russian military bloggers.

Moscow said the destruction of one of the bridges had hindered evacuation efforts.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a briefing it was pushing back against Ukraine's forces near several villages.

More than 120,000 people have fled the region since fighting began, according to Russian authorities.

Advancing to Pokrovsk

Russia said Sunday its forces had captured Svyrydonivka, another frontline settlement some 15 kilometers away from Pokrovsk.

Pokrovsk lies on the intersection of a key road that supplies Ukrainian troops and towns across the eastern front and has long been a target for the Russian army.

"As a result of active operations, units of the Center grouping of troops have liberated the village of Sviridonovka," Moscow's Defense Ministry said, using the Russian name for the village.

Russian forces have been inching towards Pokrovsk for months, taking a string of tiny

villages as they seek to reach the outskirts of the city.

The head of Pokrovsk's military administration, Serhiy Dobryak, warned earlier this week that Russia was a little over 10 kilometers from the outskirts of the city and urged remaining residents to evacuate.

Ukrainian forces earlier on Sunday announced they had thwarted a Russian missile attack on the capital Kyiv where air raid sirens sounded before dawn.

"This is the third ballistic missile attack on the capital in August with a clear interval of six days between each attack," the Kyiv City Military Administration posted on Telegram after the early morning barrage.

No damage or casualties were reported from the attack, which the administration said likely involved "North Korean ballistic missiles of the KN-23 type."

'Falling debris'

Ukrainian drones attacked an oil storage facility in Russia's southern Rostov region early Sunday morning, sparking a large fire, the local governor said.

Videos published on social media showed thick black smoke and bursts of flames coming from the site of the blaze, which the governor said was in the town of Proletarsk.

"In the southeast of the Rostov region, air defenses repelled a drone attack. As a result of falling debris on the territory of industrial storage facilities in Proletarsk, a diesel fuel fire broke out," Governor Vasily Golubev said on Telegram.

"At 05:35, firefighting at the industrial facility in Proletarsk was suspended due to a second drone attack," he added in an update to the post.

No one was injured and firefighting efforts resumed shortly after, he said in a later post.

Proletarsk is some 250 kilometers from the Ukraine border and some 350 kilometers from Kyiv-held areas of fighting on the eastern Ukrainian front line.

Kyiv has repeatedly targeted oil and gas facilities in Russia since the conflict began, some hundreds of kilometers from its borders, in what it has called "fair" retaliation for attacks on its energy infrastructure.

Earlier this month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky praised his forces for hitting oil facilities in Russia, saying the attacks would help bring a "just end" to the conflict.

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