

RUSSIA LAUNCHES FRESH ATTACK WITH MISSILE RAIDS

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Europe, European Union (EU) and India

U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said the Russian missile strikes on Kyiv and several other cities were “unacceptable”. “This is a demonstration of weakness by (Vladimir) Putin, not strength,” he tweeted. Mr. Zelensky said on social media he had spoken with the leaders of France and Germany and urged them to “increase pressure” on Russia. Ukrainian officials said the central Shevchenko district of the city was hit and that a university, museums and the philharmonic building had been damaged in the strikes. Videos posted on social media showed black smoke rising above several areas in the city.

Ukrainian officials including Mr. Zelensky urged residents to remain indoors and the Mayor of the capital said residents living outside Kyiv should remain outside the city. In the western city of Lviv, the Mayor, Andriy Sadovyi, said there were disruptions to electricity and hot water services after bombardments that targeted energy facilities. The strikes came a day after Moscow blamed Ukraine for the blast on a bridge linking Crimea to Russia, leaving three people dead.

“The authors, perpetrators and sponsors are the Ukrainian secret services,” Russian President Vladimir Putin said of Saturday’s Crimea bridge bombing, which he described as a “terrorist act”. The blast that hit the bridge sparked celebrations from Ukrainians and others on social media.

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