

Citing attack against ships, Russia moves to suspend grain exports

The UN-brokered grain export deal has seen more than 9 million tonnes of grain exported from Ukraine and brought down global food prices. Moscow claims 'minor damage' during a pre-dawn attack on Navy and civilian vessels in Sevastopol

Associated Press

KYIV

The Russian Defense Ministry said on Saturday that Moscow has moved to suspend its implementation of a UN-brokered grain export deal which has seen more than 9 million tonnes of grain exported from Ukraine and brought down global food prices.

The Ministry cited an alleged Ukrainian drone attack against Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships moored off the coast of occupied Crimea, which Russia says took place in early Saturday, as the reason for the move. Ukraine has denied the attack.

The Russian declaration came one day after UN chief Antonio Guterres urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the deal. Mr. Guterres also urged other



Build back: Construction under way on a bridge destroyed to block the Russian advance in Bucha, Ukraine. GETTY IMAGES

countries, mainly in the West, to expedite the removal of obstacles blocking Russian grain and fertilizer exports.

Russian troops moved large numbers of sick and wounded comrades from hospitals in Ukraine's southern Kherson region and stripped the facilities of medical equipment, Uk-

rainian military officials reported on Saturday as their forces fought to retake a province overrun by invading soldiers early in the war.

Kremlin-installed authorities in the mostly Russian-occupied region had previously urged civilians to leave the city of Kherson.

"The so-called evacuation of invaders from the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region, including from medical institutions, continues," the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said in an update. "All equipment and medicines are being removed from Kherson hospitals."

The military's claims could not be independently verified. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a nightly video address on Friday that the Russians were "dismantling the entire health care system" in Kherson and other occupied areas.

Russian ship damaged Elsewhere on Saturday, at least one Russian ship suffered damage in a major port in Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by

Moscow in 2014. Ukraine and Russia offered different versions of what happened and who was to blame.

The Russian Defense Ministry said a minesweeper had "minor damage" during an alleged pre-dawn Ukrainian attack on navy and civilian vessels docked in Sevastopol.

The city, Crimea's largest, hosts the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet.

The Ministry said Russian forces had "repelled" 16 attacking drones. Earlier on Saturday, the Kremlin-installed governor of Sevastopol reported an "ongoing" drone attack.

An adviser to Ukraine's Interior Ministry gave a different account, claiming that the "careless handling of explosives" had caused blasts on four warships in Russia's Black Sea Fleet.