



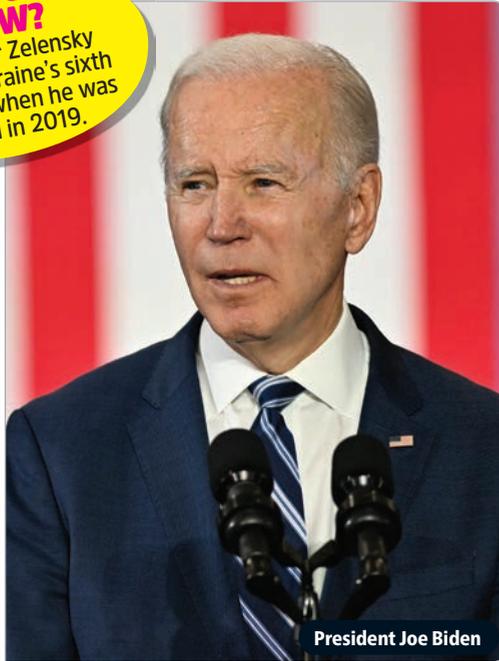
# This week's big news



President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Volodymyr Zelensky became Ukraine's sixth president when he was elected in 2019.



President Joe Biden

## Nations may join NATO



Prime ministers Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and Sanna Marin of Finland said their nations may join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance of 30 countries (including the US). This would increase security for the two nations and strengthen NATO, which opposes Russia's war on Ukraine.

# US increases military aid to Ukraine

On April 13, President Joe Biden announced that America would send another \$800 million in military aid to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia. The support is in addition to the more than \$2.6 billion in assistance the US has already delivered to Ukraine.

## What happened?

As the war entered its second month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky asked for more help from other nations, including the US. In a lengthy phone call, Biden and Zelensky spoke about Ukraine's request for more sophisticated military weapons and equipment. The US contribution is intended to significantly increase Ukraine's ability to stand up against Russian attacks, which have been ongoing. At least 30 countries have provided military assistance to Ukraine since Russia's invasion began on February 24.

## What will the aid include?

The US will send new types of equipment chosen specifically to cope with the war's shift to the open plains of eastern Ukraine. The US will send cannons that can cover longer distances, armored military vehicles

and helicopters to help move troops, and radar systems to help defend against Russia's long-range tactics. The donation also includes 25,000 sets of body armor and helmets. In recognition of the changing battlefield, the US said it would increase its intelligence sharing with Ukraine, meaning that it will pass on information it gathers about Russian military activities to Ukrainian troops.

## What are other world leaders doing?

On April 9, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a visit to Ukraine. Calling Russia's invasion "inexcusable," he said the UK would tighten sanctions (economic penalties) against Russia and help Ukraine clear landmines that Russian troops left behind. On April 11, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer became the first Western leader to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin since the invasion began. He said he had a "direct" and "tough"

talk with Putin, calling for Russia to agree to a cease-fire and respect "humanitarian corridors" to allow civilians to escape war zones. On April 18, South Korea said it will send another \$30 million in humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

## What is happening in the war?

Putin's forces have carried out missile attacks across Ukraine, striking what Russia said were more than 100 military targets. These included the far western city of Lviv. Russia has also begun shifting its soldiers to the eastern Donbas region, a large stretch of Ukraine along Russia's border. Russian forces have continued attacks on the major eastern cities of Kharkiv and Mariupol. In Mariupol, Ukrainian forces were holding out after weeks of bombing. They refused Russian demands to surrender and vowed to keep fighting. On April 14, Ukraine said it sank a prized Russian warship, the Moskva, which was the most significant loss of any navy ship in combat since 1982. Russia denied this report, saying the ship was destroyed by an accidental fire.

## What will happen next?

As *The Week Junior* went to press, Russia declared that it had entered the "next phase" of the war, stepping up attacks and moving thousands more soldiers into the country. The US has already begun delivering new military equipment and will continue its efforts. Some reports said the prime minister of Spain will visit Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, to show support. The White House is also considering sending a high-level government or military official to Kyiv.



The Russian warship Moskva before it sank