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War rages in Ukraine, glimmer of hope on diplomatic front



The governor of Ukraine's Chernihiv region said there is no let-up in attacks by the Russian military, despite its pledge to reduce activity there.
The governor, Viacheslav Chaus, took to the Telegram messaging app to denounce Russia's promise.

On Tuesday, Russia said it would cut back operations around Chernihiv and the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

Air raid sirens sounded in the city in the early hours of Wednesday, hours after Russia said it would withdraw some troops from around the capital.

Meanwhile, US and Ukrainian officials said Russia is continuing to reposition forces away from Kiev, probably as part of an effort to re-focus on eastern regions.

Russia's Deputy Defence Minister, Alexander Fomin, said the country would "…radically, by several times, reduce the military activity" in an effort to "boost mutual trust" in peace talks.

At the same time, on the diplomatic front, delegations from Moscow and Kiev held

three hours of discussions in Constantinople on Tuesday, aimed at bringing to a close more than a month of fighting in Ukraine.

Ukrainian leaders said they have proposed to become a neutral state, in exchange for security guarantees. A key aim of Russia’s invasion was to stop Ukraine joining the NATO alliance and Russian officials said the talks had moved to a practical stage.