

Latest developments from situation in Ukraine



Less than three months since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched an invasion against Ukraine, Finland is now set to join the NATO military alliance. The decision by Finnish leadership takes place as Russia's troops are being pushed back by defenders in certain key areas of eastern Ukraine.

Finland's president and prime minister jointly announced on Thursday their intention for the country, which borders northwest Russia, to join NATO without delay, a significant shift in policy that is expected to be followed by another Nordic country, Sweden, in the coming days.

The development marks the latest setback for the Kremlin, and comes as the Russian military struggles to take full control of the besieged port city of Mariupol, while being struck by Ukrainian counterattacks in northeast Ukraine.

In an angry reaction, a Kremlin spokesman claimed that Finland's entry into NATO represents a threat to Russia, according to the state news agency Tass.

The spokesman's statements marked the Kremlin's first reaction to Finnish leadership's intention to join the alliance.