Russia advances into eastern Ukraine, expanding war front

Fierce battles rage in Ukraine's eastern and northeastern border where Russian forces claimed to have seized at least nine villages since their Friday surprise counteroffensive that has opened a new war front into the Kharkiv region.

Russia "carried out 22 assaults" in five border areas Sunday, 14 of which were still ongoing, the Ukrainian army said, adding that the situation in Kharkiv is "complex and dynamically changing."

Kharkiv regional governor Oleh Syniehubov wrote on social media Monday that over the last 24 hours, "more than 30" towns and villages "were struck by enemy artillery and mortar attacks," wounding at least nine people.

Some areas were also bombed by Russian aircraft, Syniehubov said, adding that about 6,000 people had been evacuated from their homes in the area since the start of the offensive.

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