

News; Domestic

Joe Biden Speaks To NATO Leaders Amid War In Ukraine; Ukrainians Troops Claim Some Victories Amid Destruction; U.S. Weighs Involvement In Iran Nuclear Deal; Ukraine Seeks Military And Refugee Assistance; Putin Lashes Out At Officers Over Ukraine Shortfalls; Intelligence Officers Underestimate Ukraine Resistance; Refugees From Ukraine Continue To Flood Into Cities In Poland; Medical Care Being Provided By Doctors From Around The World To Ukrainian Refugees; Federal Regulations Preventing Increased Production Of Natural Gas Which Could Be Exported To Europe Criticized; President Biden Says NATO Would Respond In Kind To Russian Use Of Chemical Weapons; President Biden Says Sanctions On Russia Never Intended To Deter Invasion Of Ukraine; Iranians Working With U.S. And Russia To Restart Nuclear Deal

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JEANINE PIRRO, FOX NEWS CHANNEL LEGAL ANALYST: Emergency pet food supplies, as well as emergency vet care at refugee reception centers. So, I think that's wonderful.

DANA PERINO, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: That is.

PIRRO: Kudos to them.

GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: All righty. That's it for us.

JESSE WATTERS, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Do you want some of my cheese steak?

GUTFELD: I really do. It smells great.

WATTERS: You can have some.

GUTFELD: It smells almost as good as Bret Baier.

BRET BAIER, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Hello, Greg. Good evening. I am Bret Baier.

Breaking tonight, we're following two major stories as a new nuclear deal appears to be near completion along with this bombshell from the State Department confirming today. In the new deal, the U.S. may allow Russia to purchase and then import Iran's excess enriched uranium., think about that.

That potential concession comes as Russia refuses to take using nuclear weapons in Ukraine off the table.

And President Biden in Brussels today saying unity among the West will ultimately beat back Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, but denying his sanctions were ever intended to deter Russia's invasion.

The president adding the U.S. will act if Putin uses chemical weapons in Ukraine. But that response would depend on "the nature of the use".

Back at home, new Fox polls show the president's overall approval at 45 percent with only 38 percent approving of his handling of Russia and Ukraine.

White House Correspondent Peter Doocy is traveling with the president and joins us tonight live from Brussels. Good evening, Peter.

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CORRESPONDENT (on camera): Good evening, Bret. President Biden is in for the night after a day spent behind closed doors trying to figure out how the U.S. and Europe are going to deal with Russia and the superpower by their side.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I've been to many, many war zones.

DOOCY (voice over): And he's drawing upon all that experience.

BIDEN: I don't think you'll find any European leader who thinks that I am not up to the job.

DOOCY: Signaling what will happen if Putin uses chemical weapons.

BIDEN: It would trigger a response in kind.

DOOCY: The bulk of Biden's response to Russia remains financial punishment.

BIDEN: I did not say that, in fact, the sanctions would deter him.

DOOCY: The vice president did say that.

KAMALA HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The purpose of the sanctions has always been and continues to be deterrence.

DOOCY: Apparently, that's not the case anymore.

BIDEN: Sanctions never deter. You keep talking about that. Sanctions never deter.

DOOCY: The president previously suggested sanctions would have a big impact by now.

BIDEN: They are profound sanctions. Let's have a conversation in another month or so to see if they're working.

DOOCY: That was exactly one month ago. Now, a ripple effect will impact millions or billions of people.

BIDEN: We did talk about food shortages and it's going to be real.

DOOCY: NATO leaders have accused China of helping Russia and now the president is revealing the approach he's taking with China's President Xi in private.

BIDEN: I made no threats, but I made it clear to him that make sure he understood the consequences of him helping Russia.

DOOCY: Biden is unsure if she got the message.

BIDEN: I'm hopeful that he does not get engaged.

DOOCY: At NATO, the president outlined a plan to relocate innocent evacuees.

BIDEN: We've also welcome 100,000 Ukrainians in the United States with a focus on reuniting families.

DOOCY: Most refugees have escaped to Poland, where President Biden heads next.

BIDEN: I plan on attempting to see those folks, as well as I hope I'm going to be able to see -- I guess I'm not supposed to say where I'm going, am I.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

DOOCY (on camera): President Biden also got a question today about running for re-election and he claims that his focus right now is just on the midterms but said he would feel fortunate if he got to run against the same man again without ever actually using Donald Trump's name.

But all this means that the old adage politics stops at the water's edge not being applied here, Bret.

BAIER: Peter Doocy live in Brussels. Peter, thanks.

Ukrainian forces are claiming multiple victories today, pushing Russian troops away from Kyiv and destroying a Russian naval vessel. But while they tout these small victories, devastation and destruction continues in other parts of their country.

Senior Foreign Affairs Correspondent Greg Palkot is live again in Lviv tonight with the very latest. Good evening, Greg.

GREG PALKOT, FOX NEWS CHANNEL SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT (on camera): Hi, Bret. Yes, this sealing off by Russia of Ukraine's coastline, that's been a very big concern of Kyiv. Today, for at least a moment, the Ukrainians punched a dramatical in that Russian front.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

PALKOT (voice over): Victory at sea, Ukrainian forces destroying a large Russian landing ship in the occupied port city of Berdyansk, crucial for transport of troops gear and supplies. Missiles believed used, other Russian ships hit as well.

And around the capital of Kyiv, counter offensive gains made by Ukraine against Russia in several key suburbs. Russian forces turning to digging in.

JOHN KIRBY, PRESS SECRETARY, PENTAGON: What we're seeing is the Russians taking role defensive posture, they're no longer trying to advance. They're simply going back now into the defense.

PALKOT: But still, other cities becoming destroyed wastelands.

Six civilians killed, many more injured in the embattled North Eastern city of Kharkiv. And the devastated Southern city of Mariupol just hanging on. Tens of thousands stranded. Reports thousands more taken from the city against their will by Russians.

SERGEI ORLOV, DEPUTY MAYOR OF MARIUPOL, UKRAINE: I don't know how many days is it possible to survive because people are in very bad condition, overall condition.

PALKOT: U.S. and Western supplied military aid like anti-tank missiles critical to the success so far of Ukrainian forces.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy wants more. He spoke to today's NATO summit via video link.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY, UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT (through translator): To save people in our cities, Ukraine needs military assistance without restrictions. Russia is using its entire arsenal against us.

PALKOT: The cost of a month of war has been high for Ukraine says the government. Over a thousand civilians killed, several thousand soldiers fallen, but the country's unity has never been stronger.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE (through translator): Ukrainians have united as never before.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE (through translator): The mood is high. We are determined.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

PALKOT (on camera): President Zelenskyy had one more ask for the NATO leaders, give or sell me just one percent of your planes, your missiles, your tanks. That's how desperate they are here for weaponry, Bret.

BAIER: Greg Palkot live in Lviv. Greg, thank you.

Well, as mentioned at the top of the show, the Biden administration admits it is considering allowing Russia to import Iran's excess enriched uranium as part of a new nuclear agreement with Iran. And that is causing major backlash from lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Correspondent Gillian Turner is at the State Department with that story.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GILLIAN TURNER, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CORRESPONDENT (voice over): The State Department confirms President Biden may allow Vladimir Putin's regime to purchase an import Iran excess enriched uranium under a new nuclear deal, justifying the move.

NED PRICE, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN: To accept and to pay for the highly enriched uranium to get it out of Iran's hands so that Iran cannot obtain a nuclear weapon. I think that's a role we'd be willing to entertain.

TURNER: Enriched uranium is the core component used to make nuclear weapons and a final nuclear deal may be just days or even hours away according to the Iranians.

HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN, IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER (through translator): We believe that today we are closer to an agreement in Vienna than ever before.

TURNER: The news comes as Putin's regime refuses to take the threat of nuclear weapons off the table, if it faces a "existential threat".

DMITRY PESKOV, KREMLIN SPOKESMAN: So, if it is an existential threat for our country, then it can be used in accordance with our concept.

TURNER: Under the terms of the 2015 JCPOA, Russia took Iran's enriched uranium so that Iran stockpile stayed below the amount agreed to under the deal.

JAKE SULLIVAN, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER: That is a key part of how we ensured that Iran's nuclear program was in a box.

TURNER: Russia has the world's largest stockpile of nuclear weapons with between 6,000 and 7,000 warheads, many more than the U.S.

The key Republicans on Capitol Hill say allowing Russia to obtain more enriched uranium is very dangerous. The Putin regime should not play any part in an Iran nuclear deal. It's absolutely insane. The Biden administration continues to trust the Russian government in these negotiations. This is something Democratic lawmakers also echo.

SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D-NY): I don't think Russia is at the table in a legitimate or honest way. I think they are looking for ways to get around the sanctions against them.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

TURNER (on camera): Just a short while ago, Iran's foreign minister said that what is blocking a final deal now is bad behavior by the U.S. He accuses the Biden administration of wasting time and not being "pragmatic", Bret.

BAIER: More on this with the panel. Gillian Turner live at the State Department. Gillian, thank you.

Let's bring in now Ukrainian ambassador to the U.S. Oksana Markarova. Madam Ambassador, thanks for being here.

OKSANA MARKAROVA, UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.: Good evening, Bret. Thank you for having me here.

BAIER: The President speaking today then taking some Q&A with reporters. Did you hear what you needed to hear from the President of the United States?

MARKAROVA: Well, we're very grateful to the U.S. for the support that we have been getting during this months and today's exactly a month of this brutal full-fledged war that Russia is waging against us.

But as my president said today, President Zelenskyy, we're very grateful for all the support, but we need much more. We need every everything possible that the U.S. and all of our friends and allies are ready and able to provide us quickly, so we can defend Ukraine but also defend Europe.

Because this attack on Ukraine as a democracy is not just an attack on our lives, homes, children, hospitals, but it's an attack on anyone who dare to be free, dare to be sovereign. And, you know, dare to live their life, select the government as they would like to. So, it's it's far more important. Yes.

BAIER: What do you think is the holdup in your mind about getting what you need in Ukraine? You know, the promises, the talk about NATO and from the U.S. has been pretty bold. Are you not getting what you need?

MARKAROVA: Well, we are getting a lot, again, and Congress has been very generous in adopting quickly a supplementary budget with 13.6 billion that would go to Ukraine and the neighboring countries. The question is how to get it all quickly, and how to get everything that we need into Ukraine under the circumstances, and we're working together on it.

And we would appreciate, you know, the larger packages, especially when it comes to air defense, which is so much needed, because as you see on the ground, the brave and dedicated Ukrainian armed forces, and all Ukrainians are putting up a very effective fight.

I mean, we're all sort of dealing with the second largest army, where is that army, you know, it's war criminals, which are just killing civilians and children.

But in the air, unfortunately, you know, there is so many rockets, and there's so many airplanes that Russia is launching at us and also shooting from the -- from the vessels. And we need to take care of that. That's why we need additional assistance, especially in air defense.

BAIER: Right. Madam Ambassador, how do you think this comes to a conclusion? How do you think these ends? Do you think that Putin's goals have changed? If at the negotiating table, he said, I just want this land bridge to Crimea, along the the border with Russia there, all the way to the coast. Is that something that Ukrainians would say maybe?

MARKAROVA: When Russia attacked us in 2014, and we have been under attack for the past eight years. And now for one month under this full-fledged war, we know that the goal is actually to destroy Ukraine, to essentially do this Ukrainian genocide, and, again, return us under occupation.

And I can assure you that we Ukrainians will not give up and we will not surrender. And we need to all of our country to be whole, we need to restore our territorial sovereignty and integrity.

So, this is not something we're ready to discuss, let's discuss what all of us together are ready to do in order to defend Ukraine, help us to defend us, but also to make Putin and everyone who's responsible for this accountable, and prevent something like this to happen in the future.

BAIER: Last thing, you know, Ukraine is obviously a big part of the breadbasket of the world, providing food to a lot of places around the world. Today in that E.U. speech, Ukrainian officials saying that there's just going to have to be a stop to the exports from Ukraine because of the situation. What's your thoughts on that about the planting season and agriculture and how it affects the world food situation?

MARKAROVA: It's a huge risk. And again, we be in a very peaceful country of bread growers. But we are also a top five provider of the majority of agricultural products globally.

And of course, when there is war on the territory of Ukraine, and Russians are shooting indiscreetly at civilian (INAUDIBLE) them, it's very difficult to plant something and do normal agriculture.

I mean, we're trying to do it at every person -- at every field that is not directly shelled or shoot at, but it's a great threat that Russia has created.

So, Russia is not only creating this humanitarian catastrophe in Ukraine for Ukrainians, but also poses a global risk to the community. That's why we need to stop it. That's why we need everything possible. We need to do everything possible to stop it as quick as possible, so we can start rebuilding and we can start, you know, renewing the life in Ukraine.

BAIER: Madam Ambassador, we appreciate your time.

MARKAROVA: Thank you. Thank you very much for all the help.

BAIER: Stocks were up today, the Dow gained 349, the S&P 500 added 64, the NASDAQ surged 269 today.

Here's some other headlines, Virginia Thomas the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas repeatedly pressed then White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to pursue efforts to overturn the 2020 election. That is according to text messages obtained by the Washington Post came out tonight. The messages reveal a pipeline between Thomas and President Trump's top aide during a period when Trump the president at the time and his allies were vowing to go to the Supreme Court to negate the election results.

The Washington Post is saying those text messages are among more than 2,300 Meadows provided to the House Select Committee investigating the Capitol riot on January 6th.

Justice Thomas, who is currently hospitalized has not responded obviously to The Washington Post's request for comment, neither has his wife.

The final report from Arizona's Senate review of the 2020 election finds no evidence of any major problems with the election in Maricopa County, which was the target of unfounded election fraud claims by then-President Donald Trump.

The Senate was responding to the theories that hacking or the injection of ballots over an Internet connection led to Trump's loss in the state's largest county.

The report says the computers and ballot counting machines in the county's tabulation center were never connected to the Internet.

The Biden administration is threatening to remove Dr. Mehmet Oz and Herschel Walker from the federal advisory committee if they didn't resign. The request comes amid the Republican U.S. Senate runs in Pennsylvania and Georgia.

President Trump reappointed Oz and Walker to that council on sports, fitness and nutrition in December of 2020.

Up next, is Vladimir Putin purging his top advisors over stalled military efforts in Ukraine? We'll explain while that -- why there are new suspicions about that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

ANDREI SOLDATOV, RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE EXPERT: It became really difficult to tell him something he doesn't want to hear.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BAIER: The Biden administration is unveiling new procedures to handle asylum claims at the southern border in hopes of deciding cases in months rather than years.

The rules allow asylum officers to grant or deny claims, an authority previously limited to immigration judges.

Under the new rules, asylum officers expect to decide cases in 90 days. Legal challenges to that rule are expected. And a Homeland Security official on a separate issue tells Fox's Bill Melugin, the federal government is mass releasing Cuban, Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, and Colombian migrants via parole.

Under federal law, parole is only to be granted on a case by case basis for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons. We'll follow the story.

There is new evidence tonight that Vladimir Putin is lashing out at his top intelligence and military officers, blaming them for the lack of progress made by Russian forces in Ukraine.

Senior Foreign Affairs correspondent Amy Kellogg has the story.

AMY KELLOGG, FOX NEWS CHANNEL SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIR CORRESPONDENT (voice- over): Perhaps to disprove rumors, Russia's Defense Minister had been purged or hospitalized, state T.V. broke into programming, appearing to show Sergei Shoigu on a video conference call with Vladimir Putin.

Shoigu is in the upper left corner. The video is silent. Publicly, Shoigu has been silent for the last two weeks as the war in Ukraine bogs down. The ordinarily camera ready Putin ally may want to distance himself from this war the Russians thought they'd win in 48 hours.

Even this battle hardened separatist figures from the last Ukraine invasion, wanted in connection with the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 in 2004, admitted the Kremlin got this war very wrong.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

IGOR STRELKOV, FORMER SEPARATIST LEADER (through translator): The commanders were assured there would be no serious resistance on the part of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. What's more? There would be a fairly large scale defection to the side of the Russian troops, just like they did in Crimea.

KELLOGG: The ground in Ukraine was clearly not primed for that. Two officers of the division of the FSB, the old KGB charged with getting people on Russia's side, recruiting, and paying networks and former Soviet republics are reportedly under house arrest now.

SOLDATOV: And it looks like Vladimir Putin finally understood that the intelligence he was given before the invasion was not extremely accurate. And he start and looking around trying to find someone to blame.

KELLOGG: According to Soldatov, Putin does not like being told what he doesn't want to hear, and fear reigns in the ranks of the Russian intelligence community.

The bloody war no doubt making reaction to the recent buzz that a \$700 million mystery yacht belongs to Putin all the more bitter. Features include gold plated toilet paper holders and an indoor pool that converts into a dance floor. It is currently moored in Italy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

KELLOGG (on camera): Meanwhile, Bret, the squeeze continues on Putin with more of his lawmakers sanctioned and restrictions on Russia's ability to do transactions in gold now in place. Bret.

BAIER: Amy Kellogg in London Amy, Thank you.

Up next, Dr. Jeanette Nashwan, details what she experienced while providing medical care inside Ukraine.

First, here is what some of our Fox affiliates around the country are covering tonight. This country. Fox Two in Detroit where the University of Michigan settled a lawsuit brought by students seeking to change how the school protects the campus from sexual misconduct.

Under the agreement, the school will create and pay for a committee designed to protect the university community from sexual abuse. The school has recently been rocked by hundreds of sexual assault allegations.

And this is a live look in Chicago from our affiliate, Fox 32, little rainy there. One of the big stories there tonight. Flocks of people heading to select gas stations, about 48-50 of them, across Chicago and its suburbs as a local businessman, Willie Wilson donates \$1 million worth of free gas for those struggling to afford the high prices. Each car is allotted \$50 worth of gas, kind of a good deal.

That's tonight's live look "OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY" from SPECIAL REPORT. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BAIER: The Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson ended today. Judge Jackson did not participate in this final day. FOX News Congressional correspondent Chad Pergram anticipates a committee vote around April 4th and potentially a final Senate confirmation by as early as April 8th.

There are new concerns tonight about the long-term impact the Ukrainian refugee crisis could have on neighboring countries as they welcomed thousands of refugees every day. Correspondent Aishah Hasnie has that story tonight from Poland.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MARIA TYKHA, UKRAINIAN REFUGEE (through translator): I just can't believe that it is possible in the 21st century.

AISHAH HASNIE, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the small border town of Przemysl has welcomed nearly 800,000 people in the last month, at one point, processing 2,000 refugees an hour. Only 2,000 stayed in the town. The rest took trains or buses to other cities or traveled further into the E.U.

WOJCIECH BAKUN, PRZEMYSL, POLAND, MAYOR: We know that capacity in our warm hearts will end at some point.

HASNIE: Mayor Wojciech Bakun said he and others must start coming up with long-term plans as the war drags on.

BAKUN: How long will this war will exist some parts will be a very difficult situation to manage.

HASNIE: Twenty minutes away at the busiest border crossing, Medyka Mayor Marek Iwasieczko told the U.N. refugee agency his town wasn't prepared for the drivers, and now he is worried about its infrastructure. The U.N. reports mayors of larger cities like Warsaw and Krakow are also struggling to accommodate new arrivals.

MAREK IWASIECZKO, MEDYKA, POLAND MAYOR (through translator): All of us, we are tired, but we are going to help until the end.

HASNIE: As President Biden heads to Poland tomorrow, Mayor Bakun has a message he would like to send to president.

BAKUN: We would need to do everything what we can to stop that war and finish that war as quick as possible.

HASNIE: For now, his town will keep its doors open simply because it has to.

BAKUN: We are on the first line, so we have to do this.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

HASNIE (on camera): And Bret, the Biden administration announced today that the country will take in 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, but many of these refugees that you see behind me don't want to go too far. They want to stay as close to the border as possible because they do believe they will win, and they will one day go home. Bret?

BAIER: Aishah Hasnie live in Poland. Aishah, thank you. That's a big burden for that country and surrounding countries.

Let's bring in FOX News contributor Dr. Janette Nesheiwat who just rushed from returned from Ukraine. Doctor, thanks for being here.

DR. JANETTE NESHEIWAT, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Hey, Bret, great to be with you.

BAIER: I'm sure you saw a lot, and we'll put up some of the pictures from you trip, but talk to the audience, if you would, about what you saw and some of the things you treated.

NESHEIWAT: Well, Bret, you know I have worked medical missions around the world, but I will tell you nothing compares to the horrific brutal atrocities that I saw inflicted upon the Ukrainian people, innocent men, women, and children injured, lives taken needlessly. I watched every day the trains, hundreds and hundreds of refugees would come off the trains. They would come in with broken bones, with severely infected wounds, with lacerations, a lot of dehydration. And we would do the best we can to try take care of them with the resources that we had.

But sometimes it was a challenge, especially when the sirens would go off and we would have to seek shelter and go underground and also take our patients with us to make sure that they are not further injured as well.

But I will tell you, Bret, despite the deluge of disease and illnesses and injuries, it was really so incredible, so inspiring to see the global humanitarian aid that was coming in to help try to alleviate somewhat the torment that they were going through. So a lot of help coming in. But my concern is it needs to be ongoing. It needs to be an ongoing effort, as in the United States here we're the most capable country. Therefore, I think we need to maximize our efforts to help support the Ukrainians in any way possible to help reduce their pain and their suffering and loss of life.

BAIER: Yes. We saw a picture there of Benjamin Hall, who is in good spirits and getting great medical care. You sent some help into the surgeon who actually helped him.

NESHEIWAT: Yes. I spoke to Dr. Yeary (ph) yesterday. He is one of the orthopedic trauma surgeons working in Kyiv at the hospital. And he is doing everything he can, working so hard. But he is in desperate need of orthopedic surgical tools. They are running low and they need them. So even though I'm back here in the United States, I have been working around the clock to try to get supplies, get donations of medical equipment, suture care kits, wounds kits, trauma tools and hardware that he needs to be able to operate. So that's what we are working on even though we are back here, because it's ongoing, the brutality that we are seeing right now.

BAIER: So Doc, there's a lot of organizations, we have a number of them on our website. We have done a lot through the Red Cross. But how can people help get what you need to them?

NESHEIWAT: Yes, absolutely. You can go to our website. You can go to the CHARM Foundation, ChildrenareMagical.org. Also, I worked as part of the disaster assistance response team good with Samaritan's Purse. So we are looking for a lot of the orthopedic tools and hardware, so you can definitely reach out to us and we will be able to get that, hopefully the supplies that they need as soon as possible.

BAIER: OK. Dr. Nesheiwat, thanks for all you are doing and you did there. We appreciate your time.

NESHEIWAT: Thank you, Bret.

BAIER: While President Biden is in Brussels promising to help Europe's energy future, lawmakers here at home are warning new rules for gas projects here in the U.S. will kill production and exports to Europe. National correspondent William La Jeunesse is in California with that story.

(BEGIN VIDEO TAPE)

URSULA VON DER LEYEN, EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT: Tomorrow I will discuss with President Biden how to prioritize LNG deliveries from the United States to the European Union.

WILLIAM LA JEUNESSE, FOX NEWS NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Europe needs to replace Russian natural gas. The question is, will President Biden allow U.S. producers to step in?

ANNE BRADBURY, AMERICAN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COUNCIL: We need more export capacity, and we need more pipeline infrastructure.

LA JEUNESSE: But many projects remain stalled in Washington red tape. The latest, a rule imposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to require not just an environmental impact statement for any new pipeline or terminal, but a detailed breakdown of its effect on climate change, public health, and racial justice.

SEN. JOHN BARRASSO, (R-WY) SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE: These policies are going to make it next to impossible to build any new natural gas infrastructure.

LA JEUNESSE: But environmentalists say government should weigh the cost of carbon emissions.

SEN. ANGUS KING, (I-ME) SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE: Here we are saying that the FERC can't require the examination of the most serious environmental threat that this country and world has ever faced.

LA JEUNESSE: The U.S. currently has seven LNG export terminals. Six proposals have waited more than a year for approval. The other major battle pipelines -- five totaling 1,000 miles scrapped after environmental litigation, 15 more projects in 11 states are stuck in review.

SEN. ROGER MARSHALL, (R-KS) SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE: People in the oil and gas industry are scared to death to invest money in this field because the White House has declared war on the oil and gas industry.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

LA JEUNESSE (on camera): Well, today, after weeks of criticism, FERC reduced that rule requiring new plans to list the social cost of their emissions, the Democratic majority changing their vote. A win for industry, but on energy, Europe is likely to need more help from the Biden White House. Bret?

BAIER: William, thank you.

President Biden responds to Vladimir Putin's possible use of chemical weapons in Ukraine. The panel discusses all the factors at play over the war next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: If chemical weapons were used in Ukraine, would that trigger a military response from NATO?

JOE BIDEN, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: It would -- it would trigger a response in kind. We would respond if he uses it. The nature of the response would depend on the nature of the use.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: President Biden answering questions at this news conference, took about five or six of them, saying a chemical weapons attack by Vladimir Putin in Ukraine would have a similar in kind response. No definitive word from the White House on that.

Meantime, "Wall Street Journal," "NATO estimates steep Russian losses in Ukraine, that Russia has losses as much as one-fifth of its combat forces sent to Ukraine in about a month of fighting. Between 7,000 and 15,000 Russian soldiers have been killed in Ukraine. Up to 40,000 Russian troops in total have been killed, wounded, taken prisoner, or are missing."

OK, this comes as this discussion about sanctions and how well they are doing. The U.S. sanctions, the NATO sanctions, E.U. sanctions, and whether they were meant to deter Russia from acting in Ukraine. Here's the president and what has been said before that.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: I did not say that in fact sanctions would deter him. Sanctions never deter.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The president believes that sanctions are intended to deter.

ANTONY BLINKEN, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE: The purpose of the sanctions in the first instance is to try to deter Russia from going to war.

JOHN KIRBY, PENTAGON PRESS SECRETARY: We want them to have a deterrent effect, clearly. And he hasn't invaded yet.

KAMALA HARRIS, (D) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The allied relationship is such that we have agreed that the deterrence effect of these sanctions is still a meaningful one.

DALEEP SINGH, DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER: Sanctions are not an end to themselves. They serve a higher purpose. And that purpose is to deter and prevent.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: OK, so they were deterring, they weren't deterring. Today the president said they were never intended to deter. Where are we?

Let's bring in our panel, Matthew Continetti, fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, Leslie Marshall, Democratic strategist, and Guy Benson, political editor at Townhall.com, host of "The Guy Benson Show" on FOX News Radio. Matthew, pretty stark to hear all of those different soundbites going back after what the president said today about sanctions.

MATTHEW CONTINETTI, AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE: This is why they give Biden a list of reporters to call on, Bret, a list that Biden had exhausted and he was on his way out of that press conference when he called on Christina Ruffini of CBS who asked that question about deterrence. Biden was caught flat-footed. He was caught trying to reverse engineer history to grant himself foresight. But he was completely wrong.

Look, the sanctions didn't deter because the sanctions weren't imposed. Biden wasn't imposing sanctions prior to the invasion. He was threatening sanctions. And the threat of sanctions wasn't enough to change Vladimir Putin's behavior. To deter someone like Putin, you have to hold at risk something that he values greatly. Putin doesn't care about the economic well-being of Russians. He cares about power. You have to threaten his hold on power. And the only way to do that now, Bret, is to find the way to help Ukrainians defeat him on the ground.

BAIER: Leslie, these sanctions, though, there are critics of them, many critics, saying they are fairly leaky as far as the energy sector specifically. Some of the most stringent sanctions on banks that deal with Russian oil don't go into effect until June. Is this working, and is Russia feeling this?

LESLIE MARSHALL, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: I would agree with what Matthew just said with regard to Vladimir Putin. He doesn't care about the economy of Russia. But I do think the sanctions are working, and that's one of the reasons that the president said that he wanted to have this meeting. He wanted to make sure that our allies, our NATO allies throughout the world are in this for the long haul, and that this isn't just something that's going to last for a month or two.

If we look at the Russian economy, it is crippled. And it's not just going to be crippled now but for years to come. And the economic impact is definitely affecting Vladimir Putin's ability to access more weapons, to increase his military because he has lost so much of his military they didn't expect to, going into Ukraine and Ukraine pushing back and not getting in and out of there in a couple of days as many people thought would happen.

So I would say this is working. Obviously, there are people that want this over in five minutes. But we and our allies are saying we are not going to make this a World War III. We are not going to escalate this conflict and have our NATO nations with our fighters in the air and our troops on the ground at this point.

BAIER: Guy, the other answer that really raised eyebrows was the respond in kind depending on what the level of use, I'm paraphrasing here, what the president said about a question on Vladimir Putin using chemical weapons in Ukraine.

GUY BENSON, POLITICAL EDITOR, TOWNHALL.COM: I have no idea what he meant by that. Hopefully he will take follow-up questions on that front in the coming days, because the president of the United States talking about a potential military response in kind on the use of chemical weapons that may or may not happen in Ukraine, we shouldn't just be out here speculating. There should be pretty specific parameters put on that. And I think a lot more clarity is something that is needed for the American people.

I think some more clarity actually could be helpful from the Kremlin's perspective. Not that I'm rooting for them in any way. I'm rooting against them. But I think there is such a thing as strategic ambiguity which can be helpful with our adversaries. In this case, this is, I think maybe too ambiguous. It might even, in fact, be provocatively ambiguous. And I hope that this gets it cleaned up and specified a little bit more clearly soon.

BAIER: Yes, and the sanctions, there are really questions about whether Gazprom, the Russian oil company, is making more money now. And we really have to dig in to where these sanctions are hitting or not hitting.

As we go to break, I want you to listen back to our late colleague Charles Krauthammer on responding to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea in 2014. More with the panel after this.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER, SYNDICATED COLUMNIST: Putin can win at a distance, but if he doesn't, he will win hand-to-hand. And what he understands is that he has nothing to fear from the United States.

Forward deploy NATO troops into places like the Baltics or into Poland. We had an understanding at the end of a Cold War we wouldn't do that because that would provoke the Russians. The response is to say you broke the understanding of the end of the Cold War, and now we are going to have NATO troops on your frontier. That's a way to send a message that means something and is not just hot air.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

RAFAEL GROSSI, INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY DIRECTOR: The JCPOA that we are going to have to be monitoring now will be more complex than the one that was originally signed in 2015. Now you have an Iran that is enriching uranium at 60 percent, which is in every practical sense almost military level.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: Officials with the IAEA talking about the complexity of the new Iran nuclear deal, and there are questions about whether it's as good as the old deal that was scrapped back in 2015. This as it's close, Reuters is reporting that "Iran's foreign minister says the nuclear deal is closer than ever. Following 11 months of negotiations, Iran and the United States are now saying the ball is in the other's court to revive the accord which would curb Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for lifting tough sanctions on Iran's economy." We should point out critics say it would not curb that and it would provide a runway to a nuclear bomb, that's what they say.

We are back with our panel. Guy, it's really amazing that all of this is happening in this context as Russia is sitting at the table in Vienna, as a deal, we're told and confirming, would include enriched uranium from Iran going to Russia in the middle of a time where Russia is, and we are concerned about Russia using a nuclear weapons in Ukraine and elsewhere. The juxtaposition is really amazing.

BENSON: Yes, totally amazing, astonishing, but this is the current reality. We don't really know precisely what is in this would be deal. It's been kept secret from the American people and the American Congress so far. But what we have learned through leaks and rumors is quite disturbing, that it would, in fact, be weaker than the 2015 Obama-era version. So weak, in fact, that three members of Biden's own negotiating team resigned in protest, quit the process because of the extent of the capitulations that the U.S. was agreeing to.

What we do know is that the man negotiating on our behalf is a Kremlin Putin diplomat because the Iranians won't talk to us directly. So you have the Russians speaking in this context on our behalf to another enemy of the United States, supposedly with our interest at heart, which is insane. And that lead negotiator, that Russian negotiator, recently in an interview said that the Iranians got far more than anyone could have ever expected. He was sort of bragging about that. The Russians would make off like bandits from this as well. And he also thanked the Chinese for their help in these talks. All of that, I would say, adds up to a very alarming picture.

BAIER: Leslie, it's tough to explain this in context. The administration says they need to get to this deal to try to lock in Iran's nukes and to prevent them from getting a nuclear weapon. Again, I mentioned critics are really questioning whether that happens, and outside of that, Iran's activities funding terrorist groups, funding the Houthis in Yemen and actually firing missiles at or near our U.S. consulate in Iraq. It's kind of weird timing for this.

LESLIE MARSHALL, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: I said that before with you, Bret, the timing is a concern. And that's why we see people left and right, Democrat and Republican, who are having issues with this. And to Guy's point, that it would be an even weaker deal than 2015.

Here's the problem, OK, and there are problems on both sides. When you look to Russia, Vladimir Putin could seek to gain \$20 billion if he helps to build not one but two nuclear plants for Iran, which this deal could

lead to and have a pathway to. And then you have Iran, which we look at since November, which has increased its enrichment of uranium over 12 pounds, just since November. That is very concerning.

But then you even have the political side of this, which is, how do you sell, Democrat or Republican, removing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard from the foreign terrorist organization list? And that's going to be a problem to sell to constituents at home left or right.

BAIER: It's not a treaty, Matthew. It doesn't have to go through the Senate. It just has the administration's blessing.

CONTINETTI: You have heard of strategy, Bret. But this by Biden is strategery, and it's going to be a disaster.

BAIER: All right, we'll leave it there. Strong letter to follow. Panel, thank you very much.

Finally tonight, a SPECIAL REPORT salute, working to mend not only the wounds of war but the broken spirits of Ukrainian refugees. Teams of medical clowns are on the scene of the refugee crisis, spreading cheer any way they can to those kids, had a tough time. An innovative approach to trauma intervention in Poland and other refugee receiving countries.

And now this in the circus theme. A female bear who was kept at a circus company in Ukraine for the past 20 years has safely made it to a sanctuary in Romania. The trip was initially postponed due to complications in the region from the war, but the bear, no relation, did make it to safety. Kudos to everyone involved for making it possible.

Tomorrow on SPECIAL REPORT, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Texas Representative Mike McCaul, joins us.

Thanks for inviting us into your home tonight. That's it for this SPECIAL REPORT, fair, balanced, and still unafraid. "JESSE WATTERS PRIME TIME" starts now. Usually "THE FIVE" ends with a bear story. Now I'm ending with one to toss to you.

END

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