1

Bitcoin and other major cryptocurrencies have been feeling the heat this week as tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalate and investors shun riskier assets.

On Tuesday, bitcoin falling nearly 6.5% in the last 24 hours, according to data from CoinDesk. The world's most valuable cryptocurrency fell below $40,000 over the weekend, and has continued to slide as the Ukraine crisis intensifies.

The currency has lost almost half its value since its November high of $68,990 due to geopolitical tensions, the prospect of interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve and curbs by some major economies on digital assets.

Bitcoin's peers have also been faring poorly. Ethereum, the world's second most valuable cryptocurrency, fell over 8% in the last 24 hours and was trading at $2,520.

Experts say that bitcoin may not stabilize anytime soon.

2

Sunrise treat for Birmingham tower photographers

A group of photographers were invited to the top of Birmingham's tallest office tower on Wednesday to capture dawn breaking over the city - and were treated to a beautiful sunrise.

The tower's apex stands 246m (807ft) above sea level, and offered spectacular views across the city for photographers who were given special access to the 18th floor terrace.

Birmingham photographers Jay Mason-Burns and Tim Cornbill focus on Alpha Tower



Good morning Birmingham - the city awoke to a lovely sky on Wednesday morning



Sunlight bounces off the Radisson Blu Hotel in the city centre



A Midland Metro tram at the Birmingham Town Hall stop



Colmore Row towers over Birmingham's St Philip's Cathedral



3

Ukraine crisis: Banks 'hit by cyber attacks' as government website home pages 'inaccessible’

The apparent denial of service attacks came as several Ukrainian state websites, including the government and foreign ministry home pages, were reportedly inaccessible yesterday.

Ukraine's banks have been hit by cyber attacks, according to the country's minister of digital transformation.

The apparent denial of service attacks came as several Ukrainian state websites, including the government and foreign ministry home pages, were reportedly inaccessible yesterday.

Authorities in Ukraine said this week they had seen online warnings that hackers were set to launch major attacks on government agencies, banks and the defence sector.

Ukraine has been hit by a string of cyber attacks which Kyiv has blamed on Russia.

Moscow has denied any involvement.

Mykhailo Fedorov, minister of digital transformation, said: "At about 4pm, another mass DDoS attack on our state began.

We have relevant data from a number of banks."

He added that the parliament website was also hit.