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## Russian Strike Kills Four Amid Intensifying Ukraine Peace Diplomacy



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A Russian missile strike on the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro killed four people and injured 40 others on Monday, according to local authorities. Unconfirmed reports indicated that a ballistic missile may have been used in the morning attack. Videos shared online showed a powerful roadside explosion, while local media reported significant damage to an office building, vehicles,

and nearby shops. Dnipro, located around 100km from the front line, has faced repeated Russian attacks since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

The strike came as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict intensified. U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff is expected in Moscow on Tuesday for talks with President Vladimir Putin, following several earlier visits this year. He has not yet traveled to Kyiv. On Sunday, a Ukrainian delegation met Witkoff, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner in Florida.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the talks were "very constructive," though several "tough issues" remain. Rubio echoed that the meeting was productive but required "more work." These discussions form part of expanding shuttle diplomacy involving separate exchanges between Ukrainian and Russian representatives and U.S. officials.

Deep disagreements persist. Russia continues to demand that Ukraine withdraw from remaining parts of the Donbas region—an ultimatum Kyiv rejects. Putin warned that Moscow would pursue its objectives "by force of arms," while Zelensky accused Russia of dismissing genuine peace efforts.

Security guarantees and Ukraine's future strategic alignment also remain unresolved, with Moscow and Donald Trump opposing Ukraine's NATO membership. Zelensky has arrived in Paris

to seek further European support before traveling to Ireland on Tuesday.