

Ukraine invasion – day 196



1 North: Ukrainian forces attack **Balakliia** – strategic town between **Kharkiv** and major rail hub of **Izyum** – taking advantage of Russian redeployment to reinforce **Kherson**

2 Donetsk Oblast: Russian forces continue ground attacks around **Donetsk City**. Wagner Group fighters take control of **Kodema**, south of **Bakhmut**

3 Zaporizhzhia NPP: UN calls for demilitarised zone around facility after **IAEA** report says presence of Russian military equipment on site could undermine security

4 Berdiansk: Russian-installed commandant badly injured in car bombing, in latest assassination attempt in occupied areas of southern Ukraine