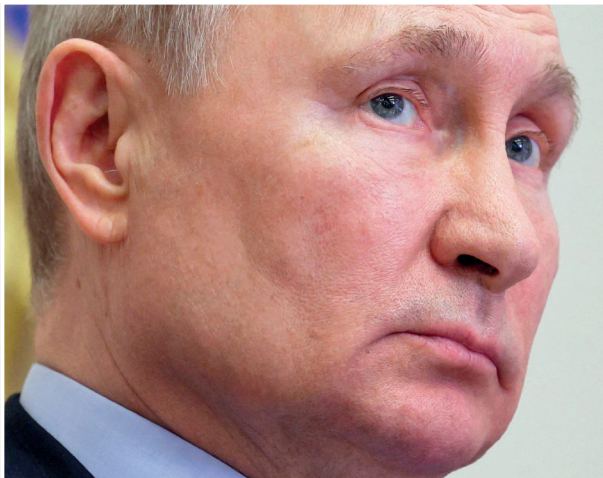


Key players in Wagner mutiny

The armed rebellion by Yevgeny Prigozhin and his Wagner mercenary group has become a pretext for a purge in the ranks of the Russian Armed Forces



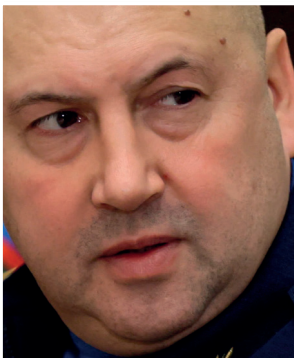
■ **Yevgeny Prigozhin, 62:** Former close ally of Putin. Wagner's chief became embroiled in public feud with Russia's top officials – Defence Minister **Sergei Shoigu** and top General **Valery Gerasimov**



■ **Vladimir Putin, 70:** Russia's President annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea in 2014 and invaded Ukraine in February 2022 under pretext that country needed to be *"demilitarized and de-Nazified"*



■ **Sergei Shoigu, 68:** Defence Minister since 2012 and veteran Putin ally. Oversaw annexation of Crimea and invasion of Ukraine. **Rumours that Shoigu will be ousted if war fails**



■ **Sergei Surovikin, 56:** Nicknamed *"General Armageddon."* Ruthless general and commander of Russia's air force allegedly had advance knowledge of Prigozhin's plans to rebel against Russia's military leadership. **Reportedly arrested**



■ **Sergey Lavrov, 73:** Russia's top diplomat and Foreign Minister, is no longer part of Putin's inner circle. **Reportedly sidelined from decisions regarding Ukraine**



■ **Ramzan Kadyrov, 46:** Leader of Russian republic of Chechnya – nicknamed *"Putin's attack dog."* **Deployed some 3,000 fighters in bid to stop attempted coup**



■ **Valery Gerasimov, 67:** Chief of the General Staff, replaced Surovikin as top commander of war in Ukraine in January. Has not been seen publicly or on TV since Saturday's aborted coup. **FSB security service is reportedly questioning him**