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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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In U.N. speech, Ukraine's Zelenskiy accuses Russia of worst war crimes since WW2

UNITED NATIONS, April 5 (Reuters) - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday that "accountability must be inevitable" for Russia as he accused invading Russian troops of committing "the most terrible war crimes" since World War Two.

Zelenskiy showed a short video of burned, bloodied and mutilated bodies, including children, in Irpin, Dnipro, Mariupol and Bucha, where Ukraine accuses Russian troops of killing hundreds of civilians. [read more](#)

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia then told the Security Council that Russian troops are not targeting civilians, dismissing accusations of abuse as lies. He said that while Bucha was under Russian control "not a single civilian suffered from any kind of violence."

Zelenskiy questioned the value of the 15-member U.N. Security Council, which has been unable to take any action over Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine because Moscow is a veto power, along with fellow permanent council members the United States, France, Britain and China.

"We are dealing with a state that turns its veto at the U.N. Security Council into the right to (cause) death," Zelenskiy said in a live video address from Ukraine's capital Kyiv, urging reform of the world body. "Russia wants to turn Ukraine into silent slaves."

Russia says it is carrying out a "special military operation" that aims to destroy Ukraine's military infrastructure and "denazify" it, and denies attacking civilians. Ukraine, a parliamentary democracy, and Western countries say Moscow invaded without provocation.

Russia's partner China, which has abstained on most U.N. votes since the war started, was "deeply disturbed" by the images of civilian deaths in Bucha, China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said, calling for verification of what happened.

India, which relies heavily on Russia for military hardware and has also abstained on U.N. action, condemned the killings in Bucha and called for an independent investigation. [read more](#)

Russia's Nebenzia said: "We are not shoot-

ing against the civilian targets in order to save as many as civilians possible. This is precisely why we're not advancing as fast as many expected."

'SHOW BACKBONE'

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said responsible world powers and global leaders need to "show backbone - and stand up to Russia's dangerous and unprovoked threat against Ukraine and the world."

"No one can be a shield for Russia's aggression," she said as Washington pushes to suspend Russia from the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Council.

The 193-member U.N. General Assembly in New York is likely to vote on the move to suspend Russia on Thursday, diplomats said. A two-thirds majority of present voting members is needed. [read more](#)



Nebenzia responded: "I hope that our colleagues from the United Nations will not allow themselves to be manipulated and play up to Washington."

The United Nations said some 11 million Ukrainians -- more than a quarter of the population -- have fled their homes. More

road ahead of us" after what he described as a "frank" meeting with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Moscow on Monday. Griffiths said he hopes to travel to Ukraine on Wednesday to meet with Ukrainian officials.

U.N. political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo said U.N. human rights monitors were seeking to verify allegations of sexual violence by Russian forces.

"These include gang rape and rapes in front of children," she said. "There are also claims of sexual violence by Ukrainian forces and civil defense militias."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned the Security Council that Russia's invasion of Ukraine is one of the greatest challenges ever to the international order "because of its nature, intensity, and consequences."

than 4 million of those people have left Ukraine.

U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths said at least 1,430 civilians have been killed, including more than 121 children. "We know this is likely a serious underestimate," he added.

Griffiths, who is seeking a humanitarian truce in Ukraine, said "we have a long



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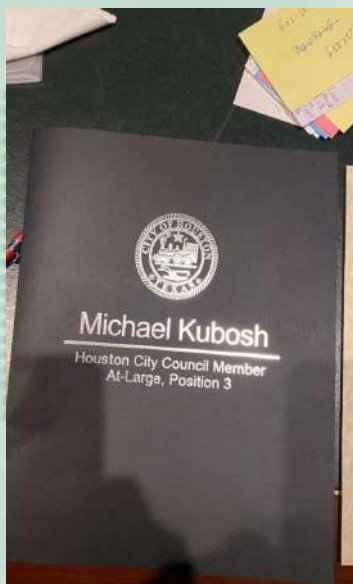
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Beautiful Words Gratitude In My Heart



The Houston International Studio has been officially launched this past week. There are continuous congratulatory messages from many supportive people. Among them, we are very grateful for the warm letter from Houston City Council Member Michael Kubosh.

The Certificate of Appreciation letter he wrote read as follows:

From The City of Houston, Presented To Wea Lee, Houston International Studio

The City of Houston recognizes you for your superior contribution to the community. Your dedication to serve the people and your support of business in the community has proven to be the best. A famous quote, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Mr. Lee, you are a champion in the community and so many love you."

The City of Houston is proud of you and salutes you on this special day.

In Witness Whereof, I have Hereunto Set my Hand on this 31st Day of

March 2022.

Michael Kubosh

Houston City Council Member At-Large

When I accepted and read this message carefully, my heart was really mixed and the past kept pouring into my mind.

Looking back on the early 1970's when I first set foot in the beautiful and charming city of San Francisco, I made up my mind to melt into this strange and wonderful dreamland. We left the Golden State and came to Texas where Asians are rare. Like any new foreign students, we had to start everything from scratch. And like many pioneers before us, our hard work has turned the raw land into an oasis and has become one of most successful business models in the nation. These achievements are

not accidental.

History is always moving forward in the huge wheel of the time. We would like to remind all of the younger generation to

continue our vision to serve your people and your community. Only by self-reliance and self-improvement will you be respected.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Dima, a three-year-old boy who was wounded during the shelling of Mariupol, lies in a bed in the children's ward of the hospital in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, March 29, 2022. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Local resident Viktoria Mukhina, 33, plants tulips with her daughter Miroslava near an apartment building damaged during Ukraine-Russia conflict in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine April 4. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko



Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha in action during a Premier League match versus Arsenal at Selhurst Park, London, Britain, April 4. REUTERS/David Klein



A Chilean Air Force's aerobatics team member performs ahead of the International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE) at Santiago international airport, Chile April 4. REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy looks on as he is surrounded by Ukrainian servicemen as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Bucha, outside Kyiv, Ukraine, April 4. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Volunteers unload from a van bags containing bodies of civilians after they collected them from the streets to gather them at a cemetery before they take them to the morgue in Bucha, in Kyiv region, Ukraine April 4. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra

Asia Sees Spike In COVID-19 Cases After Lunar New Year Celebrations

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Thai classical dancers wearing face masks to help protect themselves from the coronavirus perform at the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday. (Photo/Sakchai Lalit/AP)

SINGAPORE (AP) — Many Asian countries are facing a spike in COVID-19 infections after the widely-celebrated Lunar New Year holidays, as health officials grapple with the highly-transmissible omicron variant and expectations that numbers will continue to rise in coming weeks. The Lunar New Year, which is China's biggest holiday, was celebrated across Asia on Feb. 1 even as pandemic restrictions in many countries kept crowds and family outings to a minimum. Hong Kong's authorities are confronting record cases that are straining its so-called "zero-COVID" policy. On Monday, the city reported a new high of 614 local infections. "We expect there will be more cases coming in a few days. We consider this as some effects after the holiday events and clusters," told reporters on Monday Edwin Tsui, an official with the Centre for Health Protection. "With our current containment measures, we hope we can still contain the disease."

Hong Kong currently requires all cases to be hospitalized. On Monday, authorities announced that close contacts of infected persons will be allowed to isolate at home, starting from Tuesday. Those who test positive while in home isolation will be transferred to a hospital.

Residents line up to get tested for the coronavirus at a temporary testing center for COVID-19 in

Hong Kong on Monday. (Photo/Vincent Yu/AP)

Hong Kong has aligned itself with China's "zero-COVID" policy that aims to totally stamp out outbreaks, even as many other countries change their approach to living with the virus. Authorities look to impose lockdowns on residential buildings wherever clusters of infections are identified, and have banned public dining after 6 p.m. In Singapore, a dramatic rise in coronavirus infections followed last week's holiday, with cases tripling to 13,000 on Friday. Daily infections have since dipped to 7,752 on Sunday, amid restrictions that include limited capacity for restaurants and capping the number of unique visitors to each household. Singapore has reported over 100,000 cases spanning the last month, although over 99% of the cases are mild or asymptomatic.

COVID-19 cases are rising but there are fewer serious cases than in the delta surge

Across Asia, authorities are confronting a similar pattern as the more easily transmissible omicron becomes dominant, even as health officials in several countries report that omicron surges are not driving hospitalizations or deaths as high as the previous delta variant. In Japan, nearly 90,000 new cases nationwide were reported on Sunday, including 17,526 in Tokyo, as local omicron infections showed no signs of slowing. Experts say the infections are now spreading to vulnerable elderly people who are beginning to fill more hospital beds. Less than 5% of the country's population has received their third dose of the coronavirus vaccine.

Local outbreak numbers are similarly rising in Indonesia, edging toward the caseloads that marked the height of last year's devastating delta outbreak. On Jan. 6, Indonesia recorded 533 new COVID-19 cases and seven deaths. A month later on Sunday, the daily figure had soared to 36,057. Daily deaths have also climbed to 57, almost four times the rate a week ago. In Thailand, officials on Monday reported more than 10,000 daily cases for the third day in a row, but the Department of Disease Control said that the number of severely ill patients was dropping, while the fatality rate has remained stable. Department chief Opas Karmkwinpong said that Thailand might consider relaxing some of the country's pandemic restrictions, as the omicron variant seemed to be less severe.

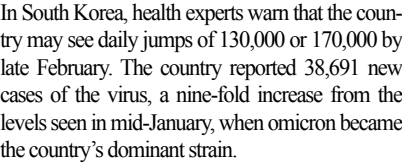
"The global situation of COVID-19 seems to be moving in the same direction," he was quoted as saying in The Bangkok Post. "Many countries have started to ease measured despite spikes in daily infections."



Students wearing face masks as precaution against the coronavirus during class at the Nurul Fattah Islamic Boarding School in Tangerang, Indonesia, on Monday. (Photo/Tatan Syuflana/AP)

Officials warn that wave of infections will continue. In other countries where the Lunar New Year is a major holiday, governments are likewise on high alert ahead of expectations that omicron will continue to stoke higher infections.

New cases in Malaysia have been hovering higher, with the health ministry reporting 11,034 on Monday. The rise came after the Lunar New Year when many Malaysians travel, but health officials said most of the cases were asymptomatic or have light symptoms. Top health official Noor Hisham Abdullah has warned that daily cases could double by the end of March and urged Malaysians to take their booster dose. Some 98% of adults in the country have completed their vaccination and half of them have received their third jab. In South Korea, health experts warn that the country may see daily jumps of 130,000 or 170,000 by late February. The country reported 38,691 new cases of the virus, a nine-fold increase from the levels seen in mid-January, when omicron became the country's dominant strain.



South Korean prospective soldiers wearing face masks have their blood taken during a medical checkup at the Seoul office of the Military Manpower Administration in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. (Ahn Young-joon/AP)

In Vietnam, authorities have warned that infections may rise after the popular new year holiday. Vietnam reported 192 cases of the omicron variant in the past month, with most of those showing only mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. With low hospitalization and death rates, Vietnam had previously moved toward resuming most social activities. The Philippines has moved to ease coronavirus restrictions and open its doors to tourists as outbreak numbers eased to about 8,300 on Sunday, down from a peak of 39,000 in mid-January.

But social distancing restrictions remain in place amid fears of an outbreak ahead of the country's presidential and general elections May 9. Campaigning begins on Tuesday, with a ban in place on handshakes, kissing, hugging and large crowds. In mainland China, new local infections continue to fluctuate, falling as low as nine on Friday, but rising again to 45 on Monday, most of them in the southern region of Guangxi.



Meanwhile, the far-flung Pacific archipelago nation of Tonga has been trying to contain its first outbreak since the start of the global pandemic, which might have been brought in with the delivery of emergency medical supplies and water after last month's volcanic eruption and tsunami. Two Tongan men who worked handling shipments tested positive last week. Over the weekend, Prime Minister Siaosi Sovaleni said two more positive cases were confirmed, bringing the total of active cases to seven. (Courtesy npr.org)

Related
Japan Is Ramping Up COVID-19 Restrictions As Omicron Cases Surge

TOKYO — Restaurants and bars will close early in Tokyo and a dozen other areas across Japan beginning Friday as the country widens COVID-19 restrictions due to the omicron variant causing cases to surge to new highs in metropolitan areas. The restraint, which is something of a pre-state of emergency, is the first since September and is scheduled to last through Feb. 13. With three other prefectures — Okinawa, Hiroshima and Yamaguchi — under similar measures since early January, the state of restraint now covers 16 areas, or one-third, of the country.

While many Japanese adults are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, few have gotten a booster shot, which has been a vital protection from the highly contagious omicron variant of the coronavirus.



People wearing face masks to help protect against the spread of the coronavirus walk on a street lined with bars and restaurants in Tokyo on Jan. 19, 2022. (Photo/Koji Sasahara/AP File Photo)

The Health Ministry on Friday approved Pfizer vaccinations for children aged 5-11, who are increasingly vulnerable to infection.

Throughout the pandemic, Japan has resisted the use of lockdowns to limit the spread of the virus and has focused on requiring eateries to close early and not serve alcohol, and on urging the public

to wear masks and practice social distancing, as the government seeks to minimize damage to the economy. Under the latest measure, most eateries are asked to close by 8 or 9 p.m., while large events can allow full capacity if they have anti-virus plans. In Tokyo, certified eateries that stop serving alcohol can stay open until 9 p.m. while those serving alcohol must close an hour earlier. Mitsuru Saga, the manager of a Japanese-style "izakaya" restaurant in downtown Tokyo, said he chose to serve alcohol and close at 8 p.m. despite receiving less compensation from the government. "We cannot make business without serving alcohol," Saga said in an interview with Nippon Television. "It seems only eateries are targeted for restraints."



Some experts question the effectiveness of placing restraints only on eateries, noting that infections in the three prefectures that have already been subjected to the measures for nearly two weeks show no signs of slowing. Tokyo logged 8,638 new cases of coronavirus infection Thursday, exceeding the previous record of 7,377 set the day before.

At a Tokyo metropolitan government task force meeting, experts sounded the alarm at the fast-paced upsurge led by omicron. Norio Ohmagari, Director of the Disease Control and Prevention Center of National Center for Global Health and an advisor to the Tokyo metropolitan government panel, said Tokyo's daily new cases may exceed 18,000 within a week if the increase continues at the current pace. Surging infections have already begun to paralyze hospitals, schools and other sectors in some areas.



While about 80% of Japanese have received their first two vaccine doses, the rollout of booster shots has been slow and has reached only 1.4 % of the population so far. (Courtesy npg.org)

How To Handle Quarantining, Testing, And Masking After Covid-19 Exposure

Omicron Is Exploding. What To Do If You're Exposed