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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Europe agrees emergency gas curbs as Russia squeezes supply

BRUSSELS, July 26 (Reuters) - European Union countries bracing for further cuts in Russian gas supply approved a weakened emergency plan to curb demand on Tuesday after striking compromise deals to limit the reductions for some countries.

Europe faces an increased gas squeeze from Wednesday, when Russian's Gazprom (GAZPMM) has said it would cut flows through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany to a fifth of capacity. read more

With a dozen EU countries already facing lower Russian supplies, Brussels is urging member states to save gas and store it for winter for fear Russia will completely cut off flows in retaliation for Western sanctions over its war with Ukraine.

Energy ministers approved a proposal for all EU countries to voluntarily cut gas use by 15% in the August to March period from the average from 2017-2021. read more

The cuts could be made binding in a supply emergency, provided a majority of EU countries agree to this. But countries agreed to exempt numerous countries and industries from the binding 15% cut, after some governments opposed the EU's original proposal to apply it to every country. read more

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck said the agreement would show Russian President Vladimir Putin that Europe remained united in the face of Moscow's latest gas cuts. "You will not split us," Habeck said.

Hungary was the only country that opposed the deal, two EU officials said.

Russia's Gazprom has blamed its latest reduction on needing to halt the operation of a turbine - a reason dismissed by EU energy chief Kadri Simson, who called the move "politically motivated". read more

Simson said the agreement should ensure countries save enough gas to survive an average winter if Russia fully cut supplies now, but an unusually cold winter would require more severe measures.

Russia supplied 40% of EU gas before it invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, in what Moscow calls a "special military operation".

### SOLIDARITY, SAVINGS

The EU deal would exempt from the binding 15% gas cut Ireland, Malta and Cyprus - countries that are not connected to other member states' gas networks and therefore could not share spare gas with other countries in a supply emergency.

Illustration shows natural gas pipeline, EU and Russia flags  
Pipes at the landfall facilities of the 'Nord Stream 1' gas pipeline in Lubmin



Illustration shows Gazprom logo and Russian flag

Countries with a limited ability to export gas to other EU countries can request a lower target, provided they export what they can. That could include Spain, which does not rely on Russian gas and had initially opposed the EU plan.

"Everyone understands that when someone asks for help, you have to help," Spanish Energy Minister Teresa Ribera said on Tuesday.

Countries that overachieve an EU target for filling gas storage by August could also face weaker targets, potentially softening the cuts for roughly a dozen states with relatively full storage, including Germany and Italy.

States can exempt gas used in critical industries, such as energy-intensive steelmaking, from the target.

Italian Ecological Transition Minister Roberto Cingolani said the country's binding target would be nearer 7% than 15%, once gas reductions it has already made compared with previous years were taken into account.

News of the latest drop in Russian supply has

driven gas prices higher, adding to the cost of filling storage, while creating incentives to use less.

On Tuesday, the benchmark front-month Dutch contract rose more than 10% and is around 430% higher than a year ago.

The EU plan has tested countries' solidarity. Poland approved the final deal, but Climate Minister Anna Moskwa said one country's industry should not be forced to use less gas to help other states facing shortages. read more

Others were more positive, including Malta and Portugal, which both won softer targets in the negotiations. Maltese energy minister Miriam Dalli said the deal reflected countries' varying energy situations.

"We managed to pass on a strong message of solidarity," she said.

But some raised concern that the savings would still not be enough to avert a winter shortage. Levels vary between countries, but the EU has reduced its combined gas use by only 5%, despite months of soaring prices and dwindling Russian supplies.

"Fifteen percent will probably not be enough, given what the Russians have just announced," Irish Environment Minister Eamon Ryan said.

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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

07/25/2022

## Oil Town Is Coming Back

Because of the big demand for oil in the heart of the country's most productive oil basin, oil is being produced again.

In Midland, Texas, when the inevitable bust slashed oil prices, many companies closed their doors and laid off many workers who took their families away and moved out. But with the current boom, they are coming back to the city.

The Permian Basin is set for boosting the daily oil output this year by 1 million barrels to an average of 5.6 million barrels making this the third largest oil producing area in the world.

According to geological survey estimates, at least 46 billion barrels of oil are under the Permian



underground. When fracking first became feasible, drillers could break even with oil at about \$80 dollars per barrel. But today, the cost has gone down to \$40 dollars per barrel. This is very good news for the Texas economy, but some locals are still urging the oil and gas companies to invest in education and healthcare so more workers will move in with their whole families.

Today America can produce more oil

than ever before. Why do we still need to ask other countries to help?

We really urge President Biden to change the country's oil policy and let Texas oil make up for any and all shortages in the best interests of the country.

With rising inflation, the Ukraine war and many social problems, we really need to stabilize our economy as soon as possible.



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**Southern DAILY** Make Today Different

## Editor's Choice



A man reacts as rescuers work to remove the dead body of a woman from the debris at the Central House of Culture, after a military strike hit a building, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Chuhuiv, in Kharkiv region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Nacho Doce



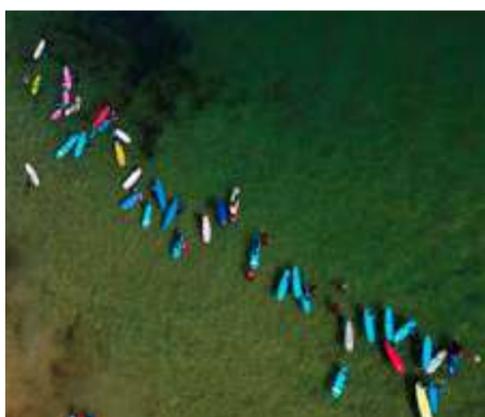
Pope Francis meets with First Nations, Metis and Inuit indigenous communities in Maskwacis, Alberta, Canada. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane



U.S. basketball player Brittney Griner, who was detained at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport and later charged with illegal possession of cannabis, is escorted before a court hearing in Khimki outside Moscow, Russia. REUTERS/Evgenia Novozhenina/Pool



Israeli forces blow up the house of assailant Palestinian militant Yahya Mari, in Qarawat Bani Hassan in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. REUTERS/Mohamad Torokman



Children surf in the Mediterranean sea during a summer surf camp, at the city of Ashkelon. REUTERS/Amir Cohen



Activists protest in the Indiana Statehouse during a special session debating on banning abortion in Indianapolis, Indiana. REUTERS/Cheney Orr

2,120 Hate Incidents Against Asian Americans Reported During Coronavirus Pandemic

Coronavirus: What Do Attacks On Asians Tell About American Identity?



Attacks on East Asian people living in the US have shot up during the pandemic, revealing an uncomfortable truth about American identity. (Photo/ Getty Images)

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

More than 2,100 anti-Asian American hate incidents related to COVID-19 were reported across the country over a three-month time span between March and June, according to advocacy groups that compile the data. The incidents include physical attacks, verbal assaults, workplace discrimination and online harassment.

The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and Chinese for Affirmative Action launched a hate incident reporting website on March 19 when the coronavirus was becoming widespread across the U.S. and the media began reporting violent incidents targeting Asian-Americans. The online tool is available in multiple languages and allows users to report the information with the promise that personal information will be kept confidential. On Wednesday, the advocacy groups released an analysis of the incidents reported through June 18 in California, where about 40 percent of the 2,120 hate incidents took place. The groups released the national data to CBS News after an inquiry.

Of the 832 incidents reported in California, many included anti-Asian slurs and references to China and the coronavirus. One assailant yelled about "bringing that Chinese virus over here" during an attack against an Asian-American man at a San Francisco hardware store on May 6.



The assailant reportedly also said "Go back to China," "F--- you, Chinaman" and "F--- you, you monkey." In another San Francisco incident on June 9, someone threw a glass bottle at a woman putting her child in a car seat and yelled, "Go home Ch---k." And in Santa Clara on June 16, a man kicked a woman's dog and then spat at her, saying, "Take your disease that's ruining our country and go home."

"These are real people just living their lives and encountering this kind of hate," said Cynthia Choi, the co-executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, on Wednesday.

Though she was not born in the US, nothing about Tracy Wen Liu's life in the country felt "un-American". Ms Liu went to football games, watched Sex and the City and volunteered at food banks. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the 31-year-old didn't think anything of being East Asian and living in Austin, Texas. "Honestly, I didn't really think I stood out a lot," she says. That has changed. With the outbreak of the pandemic that has killed around 100,000 people in

the US, being Asian in America can make you a target - and many, including Ms Liu, have felt it. In her case, she says a Korean friend was pushed and yelled at by several people in a grocery store, and then asked to leave, simply because she was Asian and wore a mask.



Members of the Asian American Commission gather in Massachusetts to condemn racism. (Photo/Getty Images)

In states including New York, California, and Texas, East Asians have been spat on, punched or kicked - and in one case even stabbed. Whether they have been faced with outright violence, bullying or more insidious forms of social or political abuse, a spike in anti-Asian prejudice has left many Asians - which in the US refers to people of east or southeast Asian descent - wondering where they fit in American society.

"When I first came here five years ago, my goal was to adapt to American culture as soon as possible," says Ms Liu. "Then the pandemic made me realize that because I am Asian, and because of how I look like or where I was born, I could never become one of them." 201

After her friend's supermarket altercation, she decided to get her first gun. Authorities in New York City and Los Angeles say that hate incidents against people of Asian descent have increased, while a reporting centre run by advocacy groups and San Francisco State University says it received over 1,700 reports of coronavirus-related discrimination from at least 45 US states since it launched in March.



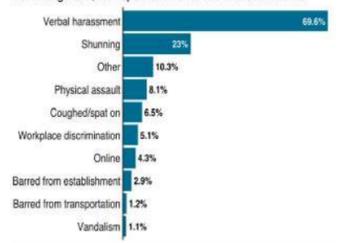
Police in at least 13 states, including Texas, Washington, New Jersey, Minnesota and New Mexico, have also responded to reported hate incidents. Critics say those at the very top have made things worse - both President Donald Trump, and Democratic hopeful Joe Biden have been accused of fuelling anti-Asian sentiment to varying degrees with language they've used while talking about China's role in the outbreak.

And for many Asian Americans, it can feel as though, in addition to being targeted, their identity as Americans is being attacked.

**Statistics on Anti-Asian incidents in the US:** One third of people surveyed said they had witnessed someone blaming Asian people for the pandemic; 1,710 incidents reported to STOP

AAPI HATE - 15% of those cases involved physical assault or being coughed on or spat at; More than 100 individual incidents reported in the media; 133 incidents of anti-Asian discrimination recorded by the New York City Commission on Human Rights - compared to 11 in the same period last year. The commission has intervened in 91 cases; 14 Asian-bias hate crimes investigated by police in New York.

Verbal harassment the most common form of discrimination



Source: Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center (19 Mar-29 Apr)

More than 100 alleged hate incidents reported to civic groups and police departments in Los Angeles

Six reports of bias incidents reported to police in Seattle

There has been a surge in anti-Asian hate on extremist web communities Sources: Ipsos, STOP AAPI HATE, New York City Commission on Human Rights, New York City Police, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Rights, Seattle Police, Network Contagion Research Institute, BBC research

Some Asians have also reported being refused service from hotel rooms, or Uber rides, as a result of their ethnicity.

Matt (not his real name), a Chinese American emergency room doctor in Connecticut, noticed that several patients asked to be admitted to hospital because they said an Asian person had coughed near them. He experienced what appeared to be anti-Asian bias more personally, when he tried to treat a patient thought to have Covid-19.

"I had my protective equipment on, walked in and introduced myself. Once they heard my surname, they were like 'don't touch me, can I see someone else - can you just not come close to me'." Many other minorities face more "overt types of discrimination which are worse", Matt says - but he fears that incidents such as what he experienced would be demoralising for medical workers.

"This is a pretty stressful time - we're working a lot more, wearing very uncomfortable equipment all the time, and a lot of us are getting exposed to Covid-19." (Courtesy https://www.bbc.com/)

Related New York DA Prosecutes Highest Number Of Anti-Asian Hate Crimes



Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, pictured November 2021, said his office is prosecuting 33 anti-Asian hate crimes - its highest number ever. (Photo/Michael M. Santiago GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA/AFP)

New York (AFP) - A New York prosecutor said last week that his team was prosecuting its highest number of anti-Asian hate crimes since a unit was established more than a decade ago.

Anti-Asian violence surged in the United States following the start of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

Activists believe the hate crimes were fueled by talk of the "Chinese virus" by former president Donald Trump and others during the early days of the pandemic.

New York officials have also cited a history of mental illness, exacerbated by a disruption to social services during the pandemic, among many of the perpetrators.

"Tragically, our office is currently prosecuting 33 hate crime cases driven by anti-Asian bias - unfortunately, the most we have had since our hate crimes unit was established in 2010," said Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

The Manhattan DA's office said in a statement that it "prosecuted nearly four times more anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021 than in the previous year."



Jarrold Powell is accused of brutally assaulting Yao Pan Ma, a 61-year-old Chinese immigrant, in East Harlem, Manhattan in April last year.

Powell was initially charged with attempted murder and hate crimes, but the charges have been upgraded after Ma died from his injuries in December.

"As alleged, Jarrod Powell selectively attacked Mr. Ma for no other reason than his race," said Bragg.

The announcement of the indictment came as Seoul's foreign ministry said a South Korean diplomat was injured after being attacked by an "unidentified man" in Manhattan.

The New York Post reported that the diplomat was hospitalized with a broken nose. (Courtesy www.france24.com)

"Give Peace A Chance"

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

