

Mediazona said it had been blocked “because we cover honestly what is happening in Ukraine and call the invasion an invasion, and the war a war”.

The media outlet added that Russia has in recent days introduced “military censorship and there is almost no independent media left in the country”.

Republic said the state communications watchdog had not informed it of the reason for the blockage but said readers would still be able to access it via a VPN.

“Thank you for staying with us. The night will pass,” Republic said in a statement late on Sunday.



A mother comforts her daughter as they wait in freezing cold temperatures to get on bus, after crossing the Ukrainian border into Poland, at the Medyka border crossing in Poland, yesterday. More than 1.7 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia launched its full-scale invasion on February 24, according to the latest data from the UN yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Putin won't stop in Ukraine

Lithuanian president warns Blinken, urges tougher stance on Russia

AGENCIES

Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda yesterday warned Washington's top diplomat Antony Blinken that a failure to stop Russia's aggression in Ukraine would lead to a global conflict.

Addressing the US secretary of state as he began a tour of Baltic states, Nausėda said Russian leader Vladimir Putin "will not stop in Ukraine" and that the world had an obligation to help Ukrainians "by all means available."

"I mean indeed all means if we want to avoid the Third World War. The choice is in our hands," he said.

Nato member Lithuania has sent military aid to Ukraine and welcomed small numbers of Ukrainian refugees since

Russia's invasion began on February 24. Blinken was set to visit neighboring Latvia and Estonia yesterday and today.

Belarus, which borders Lithuania and Latvia, allowed Russia to launch the assault from its territory after it had its troops stationed there for weeks under the guise of joint military exercises.

Blinken met Nausėda before talks with Lithuania's foreign minister and prime minister.

The top US diplomat earlier told staff of the US embassy in Vilnius that Russia's invasion of Ukraine challenged basic principles designed to keep the peace between nations, reports Reuters.

"It's important that people understand what's actually at stake and it goes beyond even Ukraine, beyond even the Baltic

countries, beyond even Europe," Blinken said.

Meanwhile, China stressed yesterday that the friendship between Beijing and Moscow was still "rock solid", despite international condemnation of Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, as Beijing said it was open to helping mediate peace. China has refused to condemn its close ally Moscow after only last month touting a "no limits" strategic partnership between the two countries, reports AFP.

"The friendship between the two peoples is rock solid, and both sides' future cooperation prospects are very vast," said Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a press briefing during the Chinese leadership's annual political congress in Beijing.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Developments

AGENCIES

EVACUATION OFFER REJECTED
A Kremlin offer to open escape routes for civilians trapped by the fighting is rejected by Kyiv because several lead to Russia or its ally Belarus.



'DELIBERATE MURDER'
Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky accuses Russian troops of "deliberate murder" of civilians after a family with two children is cut down by shelling in the street as they fled the town of Irpin outside of Kyiv.

Ukraine's military says it is fighting "fierce battles" with Russian forces on the edge of the southern city of Mykolayiv, which sits on the road to the country's biggest port Odessa.

RUSSIA SHUNS WAR HEARING

Russia declined to attend a hearing at the UN's top court yesterday at which Ukraine is asking for an immediate order to halt the conflict, the head judge said.

MODI URGES PUTIN-ZELENSKY TALKS

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to hold direct talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky, in addition to ongoing negotiations.

TIKTOK AND NETFLIX EXIT

Netflix suspends services in Russia and social media giant TikTok blocks posting of video content from the country because of Kremlin censorship laws on the war.



KREMLIN ARRESTS MORE
Police detained more than 5,000 people protesting the war in some 60 Russian cities Sunday, bringing the numbers held to well over 11,000, since the invasion began.

ROCK-SOLID FRIENDSHIP

China's foreign minister says the friendship between Beijing and Moscow is "rock solid" despite the Russian invasion and offers to help mediate.

WESTERN JETS

The US gives a “green light” for Poland to supply Kyiv with fighter jets. Moscow warns that could drag Nato members into the war.

CONSULTANTS LEAVE

Consultancy firms KPMG and PwC pull out of Russia, leaving the future of 8,200 staff in doubt. Fellow "big four" consultancy Deloitte is reviewing its presence there.

International
Women's Day

"Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"

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দিবস

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