

UN see 'reasonable grounds' to implicate US in war crimes in Iran

Report also flags Iran gov't's crimes against humanity on its own people

GENEVA

HUMAN rights experts commissioned by the UN's top human rights body say they have found "reasonable grounds" to believe the United States committed war crimes in two strikes in Iran, including on a school in the southern city of Minab.

The report, while not binding, adds to international evidence gathered about crimes in the war in Iran, and could eventually be used in efforts to reach justice in international courts.

The fact-finding mission on Iran, chaired by jurist Sara Hossain of Bangladesh, is made up of independent experts and was created in 2022 by the Human Rights Council, the UN's top human rights body, which is based in Geneva.

The experts were expected to

present their findings on Monday to the council, which is made up of 47 UN member countries.

The international fact-finding mission says its findings on US war crimes center on a pair of US airstrikes that killed at least 178 civilians, including women and children.

At the start of the US-Israeli war against Iran in February, at least one US missile hit the Shajarah Tayyebah school in Minab, according to an Associated Press investigation. There has been no final accounting of what happened.

Iranian state media have said 168 people were killed in the strike, most of them children.

"Following the United States and Israeli attacks on 28 February, the mission found reasonable grounds to believe the United States committed the war crime of launching indiscriminate attacks resulting in the loss of life or injury to civil-

ians or damage to civilian objects," a UN statement about the team's findings said.

The US State Department did not immediately respond to a request from AFP seeking comment. In their report, the experts concluded that "the building of the school was the intended point of impact" and the resulting damage wasn't the result of an errant strike or collateral damage from an attack on a compound of Iran's Revolutionary Guard next to the school.

The Trump administration has yet to directly accept responsibility or release the findings of a Pentagon investigation into the school bombing.

The UN-backed team cited two February 28 strikes: Tomahawk missiles hit a school, while Precision Strike Missiles scattered shrapnel pellets over a sports complex and residential area in Lamerid. AP



Israeli settlers celebrate the inauguration of a newly built synagogue at the occupied West Bank outpost of Homesh. AFP

Israeli settlers revive Homesh settlement, open synagogue amid Palestinian objections

HOMESH: Israeli settlers, some carrying rifles, sang, danced and carried Torah scrolls as they inaugurated a synagogue at the newly revived settlement of Homesh. For those attending the event Wednesday, it was a celebration. For Palestinians living nearby, the return of settlers to the site carried a very different meaning.

Homesh lies deep in the northern occupied West Bank, near the Palestinian village of Burqa. Israel dismantled the settlement in 2005 but formally approved its reestablishment last year, allowing settlers to live there and connect to Israel's water and electricity networks. Palestinian residents of Burqa say the settlement restricts access to privately owned farmland around the site. Israel's Supreme Court has acknowledged that land at the original settlement belonged to Palestinians from the village.

Five killed as Saudi and Yemeni govt trade strikes

RIYADH

ATTACKS attributed to the Houthis, the Yemeni government and its Saudi backers killed at least five people on Thursday, as fighting rocked the Arabian Peninsula after the Iran-backed group made lightning gains in a fresh offensive.

The three sides have been locked in increasingly violent exchanges since Yemen's civil war flared back to life, with Saudi Arabia accusing the Houthis of firing at the holy city of Mecca this week.

The Houthis said "Saudi enemy warplanes targeted three telecommunications towers" in Taiz province, with one civilian killed and another injured in strikes on the town of Abs. Al-masirah television said. The Houthi-backed outlet later reported that "three children were killed and several Yemeni na-



Damage following a reported Houthi drone attack over Taif. AFP

tionals were injured in strikes by the Saudi-backed mercenaries," a reference to the country's recognised government.

Saudi Arabia's civil defence agency, meanwhile, reported casualties caused by debris from an intercepted Houthi drone in an area east of Mecca.

"The fall of shrapnel from a downed drone in Taif governorate resulted in one death, two injuries, and material damage to several buildings and vehicles," the agency said. AFP

US 'long-arm' tariffs on Russian oil rejected

BEIJING

CHINA on Thursday rejected the US "long-arm jurisdiction" to impose tariffs on purchases of Russian oil and gas, saying its normal trade and economic cooperation with other countries should not be subjected to interference or coercion by third parties.

The US House of Representatives passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act 2026 that authorises Trump to impose sanctions on Russia and

steep tariffs on its leading trading partners such as India and China. Asked about the bill, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Gao Qiakun told a media briefing here that China opposes any action that lacks UN Security Council authorisation. "China is in a normal economic and trade cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit," Guo said.

"Such cooperation does not tar-

get any third party and shall be free from disruption or coercion from any third party."

China opposes long-arm jurisdiction and unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law and lack UN Security Council mandate," he said.

China reiterated its opposition to any tariff linkages to buying oil and gas from Russia ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's planned visit to Wash-

ington next week for a summit meeting with Trump. The summit, expected to be held from September 24-25, will be their second summit this year. Trump visited Beijing in May this year and held extensive talks with Xi.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Commerce Ministry on Thursday said Beijing and Washington are in talks to reach an agreement on a reciprocal tariff regime. China and the US are holding consultations on a reciprocal tariff reduction arrangement. PTT

Takaichi alters Japan Cabinet, but keeps Mins

TOKYO

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi reshuffled her Cabinet on Thursday in a bid to turn around her waning popularity, but retained key ministers as she pursues stronger ties with the US. Japan faces President Donald Trump's tough demands for bigger defense spending, more investment in America and measures to combat a weak yen. The reshuffle is the first by the right-wing star of the governing Liberal Democratic Party since she took office last October as Japan's first female leader in modern history. It's a widely used tactic by a prime minister to manage power balance within the party, and public opinion.

She enjoyed high ratings, attracting young voters with her fresh style and straight talk in male-dominated Japanese politics. But she has seen her popularity fade after pushing policies including an enforcement of the imperial family at a time people were expecting tougher measures to fight inflation. AP

Russian missiles hurt 19 in Ukraine's capital

KYIV

RUSSIAN missiles and drones injured at least 19 people overnight in Ukraine's capital and the surrounding region, authorities said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday that Ukrainian forces had also carried out overnight strikes against targets in Russia, including an oil refinery in Yaroslavl and a military airfield in the Rostov region.

Kyiv's military administration said the overnight attacks struck more than 10 locations in the capital, while 33 sites were damaged in the wider region.

A 10-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy were among the injured, the administration said in a statement on Telegram. Peace efforts to end Russia's 4 1/2-year full-scale invasion have stalled, with the is-



An emergency services personnel works to extinguish a fire following a Russian air attack in Odessa, Ukraine. AFP

Ukraine is also seeking security guarantees from partners for a deal.

Donald Trump claimed in a social media post on Monday that Russia and Ukraine had mutually agreed to cease attacking each other's energy facilities. Such strikes have led to significant supply issues in both countries.

In an interview with CBS News on Tuesday, Zelenskyy pushed back on Trump's claim, saying that while an energy truce was discussed during a recent meeting in Kyiv with Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, he would agree only if Russia ceased its attacks on Ukrainian energy sites.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Sybida said Kyiv is ready to agree to a truce covering attacks on energy infrastructure and the Black Sea. AP

EXPRESS READ

Pakistan, China launch joint border mechanism

Islamabad: Pakistan and China have operationalised a joint mechanism to manage their common border, drawing objections from India, which said the body has no legal basis to decide arrangements

GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, THIRUCHI - 626 020
For all or part of the Government of Tamil Nadu, a members to cover spaces issued from the Manufacturers' Handbook for the purpose of providing for the purpose of the year 2027.

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1	Supply of Packing Materials for Export Subsidized Production Units in Tiruppur.	Applicable	Rs. 2,75,000/-	Rs. 2,75,000/-
2	Supply of Packing Materials for Export Subsidized Production Units in Tiruppur.	Applicable	Rs. 2,75,000/-	Rs. 2,75,000/-

For further particulars, please contact Joint Director of Agriculture, Manamparam, Tiruchirappalli - 626 020. 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