

UN calls for accountability push in Libya as war crimes probe ends

GENEVA: The UN rights chief called Monday for Libyan authorities and the international community to step up accountability efforts in the conflict-ravaged country, as a probe into war crimes wrapped up.

“Libyan authorities, armed groups, smugglers and human traffickers should not assume that the eyes of the international community have now left Libya,” Volker Turk said.

“It is crucial that we redouble efforts to secure accountability for past violations and continue to monitor the reality on the ground to prevent future violations.”

Can Russia emulate China’s Middle East diplomatic success with a Turkiye-Syria rapprochement?

IRBIL, Iraqi Kurdistan: Russia may be hoping it can replicate China’s success in brokering the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Middle East heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Iran by overseeing a restoration of bilateral ties between Syria and Turkiye. But analysts caution that fundamental differences between the two normalization efforts militate against a quick breakthrough.

Israel OKs Ben-Gvir’s ‘national guard’ but hedges on his powers

JERUSALEM: Israel authorized on Sunday a national guard sought by far-right security chief Itamar Ben-Gvir to focus on Arab unrest, but held off on giving him direct command after political rivals voiced concern the force could become a sectarian “militia.”

The previous government began setting up an auxiliary police force to tackle internal violence following pro-Palestinian protests in mixed Jewish-Arab areas during the Gaza war of May 2021. That government fell before the new force was finalized.

Arab towns in Israel hit by general strike over fatal shooting of doctor at Al-Aqsa

RAMALLAH: A general strike and day of mourning was on Sunday observed in Palestinian towns throughout Israel following Saturday's killing by Israeli police of Dr. Mohammed Al-Osaibi at the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The strike involved workers from Arab local authority shops, the Arab public education system, and other facilities.

Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev were at the center of protests. Al-Osaibi, from Hura – a Bedouin village in southern Israel – was shot dead at the entrance to Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem early on Saturday.

Israeli forces kill two West Bank gunmen, down Hamas drone over Gaza

JERUSALEM: Israeli forces killed two Palestinian gunmen during a clash in the occupied West Bank on Monday, militant factions and medics said, and shot down a drone over the Gaza Strip that the ruling Islamist group Hamas claimed as part of its arsenal.

Tensions have been running high as Muslims mark the Ramadan holy fast month during a surge in Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The latest shootings happened during a raid by the Israeli military in the northern West Bank city of Nablus.