

'Ukraine will halt strikes if Russia spares critical infrastructure'

KYIV, Sept 14 (AP)

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that Ukraine is ready to halt its strikes on Russian territory if allies can secure a genuine Russian commitment not to hit Ukraine's critical infrastructure.

His comments came after US President Donald Trump claimed in a social media post that Russia and Ukraine had agreed "not to hit" each other's energy infrastructure, though Trump did not offer further details on the purported agreement.

Russia did not immediately comment on Trump's claim. Previous efforts to broker even a partial ceasefire have repeatedly fallen apart within hours, with both sides accusing each other of violations. Trump did not offer further details about the agreement but it comes a day after the US president called on Zelenskyy to stop targeting Russian oil refineries and other infrastructure used to produce and distribute diesel, claiming the attacks are causing a global shortage. Diesel prices have surged in the US, and high fuel costs associated with the Iran war have become a major issue for Trump's



party in upcoming congressional elections.

Trump also claimed that the rise in the price of global diesel fuel "is mostly caused by the Russian/Ukraine war" and not Iran. But restricted shipments caused by the slowdown of oil flowing through the Strait of Hormuz and damaged refining

systems in Russia are causing strains in the energy market.

In his post, Zelenskyy said Ukraine has proposed that partners help secure an agreement with Russia for a ceasefire. It's not the first time Kyiv has floated the idea.

"Every day, Ukrainian energy facilities, port infrastructure,

logistics, even food and pharmaceutical warehouses become targets," he said. "The war must be ended. And a de-escalation step regarding critical infrastructure could be a first step toward peace."

Zelenskyy said he "expects concrete proposals from our partners."

Iran war exposed US weapons shortfall, damaged bases across M-E, says report

WASHINGTON, Sept 15 (AP)

A US Government watchdog released its first report on the impact of the Iran war on Monday, acknowledging the military's advanced weapons shortfalls and offering the first public look at the damage to American aircraft, bases and diplomatic outposts in the Middle East.

Much of the information has been previously reported over the past six months, but the Pentagon Inspector General's report offered the fullest official accounting so far of the conflict's costs in American lives, taxpayer dollars and physical damage. It included information from the watchdogs for the Defence and State departments as well as the

Iranian strikes damaged, destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures at US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Dozens of American aircraft and drones also were destroyed

US Agency for International Development.

The report, whose publication

was first reported by NBC News, noted that the US war with Iran "has resulted in strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply" in regard to advanced weapons.

Experts have previously said it will take about three years for military contractors to replenish advanced missiles and defensive missile interceptors to prewar levels.

The report, which covers April 1 to June 30, also acknowledged that Iranian strikes damaged and destroyed hundreds of buildings and other structures at US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Dozens of American aircraft and drones also were destroyed or damaged.

As concerns mount over development of artificial intelligence

UN rights chief urges urgent global AI governance

GENEVA, Sept 15 (ANI)

UNITED Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk has called for urgent global governance of advanced artificial intelligence, warning that the rapid development of increasingly capable AI systems is putting human rights, critical infrastructure and democratic institutions at growing risk.

In a statement issued on Monday, titled "To protect human rights now and into the

future, we must govern AI urgently," Türk said the world is at a "watershed moment" as companies and researchers advance AI at "dizzying speed", with investments in AI and its underlying infrastructure breaking records.

Türk also acknowledged the potential of AI to contribute to human progress, saying billions of people already benefit from the technology through scientific discovery, access to information across languages and

enhanced agricultural production. However, he said the extent to which AI can help tackle the climate crisis, improve health and education, strengthen public services and enhance human well-being will depend on choices being made now about how the technology is designed, deployed and governed.

The UN rights chief said AI-related harms are already occurring, pointing to documented discrimination, automation of essential services that can leave

marginalised people further behind, and the erosion of privacy through growing data demands and increasingly powerful surveillance tools.

"AI harms are not hypothetical - they are already occurring, front and centre," Türk said.

He also warned that AI-powered disinformation campaigns are distorting public debate, undermining social cohesion and straining democratic institutions. Türk said the emergence of increasingly capable AI agents

has raised the risks further because such systems can translate goals into action, carry out complex workflows and operate with limited or no human supervision.

According to Türk, recent events have shown that advanced systems can produce behaviour outside their intended operational parameters, circumvent safeguards, practice deception and pursue objectives in ways their developers did not anticipate.



Volker Türk

IAF demonstrates 'Vayu UTtaM' system designed for drones



NEW DELHI, Sept 15 (PTI)

'VAYU UTtaM', an indigenously developed multi-mode system designed to facilitate coordinated management of drones in increasingly congested airspace while also supporting identification of rogue drones, was demonstrated at an IAF-hosted event in Rajasthan's Pokhran range on Monday, officials said.

The 'Unmanned Traffic Management' system is ground-based and has potential applications beyond the military domain, including in areas related to airspace safety, critical infrastructure, civil aviation and public safety, they said.

The event-- 'Dronathon 2026'-- being hosted from September 14-16 at the Pokhran range in Jaisalmer seeks to offer domestic manufacturers an opportunity to exhibit their capabilities and advancements in unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and counter-UAS. It is designed to help stakeholders to witness emerging drone and counter-drone technologies along with their operations' demonstration, officials said.

On the opening day, the IAF successfully demonstrated a key capability of 'Vayu UTtaM', its indigenously developed

multi-mode UTM system, the defence ministry said.

"With the increasing proliferation of UAS, 'Vayu UTtaM' has potential applications beyond the military domain, including in areas related to airspace safety, critical infrastructure, civil aviation and public safety," the Ministry said in a statement.

The event brings together over 20 leading defence companies, start-ups MSMEs, DPSUs and innovators from India's rapidly evolving unmanned systems ecosystem, the officials said.

"In line with the national objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat and with a focus on enhancing the IAF's capabilities in the unmanned domain, 'Dronathon 2026' was inaugurated by the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, at Jaisalmer today," a senior official said.

Air Marshal Dixit also released the 'IAF UAS Roadmap', providing greater clarity to Indian industry on capability priorities.

The roadmap is intended to facilitate focussed innovation and enable the unmanned airborne systems industry, academia and research organisations to align their efforts with the future requirements of the IAF.

Saudi airstrikes kill 3 people in Yemen

DUBAI, Sept 15 (AP)

A HOUTHİ official said Tuesday that Saudi warplanes struck Yemen, killing three people, including two children, while Human Rights Watch accused the Houthi rebels of possible war crimes with its attacks on commercial vessels.

The renewed fighting in Yemen is endangering civilians and threatening shipping through the Red Sea, a route that has become more important due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz since the US and Israel launched joint strikes against Iran on February 28 to spark the war. The 'Associated Press' couldn't independently verify the Houthi official's claim. The official didn't say what the Saudi warplanes had targeted. Here's a look at the latest news in the Middle East.

3 killed in Saudi airstrikes in Yemen's southwest, Houthis say

Anees al Asbahi, a spokesperson for the Houthi-run Health Ministry, said in an X post that

Saudi airstrikes killed three people, including two children, in Yemen's Taiz province. The 'Associated Press' couldn't independently verify the claim. Al-Asbahi said that two other people were wounded in the strikes.

The escalation comes as the Iran-backed Houthi rebels have seized the strategic islands of Greater and Lesser Hanish in the southern Red Sea, bolstering their ability to control a key maritime shipping route.

Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz - through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and gas transits in peacetime - in the opening days of the war. The Saudis have since used the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which leads out of the Red Sea, for crude oil exports.

The Houthis' latest seizures, which follow their capture of the Red Sea port of Mokha and a strategic island last week, puts more pressure on Saudi shipments and, in turn, global oil supplies and prices.

NATO jets down drone over Lithuania

VILNIUS (Lithuania), Sept 15 (AP)

NATO fighter jets shot down a drone that entered Lithuanian airspace overnight, officials said Tuesday, the day after the head of NATO said strikes close to its territory would only increase its support for Ukraine in its war against Russia's full-scale invasion.

Military officials in Lithuania, a NATO member, said the incident marked the first time that a drone had been shot down in its airspace. Authorities didn't comment on the drone's origin or purpose, saying the incident needed further investigation.

The drone in Lithuania was downed near the village of

NATO countries including Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Poland have in recent weeks accused Russia of involvement in acts such as drone incursions, sabotage, arson, surveillance of defence facilities and planning to use a drone carrying explosives to attack an airport

Pratkunai, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) west of the capital, Vilnius, and near the Kaunas Reservoir, Lithuania's National Crisis Management Centre said Tuesday. Officials in NATO countries including Germany, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Poland have in recent weeks accused Russia of involvement in acts such as drone incursions, sabotage, arson, surveillance of

defence facilities and planning to use a drone carrying explosives to attack an airport.

Rutte on Monday said strikes "close to NATO territory" showed Russian President Vladimir Putin's "desperation and also his desire to sow fear and terror."

"Russia is growing increasingly reckless as it continues its terrible war against Ukraine," Rutte said. He also pledged to bolster

the 32-nation alliance's own defences along its long eastern border with Russia and with Belarus, a Russian ally.

The menace of drones has repeatedly loomed over the skies of Lithuania, which shares borders with Belarus and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. In May, residents of Vilnius were told to take shelter and the president and prime minister were taken to safe locations amid an alarm over drone activity near the border with Belarus.

Stray Ukrainian drones have also previously crossed the border into Baltic airspace, including in May when a NATO fighter jet shot down a Ukrainian drone over southern Estonia.

Border peace must for improving ties, Modi conveyed to Xi

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PM (Modi) underlined both sides be guided by three mutuals, mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity," said MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal. **Narendra Modi** had told **Xi Jinping** that border peace forms an essential basis for taking the relationship forward.

Amid repeated cases of border strife with China, India had stopped publicly articulating its One-China policy 16 years ago. However, in practice, India's position on Tibet and Taiwan has remained unchanged under successive govts.

Govt maintains its policy on Taiwan is clear and consistent, as it facilitates and promotes interactions in areas of trade, investment, tourism, culture, education and other such people-to-people exchanges.

On Tibet, India continues to recognise that Tibet Autonomous Region is part of the territory of People's Republic of China, as stated in the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation signed by then PM Vaj-

payee and Premier Wen Jiabao in 2003. The declaration also stated that India does not allow Tibetans to engage in anti-China political activities in the country.

According to Chinese readout, Modi had also told Xi that India followed an independent foreign policy and its approach to China had nothing to do with any third country. Indian side did not mention Tibet or Taiwan in its readout. Interestingly, India on this occasion dropped China's 'friends, not rivals' formulation that it used in its readout of the Modi-Xi meeting in Tianjin last year.

After EAM S Jaishankar's meeting with his counterpart Wang Yi in Manila in July, China attributed similar remarks to Jaishankar about India respecting China's sovereignty. MEA later clarified that EAM had told Wang it was India which should be raising sovereignty issues with Beijing. He said India does not violate China's sovereignty in any manner, but China remained in illegal occupation of in J&K and Ladakh since 1963, where India's right is acknowledged even by China.

