EUROPE DISPUTE

Iran may quit nuclear deal if case goes to UN

AFP, Tehran

Iran said yesterday it will consider withdrawing from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if a dispute over its atomic programme goes before the UN Security Council

Britain, France and Germany launched a process last week charging Îran with failing to observe the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal, a move that could eventually see the Security Council reimpose international sanctions on the country.

Iran has accused the three EU member states of inaction over sanctions the United States reimposed on it after unilaterally withdrawing from the landmark accord in 2018.

The European move "has no legal basis" and if they take further measures "Iran's withdrawal from the NPT will be considered," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was quoted as saying by the Iranian parliament's

The landmark 2015 deal reached with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Since the US pullout, Iran has progressively rolled back its commitments to the accord -- the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action -- in

retaliation. It has hit out at the three European nations that remain party to the JCPOA for failing to live up to their promises to ease the impact of US sanctions on its oil-

based economy. "If the Europeans return to the commitments, Iran will also stop reducing its commitments, but if the Europeans continue as they have been... we have different options," said Zarif.



Members of the Christian community along with social activists hold placards and Indian flags as they take part in a rally to protests against the Indian government's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), in Kolkata yesterday.

рното:

Thousands of war missing are dead

Acknowledges Lanka president

Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has acknowledged for the first time that more than 23,500 people missing for a decade since the end of the country's protracted Tamil

Rajapaksa, who played a key role in the military campaign that crushed the Tamil separatist rebels, told a UN envoy that steps would be taken to finally provide death certificates for those reported missing, his office said.

"President Rajapaksa outlined his plans to address the issue of missing persons," said a statement on the president's meeting with UN resident coordinator Hanaa

"He explained that these missing persons are actually

Some 5,000 security forces are among the 23,500 people never accounted for.

The statement said most of the missing civilians had been conscripted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which was crushed in a major offensive that ended in May 2009.

"The families of the missing attest to it. However, they do not know what has become of them and so claim them to be missing," the president said.

Under current law, families cannot access property deeds, bank accounts or inheritances left by missing relatives unless they can conclusively prove they are dead -- an often impossible task.

Refugees can't be sent back | Pak PM reiterates need for

Says landmark UN human rights ruling as 143m people are at risk of becoming climate migrants

CNN ONLINE

Refugees fleeing the effects of the climate crisis cannot be forced to return home by their adoptive countries, a United Nations panel has ruled, in a landmark decision that could open the door to a flood of legal claims by displaced people around the world.

City

The UN's Human Rights Committee was making a judgment on the case of Ioane Teitiota, who applied for protection from New Zealand after claiming his life was at risk in his home country of Kiribati. The Pacific island is at risk of becoming the first country to disappear under rising sea levels.

The committee ruled against Teitiota on the basis that his life was not at imminent risk -- but it also outlined that countries could violate people's international rights if they force them back to countries where climate change poses an immediate threat.

"Without robust national and international efforts, the effects of climate change in receiving states may expose individuals to a violation of becoming climate migrants. their rights," its ruling said.

The decision could have a significant impact on future claims,

CLIMATE CRISIS



as the number of people forced from their homes from the intensifying climate emergency grows.

Droughts, crop failure and rising seas are expected to force tens of millions to move to other areas in the coming years. A 2018 study by the World Bank found that 143 million people across South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America are at risk of

In its ruling, the committee cited articles 6 and 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which ensure an individual's inherent right to life.

"Given that the risk of an entire country becoming submerged under water is such an extreme risk, the conditions of life in such a country may become incompatible with the right to life with dignity before the risk is realized," its decision added.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified Teitiota's home nation of Kiribati as one of the six Pacific Island countries most threatened by rising sea levels. The report claims that, due to coastal erosion and freshwater contamination, Kiribati could become uninhabitable as early as 2050.

It has been among a group of Pacific nations sounding the alarm over climate change in recent years but has run up against resistance from nearby Australia.

UN to intervene in Kashmir

Warns India over civilian killings on LoC

DAWN ONLINE

Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday that Pakistan will not continue to watch as India carries out military attacks along the Line of Control (LoC) targeting civilians. Taking to Twitter, the prime minister

said: "I want to make clear to India and the international community that if India continues its military attacks killing civilians across LoC, Pakistan will find it increasingly difficult to remain an inactive observer along the LoC.

He reiterated that the United Nations needs to intervene in the situation in occupied Kashmir.

"As Indian occupation forces continue to target and kill civilians across the LoC with increasing intensity and frequency, there is an urgent need for UNSC [United Nations Security Council] to insist India allow UNMOGÍP [United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan] to return [to the LoC along occupied Kashmir]." "We fear an Indian false flag operation,"

Imran added.

On Friday, China called on India to "give serious consideration and positive response to the request of UNSC members" on occupied Kashmir after a recently-held UNSC meeting to review the situation in the valley. During a press conference, Chinese

foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang rubbished claims that the issue did not get much support from members of the UNSC.

"Members of the Security Council are concerned about the current situation in occupied Kashmir, and call for observance of the UN Charter and international law, and peaceful resolution of disputes

through political dialogue. They believe relevant parties should remain restrained and de-escalate the tension," said Shuang.

"I shall stress that the India and Pakistan issue has all along been on the agenda of the UNSC, and the Security Council should continue to pay attention to occupied Kashmir in light of new developments," he

NYT endorses Warren,

Klobuchar for president The New York Times on Sunday endorsed

Senators Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren for the Democratic presidential nomination, its

first time choosing two candidates. The liberal newspaper's pick comes just a few weeks

before the lowa caucuses on February 3 which

officially begins the presidential primary

senator Klobuchar as the "realist" choice.

"An essential debate is underway between

two visions that may define the future of

the (Democratic) party and perhaps the

consideration," the board said.

single-use plastics

China is stepping up restrictions on the production, sale and use of single-use plastic products, the state planner said on Sunday, as

it seeks to tackle one of the country's biggest

environmental problems. Vast amounts of untreated plastic waste are buried in landfills

or dumped in rivers. The United Nations has

identified single-use plastics as one of the world's biggest environmental challenges.

Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and

Environment said plastic bags will be banned

in all of China's major cities by the end of 2020

and banned in all cities and towns in 2022.

from the ban until 2025.

Markets selling fresh produce will be exempt

The National Development and Reform

nation," the editorial board wrote. "Both the

radical and the realist models warrant serious

China moves to phase out

season. The Times described Massachusetts

senator Warren as the "radical" and Minnesota

No more arms

World powers pledge to halt Libya weapon transfers, urge permanent ceasefire

Berlin summit failed to

deliver serious dialogue

between warring

parties in Libya

AFP, Berlin

World leaders committed to ending all foreign meddling in Libya's civil war at a Berlin summit on Sunday night, and to uphold a weapons embargo as part of a broader plan to end the long-running

The presidents of Russia, Turkey and France were among global chiefs signing up to the agreement to stop interfering in the war -- be it through weapons, troops or financing

But the talks failed to deliver "serious dialogue"

between the warring parties -- strongman Khalifa Haftar and the head of Tripoli's UNrecognised government Fayez al-Sarraj -- or to get both sides to sign up to a permanent

"Ensuring that a ceasefire is immediately respected is simply not easy to guarantee,' said summit host Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"But I hope that through today's conference, we have a chance the truce will hold further."

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged that there are "still some questions on how well and effectively" the commitments can be monitored

But he said he is "optimistic that there will be less violence and... an opportunity to begin the conversation that (UN special envoy) Ghassan Salame has been trying to get going the Libyan between parties".

Libya has been torn by fighting between rival armed factions since a 2011 Natobacked uprising killed dictator Moamer

Most recently, Sarraj's troops in Tripoli have been under attack since April from



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (C), reacts as he visits the Pavegen's stand, a company that converts footsteps into energy, in the Innovation Zone at the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London yesterday.

PHOTO

Philippine volcano recharging

More than 110,000 take refuge as evacuation crackdown ordered

Philippine authorities yesterday ordered a crackdown on evacuees' daily visits to their homes in the danger zone around Taal volcano as scientists warned it could be "recharging" for a more powerful explosion.

More than 110,000 people have taken refuge in evacuation centres since Taal burst to life a week ago, but many hard-hit towns have let residents back for hours each day to fetch items, feed livestock and clean up their houses.

"We are directing DRRMCs (civil defence officers)... not to allow anyone to enter the danger zone," said Epimaco Densing, undersecretary for the Department of Interior.

"It's dangerous, that's why we have imposed a lockdown," he told

The volcano shot ash 15 kilometres (nine miles) high in the January 12 eruption, which crushed scores of homes and killed livestock as well as

warned the volcano could imminently unleash a much bigger eruption, posing a deadly risk to anyone in the 14-kilometre radius "danger zone" that surrounds it.



Continued earthquakes and an increase in the volcano's emission of sulfur dioxide gas were possible indications of a "recharge" of magna, which would drive a major blast, a top scientist said.

there's a re-supply of magma which could possibly... cause an eruption that could be strong," Renato Solidum, head of the Philippines' seismological

However, seismologists have agency, told a local radio station. Until experts deem the threat has passed, evacuees will need the shelters spread across some 400 sites

that range from school campuses to

covered basketball courts.

Conditions vary between sites, but several evacuees told AFP they were getting food and a place to sleep, but that bathrooms were in high demand.

"It's really difficult to take a bath or use the toilet because of the sheer numbers (of evacuees), but we can take it," said Sonia Awitan, 55.

"What is important is we have a place to shelter and sleep in," she Authorities say they have so far

been able to provide fundamental services to the evacuees, but are concerned about the longer term. "We can handle the (current

"We consider these are signs that evacuee numbers). The issue is how are we going to sustain resources over the longer term," Alex Masiglat, spokesman for disaster relief in the ground zero Calabarzon region.

SIPHONING OFF PUBLIC MONEY

Angola targets former president's daughter

country".

Angola's prosecutor general yesterday vowed to use "all possible" means to bring back Isabel dos Santos, the ex-president's billionaire daughter who is accused of siphoning off millions of dollars of public money. "We will use all possible means and activate

international mechanisms to bring Isabel dos Santos back to the country," prosecutor general Helder Pitra Gros told public

Dos Santos left Luanda after her father's successor President Joao Lourenco came to power in 2017, and now moves mostly between Lisbon and London. The prosecutor's remarks came after a trove of 715,000 files dubbed

the "Luanda Leaks" was released at the weekend and accused the eldest daughter of former president Jose Eduardo dos Santos of funneling state funds from the oil-rich country into overseas assets. Back home, the 46-year-old Dos Santos is already being probed under

an anti-graft campaign launched by Lourenco, who has vowed to root out corruption and rebuild the economy. Prosecutors last month froze the bank accounts and holdings owned by

the businesswoman and her Congolese husband Sindika Dokolo. The prosecutor general said "it was quite a coincidence that she received our (investigation) notification during the day and at night she left the



Top Pak activist prevented from leaving country

Pakistani authorities refused to let a top human rights lawyer leave the country, citing her "anti-state activities", she told AFP yesterday, in what appeared to be the latest example of an ongoing rights crackdown. Jalila Haider, who last year featured on a BBC list of 100 inspiring and influential women for her work defending women's rights in Pakistan, was briefly detained by immigration officials in Lahore as she tried to fly to Britain to attend a workshop on women's issues. They released her after several hours, she told AFP, but barred her from leaving the country, telling her that her name was on a no-fly list.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS