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The US and Iran Agree on a Deal for Peace



- Uproar over action against illegal mosques and dargahs
- 3,700 people killed in Israeli attacks in Lebanon
- Open rebellion against Pakistan in PoJK
- Committee formed for probe into madrasas in Bihar

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Summary

A temporary peace agreement has been reached between the US and Iran. According to analysts, the way US President Donald Trump is presenting this agreement as his achievement and victory is completely at odds with the ground reality. The reason for this is that Iran has never accepted that it is developing its nuclear energy to make nuclear weapons. There is no doubt that Iran has suffered huge damages in the recent war. It has even lost its top leadership. Experts opine that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will make all efforts to ensure that this agreement will not succeed. For this, they could use the Israeli army present in Lebanon as their trump card.

The agitation launched by 'Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee' in Pak Occupied Jammu-Kashmir has now taken a violent turn. As per official data, 30 people have been killed so far in the violent clashes that took place between the public and the army, whereas non-governmental sources said this number has crossed 150. For the past two weeks, life has come to a standstill in the entire region. The latest dispute started over a demand to cancel the 12 seats in the PoJK Assembly, which are reserved for the refugees who had fled from the Jammu-Kashmir in Bharat. Recently, the PoJK Assembly had passed a resolution to further maintain these seats. In protest against this, the JAC demands that these seats shall be cancelled immediately. Their allegation is that the federal government of Pakistan is using these seats to bring their favourite leaders to the Assembly through backdoor and form their own puppet government there. Added to this, the people of PoJK are fed up with rising inflation. In the past, the Pakistan government used to provide huge subsidy to the people of PoJK and supply food items on cheap rates. However, Pakistan—currently grappling with destitution and a severe economic crisis—has cut this subsidy, leading to a massive surge in food prices.

There is a section in India that is always active in inciting a large section of the society against the government and the majority community by blowing minor issues out of proportion. Some Muslim organizations are making a despicable attempt to use the ongoing court-mandated drive to remove illegal encroachments on government land across various states as a tool for malicious propaganda against the government and the majority community. Whenever the masjids and mazars built illegally on government land are removed on the directions of the courts, a section among the Muslims gives it the colour of religious persecution and tries to provoke people against the government. The activities of such elements are definitely not in the interest of the peace and law order in the country.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav announced that the state government will soon implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. An online portal has also been launched in this connection so that citizens in the country could give their recommendations regarding the UCC and make the government aware of their viewpoints. The chief minister said that a high-level committee headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, has been constituted to prepare a draft of the UCC, which will contact all the religious and social leaders and take their opinion.

National

Uproar over action against illegal masjids and dargahs



As part of the drive to remove encroachments on government lands in several parts of the country, bulldozers were used to remove masjids and madrasas in several states. Some people are trying to give it a communal colour and incite Muslims.

Inquilab (June 18) reports that an illegal mosque and a mazar were demolished on the orders of the court in Anguthi village in Sadar tehsil in Agra. A complaint regarding this encroachment was lodged in the court by a man from the village itself in which he had stated that some people had constructed a masjid and a mazar after illegally occupying the land of gram sabha. Taking cognizance of the matter, the court directed that the illegal constructions shall be removed.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 12) states that a mazar built on forest department's land in Etawah in Uttar Pradesh has been demolished using bulldozers. The local Muslim community claim that this mazar was that of Syed Baba, a commander of Muhammad Ghorī, which is nearly 800 years old. Local people alleged that a team comprising police and administration officials completely razed this shrine under the cover of darkness. Following this, the forest department flattened the land and immediately planted

saplings there so that no remnants of the masjid will remain.

Qaumi Tanzeem (June 12) states that the manager of Syed Baba mazar claimed that the mazar was built on a 3,000 square feet land. It is being said that a complaint was registered against this illegal construction on the Jan Sunvai portal of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in January. Following this, the district magistrate investigated the matter and the inquiry report confirmed that this mazar was built on forest department land in an illegal manner. The manager of the mazar questioned the issue in the court, but the court rejected his petition. Later the administration took necessary legal action in this connection.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 4) states that on the directions of the district magistrate of Ghaziabad, two madrasas located in Khoda region were sealed under 'Operation Clean Sweep.' As per another news, 'Madarsa Arabia Islam' located at Kallu Garhi locality in Ghaziabad's Dasna was demolished. The local administration claimed that this madarsa was built on government land and had been running without any official sanction.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 8) reports that the administration in Sambhal district in Uttar Pradesh, while taking a



major action, razed the Mustafa Qadari Masjid located in Kaserava village. According to the district administration, this mosque was constructed in an illegal manner on the land allocated for public Kabristan. The tehsilar's court had issued an order to remove this illegal construction on April 21, following which this 1,200 sq metre government land has been completely freed of encroachments.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 4) states that the administration in Varanasi has demolished 200-year-old 'Ajagaib Shaheed Masjid.' The entire remains were removed in trucks in the night itself. In order to remove this masjid, the administration had reached the spot along with 1,000 police personnel. The DCP of Kashi, Gaurav Bansal, got barricading done on all the four sides of the masjid one day earlier itself and stopped the arrival of people. Following this, bulldozer action started. The administration says that the masjid was built on railway land. This matter had gone to the court and the court had delivered the verdict in favour of the railways. The administration also said that a model of Kashi Railway Station is being built here, hence it is being expanded. The action was taken in connection with it.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 3) states that the administration has sealed the Jama Masjid located in Dehradun in Uttarakhand. The local Muslim community claims that this masjid was quite old and it

was registered with government records and Waqf Board. Local Muslims have been regularly offering prayers here. On the other hand, the administration said that this masjid was built in an illegal manner, hence it was demolished.

Hindustan (June 9) reports that the local administration has demolished the Noori Masjid located in Mira Bhayandar locality in Thane district in Maharashtra. This action continued for several hours. The administration claimed that a temple built adjacent to this masjid was also demolished. These two religious places were illegally built on government land. The commissioner of the municipal corporation said that any illegal constructions on government land will not be tolerated at all, and bulldozer action against such structures will continue in the future as well.

Etemaad (June 14) in its editorial claimed that last week, several masjids and mazars located in different parts of the country were demolished by the administration after describing them as illegal, which were mostly located in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The newspaper alleged that this campaign was motivated by a sense of hatred against Muslims. If the intention of the government is to remove illegal encroachments, then some temples would also have been demolished. Demolishing only masjids and mazars after describing them as illegal is a



part of the conspiracy to erase the religious identity of Muslims, which has the full support of the government.

The newspaper complained that after destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, the administration has got emboldened and is now hell bent on deliberately wiping out all traces of mosques and shrines across the country. Muslims are watching helplessly and powerlessly as bulldozers are driven over their mosques. To top it all, an old mosque in Sambhal was completely removed overnight. When people arrived in the morning to offer namaz, they could not find even a trace of the masjid. In the same manner, a 200-old masjid in Varanasi was razed saying that it was built on railway land, whereas the railway line was laid just a 100 years ago in this region. The Noorani masjid in Jaipur was also demolished in the name of encroaching on the road. This masjid was 40 years old and its entire record is registered with Waqf Board.

A mazar in Yamuna Colony in Uttarakhand capital Dehradun was also demolished in the same manner. Interestingly, the information that this masjid was an illegal one was provided to the administration by the activists of Bajrang Dal. They complained that this mazar was built after encroaching on government land. During the BJP government's term in Jharkhand, a massive campaign was launched against illegal religious places as part of which illegal structures of several mazars, masjids and

madrasas were removed. Now, a similar action is being taken in Madhya Pradesh as well.

Urdu Times (June 10) in its editorial has strongly criticised the bulldozer action by BJP-ruled states against masjids and madrasas across the country. The newspaper alleged that the Muslim community is watching this situation helplessly because they are unable to do anything even legally. The courts are under the influence of ruling party and if there is any opposition, the police take action to make arrests.

The newspaper urged Muslims to keep ready all necessary legal documents regarding their masjids and religious places so that when the time comes, concrete evidence could be presented before the administration. Mentioning about the Babri issue, the newspaper claimed that despite the managing committee having all the documents, the Supreme Court has delivered the verdict in favour of Hindus on the basis of faith.

Hindustan (June 10) has complained that in whichever state the BJP comes to power, a campaign to demolish masjids, dargahs and mazars is launched with full vigour. The country's judiciary is also under the influence of the ruling clique, due to which the Muslim community is not being heard. The newspaper alleged that it is becoming difficult for Muslims to live in the country.

Hindustan Express (June 10) in its editorial alleged that the media is dancing to the tunes of the ruling party. Recently, the incident of demolition of Noorani Masjid in Jaipur is the best example of it. In Jaipur, several masjids and dargahs were removed in the name of road beautification under tight police deployment, but major newspapers did not give adequate prominence for this news. This has led a section of society to feel that its religious and social identity is being deliberately erased so that the country could be officially declared as a Hindu nation.

Committee constituted for probe into madrasas in Bihar



Qaumi Tanzeem (June 3) states that as soon as a BJP government assumed power in Bihar, it launched a campaign against Muslims in the state. Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary has ordered a detailed probe into madrasas in the state. Education Minister Mithilesh Tiwari has directed the district magistrates of all districts to conduct a detailed investigation into the activities and financial resources of all government-aided madrasas in their respective regions. Secretary of education department Vinod Singh Gunjyal has ordered the formation of a three-member committee in every block. The chairman of this committee will be the block development officer (BDO) or the circle officer (CO) of the respective block. Similarly, the block education officer (BEO) will be the member-secretary of this committee. This apart, the senior most principal of the government secondary or higher secondary school of the respective block headquarters will also be made a member of this committee.

In a letter issued to the district magistrates of all districts, the secondary education directorate said that the right to appoint members of this committee will be with the District Education Officer (DEO). Within the 10 days of the appointment of the three-member committee, the investigation report of the madrasas

concerned should be handed over to the headquarters. The government states that since the state government provides the financial aid to these madrasas, and the salaries and other things of their employees are given from this grant, it is necessary that the girl and boy students studying in these madrasas get the best education. The government has also decided to visit every madrasa for inspection.

Last week, state's education minister Mithilesh Tiwari had also announced that all fake madrasas and Sanskrit pathshalas in the state will be shut down. This apart, an investigation will also be conducted into the qualification of the employees as well. He said that the fraud that has been taking place in the name of the education for several decades in Bihar will no longer be tolerated. The government will promote only those madrasas and Sanskrit pathshalas which are being run as per the rules.

Urdu Times (June 13) in its editorial alleged that the goal of the campaign unleashed by the ruling party to demolish or shut down the madrasas and masjids across the country is to keep Muslims away from Islam and the religion. It is said in the editorial that madrasas and masjids are the strength of Islam, and hence they are referred to as the 'forts of Islam.' The communal government of BJP seeks to



destroy and ruin them so that Muslims—who gather at these madrasas and mosques to deliberate on religious issues—can be prevented from uniting.

Today the situation has become such that the bulldozer campaign against mosques and madrasas that has started from Uttar Pradesh has spread across the country. The surprising thing is that as soon as coming to power in West Bengal and Bihar, the BJP has started a campaign to destroy and demolish the madrasas in full swing.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 12) in its editorial criticised that the trend of educating their children in English-medium schools is rapidly growing among Muslims. Though every mother-father want to provide higher education to their children, they are drifting away from Islam and the faith due to their education in English medium schools. The newspaper has raised the question: if children do not receive an

environment conducive to religious education during their childhood, how will they become observant of Islam and Shariah? What is needed is that children should be provided religious education and they should be given training in different aspects of Shariah.

Hindustan (June 12) in its editorial criticised that the BJP has stepped up its campaign against Islamic madrasas as soon as it came to power in West Bengal and Bihar. Information is being collected on behalf of the government on issues like registration, number of students and teachers, legal status of land and building and the syllabus of madrasas. Although these are all administrative matters and the government can obtain such information regarding any educational institution, the current political climate in the country—and the fact that a communal party is in power with a well-known hostility towards Muslims—cannot be overlooked. Earlier also, in whichever state the BJP came to power, the madrasas had to face the wrath of the government. They are being shut down on one pretext or other or, they are demolished using bulldozers after declaring them as illegal. Muslims need to remain vigilant against these dangerous intentions of the government.

Preparations on to implement UCC in Madhya Pradesh

Urdu Times (June 2) reports that Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav has announced that the state government is preparing to implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state. With this aim, an official online portal has also been started so that the residents of the state could offer their valuable suggestions and apprise the government of their perspective. The chief minister said that a six-member high-level committee headed by former judge of the Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash

Desai is being formed to prepare the draft of the UCC, which will also contact all the religious and social leaders of the state and collect their opinion.

He said today there is a need to implement the UCC in the country and the Supreme Court has also recommended its implementation several times. According to the chief minister, to empower the women, it is essential to free them from age-old shackles and regressive practices. Dr Mohan Yadav has made it clear that the



law related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, alimony and adoption should be same for every citizen. There should be no discrimination of any kind among citizens based on religion before the law of the land. He mentioned that Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Assam have implemented UCC. Now, it will be implemented in Madhya Pradesh as well.

He said once the report of this six-member committee comes, the Bill regarding the same will be tabled in the Assembly so that UCC is implemented in the state as early as possible. The Chief Minister appealed to the people, social organisations and religious institutions to actively take part in this process and apprise the committee of their views.

Hindustan (June 13) states that the Chhattisgarh Waqf Board has imposed a complete ban on non-Shariah activities such as DJ music, brass bands, Dhumal, singing & dancing, and fireworks on the occasion of Muharram, Urs and other Islamic festivals. Following this decision, a new discussion and debate have begun in the state's political circles. Former deputy chief minister of Chhattisgarh T S Singh Deo said such a law should be made applicable for the festivals of all religions. On the other hand, state's Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao welcomed this direction of the Waqf Board.

It is to be noted that the chairman of Chhattisgarh Waqf Board Dr Salim Raj, while issuing an appeal, said that all the

programmes of Muslims shall be organised in accordance with the laws of Quran, Hadis and Shariah. He issued a clear warning that a fine of upto Rs 50,000 will also be imposed on any committee or individual who violates this direction, and if necessary the recognition of the committee concerned will also be cancelled.

Mumbai Urdu News (June 17) in its editorial alleged that BJP-ruled state governments are hampering the religious rights of Muslims by implementing the UCC. The newspaper said that the Indian Constitution grants every minority the right to lead their life in accordance with their faith and religion. Despite this guarantee in the Constitution, the BJP is implementing unilateral laws on the minorities in order to fulfil its political goals. The newspaper also expressed dissatisfaction that the judiciary is not intervening in this matter.

The newspaper also said that the Maharashtra government had also passed Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill in the name of stopping Love Jihad and forceful conversion. Under this so-called law, the religious freedom of Muslims is being curbed. As per Indian Constitution, every citizen staying in this country has the freedom to practice his religion, follow the customs, enter into marriage and has the freedom to propagate his religion, but the government is deliberately interfering in the Shariah rights of Muslims. The newspaper said that on the pretext of

stopping forceful conversion, stringent laws have been formed in 13 states including Maharashtra till now.

The newspaper has complained that legal action is taken against those who raise their voice against these policies of the

government. The sessions court in Lucknow has awarded life-term to Islamic preacher in Uttar Pradesh, Maulana Kalim Siddiqui, by taking recourse to such a law. It is a misuse of the Constitution and the law.

Terrorist gang arrested in Delhi



Qaumi Tanzeem (June 18) states that the Special Cell of Delhi Police arrested five terrorists of a module linked to Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. A day earlier, seven other terrorists were arrested. Twelve terrorists were arrested in two days in this manner. According to Delhi Police, this network is linked to an ISI handler, Shahzad Bhatti. According to police, after the interrogation of the arrested persons, it has come to light that the ISI has handed over them the responsibility to carry out attacks on police stations in Delhi and nearby states and kill officers. This apart, they were also given the direction to recruit youths to the ISI-supported terrorist organisation 'Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan.' The police also seized weapons and ammunition in huge quantity from them. It is being said that they were given special training in making bombs.

Urdu Times (June 10) reports that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided 18 places in Haryana and Punjab in

search of terrorists linked to terrorist Shahzad Bhatti and took several people into custody. Several electronic equipment and documents were also seized from them. It is said that the Bhatti gang was identified in March 2025 after a grenade attack at the house of Rozer Sandhu, a resident of Jalandhar. This gang carried out a blast at Sirsa police station in Haryana in November 2025.

Later, this gang also carried out a blast at Ambala police station in January 2026.

Qaumi Tanzeem (June 16) states that the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Bihar has arrested a Maulana from Madhubani. He was accused of spying for foreigners. The arrested Maulana was identified as 56-year-old Izahar Qasmi, an original resident of Pandaul police station area in Madhubani. Nowadays, he stays at a madrasa located in Urdu Mohalla under Madhubani city police station area. According to police officers, he was arrested on the basis of information received from Madhya Pradesh intelligence department and Madhya Pradesh ATS. According to investigating officers, this Maulana was in touch with the handlers of ISI. During the raid, mobile phone and suspected sims were also seized from the accused. The accused was handed over NIA for detailed interrogation and further legal proceedings.

Conflicting claims on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj



Hindustan (June 12) in its editorial alleged that communal elements have stepped up their propaganda against the inclusive policies of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the role of Muslim officials in his army. The newspaper said that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been the most popular ruler of Maharashtra, and efforts are being made to popularize him across the country as a major 'Hindutva icon'.

However, the truth is that the popularity of Shavaji was not limited to any particular community in the society and in Maharashtra he was very much popular among every section of the society. In the state, his birthday is celebrated with great pomp and reverence in which Muslims also take part in huge numbers. Stories of his bravery are told in folk songs. Some communal elements are deliberately dragging this popular ruler into controversies.

The latest controversy is that at a function organised by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the head of Bageshwar Dham, Dhirendra Krishna Shastri said that "tired of the constant wars, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj approached Samarth Guru Ramdas. He placed his crown at his feet and requested him to relieve him off his duty as a ruler, because

he does not want to fight any more wars." According to Shastri, Shivaji Maharaj had requested Guru Ramdas that he take back his country from him.

The newspaper said that Dhirendra Krishna Shastri had given a factually incorrect statement that Samarth Ramdas was the guru of Shivaji Maharaj. The truth is that he was not the guru of Shivaji Maharaj. This lie is spread so that Shivaji could be established as a Brahmin. This controversy reached court. The court delivered the verdict that Ramdas was not the guru of Shivaji Maharaj and no such incident took place during his life. You will be surprised to know that Dhirendra Krishna Shastri said this big lie in an event where RSS chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis were present. The surprising thing is that none among the three objected to this lie of Shastri.

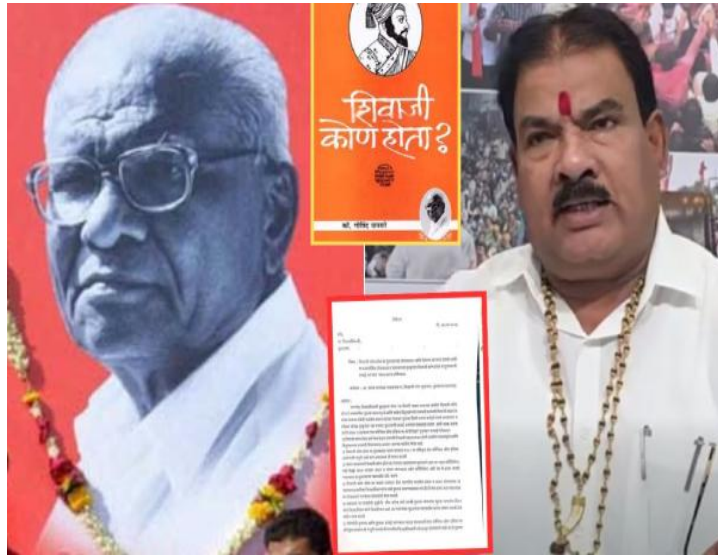
The newspaper claimed that the most trusted companion of Shivaji Maharaj was Maulana Haider Ali. Shivaji Maharaj used to respect women a lot. His army presented the exceptionally beautiful daughter-in-law of a Muslim ruler to him as a gift, but Shivaji Maharaj considered her as his mother and sent her back to the Muslim

ruler's family with full honour and dignity. The truth is that the ideas expressed by Dhirendra Krishna in the presence of RSS leaders is to promote the ideology of the RSS.

The other controversy is related to a legislator of BJP's ally Shiv Sena (Shinde group), Sanjay Gaikwad, who represents Buldhana region. He had threatened to cut the tongue of the publisher who published Govind Pansare's popular book 'Who was Shivaji.'

Sanjay Gaikwad said that Govind Pansare had distorted Maratha history in his book, hence the fate of this publisher will also be same as that of Pansare.

It is worth mentioning that Govind Pansare was killed in 2015 while he was out on a morning walk in Maharashtra. The accused in his murder were found to be linked to Hindutva groups. Govind Pansare was a leader of Communist Party of India (CPI) and he was strongly opposed to social evils. He wrote this book in Marathi after extensive research. The book was first released in 1988 and till now lakhs of its copies have been sold. It has been said in this book that Shivaji Maharaj used to honour all religions. His grandfather Maloji



Bhosle had visited the shrine of the Sufi saint Shah Sharif and made a vow that if, through the saint's blessings, he were blessed with children, he would name them after the saint. This is the reason why when two sons were born in his home, he kept their name as Shahji and Sharifji. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the son of this Shahji Bhosle.

It is true that Shivaji was not against Islam. He had killed Afzal Khan, later he built a maqbara in his honour, which is present even today. The surprising thing is that Sanjay Gaikwad and his supporters have completely overlooked this all-inclusive and secular aspects of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's life.



Open rebellion against Pakistan in PoJK



Urdu Times (June 14) reports that the public in Pakistan-occupied Jammu-Kashmir (PoJK) has openly revolted against the Pakistan government. A spokesperson for the Pakistan government confirmed that 30 people were killed in violent clashes between the army and the public, while non-government sources claim the death toll has exceeded 150.

Normal life remained paralysed across the region for the past two weeks. In fact, the movement announced by the Jammu-Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee regarding the demand to cancel 12 reserved seats in the PoJK Assembly has now taken a violent turn.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while speaking to reporters in Islamabad, admitted that the situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu-Kashmir is extremely tense and explosive. A crowd of over 20,000 protesters is stationed at various locations to march from Rawalakot towards the capital, Muzaffarabad. Local police have completely failed to control the situation, after which the army and Frontier Force have been deployed.

For the past several days, these security forces have been preventing protesters gathered in Rawalakot from marching towards Muzaffarabad. The army

has barricaded roads throughout the region to stop the 'long march' and several military security checkpoints have been established along this route.

According to media reports, 1,500 to 2,000 protesters have been arrested so far. Meanwhile, the Pakistan government alleges that some aggressive activists of the Awami Action Committee have pelted stones and attacked police and security forces, in which serious injuries to security personnel have been confirmed.

Due to this tension, the administration has imposed a curfew in the entire area, and internet and mobile services have been completely shut down. Due to the breakdown of traffic on the roads, there has been a severe shortage of food items and essential goods in this region. The protesters allege that the Pakistani administration has restricted essential life-sustaining items to force people into a settlement.

Supply lines have been deliberately obstructed, leading to serious issues like starvation for people in many remote areas.

According to newspapers, Kashmiri-origin citizens living in Britain and US held massive demonstrations in front of Pakistani embassies in London and New York against the oppression and

harassment of the general public by the army in Pakistan-occupied Jammu-Kashmir.

In Britain, 50 MPs sent a joint letter to British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, demanding that he use diplomatic channels to pressure the Pakistani government. The MPs demanded that the Pakistan government immediately start peaceful talks with the protesters and release all those imprisoned.

Correspondent Jameel Siddiqui from Muzaffarabad reported that he toured the entire PoJK on foot because all petrol pumps were closed due to a severe fuel shortage. No food items are available in any shops. Local citizens confirmed that the supply of essential food items has completely stopped due to the strict curfew and blockades imposed by the army.

He further stated that Pakistani security forces are continuously conducting raids to arrest top leaders of the Joint Awami Action Committee, but they have hidden themselves in hilly areas and safe houses.

The federal government of Pakistan has announced huge rewards for the arrest of these important leaders. It is worth noting that in the PoJK Legislative Assembly, 12 seats are reserved for those who migrated from the Indian area of Jammu and Kashmir. These seats are reserved for refugees who have come.

Recently, the Legislative Assembly there passed a resolution and decided to continue these reserved seats in the future as well. In contrast, the Awami Action Committee demands that these 12 reserved seats be abolished immediately, because the federal government of Pakistan, under the guise of these seats, brings its favourite leaders and representatives through the back door to form its puppet government there.

It is noteworthy that the total number of seats in the PoJK Legislative Assembly



is 53, of which 45 are elected seats. Out of the remaining eight nominated seats, five seats are reserved for women, one seat for Ulema, one seat for a technocrat, and one seat for Kashmiris living abroad. Representatives at the local level are elected through direct voting. Those 12 seats are also included in the 45 elected seats, which have been reserved for refugees from Jammu and Kashmir living in different parts of Pakistan. However, the local people of PoJK do not vote for these 12 seats. Currently, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is in power as the largest party in the PoJK Legislative Assembly, whose senior leader Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore holds the post of Prime Minister.

A spokesperson for the Awami Action Committee stated that a major reason for public anger is that the government has stopped providing subsidies on flour and other food items, causing their prices to increase nearly threefold. He also mentioned that the price of electricity, which was previously Rs 9 per unit, has been increased to Rs 32 per unit.

He claimed that while the government purchases electricity from the Water and Power Development Authority at just Rs 1.3 per unit, it is charging the public Rs 32 per unit. The spokesperson further noted that a 20-kg bag of flour is currently selling for up to Rs 5,500 in the market, whereas previously, due to government subsidies, the same bag was available to the public for Rs 1,590. He alleged that the federal government is



looting Kashmiris and spending this money on the luxuries of Pakistani army officials.

It is to be noted that Jammu-Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee was constituted in 2023 to hold protests against rising inflation in this region. The current president of this organisation is Shaukat Nawaz Mir. The government imposed a ban on this organisation on June 5, 2026. The government had announced a reward of Rs one crore for the arrest of its four prominent leaders namely Shaukat Nawaz Mir, Umar Nasir Kashmiri, Mehran Arshad and Sardar Aman Khan, which was increased to Rs 5 crore after serious violent clashes.

Etemaad (June 10) reports that regarding the violation of civil rights in

PoJK, India's Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the Pakistan government has been ignoring the resolution of this region's complex problems for several decades. The current explosive situation is a result of that.

Chattan (June 17) reports that human rights activist Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza has strongly condemned the ongoing atrocities against Kashmiris in PoJK and has

demanded that the Indian government intervene in this matter immediately. He stated that it is a matter of great shame that the Pakistani army is entering the homes of hundreds of veiled women to arrest and assault them. He alleged that the way the Pakistani Punjabi army is carrying out a massacre of Kashmiris should be opposed by countries across the world.

Another Kashmiri organisation, the Kashmir Diaspora Coalition, has demanded that the Pakistan government refrain from using military force to crush the public discontent brewing against inflation in PoJK and instead begin a process of dialogue with the Joint Awami Action Committee.

Ban on smartphones in Afghanistan



Qaumi Tanzeem (June 12) reports that the Taliban government of Afghanistan has imposed a complete ban on the use of smartphones in all government offices,

military installations, and educational institutions across the country. A *firman* has been issued by the Taliban's supreme leader (Amir) Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada.

This order states that no Taliban member, government department employee, soldier, police officer, staff of intelligence agencies, teachers of educational institutions, or students will be allowed to bring or use smartphones at their workplace. Along with this, all security departments have been instructed to prepare a list of smartphone users nationwide and immediately inform the military headquarters.

Anyone who violates this order will face trial in military courts, and their device will be publicly destroyed. This stringent step has been taken because the Taliban government fears that confidential administrative information is being leaked through these modern devices and sensitive information from military bases is being leaked.

It is significant to note that in 1996, when the Taliban first came to power, a complete ban was imposed on television across the country.

According to *Al Arabia*, there is significant public anger against this government decision. Recently, in the Herat region of western Afghanistan, a large number of women and girls were arrested for not wearing the hijab and burqa.

Violent protests against these arrests went viral on the internet via mobile phones. Following this, the administration conducted house-to-house searches in Herat, confiscated people's mobile phones, and destroyed them collectively.

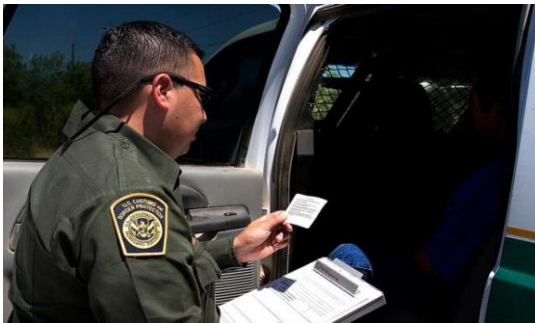
The government has also prohibited the use of phones in all schools, colleges and madrasas in the country. The managers of these institutions have been directed that they do not allow any boy or girl student to use mobile and smartphones in their institutions. The institutions have been asked to conduct a search on students once in a while so that if any illegal phone is



found it could be confiscated immediately. The religious education department within the Afghanistan's education ministry ordered all the madrasas that they strictly stop the use of mobile phones by boy and girl students, because it spreads obscenity in the society. The Taliban administration alleges that male and female students watch videos of models wearing Western clothes, which is against the fundamental principles of Islam and Sharia.

Higher Education Minister in Taliban government, Neda Mohammad Nadim, has stated that smartphones and mobile phones are the biggest enemies of Muslims and Islam. Meanwhile, analysts say that the Taliban administration has imposed a ban on the use of smartphones because people record videos of the government's suppression of opponents and public brutal punishments, then circulate them on social media. This tarnishes the image of Afghanistan and the Taliban administration worldwide.

30 Indian truck drivers arrested in the US



Hindustan (June 3) states that 30 Indian nationals have been arrested in the US for residing illegally and operating commercial

vehicles. All these people were working as truck drivers. A special operation was conducted by the US Customs and Border Protection department in the Yuma sector of Arizona targeting illegal immigrants. This targeted mission was named 'Operation Checkmate', under which a total of 52 people were taken into custody. Among the 52 people, 36 were driving heavy commercial trucks, and 30 of those drivers are Indian nationals.

Most of the arrested Indian drivers possessed commercial driving licences



(CDL) issued by the states of California, New York, Washington, and Virginia. These licenses were reportedly issued during the previous Biden administration but have been declared invalid under the current Trump administration's stricter immigration policies.

US authorities stated that these people will soon be deported from the US back to India. A spokesperson said that the aim of the campaign is to detect and remove undocumented immigrants illegally driving heavy commercial vehicles on US highways to ensure public safety.

Notably, under a new policy order of President Donald Trump, there is now a complete ban on issuing or renewing temporary work permits for asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants. The current administration has also decided that employment authorisation documents and commercial licences issued to foreign nationals during the previous

administration's tenure are now under review or subject to invalidation. Their eligibility documents will be cancelled immediately. Legal proceedings have been initiated to deport all such violators, considering them as illegal immigrants.

Urdu Times (June 11) reports that a federal court in the US has sentenced 50-year-old Taliban commander Haji Najibullah to 42 years in prison for the 2008 kidnapping of US journalist David Rohde.

According to US media, Haji Najibullah was involved in the abduction of US journalist David Rohde in Afghanistan in 2008. Along with him, two of his associates were also abducted and kept in captivity for nearly seven months. Later, these journalists managed to escape and reach the US safely. Acting on their complaint, the Taliban commander was arrested in Ukraine and extradited to the US.

While presenting digital and documentary evidence in a New York court, the government prosecutor proved that Najibullah was not only the mastermind of the kidnapping case but also planned attacks on the US military convoys in Afghanistan and was responsible for the killing of US soldiers. Based on these documents and witness statements, the court sentenced Najibullah to a long prison term.

Campaign against migrants in Britain

Urdu Times (June 12) reports that following a deadly attack on an Irish citizen in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, a series of violent attacks against immigrant citizens has intensified across Britain. Violent mobs are targeting the homes and shops of immigrants in various areas and setting them on fire.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has appealed to the public to maintain peace. He stated that people should not take the

law into their own hands and should not target the properties of immigrant citizens. Starmer warned that if the police fail to control these attacks, the government will be forced to seek the assistance of the army.

According to media reports, this tension began when a Muslim immigrant of Sudanese origin had a dispute with an Irish citizen. During this, 30-year-old Sudanese citizen Hadi Alodid attacked a 40-year-old



Irish man with a knife, seriously injuring him. The attacker was arrested from the scene. As news of this attack spread, fierce protests against immigrants began in various cities of Britain.

A crowd of masked people targeted the homes, shops, and places of worship of immigrants in at least a dozen locations. In Southampton, African immigrants' shops were looted and then set on fire. In Glasgow as well, Indian and Pakistani immigrants had to face heavy losses due to this violence.

According to the police, the Sudanese attacker first came to Paris from Sudan. He reached Belfast in 2023. After this, he sought political asylum from the British Home Office. On this basis, he was granted legal permission to stay in Britain until 2028.

According to the newspaper, right-wing organization leader Tommy Robinson started an inflammatory campaign against immigrants on social media, appealing to the British public to take to the streets to take revenge. Following this, people came out on the streets in various cities of Britain

and began targeting immigrants and their locations. The right-wing British political party Reform UK has demanded that an immediate ban be imposed on the issuance of visas to migrants and to expel illegal migrants currently living in Britain and send them back to their countries of origin.

Urdu Times (June 13) reports that most of the violence against migrant citizens has occurred in Protestant-majority areas, while Catholic-majority areas remained largely peaceful. According to a police spokesperson, an intensive investigation is underway to determine if there was a planned conspiracy behind inciting these riots and whether any specific organization was involved in spreading the unrest.

The police spokesperson clarified that those who played a role in inciting the riots through social media are being identified and are being traced and arrested. In view of the tension, all mosques and Islamic centres in Northern Ireland have been closed indefinitely, while strict security arrangements have also been made for mosques located across Britain. ■

Tension between Bangladesh and India over illegal infiltrators

Urdu Times (June 11) reports that a dispute has arisen between India and Bangladesh regarding the deportation of illegal infiltrators living in India by the Border Security Force (BSF).

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has completely banned the re-entry of any infiltrator into their country. To stop these individuals, Bangladesh has deployed a large number of additional armed guards in more than two dozen sensitive areas bordering West Bengal and Tripura.

BSF officials have confirmed that the Bangladesh Ministry of Home Affairs has also deployed armed personnel from the 'Bangladesh Ansar' and Village Defence Party at the border. These security forces are reportedly using the power of gun to push back the infiltrators, who were deported from India, back towards the Indian border.

So far, India has expelled more than 5,000 Bangladeshi infiltrators. To prevent their entry, Bangladeshi forces have installed barbed wire fencing in more than 20 border locations, including Nawabganj, Thakurganj, Dinajpur, and Kushtia.

Hindustan (June 13) reports that a delegation led by the director-general of the BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh), Major



General Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, met with the director-general of the BSF (Border Security Force).

During this meeting, the Bangladeshi delegation alleged that India is forcibly pushing illegal migrants into Bangladesh territory, which is a violation of international rules.

On the other hand, India's stance is that it is only legally deporting those infiltrators whose foreign or illegal citizenship has been confirmed by Indian courts and legal processes. Additionally, India emphasized that Bangladesh should stop deploying additional armed guards on its border, as this creates unnecessary tension.

The director-general of the BGB claimed that from May 2025 until January this year, a total of 2,479 people were pushed into the Bangladesh border by the BSF, including 120 Indian citizens.

Agreement between the US and Iran



BBC (June 18) reports that a ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran has been officially signed and implemented with immediate effect. US President Donald Trump signed this historic agreement in Paris, the capital of France, while Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian gave his approval through digital media. This 14-point agreement is known as a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

According to this agreement, Iran will never build nuclear weapons. In return, a regional fund of USD 300 billion will be arranged for Iran's reconstruction and economic development. This agreement became possible through diplomatic efforts nearly four months after the attacks carried out by the US and Israel on Iran in February 2026. The Trump administration has called this agreement a major diplomatic success.

However, many parts of the agreement remain unresolved. The first paragraph of the agreement states that US, Iran, and their allies will announce the immediate and permanent end of military campaigns on every front. This also includes Lebanon.

It is significant to note that continuous opposition is being expressed

against including Lebanon in this agreement by Israel, while Iran has emphasised including Lebanon in this agreement several times. A spokesperson for the Iranian foreign ministry stated that if Israel continues military operations in Lebanon, it will be a violation of the agreement, and we will take necessary steps against it.

The agreement states that from now on, no party will initiate military action, and both will not threaten each other. Along with this, Iran's regional integrity and sovereignty will also be respected. Israel's reaction to this agreement has not come yet. Trump has said that this agreement with Iran is not final. If it is not implemented within two months, the US will again start bombing Iran. According to the third point of the document, US and Iran will try to complete the negotiations on the final agreement within a maximum of 60 days. If both sides agree, this deadline can be extended further. According to the fourth point, as soon as the MoU is signed, US will begin lifting its naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the Iranian foreign ministry, within 30 days, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz will be completely

ended and it will be opened for normal traffic. Within 30 days of signing the final agreement, US has promised to withdraw its forces from areas surrounding Iran. This directly means that the US military will return to the same position and resources that existed before the conflict began on February 28.

Iran will endeavour to ensure that commercial ships can pass safely through the Strait of Hormuz. No fee will be charged for this. Since the war began and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz was established, it has been US's effort to reopen this waterway for the traffic of ships at any cost.

In the sixth point of the MoU, it is stated that US and its regional partners will prepare a plan of at least \$300 billion for the reconstruction and economic development of Iran. An official stated that US will not even need to give a single penny to Iran, and it will not be mandatory for it to contribute to this fund. The Trump administration has stated that this agreement is completely different from the 2015 Iran-Obama nuclear deal. According to the seventh point, all sanctions imposed by US on Iran will be lifted. This includes the sanctions imposed on the basis of the resolutions under United Nations Security Council and the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States.

As per the eighth point, Iran has agreed that it will never buy nuclear weapons, nor manufacture them. The two sides have also agreed that the existing enriched uranium of Iran will be addressed. As of now, it is not clear what will be solution. A senior US official has described it as a major victory for the US. It has also been said in the agreement that Iran will maintain its nuclear program at its current level until the issue of enriched uranium is resolved. It means that the US will not impose any fresh sanctions on Iran. During this time, the US will grant waivers to Iran



for oil, petroleum products, and related services, such as banking, transactions, and transportation. It is said in the 11th point of the document that after the signing of the MoU, the US promises to make frozen or restricted funds fully available.

It is said in the final point of the document that the US and Iran will create a system for compliance with the MoU and oversee the final agreement in the future. However, it is not clear what will be this system.

The **New York Times** (June 18) stated that Trump is presenting his achievements in an exaggerated manner. The Trump administration is strongly insisting that Iran has agreed not to build nuclear weapons. However, the reality is that Iran has never insisted that it would build a nuclear bomb. There is nothing new in this.

While joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970, Iran had made the same promise—that it would use nuclear power for peaceful purposes and not in war. In the 2015 nuclear deal, it had said the same, that it would not build nuclear weapons.

In this new agreement, Iran has been asked to convert nearly 11 tons of its enriched nuclear material with them into low-density material. This means the uranium will be diluted so much that it cannot be used to make nuclear weapons.

These 11 tonnes of material also includes about 440 kgs of uranium that has



already been enriched up to 60 per cent. Therefore, if Iran wanted, it could easily make a nuclear bomb from it. The agreement also does not state that Iran must send this material out of the country. Iran has long been opposing the idea of handing over its uranium stockpiles to foreign countries and stands by that position today. Although, under the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran had sent a large portion of its then-enriched uranium stockpile to Russia, despite this, it continues to enrich uranium.

Many big questions remain unresolved, such as—will Iran be able to keep a stockpile of enriched uranium with it? Will it have to shut down its major nuclear facilities? Will it get permission to enrich new uranium? At this time, at least 16 nuclear programs/plants are active in Iran.

The second question is that in this agreement, where an assurance of a \$300 billion Iran Development Fund has been given, where will that money come from? And how will it be spent? President Trump has already said that the US will not put money directly into this fund. After the agreement, the US will have to lift the sanctions imposed on Iranian oil exports. This will definitely help Iran improve its situation economically.

According to the New York Times, this part has become the biggest cause for concern among experts and leaders who hold a tough stance against Iran. They believe that the ban on exports was US's most effective tool of pressure, and because

of this, Iran was forced to reach an agreement with US. Iran will benefit the most from the removal of this restriction. This same arrangement was also adopted in the nuclear deal in 2015. Under that agreement, Iran accepted several restrictions on its nuclear programme, in exchange for which it received relief from economic sanctions.

Under the agreement, the US also promised to release Iran's frozen assets. This means that without waiting for the final agreement, the US will have to release billions of dollars for Iran. This amount could be \$24 billion or even more.

After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the US froze billions of dollars of Iranian assets. In 1995, the US imposed major sanctions on Iran's oil and energy sectors. In 2012, several financial sanctions were imposed regarding Iran's nuclear program, which caused earnings from Iranian oil to become stuck in foreign banks.

In 2015, following the JCPOA agreement, the US released some of the frozen funds. In 2018, when Trump withdrew the US from the nuclear deal, US again imposed several sanctions on Iran, due to which US has currently frozen an amount of \$24 billion.

According to the *New York Times*, a US official has said that the US intends to decide on whether every promise made by Iran has to be verified and confirmed. In the future, the most important issue will be Iran's nuclear programme itself, and the future relations between the two countries will depend on this very question.

When a final agreement is reached between the US and Iran, it will also be approved through a resolution of the United Nations Security Council. This directly means that the final agreement will not remain a matter only between US and Iran; rather, it will also gain international legal recognition.

Inquilab (June 18) stated in its editorial that this agreement has made it



clear that the real victory belongs to Iran and the US has had to step back. Israel has been completely isolated, and its situation is still stuck on the Lebanon front. However, in this war, Iran has suffered the most loss. Iran has had to lose its scientists, high-ranking military officials, and top leadership.

Although the direct war between Iran and the US has stopped due to this agreement, there is no guarantee that this ceasefire will continue permanently in the future. Who can say that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not force US President Donald Trump to dissolve this agreement? Israel has become the root of this problem. It is neither withdrawing from Lebanon nor refraining from finding new excuses to wage war against Iran every day.

Hindustan Express (June 18) said in its editorial that it does not seem possible for this agreement to last for many days. Israel does not agree with this settlement and the US cannot hold back from helping it for much longer. If this agreement is implemented, Israel's dominance in West Asia will end forever. This situation will never be acceptable to US's strong Jewish lobby. It is clear from this that the US cannot remain bound by this agreement for long. Therefore, Iran needs to remain cautious.

Qaumi Tanzeem (June 18) stated in its editorial that after this agreement, the

difficulties of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have increased significantly. After the historic peace agreement between the US and Iran, the whole world has breathed a sigh of relief. This is being seen as a sign of permanent peace in West Asia.

It is clear that this treaty has been made possible only due to pressure from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Qatar, and

Turkey. European and Western countries, as well as China, have also welcomed it. Immediately after the announcement of the agreement, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy said in a joint statement that this agreement has opened new opportunities for regional stability and economic development.

The newspaper stated that even if the whole world is happy with this agreement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not happy with it. It will be Netanyahu's effort to ensure that this agreement should not persist for long so that they can fulfill their nefarious plans for Greater Israel.

Netanyahu is also facing massive difficulties within Israel. To save his power, he continued the war in Gaza and incited Trump to go to war against Iran. There is a strong possibility that he received relief from the numerous corruption cases going on against him following the Hamas attack on Israel.

It is likely that as soon as the situation calms down, the hearings for those cases will resume. Trump knows very well that if Netanyahu is included in these peace efforts, he will create obstacles. Therefore, he has kept Netanyahu away from this entire process. There is no possibility that Israel will withdraw its army from Lebanon, and this is the reason why this peace agreement could be in danger.

Agreement for a railway network between Saudi Arabia and Turkey



Qaumi Tanzeem (10 June) reports that Saudi Arabia and Turkiye have signed an agreement to establish rail connectivity between each other. It is noteworthy that during the Ottoman Empire, there was a rail service available between Hejaz and Istanbul. During the First World War, this service was discontinued following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the devastation of the war.

Although remnants and coaches of this old railway are still found in various locations across Saudi Arabia, Saudi Transport Minister Saleh bin Nasser al-Jasser told *Al Arabiya* that survey work for a rail connection passing through Jordan and Syria to Turkey will begin immediately. This survey is expected to be completed within one year. Following this, track laying work will commence.

The Saudi minister stated that this plan will strengthen the sense of unity among Muslim nations and increase trade. He further mentioned that Saudi Arabia's current national rail network already extends to the Jordan border via the Al-Hadiha Crossing, and this network will be expanded further.

Along with this, a decision has been made to build a logistics corridor at the Jeddah Islamic Port. Its objective is to

establish direct contact with China and accelerate its relations with countries near Red Sea and the Gulf. He noted that the current maritime trade relations in this region will be significantly enhanced.

Looking at the huge increase in activities, it is necessary that immediate action be taken to expand road connectivity with China through the route of Pakistan. Recently, in view of the blockade carried out by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, it has become extremely necessary to develop an alternative trade route with China.

Hindustan (June 14) reports that Saudi Arabia has launched a new global initiative for tourism development. Under this strategy, one of its delegations participated in the session of the Executive Council of the United Nations Tourism Organization held in Spain. Addressing the conference, Tourism Minister Ahmed Al Khateeb said that department policies are being given a new direction by making necessary amendments to attract global travelers. After this session, he conducted a detailed study of the successful tourism industry there during a visit to Greece. Additionally, an agreement has also been reached with France, under which French companies and citizens will be provided with special facilities in Saudi Arabia.



Additionally, the government has been informed of the industry's future tourism plans.

Siasat (June 15), Saudi Arabia has arrested more than 10,000 foreign infiltrators and illegal residents in the past week. The Saudi ministry of interior has informed that citizens will be provided with special facilities in Saudi Arabia, and they

have also been briefed on the French government's future tourism plans.

According to security agencies, various government institutions cooperated in a nationwide campaign conducted between June 4 and 10, during which these arrests were made. Media reports indicate that those arrested include 5,899 individuals who violated residency laws. Additionally, more than 3,000 people were caught for breaching border security rules and over 2,000

for breaking labour laws.

During this same period, 7,989 infiltrators have already been deported from Saudi Arabia. Further, 15,000 suspects currently in police custody have been instructed to contact their respective embassies to obtain emergency travel documents so that necessary paperwork can be completed for their deportation.

Arrest of Iranian spies in Bahrain

Qaumi Tanzeem (June 5), Bahrain's ministry of interior has arrested 15 suspects working at the behest of the Iranian Pasdaran-e-Inqilab (IRGC). According to a spokesperson for the Bahrain government, these individuals are accused of spying for Iran. A

government spokesperson stated that this network was trying to incite youth by infiltrating, spreading fake news, and creating unrest in the country through social media and other mediums. Following constant monitoring by security agencies, these accused have been caught and strict legal action is being taken against them under Bahrain's security laws.

Etemaad (June 10) reports that the ministry of Home affairs of Kuwait, making a major change in the recruitment



system for domestic workers, has restricted it to only 10 approved countries, while a ban has been placed on the new recruitment of citizens from 27 countries. Under the new rules, now only citizens of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Vietnam, South Africa, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Benin, and Senegal can be kept as domestic workers. The recruitment process for workers from all these countries will be completed through Kuwait's government service centres.

3,700 people dead in Israeli attacks on Lebanon



Etemaad (June 13) reports that despite US opposition, Israeli air strikes on Lebanon continue. On the other hand, Hezbollah has also announced plans to target Israeli positions.

According to Lebanon's ministry of health, 3,711 people have been killed and 11,483 have been injured in Israeli attacks over the last three months. Due to the continuous attacks by the Israeli Air Force, there is difficulty in burying the bodies of the deceased in cemeteries. Because of this, many people are temporarily burying bodies in their own homes. According to the religious beliefs of Shia Muslims, bodies can be buried temporarily in a place as an 'amanat' (trust), with the tradition of moving them to permanent cemeteries later when conditions improve.

Qaumi Tanzeem (June 15) reports that the Israeli Air Force has warned residents of 30 towns in southern Lebanon to vacate their areas. A spokesperson for the Israeli army stated that Hezbollah violated the ceasefire, forcing the Israeli army to take retaliatory action against them.

According to media reports, following Israel's warning, Lebanese citizens in the Ali al-Tahiri hilly areas have begun vacating their homes. On the other hand, Hezbollah has announced that it has carried out 22 retaliatory strikes on Israeli military bases.

Urdu Times (June 3) reports that the UN Secretary General António Guterres has stated that in the current situation, the

presence of a peace force in Lebanon is extremely necessary to assist the Lebanese army. On behalf of the United Nations, between 2,000 and 5,000 soldiers will be deployed in Lebanon.

According to another news report, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that if Hezbollah does not stop attacks on Israel, the Israeli army will take retaliatory action in response and will make Lebanon's capital, Beirut, its target.

Etemaad (June 14) states that Syrian president Ahmad al-Sharaa has denied that Syria has sent its army into Lebanon. He confirmed that due to Israeli attacks, more than 15,000 people in Lebanon have had to evacuate their homes. Al-Sharaa stated that they want peace and stability in Lebanon and are prepared to engage in talks with US for this purpose. It is noteworthy that relations between the two countries have not normalized since the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon in 2005.

There are also serious differences on the issues of border security and Syrian refugees taking refuge in Lebanon.

Hindustan (June 11) reports that Israeli television network 'Channel 13' said in its broadcast that if any peace agreement is reached between Israel and Lebanon, the Israeli army stationed in Lebanon will provide special training to the national army there. The objective of this training is to enable the Lebanese army to handle the security and control of those areas which the Israeli army will vacate after the agreement.

Siasat (June 15) reports that US President Donald Trump, while condemning Israel's recent airstrikes on the Lebanese capital Beirut, said that this is a very big mistake by Prime Minister Netanyahu. He said that there should not be any attack on Beirut by Israel because this act of Israel gives a deep blow to US's peace-building efforts in West Asia.

Attack on Indian ships near Oman



Urdu Times (June 12) reports that India has reported another attack on an Indian commercial vessel near the coast of Oman. The report states that this week, three Indian citizens have died due to these attacks. The latest incident occurred near the Shinas port of Oman, where a Guinea-Bissau flagged oil tanker, *MT Jalveer*, was targeted by a missile.

According to the Government of India, despite this severe attack, all Indian sailors on board this ship are completely safe. They were successfully rescued from the sinking ship after it was engulfed in flames.

This is the third attack by the US military on a vessel with Indian sailors within the last four days, which has increased New Delhi's concern. This attack took place on the Palau-flagged oil tanker *MT Settebello* off the coast of Oman. It occurred exactly one day after an attack on another oil tanker. There were 24 Indian nationals on board this ship.

Initially, there were reports of three sailors going missing, but it was later confirmed that these three Indian sailors had been killed in the US attack. India's shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal stated that this incident is extremely tragic and the bodies of the three deceased have

been identified. Manoj Yadav, general secretary of the Forward Seamen's Union of India (FSUI), identified the deceased as Aditya Sharma (deck cadet), Shivanand Chaurasiya (engine fitter) and Patnala Suresh (chief engineer).

Following this incident, a senior official from the US Embassy in New Delhi was summoned to the ministry of external affairs, where a strong protest against this attack was lodged.

Etemaad (June 12) reports that foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in New Delhi that these attacks on ships deployed near the Oman coast were carried out by the US Central Command. On the other hand, the Central Command claimed that these commercial vessels had violated the US blockade. Expressing a sharp reaction to this incident, the President of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, Asaduddin Owaisi, said that the Narendra Modi government has failed to provide security to Indian sailors working in international seas.

He alleged that protecting these sailors is the primary duty of the Indian government, but it is a matter of regret that while the Prime Minister has time to celebrate festivals, he did not consider it



necessary to condemn the US for the murder of innocent Indian citizens.

Siasat (June 15) states that Congress criticised Prime Minister Modi for remaining a silent spectator after three Indians were killed in a US attack. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi stated that the Prime Minister is failing miserably in protecting national interests and the lives of countrymen. Making a sharp attack, he said that the Prime Minister is following US orders like a “loyal servant”.

Hindustan (June 13) reports that Syed Sadatullah Husaini, the emir of Jamaat-e-Islami, strongly condemned the killing of Indian sailors by the US. He said, “The US military is continuously killing

innocent Indian sailors and our government is standing silently watching the spectacle. This serious matter cannot be ignored under any circumstances.”

Husseini alleged that the Indian government has completely failed to adopt a clear and strong policy on this sensitive matter. The Indian government remains a silent spectator regarding US and

Israeli aggression against Iran.

Siasat (June 13), in its editorial, condemned the attack on Indian sailors by the US. The newspaper expressed surprise that, on one hand, the US advocates for the safe movement of commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz, but on the other hand, its own military is targeting ships passing through there with missiles. The way innocent Indians civilians are being killed unnecessarily is extremely dangerous for the security of the country. Immediate and concrete action should be taken by the Government of India to stop these attacks, because this serious matter is not going to stop just by lodging verbal protests with the US.



