

Iran announces new N-enrichment site

VIENNA, June 12 (AP)

IRAN said it has built and will activate a third nuclear enrichment facility, ratcheting up tensions with the UN on Thursday immediately after its atomic watchdog agency censured Iran for failing to comply with nonproliferation obligations meant to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has no choice but to respond to this political resolution," the Iranian Foreign Ministry and Atomic Energy Organisation said in a joint statement.

The censure by the International Atomic Energy Agency, its first in 20 years over Iranian non-compliance, could set in motion an effort to restore sanctions on Iran later this year.

US President Donald Trump had previously warned that Israel or America could launch airstrikes against Iranian nuclear facilities if negotiators failed to reach a deal on Iran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

'Rudrastra' trial done successfully at Pokharan

NEW DELHI, June 12 (ANI)

SOLAR Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) has successfully completed the trial of its Hybrid VTOL UAV Rudrastra at the Pokharan Firing Range on Wednesday.

The trial was conducted in accordance with the Indian Army's performance parameters, including vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL), high endurance, precision targeting, and mission flexibility.

The UAV demonstrated robust operational capability, covering a mission radius of over 50 km with a stable real-time video link and successfully returning to the original launch point. The total range, including loitering at the target area, exceeded 170 km, with an estimated endurance of approximately 1.5 hours.

A significant highlight of the trial was the successful deployment of a precision-guided anti-



personnel warhead. Dropped from medium altitude, the munition executed an airburst detonation at low height, achieving a lethal effect over a wider radius, meeting tactical effectiveness benchmarks.

This successful demonstration marks a major milestone in

India's pursuit of indigenized defence technologies and is a strong step toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

In a related development, SDAL had earlier tested a new low-cost counter-drone solution in hard-kill mode, named 'Bhargavastra'. Designed to neu-

tralise hostile drone swarms, the system employs micro-rockets to deliver rapid and effective responses. The trials were conducted at the Seaward Firing Range in Gopalpur on May 13 and 14 under the observation of senior Army Air Defence (AAD) officials.

Retail inflation falls to 6-year low of 2.82 pc in May on cooling food prices

NEW DELHI, June 12 (PTI)

RETAIL inflation dipped to an over six-year low of 2.82 per cent in May due to subdued food prices, remaining below the RBI's median target of 4 per cent for the fourth consecutive month, according to Government data released on Thursday.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation was 3.16 per cent in April and 4.8 per cent in May 2024. The previous low was in February 2019 at 2.57 per cent.

On easing inflation, the Reserve Bank effected a jumbo rate cut of 50 basis points last week, taking the



total to 100 bps since February.

Food inflation was 0.99 per cent in May, significantly lower from 8.69 per cent in the year-ago month, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO) data. "The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of May 2025 is mainly attributed to a decline in inflation of pulses and

products, vegetables, fruits, cereals and products, household goods and services, sugar and confectionary and egg and the favourable base effect," NSO said in a statement.

The food inflation in May 2025 is the lowest since October 2021.

According to NSO data, inflation in rural areas was 2.59 per cent in May, while it was 3.07 per cent in urban India. Among states and UTs, the highest inflation was recorded in Kerala at 6.46 per cent, followed by Punjab (5.21 per cent), Jammu and Kashmir (4.55 per cent), Haryana (3.67 per cent) and Uttarakhand (3.47 per cent). The lowest inflation was in Telangana at 0.55 per cent.

B'desh wanted good ties with India, but 'something always went wrong': Yunus



■ By Aditi Khanna

LONDON, June 12 (PTI)

BANGLADESH Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has said that his interim Government wanted good relations with India, but "something always went wrong".

During an interaction with Chatham House think tank director Bronwen Maddox in London on Wednesday, Yunus addressed a wide range of issues including bilateral ties with India and the democratic roadmap for the country, starting with a "July Charter" next month.

Maddox referenced an informal diplomatic note issued to India seeking deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition and sought an update on the matter.

"This will continue... we want the whole process to be very legal, very proper... We want to build the best of relationship with India. It's our neighbour, we don't want to have any kind of basic problem with them," Yunus said.

"So, this is what makes Bangladesh very jittery, very, very angry. We try to get over this anger but a whole barrage of things keeps happening in cyberspace. We can't just get away from that... suddenly they say something, do something, anger comes back," he said. "This is our big task, to make sure we can have at least a peaceful life to go on with our life. To create the life we are dreaming of," he added.

On an audience question about the "unclear role of India" about Hasina, Yunus responded: "All the anger (against Hasina) has now transferred to India because she went there."

Yunus claimed PM Modi told him that Hasina's social media activities cannot be controlled. "When I had a chance to talk to PM Modi, I simply said: you want to host her, I cannot force you to abandon that policy. But please help us in making sure she doesn't speak to Bangladeshi people the way she is doing (online). She announces on such and such date, such and such hour, she will speak and the whole (of) Bangladesh gets very angry," he said.

Over 200 feared dead in AI plane crash

London-bound AI Dreamliner crashes into Ahmedabad residential locality minutes after takeoff

There were 12 crew members, 169 Indians, 53 British, one Canadian and 7 Portuguese nationals onboard

One survivor Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, who was seated on 11A, found

DNA tests will be carried out to ascertain the identities

Unofficial reports said up to 25 people in the medical complex could also have died

Tata Group to give Rs 1 crore to kin of dead

Rescue operation underway after an Air India plane crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday. (PTI)



THE worst aviation disaster in India has left the country numb and shocked. Though official casualty count is yet to be released by the authorities, the number of dead in the horrific crash of Ahmedabad-London Air India Dreamliner is set to be over 200. A few lucky survivors might still come out from the wreckage site, the hostel housing students of medicine, as rescue efforts are still on at the residential area of Ahmedabad. While the dead are being mourned and prayers are going out for the bereaved families and those injured in the plane crash, a strong suspicion of a sabotage

Accident or sabotage?

is lurking in the mind.

Investigation by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), an attached office of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), will bring out the details of what went wrong with the Dreamliner to crash within minutes of take-off. However, there are reasons enough to suspect an intentional destruction caused to the Air India flight. Aviation experts are already flagging many points that remain inexplicable, including the sudden failure of both engines within a

minute of take-off. For a wide-body aircraft like the Dreamliner, possibility of a double engine failure is next to none, as per experts. Videos coming out in media also show that the engines were whirring when the plane suddenly lost altitude within a few seconds. There is definitely something that does not meet the eye and a thorough investigation involving top security agencies must be conducted to find out the root cause.

An international flight covering a long distance starts

boarding only after getting clearance from maintenance and engineering departments. The process takes over three hours before the clearance is handed over to the pilots. If the flight to London took off at the right time, then the clearance process must have been completed as per set norms. Whether manipulation was effected in this process by anti-India forces has to be probed in the right earnest. For, the crash has come right after a highly-successful Operation Sindoor which dismantled ter-

ror infrastructure in Pakistan.

Another big reason for the possibility of a sabotage, which simply cannot be taken lightly, is the threats doled out by pro-Khalistani extremists Gurbhag Singh Pannun to Air India flights last October. The Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) founder had threatened international passengers against boarding Air India flights. A series of threat mails to airports across India soon followed. Though all those turned out to be hoax mails, there is now a solid and valid reason to revisit those threats, their pattern, and a possible connection with the AI-171 crash near Ahmedabad airport.

— Editor

Former Guj CM Vijay Rupani among dead



AHMEDABAD, June 12 (PTI)

FORMER Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani died on Thursday after an Air India aircraft carrying him and 241 others crashed near Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad in the afternoon, Union minister C R Paatil said.

"This is a very sad incident. My heart goes out to the victims and their families. We have lost two-time former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in the crash, which is very sad news for the BJP family," Paatil, the Union Jal Shakti Minister and chief of the party's State unit, told reporters.

Rupani, 68, was CM for two terms from August 7, 2016 to September 11, 2021, after winning the Gujarat Legislative Assembly elections from Rajkot West seat. He was presently the BJP's in charge for Punjab.

Rupani was a student leader who led many agitations. During his college years, he worked as an activist of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad. In 1975, Rupani faced imprisonment for one year in Bhavnagar jail while protesting against the Emergency. Rupani entered public service in 1987 as a corporator. He was a member of RS between 2006 and 2012.