

# Conducted airstrikes on Pak's strategic military installations: Afghanistan

KABUL, Mar 13 (IANS)

AFGHANISTAN'S Ministry of National Defence said on Friday that it has conducted strikes on Pakistani military centres and installations in Kohat district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in retaliation to the airstrikes launched by Islamabad on Thursday night which resulted in several civilian casualties on the Afghan side.

According to the statement released by Kabul, military fort in Kohat and the war command centre along the Durand Line were targeted during the strike.

In a statement shared on X, Afghanistan's Ministry of National Defence stated, "In response to last night's incursions by the Pakistani military regime, Afghan air forces conducted strikes this morning on strategic military centers and installations of the Pakistani army in the Kohat area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

In another post on X, the ministry wrote, "During these strikes, the Kohat military fort was struck, while the war command center

along the Durand Line located approximately two kilometres from the fort along with the office of the fort's commander, was also precisely targeted."

"As a result of these strikes, the fort's military installations, the command centre, depots, and soldiers' residential quarters were destroyed, resulting in significant human and material losses," it added.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Friday that Pakistan carried out fresh military strikes across multiple Afghan provinces, including Kabul, Kandahar, Paktia, and Paktika, resulting in civilian casualties, including women and children.

"Continuing the pattern of previous aggressions and crimes, the Pakistani military regime has once again bombed Kabul, Kandahar, Paktia, Paktika, and some other areas. In some places, it targeted civilians' homes, leading to the death of women and children, and in other places, it targeted empty deserts and uninhabited areas," Mujahid posted on X.

# US grants waiver to countries to buy Russian oil

■ **By Sagar Kulkarni**  
WASHINGTON, May 13 (PTI)

AMID rising oil prices, the Trump administration has announced a temporary authorisation to other countries to purchase Russian oil currently stranded at sea, as there were no immediate signs of an early end to US war on Iran.

The US had granted a similar waiver from sanctions to India to buy Russian oil as part of efforts to cool down oil prices that have been on the rise since the outbreak of war on February 28.

"@POTUS is taking decisive steps to promote stability in global energy markets and working to keep prices low as we address the threat and instability posed by the terrorist Iranian regime," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a post on X on Thursday.

On March 5, the US had issued a 30-day waiver allowing India to buy Russian oil, having previ-

ously imposed heavy sanctions related to the war in Ukraine.

"To increase the global reach of existing supply, @USTreasury is providing a temporary authorisation to permit countries to purchase Russian oil currently stranded at sea," Bessent said.

He said this narrowly tailored, short-term measure applies only to oil already in transit and will not provide significant financial benefit to the Russian government, which derives the majority of its energy revenue from taxes assessed at the point of extraction.

"President Trump's pro-energy policies have driven US oil and gas production to record levels, contributing to lower fuel prices for hardworking Americans. The temporary increase in oil prices is a short-term and temporary disruption that will result in a massive benefit to our nation and economy in the long-term," Bessent said.

## US waiver frees almost 20 million barrels of Russian oil for sale

NEW DELHI, Mar 13 (IANS)

THE US waiver for buying seaborne Russian crude has immediately freed another 20-odd million barrels of oil on board ships which is expected to cool runaway prices that have crossed the \$100 per barrel mark in the global market amid the Iran war.

There are currently around 25 ships carrying Russian crude at sea while another five ships are carrying petroleum products. These can be diverted

immediately to destinations from where the demand emanates.

The temporary waiver comes on top of the 30-day waiver earlier announced by the Trump administration for Indian refiners to buy Russian oil aimed at making more crude available in market to bring down prices.

India and China have been the main buyers of Russian crude until now which has helped to control global prices as the two countries are among the largest importers of oil.

# Iran's new supreme leader 'wounded, likely disfigured'



Rescue workers search for survivors in the rubble after a strike in southern Tehran.  
(Inset) Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei (AP/PTI)

**A large explosion rocked Tehran where thousands had gathered**

DUBAI, Mar 13 (AP)

**US DEFENCE** Secretary Pete Hegseth says Iran's new supreme leader "is wounded and likely disfigured." Hegseth spoke Friday, a day after supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei released a written statement vowing to continue the war.

It was Khamenei's first statement since he assumed Iran's top office after the death of his father in an Israeli strike.

A large explosion rocked an area of Iran's capital where thousands had gathered on Friday for the annual state-organised Quds Day to support the Palestinians and call for Israel's demise.

Read Editorial  
**PERFECT  
BALANCE**  
on page 8

(Contd on page 5)

**'Yes for  
FRIEND INDIA'**

**Iranian Envoy  
confirms safe  
passage to  
vessels bound for  
India via Hormuz**

NEW DELHI, Mar 13 (ANI)

**IRAN'S** Ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali, on Friday confirmed that Tehran will provide safe passage to vessels bound for India through the Strait of Hormuz amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, citing the long-standing friendship and shared interests between the two countries. Answering a question on whether Iran would allow Indian-bound

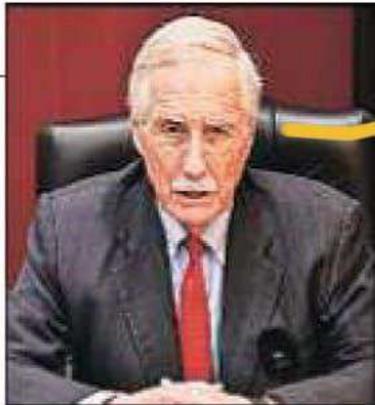
(Contd on page 5)

# Russia gains \$6 billion from Iran war, says US Senator

WASHINGTON, Mar 13 (IANS)

RUSSIA has emerged as an unexpected economic beneficiary of the war involving Iran, earning billions of dollars from rising global oil prices triggered by the conflict, a US Senator said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Thursday.

Senator Angus King of Maine told military commanders that surging energy prices since the start of the war had delivered a windfall to Moscow.



Angus King

“There is a clear winner in this war,” King said, adding: “The clear winner is Vladimir Putin and Russia.”

He said estimates released hours before the hearing suggested that Russia had already earned about \$6 billion in additional revenue since the conflict began.

“Russia has reaped \$6 billion of benefit from this war since it began just two weeks ago,” King added. According to King, the spike in global oil prices following the conflict has generated

nearly \$400 million a day in additional revenue for Russia.

“It’s about \$400 million a day from the increase in oil prices,” he said.

The comments came as Senators questioned senior Pentagon officials about the broader geopolitical consequences of the conflict in the Middle East, including disruptions to global energy markets and maritime trade routes.

General Randall Reed, Commander of US Transportation Command, acknowledged that instability around the Persian Gulf and shipping routes has become a major concern for military planners and commercial carriers alike.