

Protests in Jammu against killing of civilians in PoK

JAMMU, June 13 (PTI)

PEOPLE displaced from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) held protests in Jammu on Saturday against the killing of civilians in PoK and urged the Centre to expose Pakistan's actions before the international community.

The demonstrators, who included members of the BJP PoK Refugee Cell and activists of SOS International, a registered body of displaced people from PoK, condemned the repression across the border and called for immediate action to safeguard the lives of civilians there.

Over 20 people were reportedly killed and scores of others injured in police action in PoK following protests against a recent ban on a Jammu and Kashmir Joint Action Committee which was agitating for subsidised electricity and flour, along with the restoration of political and economic rights for local residents.

The BJP activists led by Surinder Singh Gilli assembled at Jammu Press Club and later marched to the nearby statue of Maharaja Hari Singh at Tawi bridge, chanting anti-Pakistan slogans.

"Pakistan must stop the oppression of the people of

PoK who are on the road in support of their demands for basic rights and amenities, but their peaceful protests are being met with bullets.

"We urge the United Nations and international human rights organisations to intervene. We also appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah to expose Pakistan's actions before the international community," Gilli said.

He said the people of PoK are Indians and "we stand firmly with them. We are prepared to make every sacrifice in support of our brothers and sisters there".

SOS International chairman Rajiv Chuni also led a separate demonstration at Bakshi Nagar.

Referring to the resolution passed by Indian Parliament unanimously declaring PoK as an integral part of the country, he said this is an opportunity to uphold that position.

"India should step in to protect the lives and property of people facing repression and violence. Innocent civilians are reportedly being targeted, and the international community should take note of these developments," he told reporters.

President Murmu hails entry of nine women cadets as 'watershed moment' at IMA Passing Out Parade

■ The commissioning of the first-ever batch of nine women officer cadets into the Indian Army from IMA is a historic milestone

DEHRADUN, June 13 (ANI)

HIGHLIGHTING a historic milestone, President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said that the inclusion of nine women cadets at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) marks a "watershed moment" in its history and reflects an inspiring example of women-led development, during the Passing Out Parade of the 158th Regular Course and 141st Technical Graduate Course in Dehradun.

Addressing the cadets, she said, "I am especially delighted to see nine women cadets. This is a watershed moment in the history of the IMA. It is not only a milestone in the history of India's defence forces but also an inspir-



President Droupadi Murmu poses with nine women cadets during the Passing Out Parade of the 158th Regular Course at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. (PTI)

ing example of women-led development. I am sure that many more women cadets will join the academy."

Praising the institution, she added, "This academy stands as a shining symbol of honour, courage, and selfless service to the nation. Many extraordinary military leaders who have defended our frontiers have passed out from this academy. I take this opportunity to appreciate everyone associated with this prestigious institution."

The President further said, "It gives me pleasure to see before me the officer cadets who will shortly embark on their journey. Their courage and wisdom will be their strength."

A total of 515 officer cadets were commissioned into the Indian Army following the parade, including nine women officer cadets. The graduating group also comprised 34 officer cadets from 16 friendly foreign countries, who will join their respective armed forces.

US-Iran peace deal to be signed on Sunday: Trump

■ Funeral ceremonies for former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will take place in July

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, June 13 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Saturday that a deal to end the war with Iran will be signed on Sunday and the Strait of Hormuz will be "open to all" immediately after that.

"The Deal is scheduled to get signed tomorrow, and immediately after it is signed, the Hormuz Strait is OPEN TO ALL," the president said in a post on Truth Social. Trump also contrasted the proposed agreement with the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated under former President Barack Obama.

"Barack Hussein Obama's Deal with Iran, the JCPOA, was an easy, beautiful, smooth road to a Nuclear Weapon, which Iran would have had six years ago, and would have used long before now."

"My Agreement with Iran is the exact opposite, A WALL TO NO NUCLEAR WEAPON! In fact, they no longer want a Nuclear Weapon, nor will they have one, either through purchase, development, or any other form of procurement," he said. Trump further claimed that Iran's nuclear programme had been effectively neutralised and said the remaining nuclear material would be disposed of at a later stage. "At the appropriate time, when all is calm, we will go in and get the Nuclear Dust, buried deep under the powerful sunken granite mountains, thanks to our

beautiful B-2 Bombers and their brilliant pilots, and downblend and destroy it, whether in Iraq or the United States," he said.



Trump is also expected to discuss plans to demine the Strait of Hormuz with allies during next week's Group of Seven summit in France, a senior US administration official said Saturday, as mediators said an agreement to end the war was close.

Britain and France, who are both members of the G7, have expressed interest in assisting with demining the critical waterway once the conflict is paused.

The official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity on ground rules set by the White House, said Trump also plans to meet on the sideline of the summit with the lead-

ers of Egypt, Qatar and United Arab Emirates to discuss efforts to wind down the Iran war.

Separately, Iran's state-run television announced Saturday that funeral ceremonies for former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will take place in July. Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif said a deal aimed at ending the war was closer than "ever before" and expected to be finalised within 24 hours. Pakistan was preparing for the electronic signing of the agreement, to be followed immediately by technical-level talks next week. In a post on X, Sharif said: "We would like to thank USA and Islamic Republic of Iran for their ongoing commitment during the negotiations, and we extend our sincere appreciation to our mothers in the region for their support." The White House did not respond to a request for comment, and Iran signalled caution.

Trump, Modi to meet on June 17 at G7

■ By Sagar Kulkarni
WASHINGTON, June 13 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in France on Wednesday, local media reported quoting US officials.

This will be the first meeting between them since February last year in Washington and comes against the backdrop of concerns over the death of Indian mariners on commercial ships targeted by the US Navy in the Strait of Hormuz. The meeting between Trump and Modi will also be the first face-to-face interaction since the India-US relationship hit a rough patch after Operation Sindoor and Washington's deci-

sion to impose heavy tariffs on New Delhi. The two leaders have had a couple of phone calls and also agreed on a framework for an interim bilateral trade deal in February, which is being negotiated.

US media outlet Politico said Trump will meet the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Than and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Tuesday. On Wednesday, in addition to working sessions with G7 allies, Trump will also have a bilateral with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. Trump will hold a bilateral meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday, followed by the official greeting and a working dinner.

India, Nepal hold talks on rail connectivity

■ By **Shirish B Pradhan**

KATHMANDU, June 13 (PTI)

INDIA and Nepal have held discussions on cross-border railway links, including passenger train services on the Janakpur-Ayodhya section, and bilateral cooperation in the sector, an official statement said.

The discussions between the two countries were part of the 10th Project Steering Committee and the 8th Joint Working Group meetings held here on June 11 and 12, the Indian Embassy in

Kathmandu said on Friday.

The standard operating procedures for the commencement of passenger train services on the Janakpur-Ayodhya section was one of the focus points during the engagement between the two sides.

Nepal's Janakpur, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram's wife Sita, is 220 kms south-east of Kathmandu and about 500-odd km east of Ayodhya and devotees from both sides visit the two places regularly in large numbers.

Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth appointed as next Chief of Army

NEW DELHI, June 13 (PTI)

LIEUTENANT General Dhiraj Seth will be the next Chief of the Army Staff, the Defence Ministry announced on Saturday.



Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth

Lieutenant General Seth, currently serving as the Vice Chief of Army, will take charge of the top position on June 30 when the incumbent Gen Upendra Dwivedi retires.

The senior military officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.

Over a distinguished military career spanning nearly four decades, he has extensive experience across operational, strategic, capability development and institutional domains.

Lieutenant General Seth has commanded at every level in diverse operational environments.

India tests new missile systems

DRDO successfully demonstrated Ballistic Missile Defence and Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range capabilities to take down hostile ballistic missiles

NEW DELHI, June 13 (PTI)

INDIA has successfully carried out flight-tests of key platforms this week to demonstrate its multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence system's power to intercept long and medium-range missiles, joining a select group of countries having the capability.

The BMDs are capable of intercepting incoming long-range nuclear missiles and hostile aircraft including AWACS (airborne warning and control systems).

Three consecutive flight-tests were conducted on June 10 and 11 to demonstrate multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) against incoming missiles, according to the Defence Ministry.

The tests were conducted to check the capability to take down incoming ballistic missiles both inside and outside the earth's

atmospheric limits.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated multiple crucial technologies bolstering the nation's defence capabilities against different types of enemy threats, the Ministry said on Saturday.

It said multi-layered BMD capability was successfully demonstrated through these flight-tests.

"The interceptors successfully engaged their respective targets. The systems are designed and developed with latest technologies to address the emerging missile threats," it said.

"These tests have put the country in the elite group of nations having BMD capability to engage up to intercontinental ballistic missiles," the Ministry said.

The Ministry said the maiden flight-test of the

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5 IAF personnel killed in crash-landing of AN 32 transport plane

NEW DELHI, June 13 (PTI)

FIVE Indian Air Force personnel, including two officers, were killed when their Russian-origin Antonov An-32 transport aircraft crashed while landing at Jorhat in Assam on Saturday.

The co-pilot of the aircraft has sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at a military hospital in Jorhat, sources said. Six personnel were onboard the plane.

The aircraft met with the accident during a routine sortie at approximately 10 AM, according to the Indian Air Force (IAF).
The deceased personnel are:



Squadron Leader Prashant Singh, Flight Lieutenant Shubham Kumar, Sergeant Jitendra Sharma, Agniveervayu Khemaram Kumawat and Agniveervayu Danish Alam.

A court of inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident.

"The Indian Air Force deeply regrets the loss of five
(Contd on page 5)

Security personnel and others stand near damaged remains of a transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) that crashed while landing, in Jorhat district, Assam. (PTI)