

US ATTACKS CIVILIAN CARGO BOATS HEADING TO IRAN'S SHORES, KILLING 5 ON BOARD

The United States has attacked two civilian cargo boats heading from the Omani coast to the Iranian shoreline, claiming the lives of at least five people on board, a report says.



The Democratic News
Tehran, May, 05

Tasnim News Agency reported the development on Tuesday, citing a military source.

The source, meanwhile, refuted the US claims of having targeted speedboats belonging to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

(IRGC), saying, "Instead of targeting IRGC speedboats, the United States, in a blatant crime, opened fire on two small boats carrying civilians' goods." Detailing the developments on the ground following issuance of the false account by Washington, the source said, "Given that none of the IRGC's combat vessels had been hit, local

sources were consulted to verify the nature of the incident." The investigation revealed that US forces had [actually] attacked and fired on two small cargo boats transporting goods belonging to civilians. The boats were traveling from [the town of] Khasab, along the coast of Oman, towards Iranian shores. The attack resulted in the deaths of

five civilian passengers."

The source asserted that the Americans had to certainly be held accountable for the crime. It attributed perpetration of the crime to the enemy's acting in a "hasty and clumsy" manner due to the "inexplicable fear and nightmare" it has been experiencing since the Islamic Republic issued credible warnings against hostile and trespassing vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Tensions have been rife in the Persian Gulf and around the strategic chokehold since February 28, when the United States and the Israeli regime began their latest bout of unprovoked aggression against Iran. Iran shut down the waterway to enemies and their allies following the launch of the aggression. It began exercising far stricter controls last month after Donald Trump announced an illegal blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in continuation of the aggression and in violation of the terms of a ceasefire the US president, himself, had declared earlier.

The Democratic News
Kolkata, May, 05

Outgoing West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday, May 5, ruled out stepping down after her party's defeat in the Assembly polls, claiming that the verdict was not a genuine public mandate but the result of a conspiracy. Banerjee also alleged that the TMC's contest in the polls was not against the BJP, but against the Election Commission (EC), which worked "for the BJP." "The question of my resignation does not arise, as we were defeated not by a public mandate but by a conspiracy... I did not lose, I will not go to Lok Bhavan. They can take action as per constitutional norms," she told a press conference in Kolkata. Banerjee alleged large-scale irregularities in the counting process, claiming that the mandate in nearly 100 seats was "looted" and that counting was deliberately slowed down to demoralise her party. "A black chapter in history has been created," she asserted. The TMC chief accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar of undermining people's democratic



rights. Banerjee also announced the formation of a 10-member fact-finding committee to visit areas "affected by post-poll violence" and assess the ground situation. She dismissed as baseless allegations of post-poll violence in 2021. Banerjee said several leaders of the opposition INDIA bloc had reached out to her to express solidarity following the poll outcome. "INDIA bloc leaders called me up to express solidarity. Sonia ji and Rahul Gandhi have spoken to me," she said. Banerjee said that she would now focus on strengthening the Opposition alliance at the national level.

US-Iran war strikes structural blow to Pakistan's economy

New Delhi: The conflict between the United States and Iran has triggered a severe energy price shock through Pakistan's economy which is in dire straits with rising inflation, dwindling foreign exchange reserves and a fast-depreciating currency.

According to an article in India Narrative, this is not merely a transient shock for Pakistan, one of South Asia's most fragile states, but a structural blow to the economy. It points out that Pakistan is the "primary casualty" in the subcontinent of the US-Iran war. The article observes that in April 2026, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif confirmed publicly that Pakistan's weekly petroleum import bill had risen from \$300 million to \$800 million — an increase of 167 per cent within. This works out to an annual additional burden of around \$26 billion, a figure that nearly matches Pakistan's entire FY2025 merchandise export earnings of \$29.8 billion. The country is, in effect, generating an import liability equal to its entire export sector — in a single commodity category — during a period of acute reserve stress.

ISRAEL TARGETS SOUTHERN LEBANON WITH INTERNATIONALLY BANNED PHOSPHORUS SHELLS

The Israeli regime's forces are using internationally banned white phosphorus shells against civilian areas in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army shelled towns in Bint Jbeil with white phosphorus munitions on Tuesday, while simultaneous airstrikes hit multiple areas across the Tyre district, according to the Lebanese state news agency NNA (National News Agency). The towns of Kounine and Beit Yahoun in the Bint Jbeil district were also targeted by Israel with artillery shells containing phosphorus. Israeli warplanes separately launched airstrikes on Kafra, Braachit and Safad al-Battikh in the Tyre district. Additional strikes hit Beit al-Sayyad and Mansouri, where three raids targeted residential homes.

TVK stakes claim to form government in Tamil Nadu, seeks two weeks to prove majority



The Democratic News
Chennai, May, 05

Actor-politician C. Joseph Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has staked a claim to form the government in Tamil Nadu after emerging

as the single largest party in the Assembly elections, winning 108 seats. With no party securing the required majority mark of 118 in the 234-member Assembly, the state has entered a phase of political uncertainty and intense negotiations.

Banking on its strong electoral performance, the TVK has approached Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, asserting its right to form the government and seeking a two-week window to prove its majority on the floor of the house. The development has triggered speculation over possible alliances, as the TVK remains 10 seats short of the halfway mark. Interacting with media persons, he noted that young voters and women had played a key role in the TVK's strong performance. "People have voted for change. Youth and women, in particular, have supported the TVK in large numbers

Iran launches new maritime mechanism for vessels transiting Strait of Hormuz

Under the newly implemented system, all vessels intending to transit the Strait will receive an email from the official address info@PGSA.ir outlining the rules and regulations for passage.

Ships are required to adjust their operations according to this framework and obtain a transit permit before crossing the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil shipping chokepoints. The initiative, described as a sovereign governance system, is now operational in the Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 20% of all internationally traded oil passes. Iranian armed forces have placed the Strait of Hormuz under strict control, blocking all ships associated with the US and Israel following the launch of their war of aggression against the Islamic Republic on February 28. Tehran had signaled a willingness to reopen the Strait after the US and Israel agreed to include Lebanon in a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire agreement that helped halt the aggression against Iran. However, Iranian authorities declared the waterway closed again as Washington and Tel Aviv continued violating the terms of the ceasefire.

BJP WIN IN BENGAL MARKED BY CALLS FOR GENOCIDE, RENAMING HISTORIC NAMES

A person named Ankit Tiwari asked all Hindus of Bengal to "openly take revenge" against Muslims.

The Democratic News
Kolkata, May, 05

Before the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) even secured its win in the West Bengal Assembly elections and defeated the Trinamool Congress, deep polarisation, communal violence and hate speech against minorities had begun in the state. A video circulating online shows a man identified as Ankit Tiwari openly promoting the killing of every single "maulana and jihadi," including children, since the BJP has come to power. "TMC ke



karyakartao ne hazaro hindu ke hatya kardigayi. Ab BJP ki sarkar aane ke baad ek hi baat bolunga (TMC workers have murdered thousands of Hindus. Now that the BJP has come to power, I have just one thing to say)," he

said. "Ki do saal tak tab tak kaa-to jabtak bacche, budhe, maulana, jihadi, sab khatam nai hojate. Kyunki khon ka badla khon hi hota hai (Keep cutting them down for the next two years, until every last one of them is eliminated. The children, the elderly, the Maulanas, and the Jihadis, because blood must be avenged with blood)."

He captioned the video with, "Bengal ke Hinduo khul kar badla lo (Hindus of Bengal, take revenge openly)." Hindutva workers remove 'Masjid Para Road' signboard

IRAN REJECTS ARAB LEAGUE RESOLUTION

Shielding perpetrators will not absolve intl. obligations



The Democratic News
Tehran, May, 05

Iran has categorically rejected a recent resolution adopted by the Arab League, saying "no attempt to shield the perpetrators of aggression"

will absolve those responsible of their international obligations. In a letter addressed to the United Nations Security Council, Iran's Permanent Representative, Amir Saeid Iravani, dismissed Resolution 9245, transmitted by Bahrain

as chair of the 165th session of the Council of the Arab League.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically and unequivocally rejects this resolution in its entirety, together with the unfounded, misleading, and politically motivated allegations contained therein," Iravani wrote.

The letter slammed the resolution for willfully disregarding the "undeniable root causes" of the current situation in the region.

Iravani asserted that the document omits a central fact, namely that the United States and Israel had perpetrated acts of aggression against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity in violation of international law and the UN Charter.

INDIA, JAMAICA AGREE TO BOOST TRADE, SKILLED MOBILITY

India appreciated Jamaica's support for its candidature for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council for 2028-29.



The Democratic News
Kingston, May, 05

India and Jamaica agreed to further strengthen trade linkages and explore cooperation for recruitment and mobility of skilled professionals, including healthcare workers and teachers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said. Addressing

a joint press conference here after talks with his Jamaican counterpart Kamina J Smith on Monday, Jaishankar said the discussions were comprehensive, and they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties, identifying new avenues to deepen the partnership.

"We signed several important agreements and discussed effective implementations of MOUs which have been recently concluded in the fields of digital transformation, cultural exchange, sports and digital payments to ensure tangible outcomes on the ground," he said.

India recognised Jamaica's growing role as a logistics hub and gateway to the Caribbean for trade and investment, Jaishankar said.

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