

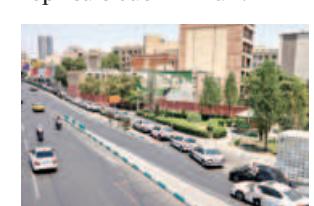
Iranians in Iraq report shortages back home

AFP, Penjwen

Near the once-bustling Iraqi border crossing of Bashmakh, Iranian driver Fatah stocked up on rice, sugar and tea, staples that have become increasingly hard to get back home.

Fatah -- who like others in this story is being identified by a pseudonym -- was among dozens of truck drivers waiting impatiently to cross back into Iran from Iraq's northern Kurdistan region, hauling not only their commercial cargo, but also essential goods for their families after days of Israeli attacks.

AFP spoke with at least 30 Iranians near the Bashmakh crossing. They all refused to be interviewed on camera, and the few who agreed to describe life back home asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals back in Iran.



"There are shortages of rice, bread, sugar and tea," Fatah said Tuesday. Finding fuel has also become a major problem, with long queues of cars waiting hours in front of gas stations hoping the fuel did not run out, the 40-year-old driver added.

A long journey awaits Fatah, who must deliver his load of asphalt to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas about 1,700 kilometres (1,060 miles) away, before turning around and driving almost the same distance back to the western city of Marivan, where his family lives and which has so far been spared bombardment.

But "my route passes near the Natanz nuclear facility," Fatah said, referring to one of Iran's underground uranium enrichment sites that Israel has struck several times since the start of its campaign last week.



Iranian tankers stand in a queue at the Pakistan-Iran border in Taftan, Balochistan, yesterday, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran. Pakistan has closed all its border crossings with neighbouring Iran indefinitely, provincial officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

Use of US bunker-buster bomb looms over Iran conflict

The GBU-57 is missing from Israel's arsenal despite its stated goal of preventing Iran from building a nuclear bomb

AFP, Washington

A powerful American bunker-busting bomb is the only weapon capable of destroying Iran's deeply buried nuclear facilities, making it President Donald Trump's weapon of choice if he chooses to militarily back Israel.

The GBU-57, a 30,000-pound (13,607 kg) warhead capable of penetrating 200 feet (61 meters) underground before exploding, is missing from Israel's arsenal despite its stated goal of preventing Iran from building a nuclear bomb.

WHY THIS BOMB?

In less than a week, the Israeli army has taken out Iranian military commanders and damaged numerous surface installations, raising more questions than answers.

"The regime's missile stockpiles, launchers, military bases, production facilities, nuclear scientists, military command and control has taken a very severe beating," said Behnam Ben Taleblu, director of the Iran program at the Washington-based think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), a conservative-



leaning group.

"But there are still outsized questions as to how efficacious of a strike Israel had against the beating hearts of Iran's nuclear program," Taleblu said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported no damage at Fordo, a uranium enrichment plant south of Tehran. Unlike the Natanz and Isfahan sites in central Iran, Fordo is buried deep underground, beyond the reach of Israeli bombs. "All eyes will be on Fordo, which is buried under about

300 feet of rock in central Iran," Taleblu said.

Former US Army lieutenant general and Rand Corporation defense researcher Mark Schwartz insists that "only the United States has the conventional capacity" to destroy such a site. And by "conventional capacity," he means the non-nuclear GBU-57 bomb.

WHAT ARE ITS CAPABILITIES?

The US military says the GBU-57 -- also named Massive Ordnance Penetrator -- is designed to penetrate up to 200 feet underground before exploding, navigating through rock and concrete.

This differs from missiles or bombs that typically detonate their payload near or upon impact.

"To defeat these deeply buried targets, these weapons need to be designed with rather thick casings of steel, hardened steel, to sort of punch through these layers of rock," said Masafo Dahlgren, a fellow working on missile defense for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based research center.

US added over 1,000 new millionaires a day last year Says UBS report

REUTERS, Zurich

Wealth grew disproportionately quickly last year in the United States, where over 379,000 people became new US dollar millionaires, more than a 1,000 a day, a report published yesterday showed.

Private individuals' net worth rose 4.6 percent worldwide, and by over 11 percent in the Americas, driven by a stable US dollar and upbeat financial markets, the 2025 Global Wealth Report by UBS found. The United States accounted for almost 40 percent of global millionaires in 2024.

In 2023, Europe, the Middle East and Africa had led a rebound in global wealth after a decline in 2022. Greater China -- which the report defined as mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan -- led last year for individuals with a net worth of \$100,000 to \$1 million, accounting for 28.2 percent, followed by Western Europe with 25.4 percent and North America with 20.9 percent.

The majority of people worldwide were below that threshold, however, with over 80 percent of adults in the UBS sample having a net worth of under \$100,000. Overall, about 1.6 percent registered a net worth of \$1 million or more, the report said.

প্রতিপাদা: "বর্ষের ডানায় ভর করি, শিশুদের শৃঙ্খল ছিড়ি-এনিয়ে চলি দৃশ্য পায়ে, আশাৰ আগুন বুকে জালি"

শিশুদের নিরসনে হই আগুন

শিশুদের বাংলাদেশের একটি অন্যতম বড় সামাজিক চালেঞ্জ। তবে আশাৰ বৰ্ষে, টেকসই উন্নয়ন লক্ষ্যমাত্ৰার অন্যতম উদ্দেশ্য 'Decent work' বা শোভন কৰ্ম' নিশ্চিতকৰণের লক্ষ্যে শিশুদের নিরসনে বাংলাদেশ বৰ্দ্ধপৰিকৰণ।

শিশুদের নিরসনে সুরকারের পূর্ণীত পৰামৰ্শে

আই.ও.এল. ও. কনভেনশন 138 ও 182 অন্যমৰ্থন;

জাতীয় শিশুদের নিরসন নীতি, ২০১০ প্ৰণয়ন;

গৃহৰ্মৰী সুৱার্ণা ও কলাপ নীতি, ২০১৫ প্ৰণয়ন;

৪৩টি বৃক্ষিপূর্ণ কাজের তালিকা প্ৰণয়ন কৰে শিশুদের নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ;

প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা (বাধ্যতামূলক কৰণ) আইন, ১৯৯০ প্ৰণয়ন;

বাংলাদেশ শ্ৰম আইন, ২০০৬ এবং বাংলাদেশ শ্ৰম বিধানলা, ২০১৫-তে শিশুদের নিরসনে ধাৰা ও বিধি সংযোজন।

শিশুদের নিরসনে জাতীয় কৰ্মপৰিকৰণ (২০২১-২৫) প্ৰণয়ন।

শিক্ষা, খেলাধূলা, নিৰাপত্তা ও আনন্দময়ী শিশুদের প্ৰতিটো শিশুৰ অধিকার। শিশুদের ভাৰ্যাণ্ডা নষ্ট কৰে এবং জাতিকে সামঞ্জিকভাৱে কৃতিত্ব কৰে। তাই শিশুদের প্ৰতিৱেদৰ কৰতে সুৰকারের পশ্চাপাশি পৰিবাৰ, কাৰখনাৰ মালিক, আমিক সংগঠন, এনজি, গণমাধ্যম, সংৰিষ্ট অংশীজন এবং সচেতন নাগৰিক সমাজকে একযোগে কাজ কৰতে হবে।

আমদেৱ কৰণীয়

নিজ কমন্টুলে শিশুদের নিশ্চিত কৰন;

শিশুকে সুল পাঠাতে শামে নিযুক্ত প্ৰতিটি শিশুৰ পৰিবাৰকে উৎসাহ দিন এবং এই পৰিবাৰগুলোকে সামাজিক নিৰাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্য আওতামুক্ত কৰন;

শিশুদের নিৰসন বিষয়ক সুৰকারি ও বেসৱকারি কাৰ্যকৰমেৰ বিষয়ে শিশুৰ পৰিবাৰকে অবহিত কৰন;

শিশুদের দেখলে কলকাৰখনা ও প্ৰতিষ্ঠান পৰিদৰ্শন অধিদপ্তৰে হালীয় উপমহাপৰিদৰ্শকেৰ কাৰ্যালয়ে সুৰাসিৰি বা ১৬৩৭ নথনে কল কৰে অভিযোগ কৰন।

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#EndChildLabour

There was no US mediation in truce with Pakistan Modi tells Trump

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US President Donald Trump late on Tuesday that a ceasefire between India and Pakistan after a four-day conflict in May was achieved through talks between the two militaries and not US mediation, India's senior-most diplomat said.

Trump had said last month that the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours agreed to a ceasefire after talks mediated by the US, and that the hostilities ended after he urged the countries to focus on trade instead of war.

India has previously denied any third-party mediation and Tuesday's phone call between Modi and Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Canada, which Modi attended as a guest, is their first direct exchange since the May 7-10 conflict.

"PM Modi told President Trump clearly that during this period, there was no talk at any stage on subjects like India-US trade deal or US mediation between India and Pakistan," Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said in a press statement.

"Talks for ceasing military action happened directly between India and Pakistan through existing military channels, and on the insistence of Pakistan. Prime Minister Modi emphasised that India has not accepted mediation in the past and will never do," he said.

Delete WhatsApp from your phones Iran govt tells citizens

AFP, Washington

WhatsApp said it was "concerned" that its services would be blocked in Iran after a state broadcaster urged the public to delete the messaging app, saying it was sharing data with arch-rival Israel.

State television IRIB appealed to Iranians on Tuesday to delete WhatsApp from their phones, alleging that the app collected users' personal data and "last known locations and communications," and shared them with Israel.



A WhatsApp spokesperson dismissed the IRIB claims, saying all messages sent on the app were "end-to-end encrypted," with only the sender and recipient able to access them.

"We're concerned these false reports will be an excuse for our services to be blocked at a time when people need them the most," the spokesperson told AFP.

"We do not track your precise location, we don't keep logs of who everyone is messaging and we do not track the personal messages people are sending one another," they said.



Israeli soldiers detain Palestinian men during a raid at the Balata refugee camp east of Nablus city in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Smartphones banned from schools in Afghanistan

AFP, Afghanistan

A ban on smartphones in schools issued by Taliban authorities in southern Afghanistan came into force, students and teachers confirmed to AFP yesterday, over concerns of "focus" and "Islamic law".

The directive by the provincial Education Department in Kandahar applies to students, teachers and administrative staff in schools and religious schools.

"This decision has been made to ensure educational discipline, focus," the statement said, adding that it was taken from a "sharia perspective" and that smartphones contribute to "the destruction of the future generation".

The policy, which has already taken effect in schools across the province, has divided opinion among teachers

and students.

"We did not bring smart phones with us to school today," Saeed Ahmad, a 22-year-old teacher, told AFP.

"I think this is a good decision so that there is more focus on studies," he added.

Mohammad Anwar, an 11th grader, said "the teachers are saying if anyone is seen bringing a phone, they will start searching the students."

Another 12th-grade student, refusing to give his name, said the ban would hinder learning in a country where girls are barred from secondary school and university as part of restrictions the UN has dubbed "gender apartheid".

"When the teacher writes a lesson on the board, I often take a picture so I could write it down later. Now I can't. This decision will negatively affect our studies," the student said.



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