

Defeat With a Side of Luck

US claims 'huge success' in retrieving ejected airmen, but evidence points to significant damage



Wreckage of downed U.S. aircraft, southern Isfahan, April 5, 2026.

Iran's FM holds Talks with his counterparts from Egypt, Pakistan, and Austria

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate phone calls late Saturday with his counterparts from Egypt, Pakistan, and Austria to discuss the ongoing US-Israeli military campaign against Iran and its regional repercussions.

In his conversation with Egypt's Badr Abdelatty, Araghchi described the strikes on Iran's industrial infrastructure, peaceful nuclear facilities, and civilian and residential areas as "unprecedented war crimes." He stressed that all countries, ▶ Page 3

IRGC warns of harsher retaliation if US and Israel continue hitting Iranian civilian infrastructure

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Sunday that it carried out a series of retaliatory strikes on Israel and US economic interests in the Persian Gulf in response to blatant aggression by US and Israeli forces against Iranian civilian infrastructure.

The announcement comes amid the sixth week of a conflict between Iran and a US-Israeli coalition that began on February 28. So far, the strikes have killed over 2,000 people in Iran amid the bombing of residential areas.

On April 2, US and Israeli forces conducted airstrikes that severely damaged the B1 Bridge near Karaj, ▶ Page 2

Strait of Hormuz leverage shakes global economies as energy crisis escalates

TEHRAN- The management of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran has emerged as a powerful economic lever capable of reversing growth trajectories in major economies.

Implemented following what Iran describes as aggression by the American-Zionist coalition, this strategic control has now found concrete expression in the macroeconomic calculations and national budgets of countries worldwide.

With military tensions in the Persian Gulf at an all-time high and tanker traffic through the strait severely restricted, global energy markets are experiencing unprecedented volatility and consecutive price shocks.

The world is once again confronting an old but decisive reality: the absolute dependence of the global economy on the energy security of the Persian Gulf. ▶ Page 4

Iranian cultural figures condemn US-Israeli military aggression against Iran

TEHRAN- In a statement reflecting the sentiments of the academic and cultural community, over 250 scholars, researchers, and university professors have united to condemn the recent military aggression by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran.

The signatories of the declaration expressed their gratitude to the country's military forces while calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and compensation for the damages inflicted upon the Iranian people, Mehr reported on Saturday.

The statement, which includes prominent figures from various fields, denounces the US - Israeli attacks on civilian centers, including healthcare facilities, residential areas, cultural institutions, educational establishments, and historical sites, as well as critical economic infrastructure, the report added. ▶ Page 6

Oman, Iran discuss options to safeguard Strait of Hormuz transit

Senior diplomats from Oman and Iran met Saturday to explore ways to ensure the "smooth and safe passage" of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

The talks, held at the deputy foreign minister level, brought together technical experts from both sides. Participants outlined a range of proposals aimed at preserving stability in one of the world's most critical oil chokepoints, through which roughly one-fifth of global oil supplies pass.

Oman's Foreign Ministry confirmed the meeting in a post on X, saying discussions centered on "possible options for ensuring the smooth flow of transit through the Strait of Hormuz amid current regional conditions." The meeting followed remarks by an Iranian official on Thursday indicating that Tehran is working with Oman on a protocol to monitor traffic in the strategic waterway.

According to the Financial Times, while short-term market sentiment remains uncertain, longer-term indicators suggest growing optimism, with a 52 percent probability of a resolution by June 30. ▶ Page 3

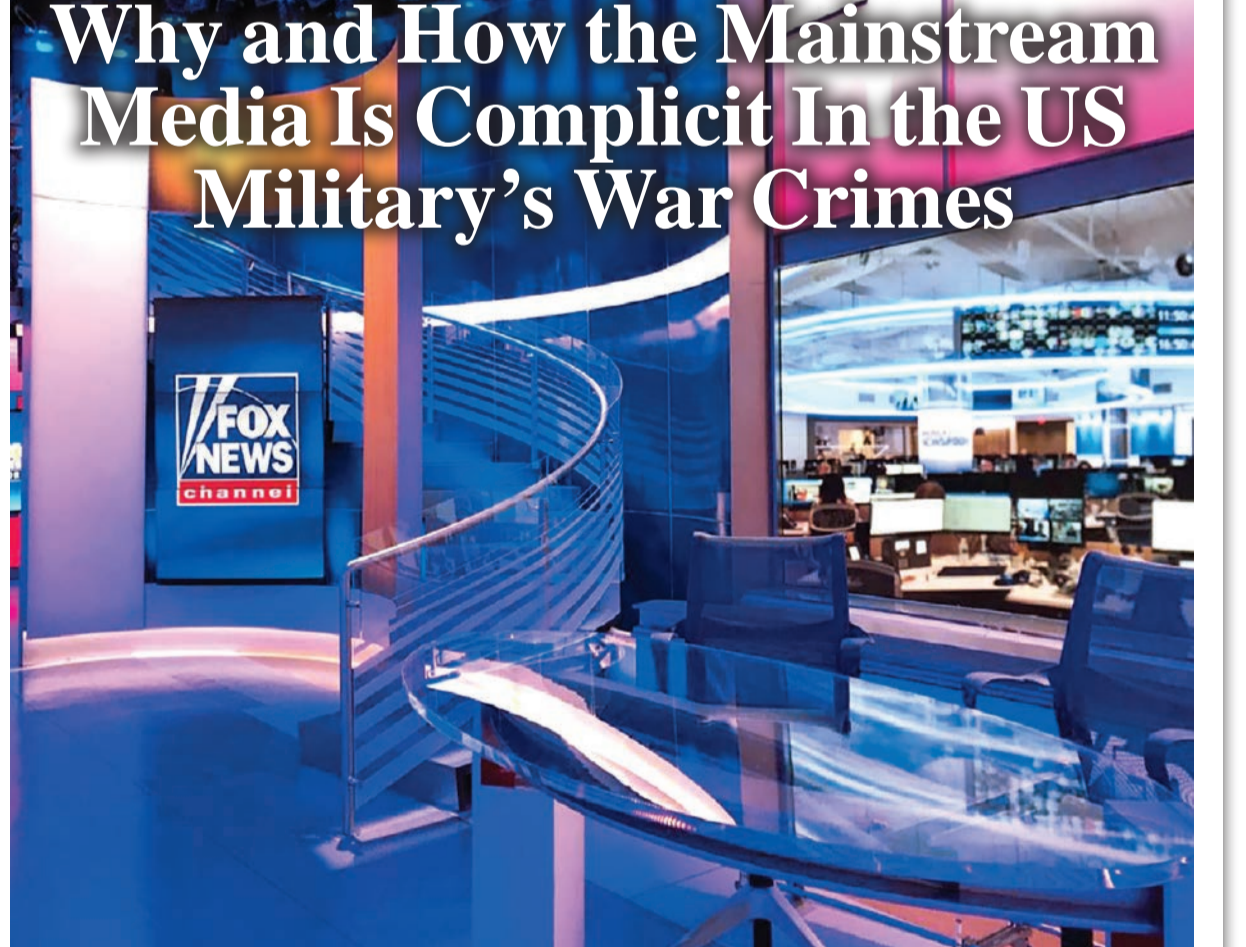
Iran accuses US, Israel of 'state terrorism' over infrastructure attacks

In a letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General and Security Council on Sunday, Iran's Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani condemned recent US and Israeli strikes on Iranian civilian infrastructure as "war crimes" and "a blatant act of state terrorism."

According to the envoy, on April 1, 2026, US airstrikes deliberately targeted the Karaj-Tehran B1 Bridge, a major civilian transit artery, causing partial destruction and significant casualties. On April 4, strikes hit the Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in Khuzestan, releasing hazardous chemicals and injuring workers. The same day, a cement factory in Bandar Khamir, Hormozgan Province, was also bombed.

Iravani noted that these attacks were preceded by explicit public threats from the US President, including vows to "bring Iran back to the Stone Age" and to destroy power plants, oil facilities, and desalination plants. Such statements constitute direct incitement to commit war crimes.

The ambassador called on the UN, the Security Council, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, the ICRC, and all member states to: ▶ Page 3



The language that led to war

By Afshin Majlesi
When a country is portrayed for decades as dangerous, untrustworthy and inherently threatening, the plot of attacking it becomes easier to accept. The current war with Iran reflects this dynamic, after years in which mainstream Western media repeatedly cast it as unsafe, potential threat!
In their reports it has been common to read phrases like "Iran's authoritarian regime suppresses dissent" or "Tehran's nuclear ambitions threaten global security." These lines, repeated across years and across outlets, have created a mental shortcut. For many readers and viewers, Iran was no longer a modern country with a rich history, civilized society, and internal debates. Yet, it became a fixed idea, a problem.
Contrary to that tarnished image, many foreign tourists who visit Iran are surprised by what they see. They often speak of a society that is more complex, more welcoming, and more normal than they expected. It is a gap shows how powerful media narratives can be.
When people hear the same message again and again, from different sources that appear independent, it begins to feel like an unquestionable truth. To better understand this, we need to look not only at what is said about Iran, but how it is said, how often it has been repeated, and what has been left out.
Major outlets such as The New York Times, BBC, CNN, The Guardian, Reuters, and The Washington Post usually describe Iran in very narrow and repetitive ways. Over time, certain words became almost automatic: "authoritarian regime," "repressive system," "destabilizing force," "nuclear threat." These were not occasional descriptions, they have almost become the standard language of reporting.
It is important to be clear: pointing out these patterns does not mean claiming that Iran is perfect or beyond criticism. No country is. The issue is about proportion, context, and consistency.
In reporting on Iran, certain patterns became clear. Iran's actions were often described with terms such as: "aggression." ▶ Page 7

War of words: how western media distort the Iran conflict

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami
The war of the US-Israeli coalition against Iran has not only created a deep geopolitical crisis but has also once again shown that during wartime, media narratives can be as influential as missiles and drones in shaping global public opinion. A closer look at the coverage of this war reveals that Western media, through their choice of words, headlines, images, and selective narratives, presents a highly biased and one-sided view of events that is far removed from the realities on the ground in Iran.
One of the clearest examples of this bias is how civilian casualties in Iran are reported. The US attack on the southern city of Minab, which killed at least 175 people—mostly schoolgirls—is a glaring example of media censorship and distortion. Many major Western outlets mentioned the human tragedy only briefly, often attributing the information to "Iranian state media," thereby implicitly questioning its credibility. By contrast, if a similar incident had occurred in Israel, the coverage would likely have dominated front pages, included in-depth interviews with families, and provided sustained human-interest reporting. This pattern clearly shows that Western media minimize Iranian victims while humanizing and amplifying Israeli victims.
Another example is the announcement of the loss of three US fighter jets on the second day of the war. The Pentagon claimed the planes were downed by "friendly fire" from Kuwait, yet independent analysts pointed out inconsistencies in timing and location that cast doubt on the official account. Despite this, Western media largely failed to follow up, and the story quickly faded from the news cycle, another case of censorship and lack of transparency in reporting.
Language itself plays a central role in shaping perceptions of violence. Terms like "take out" instead of "kill," "decapitate" to describe the elimination of political or military leaders, and "boots on the ground" to refer to troop deployments, all serve to bureaucratize or sanitize the harsh reality of war. These linguistic choices make military actions seem rational. ▶ Page 7

The arithmetic of suffering: How Western media dehumanize the victims of US wars

By Xavier Villar
MADRID - In Western newsrooms, grief distributes unevenly. Certain deaths receive narrative elaboration, photographic memorialization, sustained public attention; others become statistical notation, folded into the administrative language of geopolitical management. From Gaza and Tehran to Kabul and Baghdad, those targeted by sanctions regimes and military violence appear as numerical residue, tallied but not individualized, documented but not witnessed.
This differential is structural, not incidental. Western media instantiate a hierarchy of grievability wherein suffering proximates to perceived political-cultural affinity warrant commemorative attention, while lives positioned as geopolitically antagonistic undergo conversion into quantitative data. What materializes is a regime of differential worth, where recognizable humanity tracks coordinates of imperial power. Race operates here not as ontological category—some fixed biological or cultural essence—but as technology, a mutable apparatus of division, hierarchization, and population management that produces distinctions between lives meriting preservation and bodies available for premature death, perpetually reconstructing the global architecture of white supremacy.
Quantification as racial violence
Enumeration serves bureaucratic accounting; it forecloses relational recognition. When explosives detonate in Paris or Brussels, coverage proliferates portraiture—biographical detail, educational trajectories, relational networks made visible. When comparable violence unfolds in Gaza or Baghdad, public encounter enumeration: "fifty killed," "hundreds displaced." Abstraction operates as distancing mechanism, severing affective circuits between witness and witnessed.
This arithmetic transforms singularities into aggregates. Quantification performs as epistemological precision while functioning as ethical estrangement. As counts accumulate. ▶ Page 7

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TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

“If you won, why did you destroy the lineup?!”

Farhikhtegan discussed the changes among American commanders. It wrote: In strategic logic, no commander tampers with the lineup of a winning team; but the extensive reshuffling within the US government and military shows that the situation on the battlefield and in domestic politics is not going according to Trump's wishes. A chain of dismissals in the middle of a war that has reached an unexpected stage for the United States does not send good signals to the White House. This move proves that the current team has failed to meet American expectations in the war. In addition, Trump's public expression of anger and dissatisfaction with the performance of key members of his cabinet clearly shows that in his view, whatever this team is, it is not a 'winner.'

Sobh-e-No: How can a ceasefire between Iran and the United States become possible?

Sobh-e-No, in a commentary, examined how a ceasefire between Iran and the United States could occur. The commentary states that when we speak of ending a war, we must note that this concept only becomes meaningful when the attacking side, after a period reaches the conclusion that achieving its predetermined objectives on the battlefield is very difficult and that the war has reached a deadlock. In such circumstances, the desire for negotiation and establishing a ceasefire increases. Therefore, if one day a ceasefire is established between Iran and the United States or negotiations take place, it means that the United States has encountered difficulty in achieving its goals and has been forced to show flexibility; because the victorious side is usually less inclined to negotiate.

Iran: The winning card in the post-war economy

The Iran newspaper examined the readiness of the private sector for rebuilding war-related damage. This analysis acknowledges that Iran's private sector has the capability to renovate and reconstruct post-war damage. However, as long as the private sector is not viewed as a strategic partner, economic reconstruction will not succeed. The reality is that Iran's economy is at a turning point. Continuing the previous path means administrative reconstruction; changing course means genuine economic reconstruction. Today, the question is no longer about capability; the question is about the will to reform economic governance. If this emerges, the reconstruction of Iran's economy can become the starting point of a new era of growth, resilience, and prosperity.

Iran's first vice president: Trump stuck in the Stone Age

Iran's first vice president delivered a criticism at President Donald Trump over recent remarks about a lack of funding for social programs in the United States.

US media outlets reported this week that Trump had said it wasn't possible for his government to fund medical and child care because it is focused on military spending.

“Trump last night spoke about his inability to provide 'childcare and healthcare' for the Ameri-

Hamshahri: The black day of the US Air Force

Hamshahri, in an analysis, addressed what it called the US Air Force's black day and wrote: American media outlets and politicians acknowledge that Friday, April 3, counts as one of the darkest days in the history of the US Air Force, because Iran's air-defense forces inflicted historic and devastating blows to the United States' war system by targeting at least two advanced fighter jets, two combat rescue helicopters, a refueling aircraft, and a Chinook helicopter. Given the current circumstances, criticism of the US president has intensified, and American analysts and politicians—while admitting the firepower of the air-defense units of the Islamic Republic's armed forces—are reproaching Donald Trump for his lies and rhetoric about having destroyed Iran's military capabilities.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: The trajectory of the war is shifting in Iran's favor

In the Israeli-American coalition's war against Iran, the balance of power has shifted toward the Iranian front. The combined operation 'True Promise III', by surpassing Wave 92, has not only destroyed the enemy's strategic infrastructure in the occupied territories, but has also caused a deep rift within the US military establishment. On the diplomatic front as well, the situation has been in Iran's favor, and many countries—including France, a US ally—have emphasized a diplomatic solution for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, while also stating that such a solution is only possible in coordination with Iran. Inside the country, national unity is at its peak, and this reality has shown Trump that national dignity is not something that can be measured in dollars.

Shargh: Iran's upper hand

Maintaining control over the Strait of Hormuz is a predetermined necessity, and Iran cannot ignore it. This time, it is Iran that is imposing sanctions on the United States and any country that cooperates with it in enforcing sanctions. What Iran gains in the Strait (oil exports and collecting transit fees under various pretexts of different hubs) provides an alternative to the United States' unlawful sanctions. Iran can claim that US sanctions are illegal and constitute an act of war against Iran, placing the United States in a state of war with Iran; therefore, governments that comply with the sanctions are considered hostile and have no right to passage through the Strait. Of course, Iran also has room for other legal interpretations.

can people, citing war as an excuse, and today he threatened Iran with destroying 'power plants and bridges,' Mohammad Reza Aref, wrote on X.

He added: “Someone who sacrifices their people's welfare to threaten others is still stuck in the 'Stone Age'. Iran, however, has chosen a different path: building, even under pressure.”

Trump has threatened to bomb Iran back to the “Stone Ages” if Tehran does not agree to a deal with his administration.

IRGC warns of harsher retaliation if US and Israel continue hitting Iranian civilian infrastructure

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Sunday that it carried out a series of retaliatory strikes on Israel and US economic interests in the Persian Gulf in response to blatant aggression by US and Israeli forces against Iranian civilian infrastructure.

The announcement comes amid the sixth week of a conflict between Iran and a US-Israel coalition that began on February 28. So far, the strikes have killed over 2,000 people in Iran amid the bombing of residential areas.

On April 2, US and Israeli forces conducted airstrikes that severely damaged the B1 Bridge near Karaj, a major transportation link northwest of Tehran. The bridge was struck twice, killing at least eight civilians and wounding nearly 100 others. The bridge, one of the highest in the Middle East, was still under construction and had not yet opened to traffic when it was hit.

On April 4, US and Israeli strikes targeted multiple petrochemical facilities in the Mahshahr Special Economic Zone in Khuzestan Province, a key hub of Iran's petrochemical industry. Casualties



and significant damage at plants within the complex have been reported.

In its Sunday statement, the IRGC said the recent operations were part of the first phase of “Wave 96” of Operation True Promise 4, executed by its naval and aerospace forces. According to the statement, the strikes hit the following targets:

- Haifa, Israel – Heavy attack on a refinery that supplied fuel for Israeli fighter jets, damaging key infrastructure.

- Habshan, United Arab Emirates – Targeted gas facilities linked to US interests in the re-

gion.

- Al Ruwais, UAE – Missile attack on a petrochemical plant producing fuel used by US military and Israeli forces, resulting in a large fire.

- Sitra, Bahrain – Drone attack on a US petrochemical facility, causing widespread fires and destroying key production units.

- Shuaiba, Kuwait – Strikes on a petrochemical complex linked to US economic operations, causing fires and halting production.

The IRGC framed these actions as retaliation for the attacks on the B1 Bridge and the Mahshahr

petrochemical facilities, and said this first phase was only the beginning of its response. Iran has warned that further attacks on civilian infrastructure would be met with even stronger and more extensive retaliation, and that the United States would be held financially accountable for the damages caused by its military actions.

The strikes demonstrate Iran's growing capability to defend its sovereignty and respond decisively to aggression, targeting the infrastructure of those who attacked Iranian civilians and economic assets. By hitting key enemy economic and military-linked sites, Iran has sent a clear message: any assault on its territory will be met with proportionate and effective retaliation.

While international actors continue diplomatic discussions, the US and Israel have shown disregard for civilian safety by striking bridges and industrial centers. Tehran has emphasized that it will continue to protect its people and interests, and that attempts to intimidate or weaken Iran will only strengthen its resolve and regional influence.

Velayati to Trump: While Anglo-Saxons searched for fire in caves, Iran built civilizations

TEHRAN - A senior advisor to Iran's Leader has fired a sharp barb at US President Donald Trump over his recent anti-Tehran threats.

President Trump threatened on Saturday that “hell will reign down” on Iran if it does not agree to open the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours. He had previously warned that the US could bomb Iran's energy, water, and oil infrastructure if no agreement was reached. In a prime-time address on Thursday morning, Trump also threatened to bomb Iran “back to the Stone Ages.”

In a veiled response to these threats, Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to Iran's

Leader, reminded the US president of Iran's long-standing historical legacy.

“There was a time when the ancestors of the Anglo-Saxons were searching for fire in caves, while Darius the Great connected the Mediterranean to the Red Sea through a canal to facilitate navigation—when Iranian knowledge was laying the foundations of global scientific progress,” Velayati wrote on X.

Velayati's post underscores Iran's millennia-old civilization and contributions to global knowledge, contrasting them with the relatively short history of the United States. While Iran boasts a continuous cultural and



scientific heritage dating back over 2,500 years, including monumental achievements in engineering, mathematics, and navigation, the US is a nation only a few centuries old.

General Soleimani's family denies US claims linking arrested women to late commander

TEHRAN - The family of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani has rejected US claims that two Iranian women recently detained in the United States are related to the late commander.

US officials said federal agents arrested Hamideh Soleimani Afshar and her daughter after Secretary of State Marco Rubio revoked their lawful permanent resident status. The mother and

daughter are reportedly facing removal proceedings.

In a statement, Rubio alleged that the two women were the niece and grandniece of General Soleimani and claimed they had been “living lavishly in the United States.”

Two daughters of martyr Soleimani strongly denied the allegation.

Zeinab Soleimani said, “The US State Department's claim is false. The individuals arrested in the United States have no connection whatsoever to our family.”

Narjes Soleimani also rejected the accusation, stating, “To this day, no member of the Soleimani family, nor any relative of General Soleimani, has resided in the United States.”

General Soleimani, who commanded the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, was assassinated in a US drone strike in Baghdad in January 2020 during the presidency of Donald Trump. He played a key role in coordinating regional efforts that led to the defeat of the ISIL terror group in Iraq and Syria. He is hailed as an anti-terror icon in the West Asia region.

WHO chief warns US-Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear sites risk catastrophic fallout

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed grave concern over the safety of Iran's nuclear facilities following US-Israeli strikes near the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

“The latest incident involving the Bushehr nuclear power plant is a stark reminder: a strike could trigger a nuclear accident, with health impacts that would devastate generations,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post on X.

“With every passing day of this escalating conflict, the stakes and threats are raised higher and higher. We must de-escalate now. Peace is the best medicine,” he added.

The United States and Israel launched their war on Iran on February 28 and have since targeted military, energy, and residential areas across the country. The aggression has resulted in the deaths of more than 2,000 people.

Tedros' remarks came after the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that a projectile struck near the Bushehr facility on Saturday. According to the agency, one staff member at the site was killed by falling debris.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that the Bushehr nuclear power plant has been struck four times by the United States and Israel during the ongoing conflict.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, members of the Security Council, and IAEA Director-General Rafael



Grossi, Araghchi cautioned that continued attacks on Iran's nuclear infrastructure could expose the entire region to radioactive contamination.

“These illegal attacks expose the entire region to a serious risk of radioactive contamination, which could have grave consequences for human health and the environment, and therefore must not be ignored,” he wrote.

Araghchi stressed that the facilities targeted are under international safeguards, including the Bushehr plant, which he said is dedicated solely to peaceful purposes and operates under IAEA supervision.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova also condemned Saturday's strike, noting that the situation at Bushehr is “increasingly approaching a dangerous point.”

“The worst can still be avoided, but to achieve this, strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, including the Bushehr nuclear power plant, must cease immediately,” she said.

The Bushehr facility is Iran's only operational nuclear power plant. Located in the southern city of Bushehr, home to approximately 250,000 people, it is considered one of the country's most significant industrial and strategic hubs.

Defeat with a side of luck

US claims 'huge success' in retrieving ejected airmen, but evidence points to significant damage

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The Trump administration's search for the crew of an F-15, stranded in Iranian territory after their aircraft was downed by Iranian air defense, appeared to conclude on Sunday, amidst widespread skepticism regarding the American narrative of the operation's success and execution.

In a social media post, U.S. President Donald Trump issued a lengthy statement about finding the second airman, asserting he was located a day after the fighter jet's ejected pilot had been found. In the same statement, he first claimed the newly found airman was injured, then later contradicted himself by stating no one had been wounded. He also seemed to imply there had been no equipment loss.

Trump's narrative was then parroted by many of his officials, including his vice president and press secretary, who portrayed the saga as an unprecedentedly successful "rescue operation" and a sign that the U.S. does not leave its "brave" soldiers behind. Washington has primarily targeted civilian infrastructure since commencing its war against Iran on February 28. In its opening strikes, the U.S. bombed a girls' school in southern Iran, killing all 175 elementary students and teachers.

The two airmen are believed to have ejected in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, a southern Iranian province – a mountainous, sparsely populated region with a large nomadic population and few air defense systems.

U.S. officials have not addressed the clear loss of equipment in the operation, and their claims about a lack of casualties have come under doubt.

Footage captured by civilians or military personnel and published by Iranian media on the first day of the search efforts showed two Pave Hawk helicopters deployed to find the stranded crew emitting smoke as they moved towards Iran's western borders. Further losses were reported on the second day. Iran's military announced that two American C-130 Hercules transport planes, one additional military helicopter, and two MQ-9 drones were downed in southern Isfahan and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad on Sunday.

U.S. media has presented an almost fantastical narrative to explain these losses. It has only addressed the loss of the two C-130s, claiming American forces deliberately destroyed them after they became stuck in "mud" and were dis-



abled. However, photos published by Iran's military show the wreckage of the downed aircraft on dry and hard ground. The damage pattern evident in the photos also points to an interception: the propellers are bent and twisted, indicating high RPM rotation at the moment of severe impact, and the unscattered debris suggests in-flight destruction rather than a stationary crash.

Iran has not confirmed if the two original airmen were found by the U.S., or how many casualties the U.S. has incurred in its bid to find the ejected crew.

The recent U.S. losses come despite repeated claims by Trump and his officials over the past 37 days that they have decimated the Iranian military. In addition to their impressive interceptions, Iranian forces have been launching multiple daily waves of attacks against U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf and Israeli positions in the occupied territories; the offensive is now approaching its 100th wave of strikes.

Analysts argue that the Trump administration has underestimated Iran's military prowess from the outset. In speeches addressing the conflict, the U.S. President admitted he did not anticipate that Iran would target American bases in Persian Gulf countries if attacked, despite Tehran's repeated warnings to that effect. Trump also reportedly believed Iran would be unable to restrict navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, assuming his primary objective—toppling the Islamic Republic—would be realized within days of the

assassination of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who has since been succeeded by his son.

Analysts have told the Tehran Times that the most significant obstacle preventing Trump from claiming victory and exiting his unsuccessful and unpopular war is the situation in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran currently permits only non-hostile vessels to transit the waterway, through which over 20% of the world's energy flowed before the war. This has caused energy and grocery costs to skyrocket across the Western world, including the United States, where gas prices have risen by at least one dollar per gallon in the last month alone. The worsening economic strain is expected to damage the Republican Party's prospects in the upcoming midterm elections. Furthermore, the possibility of Trump's impeachment looms if Democrats secure a majority in Congress—a prospect that grows more likely as the war drags on.

Iran has vowed to ramp up pressure should Trump further escalate tensions and follow through on his repeated threats to strike Iranian energy infrastructure. Tehran is expected not only to reciprocate in kind by targeting the more limited energy infrastructure of Israel and cooperating Persian Gulf states but also to replicate its Hormuz blockade in the Bab-el-Mandab Strait via its powerful Yemeni allies. Such a move would trigger even sharper increases in global energy prices.

Oman, Iran discuss options to safeguard Strait of Hormuz transit

Senior diplomats from Oman and Iran met Saturday to explore ways to ensure the "smooth and safe passage" of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

The talks, held at the deputy foreign minister level, brought together technical experts from both sides. Participants outlined a range of proposals aimed at preserving stability in one of the world's most critical oil chokepoints, through which roughly one-fifth of global oil supplies pass.

Oman's Foreign Ministry confirmed the meeting in a post on

X, saying discussions centered on "possible options for ensuring the smooth flow of transit through the Strait of Hormuz amid current regional conditions." The meeting followed remarks by an Iranian official on Thursday indicating that Tehran is working with Oman on a protocol to monitor traffic in the strategic waterway.

According to the Financial Times, while short-term market sentiment remains uncertain, longer-term indicators suggest growing optimism, with a 52 percent probability of a resolution by June 30.



LATEST NEWS

■ Hojatoleslam Qomi: The new order is the fruit of resistance

Head of Islamic Development Organization Hojatoleslam Mohammad Qomi wrote on his personal page in an editorial: "The new order is the fruit of resistance — not the result of wishful thinking or insistence on ideas that have been trampled upon by the residents of Epstein."

■ Trump tells Fox US tried to send arms to Iran protesters 'through the Kurds'

Trump told the US news outlet that Washington tried to send weapons to Iranian protesters earlier this year "through the Kurds", but that he believes the weapons never reached protesters.

"We sent them a lot of guns, we sent them through the Kurds," Trump said, without providing more details about who exactly he was referring to.

He added that he thinks "the Kurds" kept the arms.

■ UAE says Khor Fakkan port targeted

The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UK-MTO) says it has received a report of "suspicious activity" from a vessel in the UAE's Khor Fakkan port.

The vessel reported "witnessing multiple splashes from unknown projectiles, in close proximity of his container ship, whilst alongside conducting loading operations", the group said in a social media post.

The Emirati government media office in Sharjah, where Khor Fakkan is located, also said authorities were dealing with "an incident that targeted Khor Fakkan Port" that had resulted in injuries.

■ Basra Oil Company Says Exports Halted Amid Regional Disruptions

The head of Iraq's state-owned Basra Oil Company has said that recent attacks on energy infrastructure have significantly disrupted operations, forcing a halt to exports.

"We are currently producing around 900,000 barrels per day to meet domestic demand, but exports have been suspended due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz," he said.

He added that most foreign firms operating in Iraq's oil fields have withdrawn personnel, with international staff evacuated amid escalating security concerns.

■ Iranian army announces drone attacks on petrochemical targets

Iran's army announced that, since early morning, its drones have carried out strikes on petrochemical facilities and fuel storage tanks in the southern areas of the occupied territories near Dimona.

■ Eight OPEC+ countries agree to increase oil production quotas

Eight members of the OPEC+ oil cartel have announced they will raise oil production quotas by 206,000 barrels per day (bpd) starting in May, as the Israeli-US war with Iran continues to roil energy markets.

■ Israel's Channel 13: Ten people injured in Haifa

Israel's Channel 13 announced that 10 people were injured, one of them in critical condition, after a rocket landed in Haifa.

■ Pope Leo XIV's Easter plea for peace

In his first Easter message, Pope Leo XIV urged those who "unleash wars" to choose peace through dialogue, not force. He called for abandoning conflict and laying down weapons. Thousands gathered at St. Peter's Square to hear him. His appeal comes as US and Israeli attacks on Iran continue, defying international law.

Iran's FM holds Talks with his counterparts from Egypt, Pakistan, and Austria

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate phone calls late Saturday with his counterparts from Egypt, Pakistan, and Austria to discuss the ongoing US-Israeli military campaign against Iran and its regional repercussions.

In his conversation with Egypt's Badr Abdelatty, Araghchi described the strikes on Iran's industrial infrastructure, peaceful nuclear facilities, and civilian and residential areas as "unprecedented war crimes." He stressed that all countries, particularly those in the region, must support stability and avoid any form of complicity. Abdelatty, for his part, underscored the importance of leveraging diplomatic channels to help bring the conflict to an end.

Speaking with Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Araghchi expressed appreciation for Pakistan's efforts and called for a firm international response to repeated violations over the past 35 days, including strikes on hospitals, schools, and universities. Dar re-

affirmed Pakistan's commitment to diplomatic engagement and emphasized the importance of continued coordination between the two countries.

In a separate call with Beate Meinel-Reisinger, Araghchi criticized some European governments for focusing primarily on economic fallout while overlooking the unlawful nature of the U.S.-Israeli actions. He also defended Iran's measures in the Strait of Hormuz as legal steps aimed at preventing its misuse by adversaries. Meinel-Reisinger voiced concern over the conflict's broader impact on global security and the economy and said Austria stands ready to intensify diplomatic efforts to help de-escalate the situation.

Since the beginning of the US-Israeli invasion of Iran on February 28, Araghchi has increased his diplomatic efforts to advocate for Iran in international forums, consulting daily with his counterparts across five continents.

Iran accuses US, Israel of 'state terrorism' over infrastructure attacks



zestan, releasing hazardous chemicals and injuring workers. The same day, a cement factory in Bandar Khamir, Hormozgan Province, was also bombed.

Iravani noted that these attacks were preceded by explicit public threats from the US President, including vows to "bring Iran back to the Stone Age" and to destroy power plants, oil facilities, and desalination plants. Such statements constitute direct incitement to commit war crimes.

The ambassador called on the UN, the Security Council, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, the ICRC, and all member states to:

1. Unreservedly condemn these acts as war crimes and state terrorism, and
2. Take immediate measures to halt the attacks and hold responsible all perpetrators, including the US President and Israeli Prime Minister.

Iravani warned that silence would undermine international law and encourage further aggression beyond the region.

Iran opens Strait of Hormuz to friendly nations amid ongoing war

TEHRAN — Iran has formally exempted Iraq from all restrictions on passage through the Strait of Hormuz, allowing Iraqi oil tankers to transit the strategic waterway while maintaining its blockade against vessels linked to the United States and Israel.

Following Iran's announcement, the oil tanker Ocean Thunder, carrying approximately one million barrels of Basrah Heavy crude, passed through the strait close to the Iranian coast en route to Malaysia. Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein subsequently thanked Iran for the gesture and reaffirmed Baghdad's policy of rejecting war.

The Iraqi exemption is part of a broader Iranian strategy to permit safe passage for vessels from countries it considers "friendly." Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has confirmed that China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and several Southeast Asian nations, including Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, have also been granted access following diplomatic coordination.



Since the US and Israel launched their terrorist and military attack on February 28, Iran has effectively blockaded the strait for the enemies, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil and LNG normally passes.

Ship traffic remains down more than 90% from normal levels, with only 53 transits recorded last week, the highest since the war began.

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters reiterated that restrictions will continue to apply to vessels from "enemy countries" and their supporters.

Gov't Spokesperson: Attacks on hospitals, universities, and civilian infrastructure are war Crimes

TEHRAN – Iran's government spokesperson has condemned recent US-Israeli attacks on civilian infrastructure, including a psychiatric hospital and multiple universities, calling them war crimes.

Speaking on Sunday, the 37th day of the imposed war, Fatemeh Mohajerani reported that 105,125 civilian units have been damaged across the country, including 83,351 residential units and 39,508 commercial-residential units in Tehran alone. Additionally, 322 healthcare centers, 763 schools, and 55

libraries in 12 provinces have been affected.

Mohajerani stated that 30 universities have been targeted so far, reflecting a sustained assault on knowledge and science. She noted that attacks on the B-1 Bridge and the Plasma and Laser Research Institute demonstrate the enemy's inability to tolerate Iran's scientific achievements.

Mohajerani also referred to the attack on the premises of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which martyred one security guard.

Renewable energy expansion accelerates; several solar, wind farms to join grid by July

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The technical and engineering deputy of SATBA (Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization) on Saturday announced progress in the construction of several solar and wind power plants across the country, stating that some of these projects will come online by July.

Alireza Parandeh Motlagh made the remarks during an inspection tour of ongoing renewable power plant projects. Noting the simultaneous development of solar and wind farms in various regions, he said: "In some windy areas of the country, in addition to significant wind energy potential, solar power plants are also being built."

He added: "In this regard, four solar power plants are under construction with support from the National Development Fund. It is anticipated that upon completion of the implementation phases, they will come online in the shortest possible time and add to the country's clean power generation capacity."

Parandeh Motlagh also reported the continuation of construction on a wind power plant in Sistan and Baluchestan province, stating: "Work on this project has begun. Foundations for four turbines are currently being laid, and foundation work for two more turbines will begin soon."

Fossil fuel dependence blamed for energy imbalance; renewables seen as solution

The gas and electricity imbalance crisis in Iran is the result of dependence on fossil fuels, experts say, while targeted development of renewable energies can reduce this gap and ensure the country's energy stability.

According to reports, the energy imbalance challenge has plagued the country in recent years. A gas shortfall of 300 million cubic meters in winter and an electricity deficit of 20,000 megawatts in summer—and even in winter—have prompted a search for solutions. Renewable energies have long been proposed as a suitable alternative to thermal power plants.

The development of renewables brings signif-



icant economic and environmental benefits beyond electricity supply. According to calculations by the Parliament Research Center, each megawatt of renewable generation capacity saves over 300,000 liters of liquid fuel annually. This reduces pressure on the country's gas and gas condensate reserves.

Furthermore, Mohsen Tarzatab, head of SATBA, notes: "Each megawatt of a solar power plant annually reduces gas consumption by 564,000 cubic meters and water by 443 cubic meters, preventing the emission of 1,384 tons of CO2. With the realization of 11,000 megawatts of renewable capacity by the end of next summer, 2% of the country's total gas consumption and about 7% of the total fuel used by power plants will be reduced."

Renewable power plant capacity has doubled in less than a year, indicating the country's significant potential. Under Iran's Seventh Economic Development Plan, solar power capacity must reach 12,000 megawatts by 2027—a sevenfold increase from current levels.

The energy imbalance crisis is the result of fossil fuel dependence. However, Iran's abundant renewable resources suggest that rapid, targeted development can effectively moderate this crisis, reducing pressure on gas and electricity grids during peak consumption while delivering considerable economic and environmental benefits. Smart investment and the removal of regulatory obstacles in renewables are essential strategies for ensuring the country's security, stability, and economic growth in the coming decades.

Commodities worth \$225.8m exported from Qom province in a year

TEHRAN- Esfandiar Darikvandi, the director-general of Qom Province's Customs Department, said that commodities worth \$225.8 million were exported from the province in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20).

Making the remarks in an interview with IRNA, the official said: "This amount of exports was made in the form of 5,709 declarations and weighed 201,261 tons."

He continued: "Based on recorded data, the total exports of Qom province in 1404 (Iranian calendar year) increased by 12.5 percent in dollar value compared to 1403."

He added: "Export goods from Qom province are highly diverse and have their own specific customers in various countries, from neighboring nations to other regions of the world."

It is worth noting that due to the province's strong focus on exports, many active industrial units in Qom have now turned toward producing export-oriented products, indicating that the volume and value of the province's exports are likely to increase in the near future.

Port equipment, maritime fleet modernization on agenda: PMO head

TEHRAN- The head of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) emphasized that the coming year will see more serious steps toward the flourishing of development plans, increasing the operational capacity of ports, and most importantly, improving productivity through the modernization of port equipment and the maritime fleet.

According to IRNA reporting from the Ports and Maritime Organization, Mohammad Shakibi-Nasab, at the inauguration ceremony introducing Adel Deris as the new head of the Port and Economic Affairs Deputy and Mohammad Mohsen Salimpour as the new head of the Port Affairs General Administration, condemned the aggression of the Zionist regime and America against our beloved homeland.

He also wished for victory and success for the fighters of Islam in this war.

The major part of Qom's economy belongs to the industrial sector, and currently a significant portion of the province's employment is in this sector.

Qom ranks sixth in the country in terms of industrial employment, which shows the importance of industry and the investments made in it in recent years.

Qom has seven industrial towns: Shokouhieh, Al-Ghadir, Shahab (printing and publishing), Salafchegan, Mahmoudabad, Samen (wood and furniture), and ICT (Information and Communications Technology), as well as five industrial zones: Khurabad, Dastjerd, Siro, Toghrouh, and Bidhand, plus two non-governmental towns.

Each of these enjoys a privileged position for developing investment, production, and employment.

In Qom province's industrial towns and zones, there are nearly 2,000 industrial units employing over 50,000 workers, where industrialists are engaged in production activities needed by the country.

Appreciating the relentless efforts of the organization's previous heads, who rendered valuable services during their tenure, Shakibi-Nasab also thanked port colleagues and managers across the country who, in these difficult wartime conditions, did not allow port operations and maritime activities to stop for a single moment, ensuring that essential goods and people's necessities were transferred from ports to various parts of the country as quickly as possible.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development further announced the supply of maritime and port equipment as one of the organization's key priorities.

In another part of his remarks, he called for facilitating, accelerating, and revising the main processes of the Ports and Maritime Organization.

Strait of Hormuz leverage shakes global economies as energy crisis escalates

TEHRAN- The management of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran has emerged as a powerful economic lever capable of reversing growth trajectories in major economies.

Implemented following what Iran describes as aggression by the American-Zionist coalition, this strategic control has now found concrete expression in the macroeconomic calculations and national budgets of countries worldwide.

With military tensions in the Persian Gulf at an all-time high and tanker traffic through the strait severely restricted, global energy markets are experiencing unprecedented volatility and consecutive price shocks.

The world is once again confronting an old but decisive reality: the absolute dependence of the global economy on the energy security of the Persian Gulf.

Nearly 20% of the world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making any disruption an immediate threat to international stability.

The evidence is already visible. Oil prices have surged abruptly, industrial governments have issued public warnings about potential fuel shortages, and JP Morgan has projected that the release of strategic energy reserves will only manage to cap prices until approximately April 20.

Behind the scenes, financial markets are already pricing in prolonged disruption.

Brent crude futures have climbed to levels not seen in nearly a decade, while hedging activity by airlines and shipping companies has spiked dramatically.



Meanwhile, the International Energy Agency has quietly revised its global oil demand forecasts, warning that supply-side shocks of this magnitude could erase projected growth for the remainder of the year.

What makes the current situation unique is the absence of a swift diplomatic channel.

Unlike previous Persian Gulf crises, where back-channel negotiations often de-escalated tensions within weeks, no such mechanism appears operational today.

This vacuum amplifies uncertainty, forcing treasury departments and central banks to model scenarios once considered extreme—including oil at \$150 per barrel and coordinated rationing in industrialized nations.

These signals suggest that the current crisis is not a contained regional conflict but a systemic shock with the power to reshape global economic structures.

Why developed economies are feeling the heat

Why are developed economies, particularly in Europe, growing increasingly anxious?

The answer lies in their post-industrial dependency on affordable energy. Over recent decades, Western industrial growth has been built upon cheap and predictable fossil fuels.

Factory production, maritime and air freight networks, automotive manufacturing, petrochemicals, and even mechanized agriculture all require stable energy inputs.

When energy prices rise, three simultaneous consequences follow: production costs escalate, consumer inflation accelerates, and GDP growth slows.

Germany—Europe's economic engine—is already showing signs of stagnation.

If high energy prices persist, many European industries will lose competitiveness against regions with cheaper energy, raising the probability of a continent-wide recession.

Is the world facing an economic regression? Not necessarily a return to the past, but many economists warn of an impending "developmental slowdown."

In such a scenario, govern-

ments are forced to divert financial resources away from technological innovation, digital infrastructure, and green transition projects toward immediate energy procurement and household subsidies.

This reallocation could stall industrial progress for years.

Long-term economic engines—such as advanced manufacturing and research-intensive sectors—are often the first casualties of prolonged energy crises.

Beyond oil: a cascade of economic disruptions

Crucially, the effects of closing the Strait of Hormuz extend far beyond the oil market.

Higher crude prices trigger a cascade: marine and air transport costs rise, food prices inflate due to higher production and shipping expenses, electricity generation becomes more expensive, households face mounting inflationary pressure, and global consumption contracts.

Analysts now warn of "energy-driven inflation"—a phenomenon starting in fuel markets but rapidly spreading to every good and service, from bread to electronics.

In conclusion, the Strait of Hormuz has transformed from a geopolitical flashpoint into a direct instrument of macroeconomic leverage.

For major economies, the message is clear: energy security is no longer just a strategic issue but a budgetary one.

Unless swift diplomatic or military solutions emerge, the world may face a prolonged period of high prices, slow growth, and forced economic recalibration.

'Iran, with a population of 90 million, has no shortage of essential goods'

TEHRAN- The Minister of Agriculture, referring to the experience of a challenging year marked by two wars, stated that despite having a population of 90 million, Iran has so far faced no shortage in the supply of essential goods and food.

According to IRNA reporting from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh added in a consultative meeting with members of the Parliament's Agricultural Committee: "The UAE, with a population of only a few million, faced food shortages and empty store shelves, and even the occupied territories have encountered a major crisis in the area of essential goods."

The Minister of Agriculture, citing the experience of a challenging year and the occurrence of two wars, identified the management of supply and customs clearance of essential goods as the key factor in maintaining market stability.

According to the report, the meeting emphasized the need for sustainable production and continuous supply of essential goods, as well as the President's order to maintain a minimum inventory of 6 million tons of essential products, support for people's livelihoods under wartime conditions, and the strengthening of the resistance economy in the agricultural sector through cooperation between the government and the parliament.

Simultaneously with the American-Zionist aggression and attack on Iran, government bodies are seeking to manage people's livelihoods and support the economy through policies focused on facilitating and accelerating service delivery.

According to a report by IRNA on April 1, the government, in cooperation with the private sector, aims to expand its support network for various segments of the population and entrepreneurs under the wartime conditions imposed on the country.

The effects and benefits of this policy have been tangible over the past month, reflected in the stability of markets.

Monitoring the actions of the Ministries of Industry, Mining and Trade; Economy; Agriculture; Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare; and other institutions indicates a continuous effort by the government to streamline trade processes for entrepreneurs, manage livelihoods, and support the economy for different segments of society.

Key measures in recent days include: extending the deadline for using customs facilities for goods clearance and accelerating imports; disbursing new financial facilities to households without income and small and medium-sized enterprises affected by the war; implementing the "credit purchase of goods and services" plan for heads of households; and granting facilities to a larger number of retirees.

The Iranian Customs Administration, an affiliate of the Ministry of Economy, had previously provided facilities for goods clearance over the past month and has now extended this process for another month.

Accordingly, special customs facilities remain available for entrepreneurs in emergency situations, allowing goods owners to clear their shipments.

These customs measures aim to expedite the clearance of goods and accelerate customs procedures.

As a result, with the round-the-clock efforts of customs staff and cooperation from adjacent organizations, 2,255 million tons of essential goods have been definitively cleared and entered the country through customs over the past month, from the beginning of the "Ramadan War" until now.

Furthermore, the Trade Promotion Organization, under the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, has taken steps in cooperation with the Iranian Customs Administration to facilitate trade processes.

The most significant of these measures is the extension of the validity of business cards (trade licenses) and registration orders.

On April 2, the Vice Speaker of Parliament and the heads of specialized parliamentary committee met with Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, and discussed the latest measures taken by the ministry to facilitate and accelerate production activities and maintain economic stability.

The meeting was attended by Ali Nikzad, First Vice Speaker of Parliament; Dr. Seyyed Shamseddin Hosseini, Head of the Economic Committee of Parliament; and Nasrollah Pejmanfar, Head of the Article 90 Committee of Parliament, along with the Minister of Economy.

They reviewed the ministry's efforts to preserve economic stability and the actions taken

by the ministry during the Ramadan War.

In this meeting, which was also attended by Mohammad Reza Dashti Ardakani, Deputy for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Ministry of Economy, the Minister of Economy presented a report to the representatives on the ministry's measures to maintain economic stability under wartime conditions and the priorities for realizing this year's slogan: "Resistance Economy in the Shadow of National Unity and National Security."

Seyyed Ali Madanizadeh detailed the actions taken in areas such as market stabilization, support for production, intensification of financial oversight, and improved supply of essential and basic goods.

Subsequently, the parliamentary board members and committee heads emphasized the need for continued and enhanced efforts by the ministry in facilitating production and industrial activities, as well as accelerating customs and tax processes for the people and economic actors.

Also, minister of cooperatives, labor, and social welfare has previously said that the country is not facing shortages of essential goods, despite unrelenting U.S.-Israeli bombing of civilian infrastructure.

The minister, Ahmad Meydari, said his ministry oversees broad industrial and economic capacities, including in dairy production, petrochemicals, mining, coal, and metals.

He emphasized that safeguarding people's livelihoods remains a central priority for the government.

Following meetings in Tehran with the governor of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, they agreed to establish a joint committee aimed at identifying and removing bureaucratic hurdles, he said. Meydari described the southeastern province, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, as having significant untapped potential, particularly for expanding cross-border trade.

"In the current wartime conditions," he said, referring to ongoing regional conflicts, "there is, fortunately, no shortage in the supply of essential goods."

He added that authorities are working to diversify supply routes, expanding imports and distribution channels through the country's eastern, western and northern borders, alongside existing southern corridors along the Persian Gulf.

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Lebanon's Hezbollah has announced that its fighters targeted a Zionist regime's warship, reaffirming the movement's strong resilience.

In a statement, the Lebanese resistance movement said its fighters struck the Israeli warship located 68 nautical miles off the Lebanese coast in an operation on Sunday night.

According to the statement, the Zionist regime's warship was preparing to carry out attacks on Lebanese territory. The resistance movement confirmed that the warship was targeted with a naval cruise missile after being monitored for several hours, and that the strike resulted in a direct hit.

Hezbollah stated that this action was carried out in defense of Lebanon and its people, and as part of a response to the ongoing Israeli attacks on villages and cities, the destruction of infrastructure, and the displacement of civilians.

The statement opened by recalling remarks made by its martyr Secretary-General, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, during the July 2006 war. At that time, he announced live on air the targeting of the Israeli regime's warship Sa'ar: "Right now, out at sea, the Israeli military warship that attacked our infrastructure, our homes, and our civilians; look at it burning."

The Lebanese resistance front has waged dozens of operations on a daily basis against Israeli occupation forces (IOF) attempting to invade Southern Lebanon as well as IOF gathering points, infantry and bases in northern occupied Palestine alongside the regime's settlements.

According to Hezbollah's statements, around 100 IOF tanks have been targeted, suffering partial damage or have been completely destroyed.

In addition, the IOF has acknowledged at least ten of its soldiers killed by Hezbollah fire and at least 300 others injured. Southern Lebanon has once again turned into a



quagmire for the regime's forces in the face of Hezbollah fighters. This comes as some have questioned whether Hezbollah maintains the same military power it used to possess.

The latest development marks a major setback for the occupation regime, which has already suffered significant losses over the past four weeks after expanding its aggression on Lebanon.

During the July 2006 war, Hezbollah targeted a Zionist warship positioned about 16 kilometers offshore. Today, the Lebanese resistance announced a strike on a vessel 110 kilometers away, reflecting a notable expansion in its operational range.

This comes amid the Israeli regime's stated intent to "destroy Hezbollah's naval force."

A significant strategic shift is emerging in Hezbollah's maritime domain with the introduction of guided cruise missiles into active use. Their extended range, exceeding 60 nautical miles, and low-altitude flight profiles present unprecedented challenges to conventional naval defense systems.

The sea, once viewed as a relatively secure "launch platform" for the Zionist regime, may now become a contested and costly environment. The presence of such missiles compels warships of the occupation regime to operate at greater distances from the coastline, limiting their effectiveness in supporting ground

operations and constraining maneuverability.

This development highlights that Hezbollah still holds capabilities, which can shape the equation and balance of power with the regime. From a wider perspective, the development also highlights the region's capabilities of reshaping engagement dynamics and rebalancing power in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The implications of Hezbollah's naval strike are considerable. Even if the Israeli regime publicly downplays or denies the impact, its vessels will likely exercise greater caution, particularly given the demonstrated reach of Hezbollah's maritime capabilities. This situation echoes 2006, when one Zionist warship was struck off Beirut and another near Tyre. The Israeli regime acknowledged the first strike but denied the second due to limited evidence, illustrating the ambiguity and strategic messaging typical of the Zionists.

The introduction of cruise missile capabilities further signals a shift in the maritime balance, emphasizing that previously secure areas are increasingly vulnerable and that Israel's traditional naval dominance can no longer be assumed.

In reality, the resilience of Hezbollah is a complex phenomenon where geography intersects with psychology, and politics with society. Lebanon, with its complex terrain and tension-prone borders, has never been just a battleground but rather

a testing ground for competing wills.

Hezbollah has turned geography from a weakness into a strength, from something vulnerable into something protective. Southern villages are no longer just frontlines; they now serve as defensive positions, showing how the Lebanese resistance can reshape its surroundings to support survival strategies.

Hezbollah's resilience has also emerged as a state of continuous mobilization. It is not simply about military readiness, but about long-term mental construction, turning fear into awareness and threat into motivation.

Here, rhetoric, symbols, and collective memory play a central role in sustaining resilience.

Further, Hezbollah's resilience reflects an ability to maneuver within a complex web of balances. Lebanon, as a country of multiple affiliations, requires any internal actor to master the delicate balance between domestic and external forces.

Resilience, therefore, is not only about confronting an external enemy, but also about carefully managing internal relationships to maintain legitimacy, even at a minimal level. This fragile balance between resistance and politics is what gives resilience its strategic depth.

And, there is no resilience without a supportive base, and no resistance without society. Over the years, Hezbollah has built a social system that provides services, fosters connections, and reinforces a sense of belonging.

Hezbollah's resilience in Lebanon is not only a military phenomenon. It is a complex, multidimensional reality where geography meets psychology, politics meets society, and symbolism meets lived experience. It is a form of resilience that constantly redefines itself, raising as many questions as it answers. In a rapidly changing world, this resilience, despite all its complexity, remains key to understanding not only Lebanon, but the nature of conflicts with the Zionist regime across the region as a whole.

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Straight Truth
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Self-proclaimed friends of Iranians are ruining their life



TEHRAN – The Netanyahu regime and the Trump administration which have launched an illegal and unprovoked war on Iran since Feb. 28 are committing war crimes one after another and threatening to do more.

The Israeli regime, which has deceived the Trump administration into aggression against Iran, commits acts of war crimes more brazenly than the Trump administration, whose war minister Pete Hegseth has declared "no quarter" would be given to enemies in Iran.

"No quarter" in a military conflict is considered a war crime and is prohibited in customary international law and by the Rome Statute.

Israel, despite being a small country established on Palestinian lands in 1948, has been committing war crimes and crimes against humanity more recurrently. The most concrete examples of such horrendous acts were committed or are still being committed against Gazans. It is for these acts that its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and his former war minister Yoav Gallant are wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The Israeli regime is now striking Iran's key infrastructure such as steel, cement, and petrochemical complexes that the lives of millions of Iranians are dependent on them. Netanyahu which was repeatedly claiming that that Israel is the friend of Iranian people and calls them "brilliant" is now turning their key infrastructure into ashes and pushing them into extreme poverty.

The Israeli military strikes on the Pasteur Institute, a century-old pillar of Iran's public health system, and a major pharmaceutical factory are clear examples of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Pasteur Institute, formally established in the early 1920s in cooperation with the Paris-based Pasteur Institute, emerged after World War I amid widespread famine and epidemics that underscored the urgent need for a modern public health infrastructure. The strike on the institute, as the oldest health center in the Middle East, has been described not merely as a war crime but a "barbaric assault on basic human core values."

The bombed pharmaceutical factory also belongs to the Tofigh Daru Research and Engineering Company that produced anti-cancer, anesthetic and specialized medicines.

The Iranian people were already suffering from the shortage of medicines and medical equipment due to the U.S.-led crippling sanctions. The demolition of the facility rubs salt into the wound.

A small number of Iranian diaspora, who pushed for the U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran, should know see the performance of their masters.

Legal experts believes that the demolition of the pharmaceutical company is a clear example of "war crime" as it puts thousands of patients with serious diseases on the verge of human disaster.

Dr. Mahdi Pirsalehi, the Iranian deputy health minister and chief of the Food and Drug Organization, said the Tofigh Daru Research and Engineering Company was one of the major producers of drugs that are crucial

for "use in hospitals and operating rooms."

Hassan Nayeb Hashem and Hamid Hematpour, two physicians and human rights activists based in Austria, say these attacks "fall outside all standards of war."

Nayeb Hashem said the Tofigh Daru produced "different important types of anti-cancer drugs, anesthesia medicines for operating rooms,... medicines for MS patients, and strong painkillers such as Fentanyl."

Trump, who is at the hands of Netanyahu like a puppet, wrote on Truth Social on April 4 threatening to destroy Iran's energy infrastructure, including power plants, if it "does not make a deal or open up the Hormuz Strait" within 48 hours. He threatened to create a "hell" in Iran if it does not surrender to his bullying.

Since the 48-hour deadline was declared people are living in more panic. They don't know what is awaiting their children and their life as a whole.

The U.S.-Israel illegal aggression on Iran during the negotiations, the U.S. tragic strike on a primarily school in southern Iran, the sinking of an unarmed Iranian frigate in the Indian Ocean with about 170 service members onboard, its repeated ultimatums to strike Iran's power plants

coupled with Israel's attacks on health centers, residential houses, water plants and critical infrastructure, particularly the Pasteur Institute and the Tofigh pharmaceutical company, have made both Trump and Netanyahu look like a duplicitous and murderous pair.

It is because of these acts that more than 100 U.S.-based international law experts have signed an open letter condemning U.S. and Israeli military strikes on Iran as a violation of the United Nations Charter and potentially amounting to "war crimes".

The letter, published on Thursday, also said the conduct of U.S. forces and statements by senior U.S. officials "raise serious concerns about violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law".

The scholars warned that the U.S.-Israeli campaign was launched without UN Security Council authorization and without credible evidence of an imminent Iranian threat.

"Force against another state is only permitted in self-defense against an actual or imminent armed attack or where authorized by the UN Security Council. The Security Council did not authorize the attack. Iran did not attack Israel or the United States," the letter said.

The experts' concerns fall into four areas: the legality of the decision to go to war; the conduct of hostilities; threatening rhetoric from senior officials; and what they describe as the dismantling of civilian protection structures inside the U.S. government under Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's "gloves off" approach to warfare.

Now, Netanyahu who calls Iranians "brilliant" and Donald Trump describes them as "absolutely amazing people" are ruining their country and even don't spare their UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Global masses stand with Iran as US-Israeli war machine falters

By staff writer

TEHRAN — Over the weekend of April 4 and 5, the world spoke with one voice against the U.S.-Israeli campaign of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Tens of thousands marched in Iraq while smaller but determined crowds gathered from Toronto to Tokyo.

They condemned the strikes as illegal aggression, expressed solidarity with the Iranian people, mourned the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and demanded an immediate end to foreign aggression in the Middle East.

As the war enters its sixth week, the transparently hollow myth of Iranian isolation has been shattered, replaced by the reality of a Washington-Tel Aviv axis increasingly divorced from the conscience of humanity.

Heart of Resistance

Nowhere was the solidarity more visible or more powerful than in Iraq.

Answering Muqtada al-Sadr's call for peaceful nationwide protests, enormous crowds filled Tahrir Square in Baghdad on April 4.

They spilled into the streets of Basra, Karbala, Nasiriyah, and other cities, waving Iraqi flags and chanting "No, no to Israel" and "No, no to America."

On April 5, hundreds of thousands marched from Tahrir Square toward the Green Zone, turning the protest into a direct demand for the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Beneath Baghdad's Freedom Monument, demonstrator Dhirgham Samir, a man in his 40s, told AFP the strikes were "not a war of a military nature, but a senseless war... targeting civilians."

Cleric Ali al-Fartousi declared, "Humanity must speak out against these people and stop them. The time has come for the entire world

to stand united against global Zionist-American arrogance."

Tehran's actions including the decision to exempt Iraqi ships from any restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz have been quiet but eloquent gestures of gratitude and symbols of brotherhood for this steadfast support from a neighbor that has itself suffered U.S. strikes on its soil.

Cracks within the aggressor camp

Even inside Israel and the United States, the war has lost legitimacy.

In Tel Aviv's Habima Square on April 4, hundreds defied wartime restrictions and police violence to demand an end to the fighting in Iran, Lebanon, and Gaza.

Israeli forces on horseback dispersed the crowd, made 17 arrests, and confiscated loudspeakers.

Alon-Lee Green of Standing Together, who was detained, stated plainly: "We will demonstrate against the war until we reach victory."

The Israeli High Court itself had to intervene to protect the right to protest, exposing the regime's fear of its own citizens.

Across the Atlantic, the American "No Kings" movement kept rolling.

Building on the March mobilization that drew an estimated eight million people in more than 3,300 events, fresh rallies in major cities kept the pressure on the Trump administration.

Diverse coalitions—from Code Pink to the Black Alliance for Peace—have condemned the war as both a moral outrage and a constitutional crisis.

Signs reading "Not in Our Name" and chants labeling the strikes a war crime reflected polling numbers that show 59 to 66 percent of Americans believe the action has "gone too far."

Even both among Iranian Ameri-



cans and American Jews, majorities now oppose the war.

A truly global front

The weekend's actions stretched far beyond the Middle East.

In Jakarta, Indonesia, protesters gathered outside the U.S. Embassy to honor Indonesian soldiers killed by Israeli strikes in Lebanon and to call for Indonesia's exit from U.S.-led forums.

The Indonesian soldiers were serving in UNIFIL in Lebanon.

Tokyo saw 24,000 march in the rain, while rallies in New Delhi, Lucknow, Dhaka, and Karachi drew Shia communities, students, and leftist groups who linked the war to soaring oil prices and global hunger.

In Sana'a, Yemen, millions turned out, with Ansarullah leaders pledging to maintain their operations until aggression against Iran ceases.

Europe added its voice. Thousands marched in German cities demanding the closure of Ramstein Airbase and an end to arms shipments.

In Stockholm, hundreds supported Iran alongside Palestine and Lebanon.

Similar actions occurred in Cork, Ireland; Nijmegen, the Netherlands; and several Canadian cities, including Toronto.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian cultural figures condemn US-Israeli military aggression against Iran

TEHRAN- In a statement reflecting the sentiments of the academic and cultural community, over 250 scholars, researchers, and university professors have united to condemn the recent military aggression by the United States and the Zionist regime against Iran.

The signatories of the declaration expressed their gratitude to the country's military forces while calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and compensation for the damages inflicted upon the Iranian people, Mehr reported on Saturday.

The statement, which includes prominent figures from various fields, denounces the US - Israeli attacks on civilian centers, including healthcare facilities, residential areas, cultural institutions, educational establishments, and historical sites, as well as critical economic infrastructure, the report added.

"We, the academics, cultural figures, researchers, and writers, strongly condemn the military aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran and their assault on non-military targets," the statement reads. "We demand an immediate halt to this aggression and restitution for the losses suffered by Iran and its honorable people."

The signatories expressed hope that this imposed war would come to an end in accordance with national interests. They also extended heartfelt thanks to the brave defenders of Iran who are sacrificing their lives to protect the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Following the coordinated US- Israeli attack on February 28, which targeted key national facilities in Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, was martyred. Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei has since been appointed as the new Leader by the Assembly of Experts.



The tragedy extended beyond political leadership to civilian infrastructure. In one of the most devastating attacks, Shajareh Tayebah elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan Province, was struck, resulting in the martyrdom of 168 children and 95 injuries. These strikes destroyed numerous homes while directly targeting cultural and educational centers.

These attacks caused irreparable damage to residential and cultural areas across Iran. Many schools, theaters, libraries, and cultural institutions were either completely destroyed or heavily damaged. Iranian families in cities like Minab, Tehran, Isfahan, Hamedan, Tabriz and other regions have faced the devastation of home destruction and the loss of loved ones. Despite this, the spirit of resistance and resilience among the Iranian people has been strengthened. The ongoing efforts to rebuild and preserve the country's cultural heritage continue.

Operation "True Promise 4" has been launched in response and will continue until the defeat of enemies. The operation stands as a symbol of Iran's response to foreign aggression and demonstrates the national determination to defend territorial integrity.

US-Israeli attacks target 360 health infrastructures

TEHRAN - Some 360 health infrastructures have been so far destroyed during the US-Israeli airstrikes, started on February 28, the head of Emergency Medical Services Organization has said.

The aggressions have so far led to the martyrdom of 261 women, 216 children under the age of 18, and 17 aged less than five years, Mehr news agency quoted Jafar Miadfar as saying.

Among those wounded, 4,695 were women, 1,779 were below 18, and 121 were children less than five years old. The youngest was a month-old baby, and the oldest was around one hundred years old.

Moreover, 24 medical workers have lost their lives, and 116 were wounded in airstrikes.

A total of 323 medical and pharmaceutical centers, 763 schools and educational premises, 18 educational and academic centers, 20 Red Crescent buildings, three rescue helicopters, 46 ambulances, and 48 rescue vehicles were also damaged.

Even the emergency call center was not secure from strikes, being attacked by the US and Israel. The center is responsible for receiving emergen-

cy calls, dispatching rescuers, and managing operations. In critical situations, the center plays a large part in monitoring relief operations.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), has warned that the conflict in Iran, and the region, is impacting the delivery of health services and the safety of health workers, patients, and civilians present at health facilities.

"Multiple attacks on health have been reported in the Iranian capital, Tehran, in recent days amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East."

Meanwhile, President Masoud Pezeshkian called Thursday on international health organizations and doctors worldwide to respond to what he described as a "crime against humanity" following attacks on medical facilities in Iran.

"What message does attacking hospitals, pharmaceutical companies and the Pasteur Institute (of Iran) as a medical research center in Iran convey?" Pezeshkian wrote on X.

"As a specialist physician, I urge WHO, the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders and physicians worldwide to respond to this crime against humanity," he added.

Afghan poet defends Iran's cultural resilience in response to Trump

TEHRAN- Prominent Afghan poet Seyyed Reza Mohammadi has said that "Iran will not return to the Stone Age," stressing that nations live through culture, in a brief note posted on his personal page in response to remarks by US President Donald Trump.

Mohammadi wrote that Iran's cultural depth and literary heritage make it resilient, adding a poetic passage in which he referred to Iran as a land that will remain more flourishing than ever, ISNA reported on Saturday.

In his remarks, Mohammadi also recounted a memory from Tajikistan, saying a taxi driver there told him his wife had sent all her gold to help the people of Iran. He then said that Iran would not regress to a primitive era because "Shahnameh lives within it," describing Ferdowsi's epic as "the alchemy of immortality."

Mohammadi went on to criticize Trump sharply, saying the American president himself is already in the Stone Age as his mind and heart are still governed by archaic thinking.

"Nations live by culture, and culture is not four buildings," he wrote, closing his note with a message of confidence in Iran's enduring civilizational identity.

In a recent remark that drew sharp criticism from Iranian officials, Donald Trump used the phrase "back to the Stone Age" to describe the kind of punishment he said Iran could face if it did not comply with US demands. The comment was widely condemned in Tehran as a threat against civilian infrastructure and a sign of contempt for a nation with a long historical and cultural legacy.

Iranian officials said the comment shows open hostility at a time when the country is under military attack, arguing that targeting civilian infrastructure and using such language in wartime amounts to a war crime. They also said the statement reflects a primitive mindset, not a serious diplomatic position, and insisted that Iran's response is rooted in self-defense and national resilience.

INSF, BRICS STI Framework to support implementation of joint research projects

TEHRAN - The Iran National Science Foundation (INSF) and BRICS Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Framework will support the implementation of major, strategic collaborative research projects through joint regular and flagship calls to help find sustainable solutions to global challenges, and bring about fundamental revolutions in science, technology, and society.

The effort will provide a great opportunity for the scholars and scientists of the country to cooperate with credible scientific organizations in Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Russia, and South Africa, Mehr news agency reported.

Accordingly, only the research projects that involve the collaborations of at least three BRICS member states for regular joint call, and four BRICS member states for flagship joint call will be supported.

The researchers and scholars are required to develop a scientific network among institutions, universities, organizations, and specialists of BRICS member states.

The proposed researches should ensure joint interests of the member states; they are expected to lay



the ground for boosting scientific synergy, and expanding joint infrastructures.

The regular joint call will be centered on the following fields:

1. Water Resources Monitoring and Data for Water Systems
- Water Treatment, Reuse, and Resource Circularity
- Resilience to Water Hazards and Extreme Events through Data-Driven Approaches
- High Performance Computing and

Artificial Intelligence

High Performance Computing and AI Infrastructure Co-Design

Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models

Quantum Computing, Sensing, and Secure Information Technologies

2. Energy Solar Energy Technologies and Applications

Integrated Smart and Renewable Energy Systems for Resilient Power Networks

Low-Carbon Energy Pathways, Sector Coupling, and Energy Efficiency

3. Health, Biotechnology and Biomedicine

Advanced Biotechnology, Genomics, and AI-Assisted Discovery

Personalized Medicine, Diagnostics, and Cell-Based Therapies

Digital Health, Telemedicine, and AI-Enabled Healthcare Systems

4. Food Climate-Resilient Crops and Advanced Plant Biotechnology

Digital and Precision Agriculture for Sustainable Production

Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Food Quality Monitoring

5. Materials Science

Advanced Functional and Smart Materials

Materials for Energy Conversion, Storage, and Sustainability

Advanced Functional Materials: Nanomaterials, Biomaterials, and Resilient Systems

The flagship joint call will focus on 1. Digital Earth, 2. Psycho-molecular tools, and 3. BRICS Intelligent Telescope and Data Network

New narrative translation of Quran unveiled

TEHRAN - The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Abbas Salehi, unveiled the narrative translation of the Holy Quran, drawing from the narrations of Ahl al-Bayt (AS), authored by Alireza Barazesh.

This distinctive translation by Barazesh, aimed at youth and presented in a simple and accessible language, was initially planned to be unveiled at the International Holy Quran Exhibition. However, due to existing circumstances, it was launched during a meeting on Saturday, IRNA reported.

Ahl al-Bayt is an Arabic term, which literally means members of a household or a family. In Islamic terminology, it is applied to some members of the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The term Ahl al-Bayt (AS) have appeared in hadiths in different context; however, in Shi'a literature, it is used to refer to Imam Ali (AS), Hazrat Fatima (SA), Imam Hassan (AS) and Imam Husayn (AS) and the other nine infallible Imams (AS).

The Qur'an has used this term in some verses. The Prophet (PBUH) has stated the high posi-

tion of Ahl al-Bayt in Islam in some Hadiths.

From the Shi'a point of view, Ahl al-Bayt (AS) have a pivotal position in religion. They are infallible and superior to all other companions of the Prophet (PBUH) in regards to piety and other virtues.

According to the Shi'a teachings, Ahl al-Bayt (AS) have guardianship and leadership upon Muslims and Muslims regard them as their authorities and refer to them in their religious matters.

Barazesh, a writer and researcher in the field of Quran and Hadith, holds a Master's degree in Quran and Hadith from the University of Tehran.

He has numerous publications, including "A Guide to Studies and Research" in two volumes, "Prayers from the Perspective of the Supreme Leader," "The Loving Hafiz" (Divine Love from Hafiz's Perspective), and "The Loving Jurist" (Divine Love from Imam Khomeini's Perspective). He was also the recipient of the Book of the Year award in Iran during its seventh edition.

The 18-volume series "Ahl al-Bayt (AS) Interpretation" is another of his works, compiled

and authored in 12,380 pages, containing 27,700 hadiths from credible Shia sources.

The dispersion of interpretive narrations across various books, including both interpretive and hadith collections, coupled with the incompleteness of existing interpretive hadith books, motivated the author to compile and translate a comprehensive collection of different interpretive narrations. This book aims to serve as a valuable resource for researchers and enthusiasts in this field.

He has served in various positions, including the CEO of Iran Book and Literature House, director general of Centers and Cultural Relations of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Deputy Minister of Culture for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, head of the Central Library and Documentation Center of Astan Quds Razavi, head of the Cultural and Research Institute of the Islamic Revolution, director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting channels 1 and 2, and head of Amir Kabir Publications Institute. He has also served as a religious expert and consultant for several television series.

Over 220,000 units of blood donated since start of war

TEHRAN - More than 268,000 Iranians have referred to blood donation centers across the country since the beginning of the imposed war on February 28, till April 4, donating over 220,000 units of blood.

With the outbreak of the illegal US-Israel war against Iran, the people of Tehran from all walks of life refer in large numbers to blood donation centers to give blood and help treat the injured citizens.

The number of referrals, and the amount of blood donated over the past month increased by 15 percent and 10 percent, respectively, Mehr news agency quoted Babak Yektaparast, an official with the Blood Transfusion Organization, as saying.

In the days when the country is in a state of war, blood donation centers in the country showcase scenes of sacrifice and solidarity.

In the first two weeks of the current Iranian year, started on March 21, the number of blood donors in Isfahan province has increased by 34 percent, compared to the same period last year. Interestingly, women's participation has shown an increase of 106 percent.

In Golestan province, the rate of blood donation hiked by 28 percent. Twenty-one percent of donors were donating blood for the first time. Woman made up 10 percent of the whole donors.

During Nowruz holidays, from March 21 till April 2, blood donation in Ilam province increased by 12.5 percent, with women's share rise by 113 percent.

According to Yektaparast, a total of 2,114,476 Iranians donated blood in the first ten months of the past Iranian year, March 2025 - March 2026)

The highest blood donation growth was recorded in the provinces of Zanjan (around 13 percent), Sistan-Baluchestan (about ten percent), and Isfahan (almost eight percent), the health ministry's website quoted the official as saying.

During the same period, the continuous blood donation growth rate in the country increased to over 55 percent. The provinces of Semnan (more than 69 percent),

Golestan, and Qom (about 67 percent) hold the highest rates for continuous blood donation, respectively, he noted.

"Women's share of blood donation in the country is almost five percent," Yektaparast added.

The official went on to say that Tehran province accounted for more than 16 percent of the total blood donation in the same period.

According to Ahmad Qarah-Baghian, an official with Iran Blood Transfusion Organization, around 1.7 percent of the country's population donates blood regularly, and the blood donation index is 28 per 1,000 population.

The average amount of blood storage in the country is sufficient

for five days, but it can be increased to eight days, IRNA quoted Qarah-Baghian as saying in January.

Blood donations are always need-

ed. The life of some patients, such as those suffering from hemophilia and thalassemia, depends on regular blood transfusions, the official noted.

Targeting Foolad Khuzestan Means Striking at People's Livelihoods

Amin Ebrahimi
CEO of Khuzestan Steel Company

In recent days, the facilities of Foolad Khuzestan in Ahvaz came under military attack—an incident with implications far beyond a conventional security event. The targeting of a major industrial complex is a clear sign of the expansion of US-Israeli objectives into the economic foundations of people's everyday lives.

Foolad Khuzestan is not merely an industrial facility. With more than 120,000 shareholders and thousands of workers and families whose livelihoods depend on it, the company forms part of a broader network that sustains economic life in southern Iran. An attack on such a facility is, in effect, an attack on that network—on jobs, incomes, and daily life. The consequences do not remain confined to the industrial sphere; they quickly reach households and communities.

For years, adversaries have sought to portray their hostile actions as being directed at political structures rather than the Iranian people. However, attacks on economic infrastructure—such as Foolad Khuzestan—have exposed and challenged that claim. A civilian industrial facility, with no connection to military activity, has been deliberately targeted. In such circumstances, the distinction between "pressure on the system" and direct harm to ordinary people becomes increasingly unjustifiable and is ultimately set aside.

This also raises a broader question of principle. Much has been said about rules, norms, and the ethics of conflict. Yet targeting economic infrastructure that directly supports civilian life stands in clear tension with those claims. At the same time, recent patterns of behavior suggest an approach that extends beyond strategic calculation—one that appears to seek pressure through disruption of ordinary life.

The attack on Foolad Khuzestan is a clear sign of the exposure of the true nature of this confrontation—one that has now reached the level of people's livelihoods. Experience shows that targeting the economic life of a society does not weaken it as intended. On the contrary, it tends to deepen shared understanding and reinforce social cohesion, ultimately strengthening their support for national institutions.



The language that led to war

By Afshin Majlesi

When a country is portrayed for decades as dangerous, untrustworthy and inherently threatening, the plot of attacking it becomes easier to accept. The current war with Iran reflects this dynamic, after years in which mainstream Western media repeatedly cast it as unsafe, potential threat!

In their reports it has been common to read phrases like “Iran’s authoritarian regime suppresses dissent” or “Tehran’s nuclear ambitions threaten global security.” These lines, repeated across years and across outlets, have created a mental shortcut. For many readers and viewers, Iran was no longer a modern country with a rich history, civilized society, and internal debates. Yet, it became a fixed idea: a problem.

Contrary to that tarnished image, many foreign tourists who visit Iran are surprised by what they see. They often speak of a society that is more complex, more welcoming, and more normal than they expected. It is a gap shows how powerful media narratives can be.

When people hear the same message again and again, from different sources that appear independent, it begins to feel like an unquestionable truth. To better understand this, we need to look not only at what is said about Iran, but how it is said, how often it has been repeated, and what has been left out.

Major outlets such as The New York Times, BBC, CNN, The Guardian, Reuters, and The Washington Post usually describe Iran in very narrow and repetitive ways. Over time, certain words became almost automatic: “authoritarian regime,” “repressive system,” “destabilizing force,” “nuclear threat.” These were not occasional descriptions, they have almost become the standard language of reporting.



It is important to be clear: pointing out these patterns does not mean claiming that Iran is perfect or beyond criticism. No country is. The issue is about proportion, context, and consistency.

In reporting on Iran, certain patterns became clear. Iran’s actions were often described with terms such as: “aggression,” “interference,” “proxy warfare,” “destabilization.” Meanwhile, similar or stronger actions by the United States or Israel were described in softer terms: “defense,” “security concerns,” “deterrence.”

For years, they have repeatedly warned that Iran was close to building a nuclear weapon. Headlines often suggested urgency and danger: Iran is “months away,” Iran is “advancing rapidly,” Iran is a “growing threat.”

Outlets like The Washington Post and The Guardian frequently focused on worst-case scenarios. At the same time, less attention was given to reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency that sometimes showed limits, inspections, and partial compliance.

Even when diplomacy succeeded, as in the 2015 nuclear deal, the tone

of coverage often remained suspicious. Though there was doubtful voices inside the country either.

Instead of presenting the agreement as a major step toward reducing tension, many reports framed it as risky or temporary. Critics were given strong attention, repeating the idea that Iran could never be trusted. The result was a deeper belief among audiences that conflict with Iran was not only possible, but inevitable.

The New York Times has often used phrases like “Iran’s authoritarian regime” or “Iran’s nuclear ambitions threaten global security.” The Guardian has described Iran as a “repressive regime” and emphasized that “Iran’s role in Syria and Iraq continues to fuel instability.” BBC frequently refers to Iran’s nuclear program as “a growing concern for international security,” while also noting crackdowns on freedom of speech.

Similarly, Reuters often highlights “Iran’s crackdown on protests” and frames the country through sanctions, military activity, and suspicion. The Washington Post has repeatedly written that “Iran’s leaders continue to suppress dissent” and that its regional policies

“destabilize the Middle East.”

About the so-called proxies, when Iran supported groups in the region, it was often called “fueling instability.” But when the United States carried out military operations or maintained bases in West Asia, it was framed as “maintaining stability” or “protecting interests.” This difference in language creates an imbalance atmosphere in which one side appears aggressive; the other appears responsible.

Over time, this kind of language has shaped a kind of automatic reactions that is the result of long-term narrative patterns. When people hear “Iran,” they think of danger. When they hear “U.S. response” or “Israeli defense,” they think of protection.

Another key issue is whose voices are heard. In much Western coverage, Iranian voices are limited or filtered. Officials may be quoted, but often in ways that highlight tension or hostility. Also, ordinary Iranians, students, writers, researchers, workers, are rarely given space to speak for themselves in a full and balanced way.

Here, it is time to take a quick look at some roots of Iran’s mistrust of the West. A selection of them are: the 1953 coup against the government of Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh, supported by the United States and the United Kingdom; U.S. support for Iraq during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War; the downing of Iran Air Flight 655 by a U.S. naval vessel; the imposition of extensive economic sanctions that have affected the lives of ordinary people; and political pressure and efforts to isolate Iran internationally, to cite a few.

Today, when U.S.-Israeli bombs fall on Iranian soil, they do not fall on an abstract “threat.” They fall on real people, families, workers, children, who have often been invisible in the stories told about them.

War of words: how western media distort the Iran conflict



Mourners at a funeral held for children killed in a U.S. strike on a school in Minab, southern Iran.

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

The war of the US-Israeli coalition against Iran has not only created a deep geopolitical crisis but has also once again shown that during wartime, media narratives can be as influential as missiles and drones in shaping global public opinion. A closer look at the coverage of this war reveals that Western media, through their choice of words, headlines, images, and selective narratives, present a highly biased and one-sided view of events that is far removed from the realities on the ground in Iran.

One of the clearest examples of this bias is how civilian casualties in Iran are reported. The US attack on the southern city of Minab, which killed at least 175 people—mostly schoolgirls—is a glaring example of media censorship and distortion. Many major Western outlets mentioned this human tragedy only briefly, often attributing the information to “Iranian state media,” thereby implicitly questioning its credibility. By contrast, if a similar incident had occurred in Israel, the coverage would likely have dominated front pages, included in-depth interviews with families, and provided sustained human-interest reporting. This pattern clearly shows that Western media minimize Iranian victims while humanizing and amplifying Israeli victims.

Another example is the announcement of the loss of three US fighter jets on the second day of the war. The Pentagon claimed the planes were downed by “friendly fire” from Kuwait, yet independent analysts pointed out inconsistencies in timing and location that cast doubt on the official account. Despite this, Western media largely failed to follow up, and the story quickly faded from the news cycle, another case of censorship and lack of transparency in reporting.

Language itself plays a central role in shaping perceptions of violence. Terms like “take out” instead of “kill,” “decapitate” to describe the elimination of political or military leaders, and “boots on the ground” to refer to troop deployments, all serve to bureaucratize or sanitize the harsh reality of war. These linguistic choices make military actions seem rational, controlled, and even inevitable, while obscuring the human cost and complexity of Iran’s situation.

Another example of distorted coverage is the reporting of Iran’s strike on Bet Shemesh in Israel. One television network described it dramatically as “Iran’s fury,” highlighting the destruction of a school, a synagogue, and nearby homes. Yet when Israel attacks civilian areas in Iran, Gaza, or Lebanon, coverage is often neutral, understated, and rarely mentions civilian casualties. This clear double standard shows that Western media craft war narratives to align with US and Israeli policy agendas.

Headlines also play a key role in distortion. When Iran is targeted, headlines often begin with phrases like “Iran says” or “Iranian state media reports,” implicitly questioning the credibility of the information. In contrast, when Iran conducts a strike, headlines frequently use adjectives like “deadly” or “devastating,” framing the country as aggressive and unreliable, and implying that any Iranian action equates to violence or threat.

Western media also rely on labels and cognitive framing to shape perceptions. Iran is repeatedly described as a “rogue state,” “terrorist regime,” or “existential threat.” These labels do more than describe, they create a mental framework in which mili-

tary action against Iran appears justified. Terms like “malign influence” exaggerate Iran’s regional role, presenting a vague, pervasive threat without specifying concrete evidence, making criticism of Iran appear immediate and legitimate.

Meanwhile, on-the-ground reporting from inside Iran often tells a different story. Contrary to Western portrayals of widespread panic, markets, cafes, and gas stations in many cities continue operating normally. Large public gatherings have taken place in Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Mashhad, where thousands have protested foreign attacks and expressed support for Iran’s sovereignty. Western media often report these gatherings briefly, or dismissively as “state-organized demonstrations,” without exploring participants’ motivations or diversity. This approach not only misrepresents Iran as threatening but also undermines the agency and resilience of its people.

Media warfare is another front where bias is evident. Iran has produced humorous and graphic content in a Lego-style format, mocking Trump and Netanyahu, which has reached global audiences. These efforts show that Iran is active and strategic not only militarily but also in information and narrative warfare. Western outlets, by contrast, downplay or trivialize such campaigns, maintaining the image of Iran as passive and dangerous.

Analyses of the “America First” policy further illustrate media bias. Western outlets often depict the war as a purely Israeli initiative supported by the US, ignoring Iran’s strategic role in shaping the conflict and defending its national sovereignty. In reality, events including domestic protests, targeted Iranian responses to neighboring countries, and citizen engagement paint a far more complex and multidimensional picture. By focusing on apparent US confusion and ignoring Iran’s operational strategy, Western media push audiences toward a simplified, one-sided narrative.

Historical precedent confirms that this pattern of bias is not new. In Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, early media coverage often misrepresented the realities on the ground, only for the discrepancies between official narratives and actual events to emerge years later. Media have historically shaped public opinion and legitimized policies, and in the current war, the same pattern is repeating, now with even greater intensity.

Ultimately, the ongoing war is not merely a military confrontation; it is a struggle over narratives. Western media, through selective words, images, headlines, and sources, present a biased image that portrays Iran as passive and threatening, while erasing the agency and resilience of Iranian people. The evident bias, censorship of information, and focus on legitimizing US and Israeli actions produce a global public perception that is both distorted and one-sided.

Given these examples and analyses, it is clear that the primary responsibility of journalism during wartime should not be merely to repeat dominant narratives. Rather, journalists must critically examine these stories, compare them with on-the-ground realities, and provide a more complete, nuanced picture that presents Iranian citizens not as passive victims but as active, informed agents shaping their own destiny, while exposing the distortions and biases of Western media.

The arithmetic of suffering: How Western media dehumanize the victims of US wars

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – In Western newsrooms, grief distributes unevenly. Certain deaths receive narrative elaboration, photographic memorialization, sustained public attention; others become statistical notation, folded into the administrative language of geopolitical management. From Gaza and Tehran to Kabul and Baghdad, those targeted by sanctions regimes and military violence appear as numerical residue, tallied but not individuated, documented but not witnessed.

This differential is structural, not incidental. Western media instantiate a hierarchy of grievability wherein suffering proximates to perceived political-cultural affinity warrant commemorative attention, while lives positioned as geopolitically antagonistic undergo conversion into quantitative data. What materializes is a regime of differential worth, where recognizable humanity tracks coordinates of imperial power. Race operates here not as ontological category—some fixed biological or cultural essence—but as technology: a mutable apparatus of division, hierarchization, and population management that produces distinctions between lives meriting preservation and bodies available for premature death, perpetually reconstituting the global architecture of white supremacy.

Quantification as racial violence

Enumeration serves bureaucratic accounting; it forecloses relational recognition. When explosives detonate in Paris or Brussels, coverage proliferates portraiture—biographical detail, educational trajectories, relational networks made visible. When comparable violence unfolds in Gaza or Baghdad, publics encounter enumeration: “fifty killed,” “hundreds displaced.” Abstraction operates as distancing mechanism, severing affective circuits between witness and witnessed.

This arithmetic transforms singularities into aggregates. Quantification performs as epistemological precision while functioning as ethical estrangement. As counts accumulate, Iraq 2003, Gaza 2024, cognitive satura-

tion forecloses mourning. Magnitude itself overwhelms; persons dissolve into statistical mass. Race as technology operationalizes this collapse: it processes the “unruly”; Iranian intellectuals resisting neoliberal extraction, Palestinian communities defending territorial sovereignty, Afghan populations surviving imperial occupation, into naturalized threat categories, obscuring deliberate state violence beneath procedural neutrality while rendering them as bare data within imperial accounting systems. This constitutes necropolitical calculation: non-Western, racialized, geopolitically non-aligned bodies register as non-grievable, their deaths intelligible only as acceptable attrition.

Reportorial language intensifies this operation. Airstrikes “neutralize targets.” Civilians “perish in crossfire.” Syntactic structures diffuse agency, converting intentional violence into atmospheric condition. These administrative formulations align with state discourse, clinical, procedural, de-corporeal. Violence appears agentless; death occurs without killers. Regarding Iran, economic sanctions appear as policy metrics rather than as slow suffocation of civilian infrastructure: pharmaceutical supply chains severed, oncological treatment rationed, kinship networks ruptured through forced displacement. Race naturalizes this destruction as internally generated crisis, concealing how sanctions regimes function as technologies of racialized population control.

Visual economies reproduce this stratification. Western catastrophes foreground intimacy, domestic scenes, quotidian moments before rupture, individuated faces. Violence targeting Iran, Palestine, Lebanon appears through generic devastation, collapsed architecture, de-individuated crowds, bodies rendered as debris. Images function emblematically rather than testimonially: as confirmation of civilizational disorder requiring external management, not as evidence of lives deliberately destroyed. This visual syntax extends colonial logic wherein racialized suffering validates the very imperial violence that produces it—

an ontological partition positioning some populations as fully human subjects, others as demographic surpluses available for administration or elimination.

Grievability as geopolitical sorting

Beneath this systematic disparity operates race as assemblage—a technology for producing and managing differential human value, not inherent biological fact but historically-generated apparatus emerging from Europe’s colonial-capitalist world-system. It fabricates hierarchies of vulnerability and livability: whiteness as ontological standard, racialized populations as debilitated categories, endlessly reconfigured across registers of biology, culture, religion, geography to preserve supremacist ordering. Iranian scientists eliminated through targeted assassination programs, Gazan children asphyxiated beneath siege architecture, Lebanese families obliterated by precision munitions: these deaths circulate as footnotes to geostrategy, not as violations of shared worldmaking, animated by necropolitical rationality wherein certain bodies exist always-already as legitimate targets.

This differential grievability explains why Western publics internalize captive identities while remaining illiterate to besieged subjectivities. Selective attention produces moral topography: lives legible within U.S.-Israeli geopolitical frameworks merit individuated tragedy; populations resisting this architecture in Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran become effects of their own designated pathology. Iran crystallizes this calculus. Iranian subjects rarely materialize as agentive individuals but rather as state appendages, this even as sanctions infrastructure dismantles public health systems or assassination programs eliminate intellectual leadership. Race as technology obscures this violence: it renders antagonism as ontological rather than manufactured, instrumentalizes policy as rationality, and expels populations designated as threats from domains of ethical consideration, all while liberal governance performs colorblind universalism.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Why and How the Mainstream Media Is Complicit In the US Military's War Crimes



The language that led to war

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One of the clearest examples of this bias is how civilian casualties in Iran are reported. The US attack on the southern city of Minab, which killed at least 175 people—mostly schoolgirls—is a glaring example of media censorship and distortion. Many major Western outlets mentioned this human tragedy only briefly, often attributing the information to "Iranian state media," thereby implicitly questioning its credibility. By contrast, if a similar incident had occurred in Israel, the coverage would likely have dominated front pages, included in-depth interviews with families, and provided sustained human-interest reporting. This pattern clearly shows that Western media minimize Iranian victims while humanizing and amplifying Israeli victims.

Another example is the announcement of the loss of three US fighter jets on the second day of the war. The Pentagon claimed the planes were downed by "friendly fire" from Kuwait, yet independent analysts pointed out inconsistencies in timing and location that cast doubt on the official account. Despite this, Western media largely failed to follow up, and the story quickly faded from the news cycle, another case of censorship and lack of transparency in reporting.

Language itself plays a central role in shaping perceptions of violence. Terms like "take out" instead of "kill," "decapitate" to describe the elimination of political or military leaders, and "boots on the ground" to refer to troop deployments, all serve to bureaucratize or sanitize the harsh reality of war. These linguistic choices make military actions seem rational, ▶ [Page 7](#)

The arithmetic of suffering: How Western media dehumanize the victims of US wars

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – In Western newsrooms, grief distributes unevenly. Certain deaths receive narrative elaboration, photographic memorialization, sustained public attention; others become statistical notation, folded into the administrative language of geopolitical management. From Gaza and Tehran to Kabul and Baghdad, those targeted by sanctions regimes and military violence appear as numerical residue, tallied but not individuated, documented but not witnessed.

This differential is structural, not incidental. Western media instantiate a hierarchy of grievability wherein suffering proximates to perceived political-cultural affinity warrant commemorative attention, while lives positioned as geopolitically antagonistic undergo conversion into quantitative data. What materializes is a regime of differential worth, where recognizable humanity tracks coordinates of imperial power. Race operates here not as ontological category—some fixed biological or cultural essence—but as technology: a mutable apparatus of division, hierarchization, and population management that produces distinctions between lives meriting preservation and bodies available for premature death, perpetually reconstituting the global architecture of white supremacy.

Quantification as racial violence

Enumeration serves bureaucratic accounting; it forecloses relational recognition. When explosives detonate in Paris or Brussels, coverage proliferates portraiture—biographical detail, educational trajectories, relational networks made visible. When comparable violence unfolds in Gaza or Baghdad, publics encounter enumeration: "fifty killed," "hundreds displaced." Abstraction operates as distancing mechanism, severing affective circuits between witness and witnessed.

This arithmetic transforms singularities into aggregates. Quantification performs as epistemological precision while functioning as ethical estrangement. As counts accumulate, ▶ [Page 7](#)