



US-Israeli strikes kill dozens, hit Iran's 'MIT'

TEHRAN - The United States and Israel have continued to bomb Iranian civilian infrastructure and residential areas in the sixth week of their joint aggression against Iran.

By Monday, approximately three dozen people, including several children, had been killed in strikes carried out over the past 24 hours.

In the capital, a US-Israeli airstrike targeting the Baharestan district claimed the lives of at least 15 people and wounded many others. Four residential units were destroyed, and more than 40 other homes and vehicles were significantly damaged. Cities such as Karaj, Shiraz, Isfahan, Bushehr, Bandar-e Lengeh, and Qom were also hit by deadly strikes. ▶ Page 2

Iran Leader: US-Israeli enemy assassinated General Khademi after repeated defeats

TEHRAN - The head of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Intelligence Organization has been martyred in an Israeli airstrike on the Iranian capital, Tehran, amid ongoing US-Israeli aggression.

"Major General Majid Khademi, the capable and highly respected head of the Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, was martyred in a criminal terrorist attack by the American-Zionist enemy at dawn today," the IRGC said in a statement posted on its Telegram channel on Monday. ▶ Page 2

▶ Page 3

The terminal scream of an empire scheduling war crimes in its digital Colosseum

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — On Easter Sunday, April 5, as some American families headed to church to celebrate resurrection and hope, Donald Trump posted a message that felt like a fever dream from the darkest corners of the imperial id.

"Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran," he wrote on Truth Social. "There will be nothing like it!!! Open the F***ing Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell — JUST WATCH! Praise be to Allah. President DONALD J. TRUMP." ▶ Page 5

Iranian FM cautions counterparts on 'Inaction Towards Aggressors'

TEHRAN — "It is clear that this inaction... has further emboldened the aggressors to continue these brutal attacks in violation of international principles and rules," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned during a series of high-level phone calls with his counterparts from France, India, and Russia. He cautioned that continued silence could be viewed as "implicit complicity" and would further undermine the credibility of international bodies. The intensive diplomatic outreach comes as Tehran seeks to de-escalate rising tensions following US-Israeli military aggression. ▶ Page 3

Trade minister announces round-the-clock management to supply goods, control market

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade stated that the central headquarters of the ministry was formed in the very first hours of the war, adding: "The managers, deputies, and staff of this ministry have been present at their workplaces around the clock, without leaving the field for a single moment."

According to a Mehr News Agency report citing the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak told a meeting with representatives of parliament. ▶ Page 4

Iran's South Pars petrochemical facility bombed in US-Israel aggression

TEHRAN — Iran's South Pars petrochemical facilities in the energy hub of Asaluyeh were struck on Monday, and Israel claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the military carried out a "powerful strike" on what he described as Iran's largest petrochemical complex, responsible for a large share of the nation's petrochemical output, and claimed the targeted sites "are no longer operational"

Iranian media reported explosions and fires at the South Pars facilities, which were later largely brought under control by emergency crews, with no immediate confirmation of casualties. The targeted infrastructure is central to Iran's gas processing and petrochemical production, tying directly into the output of the South Pars natural gas field — the largest known in the world and a core driver of Iran's energy economy.

The strikes come amid ongoing conflict dynamics that have already seen multiple Iranian energy and petrochemical sites hit in recent weeks, including facilities near Mahshahr. ▶ Page 2

Health workers condemn US-Israeli attacks on medical centers

TEHRAN — Officials, academics, and employees of the health sector gathered in the front of Imam Khomeini hospital in Tehran on Monday to condemn US-Israeli assaults on the country's health infrastructure.

"We, the health staff and academics, have come together today to underscore an undeniable fundamental principle: saving human lives, and protecting health, pharmaceutical, educational, and research centers are globally sacred, and attacking these centers has no justification under any circumstances," they said in a statement.

"Our experiences in the health sector clearly show that universities and educational centers, hospitals, relief and rescue bases, medical teams, pharmaceutical networks, medical scientists have to be safeguarded from any military aggression. Damaging patients, the wounded, relief workers, doctors, nurses, and researchers, and destructing health and research infrastructures not only violates moral principles but also poses threat to universal health security, and the future of science, medical technologies, and fair access to treatment. ▶ Page 6

Straight Truth Special issue on Iran's defense against US and Israeli aggression WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

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10 Major Trump Blunders

Miscalculations that make war with Iran impossible to win

By Afshin Majlesi, Maedeh Zaman Fashami, and Xavier Villar

TEHRAN - More than a month into the US-Israeli war against Iran, early expectations of a swift military victory have faded, exposing what analysts describe as a series of miscalculations about Iran's likely response.

What was initially framed as a short and decisive campaign has evolved into a prolonged conflict marked by continued exchanges of fire, damage to infrastructure and rising regional tensions.

At the outset, US and Israeli planners appeared to assume that the assassination of Iran's Leader would trigger internal fragmentation and weaken the political system.

Another assumption was that Iran's military resistance would be limited in duration. Despite reported losses and sustained pressure, Iran has continued to mount military responses, indicating both operational capacity and a willingness to sustain a longer conflict. There has been no clear indication of an imminent surrender.

Expectations of domestic unrest have also not materialized. Rather than sparking protests, the conflict has, by most accounts, contributed to a degree of internal unity, with public sentiment shaped by the perception of external threat.

On the battlefield, assumptions about air superiority have also been tested. While US and Israeli forces maintain advanced aerial capabilities, Iran's air defense systems have complicated efforts to establish full control over its airspace, according to military analysts.

Other projections have similarly come under strain. Early expectations that the Strait of Hormuz would remain unaffected, or that broader economic consequences could be contained, have been challenged by market volatility and heightened concerns over energy security.

Taken together, these developments point to a widening gap between initial expectations and the evolving realities on the ground. Analysts say the conflict now reflects a more complex and uncertain trajectory, with no clear path to a near-term resolution. Page 7

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Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

An attempt at a face-saving exit

Kayhan, in an editorial, addressed what it described as the United States' desperation in the current phase of the war and its attempt to escape the situation. In the sixth week of the war, the enemy is continuing its policy of escalating the conflict to manufacture an achievement and secure an 'honorable exit' for itself. Yesterday, Trump issued a message that bore clear signs of helplessness, telling Iran to open the strait and threatening that otherwise he would destroy bridges and power plants all at once. Analysts believe that the United States has not only failed to achieve its initial objective of defeating Iran within two days, but is now unable even to ensure the passage of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz without Iran's permission. Meanwhile, the humiliation of its main strength—its air force—through the repeated downing of aircraft has left this superpower with little credibility.

Hamshahri: A reputational defeat in the first ground battle

Hamshahri, in an analysis of the US Army's first ground engagement in Iran, wrote: Early Sunday morning, in its first ground operation to airlift forces into Iranian territory—aimed at rescuing the pilot of a downed fighter jet—the US military suffered heavy losses. This allowed the American public, beyond the rhetoric of their president, to become acquainted with the on-the-ground realities of the invasion of Iran. At a time when Western media narratives and claims about US ground operations in Iran are increasing daily, serving multiple purposes, the Americans faced a severe reputational defeat in their very first ground mission. In addition to its wide global repercussions, this showed that the claims about entering Iranian territory on the ground are less rooted in reality and more in 'Hollywood-style scenarios' designed to conceal the actual battlefield realities of the American-Israeli offensive against Iran.

Etemad: The diplomatic track must remain independent

Etemad, in an analysis, examined Iran's strategy both on the battlefield and in diplomacy. The United States, under the guise of diplomacy, entered Israel's game and adopted a costly strategy—one that, due to Iran's initiatives and the alignment of the Resistance Axis with Iran, has now made Washington and Tel Aviv's plans more complicated and expensive. As a result, the United States, without the support of NATO members, is trying on its own to find a way out of the crisis. The simultaneous intensification of battlefield clashes and diplomatic movements has pushed the

war into a new phase—one that reveals both signs of strategic fatigue in the West and the increasing complexity of the diplomatic path. According to Jalal Sadatian, a former Iranian diplomat, the diplomatic process must proceed independently and without unnecessary pressure. No one should restrict the use of available opportunities through bias or premature judgment. What matters, he argues, is that the country recognizes existing opportunities and makes maximum use of them.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran's exercise of sovereignty; transit fees for passage

Arman-e-Melli analyzed the possibility of new regulations for the Strait of Hormuz, stating that perhaps sooner or later such a development was inevitable and that Iran would establish a new legal framework for the strait. The strait, which geographically falls under Iran's national sovereignty and holds immense geopolitical importance, became a focal point when Iran operationalized the closure of the Strait of Hormuz after the US attack. Fuel and oil prices worldwide surged to record highs. Although all parties emphasize ending the war—and Iran has announced its conditions for doing so—it appears unlikely that the situation in the Strait of Hormuz will return to its pre-war state. New regulations for passage through the strait will almost certainly be implemented. A protocol is expected to be drafted for joint Iranian-Omani oversight of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. In peacetime, coordination and guidance of maritime transit will be the responsibility of these two coastal states, Iran and Oman.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran's victory in the war and the future of relations with Arab states

Siasat-e-Rooz dedicated its editorial to the future of relations with Arab countries after the war. According to the paper, once the war imposed on Iran by the United States and Israel ends—with what it describes as Iran's decisive victory—fundamental changes will occur in regional and international dynamics. Arab governments that participated in the war against Iran, the paper argues, must understand Iran's role after its victory, which it said will coincide with the expulsion of US forces from the region. These states should sever relations with Israel and align their political, economic, and regional policies with those of Iran. They should not expect the United States to emerge victorious, as the historical experience of the Iran-Iraq war suggests otherwise.

Former Israeli PM: Netanyahu's Iran strategy driven by 'wishful thinking'

TEHRAN - A former Israeli prime minister has sharply criticized Benjamin Netanyahu over the failure of his military strategy toward Iran.

Ehud Barak said the Netanyahu government's approach to the conflict has relied more on wishful thinking than on coherent strategic planning. He argued that expectations surrounding the war—including the collapse of Iran's leadership, the seizure of enriched uranium, and the destruction of Iran's nuclear and missile programs—do not

reflect the realities on the ground.

"Despite the strikes carried out, the Iranian regime remains resilient, and there is no clear program to achieve the stated objectives, including control of the Strait of Hormuz or the movement of nuclear materials," Barak said.

Barak served as Israel's prime minister from 1999 to 2001 and previously held the posts of defense minister and chief of staff of the Israeli military.

Iran Leader: US-Israeli enemy assassinated General Khademi after repeated defeats

TEHRAN - The head of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Intelligence Organization has been martyred in an Israeli airstrike on the Iranian capital, Tehran, amid ongoing US-Israeli aggression.

"Major General Majid Khademi, the capable and highly respected head of the Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, was martyred in a criminal terrorist attack by the American-Zionist enemy at dawn today," the IRGC said in a statement posted on its Telegram channel on Monday.

The statement paid tribute to Khademi's record, saying the late intelligence chief had sincerely and courageously defended the principles of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, as well as Iran's Islamic establishment and territorial integrity, for nearly 50 years. It added that he played a distinguished role in various intelligence and security arenas.

The IRGC said Khademi's tireless efforts—particularly in confronting foreign adversaries at strategic levels—strengthened Iran's intelligence apparatus and helped thwart repeated hostile



attempts to infiltrate the country and undermine national stability and security.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, sent a message expressing his condolences over the martyrdom of General Khademi. The Leader said the assassination shows the failure of the United States and Israel in their war against Iran.

"Once again, the American-Zionist enemy, after suffering repeated defeats in its imposed war against the Iranian people and their brave fighters, has turned to its usual Zionist terrorism and

assassinated one of the nation's top intelligence and security commanders," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also offered his condolences over Khademi's martyrdom, stating: "The martyrdom of my dear brother, the steadfast fighter and dedicated head of the IRGC's Intelligence Organization, Martyr General Seyyed Majid Khademi, demonstrates the weakness of the Zionist regime and the arrogant United States. They are trying to make up for their battlefield failures through cowardly assassinations

and by targeting those who fight in the path of God. However, this blind plot by the arrogant powers has always proven futile, and even harsher blows await them."

President Masoud Pezeshkian also offered condolences on the martyrdom of General Khademi: "Once again, the criminal hands of the American and Zionist enemies have been stained with the blood of a pure and brave son of Iran."

Pezeshkian noted that General Khademi devoted his life to the battlefields of the eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s and later to the difficult frontlines of safeguarding national security, confronting threats, and protecting the peace of the Iranian people.

Israel has claimed responsibility for the assassination. Several senior Iranian military commanders have been killed in US-Israeli strikes over the past six weeks. However, Iran's continued attacks against Israeli targets and US forces based in the region suggest that attempts to decapitate Iran's military leadership have failed to weaken the country's military capabilities.

US-Israeli strikes kill dozens, hit Iran's 'MIT'

TEHRAN - The United States and Israel have continued to bomb Iranian civilian infrastructure and residential areas in the sixth week of their joint aggression against Iran.

By Monday, approximately three dozen people, including several children, had been killed in strikes carried out over the past 24 hours.

In the capital, a US-Israeli airstrike targeting the Baharestan district claimed the lives of at least 15 people and wounded many others. Four residential units were destroyed, and more than 40 other homes and vehicles were significantly damaged. Cities such as Karaj, Shiraz, Isfahan, Bushehr, Bandar-e Lengeh, and Qom were also hit by deadly strikes.

Sharif University targeted

One of the most notable attacks was carried out early Monday against Sharif University of Technology, causing unprecedented damage to buildings around the campus.

The strike on Sharif University in Tehran has drawn fierce condemnation.

Iran's first vice president said that attacking the university with a "bunker-buster" bomb was a symbol of "Trump's madness and ignorance." Mohammad Reza Aref wrote on X: "He [Trump] does not understand that Iran's knowledge is not embedded in concrete to be destroyed by bombs; the true fortress is the will of our professors and elites. No barbarity in history has

ever been able to strip science from the Iranian people. Science is rooted in our souls, and this fortress will not crumble."

Iran's foreign minister also weighed in on X, calling Sharif University "the MIT of Iran" and condemning the bombing. Abbas Araghchi, added: "Israeli-U.S. aggressors have bombed the MIT of Iran. Aggressors will see our might."

Araghchi further cited Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), stating, "Even if knowledge were situated in the distant Pleiades, Iranians would be capable of attaining it." The Pleiades is a well-known star cluster in the constellation Taurus, often used in Persian and Islamic literary traditions to symbolize something distant or lofty, emphasizing Iran's commitment to pursuing knowledge regardless of obstacles.

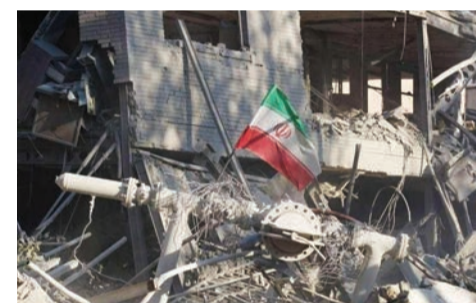
US Congresswoman: Sharif is Iran's MIT

Democratic Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari, who is of Iranian descent, also condemned the bombing of Sharif University.

"Sharif University is Iran's MIT. They've produced a huge number of engineers who've gone on to Silicon Valley and founded some of the most successful American tech companies," Ansari wrote on X.

"Why are we bombing a university in a city of 10 million people?"

Sharif University has often been compared to the Massachusetts Institute of Technol-



Sharif University sustains damage following US-Israeli attacks on April 06.

ogy (MIT) in the United States for its role in advancing scientific research in Iran. Several professors affiliated with the university have previously been killed following what Iranian officials described as baseless accusations of links to Iran's nuclear program.

Sharif University of Technology is not the first university to be hit by the US-Israeli coalition since February 28. Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University and Iran University of Science and Technology, the Faculty of Pharmacy at Shiraz University, Isfahan University of Technology, parts of the Science and Technology Campus, and the Veterinary Specialized Hospital Campus at Urmia University have also been struck the unlawful aggression of the US and Israel.

Since February 28, more than 2,000 people have been killed in US and Israeli strikes.

IRGC: Iran's missile strike hits US amphibious ship carrying 5,000 marines

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced a major coordinated operation against American and Israeli military and industrial infrastructure, demonstrating Iran's growing military capabilities and readiness to defend its sovereignty.

According to the IRGC Public Relations, the Navy and Aerospace units launched the 98th Wave of "Operation True Promise 4 on Monday morning, targeting key enemy command centers, operational sites, logistical hubs, and industrial-military facilities.

In the first phase, IRGC naval forces struck the SDN7 container ship, owned by the Israeli regime, with a cruise missile. The vessel was completely destroyed, resulting in a massive fire.

Strategic locations in northern and southern Tel Aviv, critical centers in Haifa, chemical plants in Be'er Sheva, and military positions in Bat Yam and Tekoa were precisely targeted with Iranian ballistic missiles. Reports note that the highly advanced Israeli air defense systems were unable to intercept these strikes. Four people were

killed as a result of the Iranian attack in Haifa.

The amphibious assault ship LHA7 of the US military, carrying over 5,000 sailors and marines, was also attacked with rapid Iranian missile and artillery strikes, forcing it to retreat deep into the southern Indian Ocean.

The second phase of the operation targeted a joint drone production facility operated by the UAE and Israel, along with multiple aircraft stationed at Ali Al Salem Air Base. These targets were struck with precision drones and missiles,

showcasing the operational range and accuracy of Iran's unmanned systems.

Maritime activity in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf remains under constant surveillance by IRGC naval units. The announcement stressed that any hostile movements will be met with decisive and immediate retaliation.

This operation underscores Iran's strategic resolve to defend its national security, deter aggression, and demonstrate the operational readiness of its armed forces.

Iran's South Pars petrochemical facility bombed in US-Israel aggression

TEHRAN - Iran's South Pars petrochemical facilities in the energy hub of Asaluyeh were struck on Monday, and Israel claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the military carried out a "powerful strike" on what he described as Iran's largest petrochemical complex, responsible for a large share of the nation's petrochemical output, and claimed the targeted sites "are no longer operational."

Iranian media reported explosions and fires at the South Pars facilities, which were later largely brought under control by emergency crews, with no immediate confirmation of casualties. The targeted infrastructure is central to Iran's gas processing and petrochemical production, tying directly into the output of the South Pars natural gas field—the largest



known in the world and a core driver of Iran's energy economy.

The strikes come amid ongoing conflict dynamics that have already seen multiple Iranian energy and petrochemical sites hit in recent weeks, including facilities near Mahshahr. Iranian officials also reported additional explosions at related industrial complexes further north.

Israel has emphasized that the United States

was not involved in these particular strikes, presenting the operations as independent Israeli military actions. Tehran rejects this separation, accusing both Washington and Tel Aviv of coordinated aggression aimed at crippling Iran's industrial and export capacity. Critics note the timing of the assault—just before a deadline set by former US President Donald Trump—appears calculated to undermine any momentum toward de-escalation. Iran contends that such attacks are part of a broader strategy by the US and Israel to deindustrialize the country, complicate reconstruction, destabilize governance, and deepen social and economic distress.

Iran has so far hit Israel and US bases in the Persian Gulf in retaliation. Iran has vowed a harsher response to continued attacks on its energy facilities.

Iran offers a proposal as its missiles strike hard

Reports suggest Tehran has submitted a 10-point plan via intermediaries to end the reckless war US started

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN — Iran has formally submitted a 10-point plan to end the war with the United States, according to a report by IRNA, a move that would ultimately reveal whether President Donald Trump is seeking a genuine diplomatic settlement or is committed to an aimless bombing campaign that analysts warn could push the global economy toward a deep depression.

The proposal, delivered via Pakistani intermediaries following two weeks of high-level deliberations in Tehran, arrives amid a climate of profound distrust. Over the last nine months, Trump has twice ordered strikes on Iranian territory in the midst of active nuclear negotiations. American and Hebrew media outlets have suggested that he used the diplomatic processes as a “smokescreen” for military escalation.

The current war began on February 28, just one day after the mediator, Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, travelled to Washington to coordinate a new round of talks. Following a meeting with Vice President JD Vance, al-Busaidi had told U.S. media he believed a “historic deal” was within reach, noting that Iran had agreed to surrender its entire stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

“This means Iran would never be able to make nuclear weapons,” Mr. al-Busaidi said at the time. Over the past month, the Trump administration has consistently maintained that the war was launched to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

Now in its sixth week, Washington appears to have started the ongoing war based on a se-



Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei

ries of miscalculations regarding the resilience of the Iranian government and people.

The Trump administration allegedly believed that the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei—who has since been succeeded by his son—and a vigorous bombing campaign would trigger a swift collapse of the Islamic Republic. Iran's military capabilities were also underestimated, according to reports by U.S. media. Iranian forces have launched sustained strikes against American military installations across seven countries in the region, while also targeting Israel and severely restricting navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

The toll on the American regional footprint has been significant. Reports indicate that as much as 70 percent of the U.S. base infrastructure in West Asia—much of it built over the course of four decades—now lies in ruins. These strikes have also resulted in numerous American fatalities, many of which the Trump administration is believed to be withholding from the pub-

lic.

Beyond the battlefield, the economic fallout is being felt acutely in the West. Tehran's restrictive policies in the Strait of Hormuz, where over 20% of the world's energy used to pass through, have sent the prices of energy and fertilizer soaring. In the United States, the resulting spike in gasoline and grocery costs has created a political liability for Trump and the Republican Party as they head into a difficult midterm election cycle. Various polls show most Americans believe striking Iran was the wrong decision.

The Iranian proposal now puts the ball in Washington's court, forcing the administration to decide whether to pursue the “historic deal” previously described by mediators or continue a war with increasingly global consequences.

The Iranian peace offer also follows a series of unprecedented unhinged threats from the White House. On Sunday, Trump said in a social media post filled with profanities that he would “blow everything up” and target Iran's vital infrastructure—including

bridges and power plants—if the country does not sign a new deal with the United States. The U.S. and Israel have mostly targeted civilian infrastructure and residential buildings since the war began. Tehran has said it would reciprocate in kind.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Esmail Baghaei, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, characterized such threats as “war crimes” and dismissed a previous 15-point American proposal as a collection of “highly excessive and unusual” demands.

“We are not ashamed to shout out the legitimate demands and rights of our nation and region,” Baghaei told reporters. He noted that while Washington claims to pursue diplomatic engagement, its actions run counter to those claims. “All our attention must be focused on defending the country,” he added.

According to IRNA, Tehran's new 10-point response represents a firm rejection of the “illogical” terms set by Washington. Specifically, Iran has refused American demands to shutter its peaceful nuclear program or dismantle its defensive missile capabilities. Instead, the Iranian plan insists on a “permanent end to the war” rather than a temporary or unilateral ceasefire, which the U.S. has historically abused.

IRNA adds that the Iranian document outlines several core requirements for a resolution, including the lifting of all economic sanctions, a formal protocol for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, and a cessation of all regional aggressions by the U.S. and Israel. Tehran is also demanding compensation for the already extensive damage inflicted upon its infrastructure over the past several weeks.

Iran prepares epic nationwide mourning as 40th day after leader's martyrdom approaches

TEHRAN — With hearts still burning from an unhealed wound, Iran is preparing to mark the 40th day after the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei. In a series of nationwide mourning events scheduled for April 8–10, the nation will hold memorial gatherings, speeches, and prayers to honour the legacy of the late Leader.

“Forty days have passed, yet every moment without you feels like a century,” mourners



will cry out in unison. “You left, but your light still guides every step we take on this sacred path.”

Iran's Islamic Propagation Coordination Council on Monday announced the full programme for the commemoration. The council invited all noble Iranians to participate with a maximum and resolute presence, creating yet another scene of enduring epic — a scene that will shake the heavens and echo through history.

LATEST NEWS

■ Top Israeli security official outlines Iran's major wartime achievements

A former Israeli national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, has outlined Iran's major achievements following the US-Israeli war of aggression. He highlighted the rapid and successful transfer of leadership after the assassination of Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, which preserved structural cohesion and national unity. Hanegbi noted that Iran's political system experienced no vacuum and proved capable of swift regeneration, even after the head of the establishment was targeted in the February 28 attacks.

■ Global cartoonists: Trump in strategic quagmire

As the aggressive war waged by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran continues, the consequences are becoming increasingly evident, including an unprecedented surge in energy prices. Cartoonists around the world have been creating critical works that highlight Washington's strategic deadlock, its failure to achieve stated objectives, and the human and economic toll of the conflict.

■ Iran's Human Rights Headquarters Condemns Israeli Attack on Pasteur Institute

Iran's Human Rights Headquarters condemned the US backed Israeli attack on the Pasteur Institute of Iran as illegal and a violation of international and humanitarian law. The strike targeted a civilian scientific

and healthcare center dedicated to public health and disease prevention. The headquarters criticized self-proclaimed human rights advocates for their silence and double standards, warning that normalizing attacks on scientific and civilian infrastructure threatens international peace, security, and the principles of international law.

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■ 251 women, 17 children under 5 killed in US-Israeli strikes

Iran's Ministry of Health has announced that 17 children under the age of five have been martyred during the course of US and Israeli strikes on the country.

On the 37th day of the US-Israeli attacks, the ministry released updated figures on medical services and damage to the health sector.

The “National Health Team” reported that eight hospitals have been evacuated due to emergency conditions, though medical services continue at full capacity in other facilities.

Currently, 480 wounded individuals remain hospitalized, while 32,533 people have been discharged after receiving treatment since the attacks began.

The report also noted that 251 women have been killed in the strikes, underscoring the civilian toll of the ongoing attacks.

■ Iran's London Embassy Condemns EU President's Remarks as “Moral Bankruptcy” After Costa Avoids Naming Israel

Iran's embassy in London has strongly criticized European Union President António Costa for a “disgraceful” failure to name Israel as the aggressor in the ongoing US-Israeli war against Iran. The reaction came after Costa, in a post on social media, urged Iran to immediately end its attacks against countries in the region and allow full navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

In response, the Iranian embassy wrote: “Millions of Europeans with a conscience condemn the US & Israel's war crimes against Iran, the EU's top official can't even say the word 'Israel' and instead blames Iran.” The embassy described Costa's stance as “moral bankruptcy and hypocrisy,” adding that “Europe's leadership has hit rock bottom.”

IAEA inaction on Bushehr Attack Risks Enabling Further Aggression, AEOI Chief Warns



TEHRAN— The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to explicitly condemn a recent US-Israeli strike near the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, warning that continued inaction could embolden further attacks.

In a letter to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, AEOI chief Mohammad Eslami described the incident as a “clear violation of international law” and “a war crime.”

According to Eslami, the area surrounding Unit 1 of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant was targeted in an air and missile attack on Saturday. The resulting blast wave and shrapnel damaged a building within the facility, killing one security staff member and injuring several others.

He warned that the strike—reportedly the fourth targeting the site—could risk the release of radioactive materials from an operational reactor, potentially causing “irreparable consequences” for human health, the environment, and neighboring countries.

Eslami criticized the IAEA's response as insufficient, arguing that expressions of “deep concern” without explicit condemnation risk encouraging further aggression. He also took issue with politically biased public remarks by the agency's leadership, including statements made in a March 18, 2026 interview with the U.S. network CBS News.

“It is clear that this inaction... has further emboldened the aggressors to continue these bru-

tal attacks in violation of international principles and rules,” he said, warning that continued silence could be viewed as “implicit complicity” and would further undermine the agency's credibility.

Eslami called on the IAEA to adopt a firm position and fulfill its statutory responsibilities, adding that Iran would take necessary measures to defend its sovereign rights.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also warned against attacks on the Bushehr facility.

“Israel-U.S. have bombed our Bushehr plant four times now. Radioactive fallout will end life in capitals of Persian Gulf countries, not Tehran,” Araghchi wrote on X, criticizing a lack of global concern for the safety of Iran's nuclear infrastructure. He contrasted the response with international reactions to tensions around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organization, expressed grave concern over the safety of nuclear facilities in Iran following the reported strikes.

“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,” he wrote 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.

Iranian FM cautions counterparts on ‘Inaction Towards Aggressors’

TEHRAN — “It is clear that this inaction... has further emboldened the aggressors to continue these brutal attacks in violation of international principles and rules,” Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned during a series of high-level phone calls with his counterparts from France, India, and Russia. He cautioned that continued silence could be viewed as “implicit complicity” and would further undermine the credibility of international bodies. The intensive diplomatic outreach comes as Tehran seeks to de-escalate rising tensions following US-Israeli military aggression, while warning of grave consequences for regional and global stability.

In a concerted diplomatic push to reduce escalating tensions, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate telephone conversations over the past 48 hours with the foreign ministers of France, India, and Russia. The discussions focused on the recent US-Israeli military aggression against Iran, its security and economic repercussions, and the urgent need to prevent a wider conflict.

Iran-France talks

Araghchi and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot reviewed regional developments, particularly the consequences of the US-Israeli attacks. Earlier, on March 26, President Masoud Pezeshkian had spoken with French President Emmanuel Macron, criticizing certain regional countries for allowing the US to use their soil and facilities for strikes against Iran. “Allowing US forces to use regional territory for brutal attacks violates international law and the principle of good neighborliness,” Pezeshkian stated. He also chided European nations that remain silent in the face of US-Israeli atrocities.

Iran-India talks

During a call with Indian External Affairs

Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Araghchi warned that continued military actions by the US and Israel could destabilize the wider region and threaten global security. He pointed to attacks on Iranian civilian infrastructure, industrial sites, and peaceful nuclear facilities operating under IAEA safeguards. Araghchi also noted US threats to strike Iran's energy infrastructure, calling such rhetoric a serious escalation. Jaishankar stressed the importance of restoring stability and backed ongoing regional and international diplomatic efforts to halt the conflict.

Iran-Russia talks

Araghchi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also discussed the “war of aggression” launched by the US and Israel.

Araghchi detailed crimes committed over the past 37 days — including strikes on hospitals, schools, residential areas, and nuclear facilities — and urged urgent action by the UN Security Council and the IAEA to condemn these acts and hold aggressors accountable. He described US threats against Iran's energy infrastructure as “a clear admission of committing war crimes.” Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's principled condemnation of the aggression, particularly against the Bushehr nuclear power plant, and expressed readiness to use all efforts to prevent the spread of conflict in the region.

Outlook

With analysts warning that any further military escalation could disrupt energy markets and threaten a strategically vital region, Iran's diplomatic outreach underscores its determination to defend national security while calling on the international community to break its silence — before inaction turns into tacit complicity.

Petrochemical revolution: Iran's 37% production jump on horizon

TEHRAN- Based on formulated strategic plans, Iran's petrochemical industry will see a 37% leap in production capacity by the Iranian year 1412 (2033-2034) through the implementation of 66 new projects and the completion of 45 semi-finished projects.

Accordingly, the National Petrochemical Company of Iran (NPC) has forecast the key estimates of this vision as follows:

- Year 1403 (2024-2025): Production capacity of 96.6 million tons and sales value of \$12.7 billion. This figure reached 100 million tons of production in the year 1404 (2025-2026).

- Year 1407 (2028-2029): Production capacity of 131.5 million tons and export value of \$26 billion.

- Year 1412 (2033-2034): Achieving a capacity of 182.7 million tons and a production value of \$46.4 billion.

To realize these goals, approximately \$246.1 billion in new investment is required—a path that will solidify Iran's petrochemical industry as the undisputed top regional petrochemical power.

Iran's petrochemical industry has experienced one of its most brilliant periods under the 14th government, achieving \$29.1 billion in net sales, extensive product exports, and raising nominal production capacity to 100 million tons.

The industry has set unprecedented records in net sales, exports, and production capacity expansion, cementing its path to sustainable growth.

From smart pricing governance to an energy technology revolution and the launch of major national projects, the industry's track record shows that by the Iranian year 1412 (2033-34), Iran will become the region's undisputed petrochemical power with 182 million tons of various petrochemical products.

Undoubtedly, petrochemicals are among the most important and export-oriented industries for any country, and this advantage doubles when a nation uses domestic resources to supply feedstock—meaning low-cost local resources are transformed into valuable export products relying on domestic technology, engineering, and production capability.

Iran possesses an extensive petrochemical value chain, with a real operating capacity of 100 million tons, providing significant foreign exchange earnings. However, in the first months of the 14th government, these production units faced serious fuel and feedstock supply challenges. By 2025, necessary measures largely resolved these issues, and the National Petrochemical Company removed many obstacles.

To establish sustainable governance and improve efficiency, the National Petrochemical Company has steered private sector engagement and product pricing dispute resolution toward legal and economically rational frameworks.

In 2025, with government approval and issuance, the National Petrochemical Company adopted a new approach to pricing petrochemical products, aiming to create an effective governance framework.

This effort seeks to establish a transparent, predictable environment for constructive interaction among producers, consumers, and regulators, while resolving potential disputes through specialized mechanisms.

One of the toughest winters for Iran's petrochemical industry was 2024, when fuel and feedstock shortages forced some units to suspend production for three months, causing tens to hundreds of millions of dollars in lost profit per company.

However, with the government's spring and summer 2025 approach to fuel supply management, production stoppages were minimized.

By February 13, 2026 (24 Bahman 1404), gas restrictions were lifted, allowing companies to withdraw gas up to their capacity limits.

Hassan Abbaszadeh, the managing director of the National Petrochemical Company, noted fluctuations in gas withdrawal during mid-February. In October (Mehr), daily withdrawal was around 90 million cubic meters, at times dropping to 75, 60, or even 50 million, but now an increasing trend has begun, exceeding 100 million cubic meters, with companies preparing for full production return. According to available data, about 98% of petrochemical supply and production capacity has been restored, and exports have grown about 2% compared to last year despite all restrictions.

Since 2024, the National Petrochemical Company has implemented a plan to encourage household fuel consumption reduction.

The result was lower household consumption in Mazandaran, Gilan, and Golestan provinces.



Proceeds from savings funded social services such as wheelchairs for the disabled, school supplies, and standard home heating equipment. The campaign ran for a second consecutive year starting December 21, 2025 (30 Azar 1404).

Abbaszadeh stated that under signed agreements, several petrochemical companies will invest in areas like awareness campaigns, equipment replacement, and other energy efficiency measures in Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan provinces.

These projects aim to reduce natural gas use in households, public facilities, greenhouses, and poultry farms to sustain petrochemical production. Emphasizing the role of public participation, he said without people's involvement, any plan would be incomplete.

The main incentive for the campaign's second year is increased public engagement in the three northern provinces, with results to be announced via a prize draw in the coming weeks.

He explained that due to direct impact from gas imbalances, the petrochemical industry decided to purposefully address this area, selecting three northern provinces as pilots—regions with high gas consumption in households, public sectors, greenhouses, and poultry farms.

This year's savings target is double last year's, estimating a reduction of about 2 million cubic meters per day over several months, equivalent to the feedstock for one major petrochemical plant.

Iran's petrochemical industry has moved from mere production to value creation and technology in line with the Seventh Development Plan's goals.

Smart governance, export infrastructure development, localization of key technologies, and value chain completion have made this industry not only a brilliant achievement of the 14th government but also a model of sustainable management and knowledge-based exports for all of Iran's industries.

Back in January, the managing director of National Petrochemical Company stated that the company has set a goal of increasing petrochemical production capacity by over 130 million tons under the Seventh National Development Plan.

Hassan Abbaszadeh said the overall policies of program are based on completing the industry's value chain, which will be achieved by a quantifiable increase in the production capacity.

This is the first time that completing value chain has been focused in the country's national development plan, and a quantitative goal has been set for it, he noted.

Abbaszadeh emphasized that development policies and plans should consider the production of final products and move towards value chain development. He said balanced development in the industry should be given priority, and to this end, completing the four main chains of, propylene, ethylene, and aromatics in the Seventh National Development Plan has been targeted, and annual plans of the NPC are also aligned with achieving these goals.

The NPC head said the most significant achievement of the petrochemical industry has been its growth in line with preventing raw material export.

"The petrochemical industry is the embodiment of the value chain completion in the oil industry," he stressed.

The official considered sustainable feedstock supply as a pillar of the Seventh National Development Plan for the petrochemical industry. He added that efforts are being made to provide stock simultaneously with capacity development.

To this end, various paths for feedstock supply are under consideration, and one of the most important programs to make up for stock shortages in the short term is the collection of flare gases, which, in addition to increasing feedstock, also has a significant positive impact on environment.

He stated that the main target areas for collecting flare gases are West Karoun, East Karoun, Dehloran, and Ilam, where most of the country's flares are located. He further mentioned that multiple projects are underway in the Isfahan region as well to utilize associated gases.

Global economy at risk: The price of a US-Israeli war on Iran

TEHRAN- As tensions escalate between the US-Israeli alliance and Iran, economists are warning of a seismic shock to the global economy.

A full-scale military confrontation would not remain confined to the Persian Gulf. Instead, it would trigger a cascade of supply shocks—starting with a sharp spike in oil and gas prices—that could plunge the world into a prolonged period of stagflation.

The core threat is "imported inflation." Unlike demand-driven price rises, this phenomenon occurs when external factors—soaring energy costs, disrupted shipping routes, and skyrocketing insurance premiums—push up prices regardless of domestic monetary policy.

With the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for nearly 20% of global oil supply, potentially becoming a conflict zone, analysts forecast crude oil prices could exceed \$150-\$200 per barrel. Natural gas prices would follow suit, crippling indus-



trial production in Europe and Asia.

The Strait of Hormuz, a 21-mile-wide waterway between Oman and Iran, is the world's most critical oil chokepoint. Nearly 20% of global petroleum passes through it daily—about 17 million barrels. Iran has repeatedly threatened to block the strait in response to military strikes.

Under this scenario, central banks face an impossible dilemma.

Raising interest rates—their

standard anti-inflation weapon—would do nothing to lower energy prices or fix broken supply chains. Instead, higher borrowing costs would choke off investment, increase unemployment, and accelerate a slide into recession.

The result is a textbook case of stagflation: rising prices alongside stagnant growth, a combination that defeated policymakers in the 1970s.

The damage would not stop at goods inflation. Financial markets

would see a flight to safety, hammering equities and corporate bonds.

Banks holding energy-sector debt could face cascading defaults. Global trade volumes would shrink as shipping costs multiply, further isolating economies already fractured by geopolitical rivalries.

Developing nations, heavily reliant on imported energy and food, would face the most severe hardships, potentially triggering debt crises and social unrest.

In short, a US-Israeli war with Iran is not merely a regional military conflict—it is an express ticket to global economic turmoil.

Policymakers in Washington and Tel Aviv must weigh any military calculus against this grim economic reality: higher inflation, lower growth, broken financial systems, and a world left poorer and more unstable.

The lesson from history is clear—in an interconnected global economy, war always comes with a bill, and everyone ends up paying.

Support packages being designed for entrepreneurs in free zones

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The secretary of the Iranian Free Zones High Council, emphasizing support for entrepreneurs amid war conditions, has stressed the design and formulation of support packages for them in free zones.

Reza Masrouf made the remarks in a meeting of the Free Trade and Special Economic Zones High Council, which was held to review the implementation of national missions in these zones.

During the meeting, Masrouf, highlighting the need to provide adequate services to the people and entrepreneurs in free zones, stated: "Following the recent attacks by the United States and Israel against our country, the issue of accelerating the provision of legal facilities, especially for entrepreneurs, has been communicated to the free zones organizations."

He added: "According to this directive, the boards of directors of commercial-industrial free zones organizations, within the framework of the powers provided for in laws and regulations—including articles of association and by-laws—shall take the necessary actions to assist in determining and collecting duties, such as

entry fees, issuance and renewal of construction permits, and other similar cases. Additionally, applying the maximum legal period for the installment payment of debts owed by entrepreneurs and supporting the import of essential goods needed by the country are also on the agenda."

Masrouf clarified: "These measures are being taken with the aim of facilitating business conditions, supporting producers and traders, and strengthening the economic capacity of the country's free trade and special economic zones, so that entrepreneurs can continue their activities with greater peace of mind and efficiency under the current circumstances."

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the

year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azarbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azarbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

The development of existing free trade zones and the establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of the Iranian government.

The Free Zones High Council's proactive formulation of support packages underscores a strategic commitment to shielding entrepreneurs from external shocks. By easing financial burdens, facilitating debt installments, and streamlining duties, these measures aim to transform free zones into resilient economic sanctuaries. As war-driven pressures mount, such targeted interventions are essential not only for sustaining business continuity but also for preserving Iran's broader economic stability and trade capacity.

Trade minister announces round-the-clock management to supply goods, control market

TEHRAN- The Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade stated that the central headquarters of the ministry was formed in the very first hours of the war, adding: "The managers, deputies, and staff of this ministry have been present at their workplaces around the clock, without leaving the field for a single moment."

According to a Mehr News Agency report citing the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak told a meeting with representatives of parliament: "The government and all institutions are standing together with full coordination and cohesion, and the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade has a direct and operational role in this process."

Referring to the recent extraordinary circumstances and likening them to a "12-day war," he continued: "In the first hours of the war, the central headquarters of the ministry was formed. Managers, deputies, and staff remained at their workplaces around the clock, without leaving the field for a moment. Three-hour reports on market conditions in the provinces were received, and regular webinar meetings were held for continuous monitoring and rapid resolution of shortages."

The minister, expressing gratitude to the Chamber of Guilds, unions, and market trustees who even sent field reports on holidays, added: "To control the market, our fundamental principle was to keep shelves stocked. Producers were asked to increase output, and some units operated in three shifts."

He added: "Furthermore, the capacity of the freight transport fleet was increased to unload goods from customs as quickly as possible. These measures led to the immediate compensation of shortages and prevented potential exploitation."

Atabak further emphasized: "The Organization for Protection of Consumers and Producers and the State Inspectorate Organization intervened forcefully and did not allow war conditions to create an opportunity for profiteering by violators."

Referring to the country's economic future, he noted: "After overcoming these circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran will attain the highest economic standing. We will lift the sanctions ourselves, and we will demand compensation for this war from its initiators."

The minister, referring to international correspondence regarding the US-Israeli attacks, stated: "Correspondence with the UNIDO organization has been carried out, and was followed up again today, so that the legal actions needed by Iran can be taken and implemented as quickly as possible."

The Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, in an official letter to UNIDO, on March 26, called for an end to attacks on Iran's non-military industrial facilities and for compensation for damages.

According to Mehr News Agency, the Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade, in a letter addressed to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), while detailing the extent of damage inflicted on certain production units, has called for specialized cooperation and technical support from the organization to assess, rebuild, and restore the country's industrial capacities.

Mohammad Atabak, commenting on the damages caused by the US and Israeli aggression against Iran's production and industrial sectors, stated: "We have conducted visits to the factories that were hit; actions needed to be taken, and the extent of damage to the factories varied."

He added: "The amount of damages has been estimated by teams, and measures such as granting extensions for social security payments, worker salaries, and taxes have been pursued to compensate for part of the damages."

Referring to the details of the letter and UNIDO's pivotal role in industrial development and enhancing production capabilities, the Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade said: "According to international law, non-military

production units should not be targeted. In this letter, it has been requested that this international body, in line with its missions, put the necessary measures on its agenda."

Atabak emphasized: "Factories that produce public goods or necessities for the people should not be targeted. However the enemy has carried out this aggression against factories, it seems the US does not adhere to any convention. Therefore, we have asked the United Nations to intervene in this matter."

He stated: "Unfortunately, the UN acts with a double standard, and we see this duality so clearly that we truly believe it will lead to a very difficult accountability for the organization's own future."

According to him, under the provisions of conventions based on international agreements, civilian industries should not be targeted in conflicts. This issue must be investigated and pursued by international bodies.

Emphasizing that attacks on factories must be stopped as a first step, the Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade said: "Ultimately, the amount of damages must also be paid by the aggressor country, and just laws must be established."

Atabak, stressing the necessity of maintaining the sustainability of production for public goods and essential commodities, announced: "Technical documentation and supplementary reports on the status of damaged units are being compiled and, once finalized, will be submitted to UNIDO for expert review. This correspondence aims to enhance technical coordination and utilize international capacities for the swift recovery of industrial units."

He added: "The Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, in an official letter to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has called for an end to attacks on non-military industrial facilities, the official declaration of the extent of damages, and the pursuit of compensation for them."

The terminal scream of an empire scheduling war crimes in its digital Colosseum

Trump's profane ultimatum exposes the malignant sociopathic narcissism and moral sepsis rotting America from within

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — On Easter Sunday, April 5, as some American families headed to church to celebrate resurrection and hope, Donald Trump posted a message that felt like a fever dream from the darkest corners of the imperial id.

"Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran," he wrote on Truth Social. "There will be nothing like it!!! Open the F**ing Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell — JUST WATCH! Praise be to Allah. President DONALD J. TRUMP"

It was the raw, unfiltered convulsion of a wounded ego in the fifth week of an unprovoked U.S.-Israeli war on Iran.

American and Israeli strikes had already hammered civilian energy grids, hospitals, schools, and bridges.

Iran's wartime management of the Strait of Hormuz, its sovereign response to aggression on its soil, has been twisted into an excuse for targeting the infrastructure that keeps over 90 million people alive.

No electricity means no water, no incubators for newborns, no dialysis for the sick.

Legal experts call it exactly what it is: a promise of disproportionate civilian harm, the kind the Geneva Conventions were written to outlaw.

The pathology of the world's top digital terrorist

This outburst is malignant sociopathic narcissism in terminal bloom.

Trump has long operated on a razor-thin emotional spectrum: rage when thwarted, embarrassment when his grandiosity cracks.

After weeks of Iranian resilience blunting the assault, the ego demanded spectacle.

He branded the coming war crime "Power Plant Day" like some twisted product launch, dehumanized an entire nation as "crazy bastards," and savored the sadism of promising "living in Hell."

By punctuating a sadistic threat with a sneering "Praise be to Al-



lah" on Easter Sunday, Trump also transformed sacred ground into a stage for nihilistic ego theater.

This was the weaponization of faith: a performance that treats the divine as a disposable costume while managing to insult billions of believers across the globe in a single post.

Some have called it the "Disneyfication" of genocide and in this case, domicile: war reduced to television and digital branding, where the suffering of millions becomes mere backdrop for one man's need for dominance.

Some have seen regressive agitation in the gutter profanity—the frantic compensation of a fragile strongman whose madman theory has hit a wall of sophisticated Iranian resistance.

This was one of the most unhinged public comments by a U.S. president in history, and the competition is fierce. It did not signal strength. It was the roar of a cornered animal.

The pushback and the 'peak clown world' moment

The backlash inside the United States was swift, visceral, and bipartisan.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer captured the national recoil: "Happy Easter, America. As you head off to church... the President of the United States is ranting like an unhinged madman on social media. He's threatening possible war crimes."

Senator Bernie Sanders called it "the ravings of a dangerous and

mentally unbalanced individual" and demanded Congress end the war now.

Senator Chris Murphy openly raised the 25th Amendment, warning that Trump's inner circle was pushing civilian strikes to spark "national panic," a textbook war crime.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, once a fierce loyalist, broke ranks in a lengthy X post, declaring that Christians in the administration must "fall on their knees and beg forgiveness from God" and stop "worshipping the President." "He has gone insane," she wrote, "and all of you are complicit... This is not making America great again, this is evil."

Commentator Tim Miller described the threat as "truly deranged," while thousands of ordinary X users captured the widespread disgust, labeling the rhetoric "next-level unhinged" and "peak clown world."

A viral thread from a former military officer noted that targeting power plants is a "violation of the Geneva Conventions," framing the strategy not as "maximum pressure," but "maximum infamy."

Parents paired the rant with images of damaged Iranian schools under the caption "This is your 'Christian' President."

The American public is increasingly aware that they are being led by a man who treats the global energy grid like a toy and civilian lives like disposable props in a reality-TV war.

The digital Colosseum and a civilizational contrast

The moment marks the aestheticization of politics: the transformation of U.S. foreign policy into a digital Colosseum where the public is invited to watch high-tech war crimes.

It exposes a moral sepsis in the American polity: no longer pretending to be a city on a hill, it now treats the end of the world as just another smartphone notification.

The war itself, outsourced to the most extreme elements of Israeli ambition, has turned the U.S. military into a private security firm for expansionism: a suicide pact that is burning America's last shreds of global credibility.

Trump is trapped in his own lies.

He promised to end endless wars yet plunged the country into one of his own making.

Should he follow through on these barbaric strikes against the infrastructure of life, he will be branded for eternity as an internationally reviled war criminal: a pariah who orchestrated mass suffering to sate a personal vendetta.

Should he retreat, the mask falls to reveal a pathetic paper tiger, a playground bully whose only weapon was the hollow roar of a collapsing ego.

Either way, it is a terminal, absolute failure that leaves the American moral landscape in smoldering ruins.

In contrast to the fast-food vulgarity of the American presidency, the Iranian spirit remains a check on this imperial overreach.

Iranians have spoken and acted with politeness and dignity despite all the indignities, while the other side now requires psychological examination for its conduct.

This is the narcissist at war in raw form: underestimating adversaries and zero planning beyond personal vendetta.

History will record which side chose spectacle and darkness, and which side kept the lights on, literally and figuratively, for its children and for the world.

Trump is a new Hitler who has caused 'regime change' in US



TEHRAN - A senior political analyst says U.S. President Donald Trump suffers from serious egoism and formulates dreams similar to that of Adolf Hitler of Germany.

"Donald Trump suffers from acute narcissism and harbors ambitions reminiscent of Hitler, seeking to annex other parts of the world to America," Saeed Hajarian wrote an article published on the ISNA website on April 6.

He was openly referring to Trump's threats to capture Greenland by force if necessary and called Canada one of American states.

In a reference to Trump who repeatedly claims he has changed the regime in Iran to cover up his failures in his illegal war against Iran, Hajarian said, "Trump has engaged in betrayal in his dealings with the world, not only opposing the policies of Obama and Biden but also breaking traditions and effectively changing the regime in America."

The top political analyst said Trump's governance system is like a king as his mind is filled with the characteristics of a "sultan".

So far "No King" demonstrations have been held in the U.S. against Trump.

"During Donald Trump's first term, I spoke of the presence of elements of sultanism in him: Trump is an individual who, along with his family, resides in his palace like the kings of the Qajar era, receiving people like sultans and distributing positions based on proximity. This sultanism stands in opposition to American civil society, and in my opinion, the future challenge of civil society and the political system in America with Trump will revolve around this issue," the professor emeritus of Tarbiat Modares University wrote in his article titled "Trump's Illness".

In addition to claiming that he has caused "regime change" in Tehran, Trump has so far has been repeatedly claiming that the U.S. military under his order has "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program, destroyed Iran's missile and drone arsenal.

During the 12-day aggression against Iran in June 2025, the Pentagon used B-2 bombers to strike Iran's key nuclear sites in Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan. At the time, he claimed Iran's nuclear program is "obliterated". Before the U.S. strikes, Israel had bombed these plants and others.

In the ongoing war that his administration

and the Netanyahu regime launched on Iran on Feb. 28, Trump again claims Iran's nuclear program has been obliterated. He speaks in a way as if Iran's nuclear sites obliterated in an attack grow again like a mushroom in a matter of weeks or days.

"Those who are immersed in news consumption or are influenced by the Israeli-American aggression inevitably follow Donald Trump's positions and have a better understanding of the contradictory aspects of his statements. He has dismantled Iran's nuclear program several times, repeatedly uprooted the country's missile and drone sites, and even changed regimes multiple times. I do not reduce this set of positions to his psychological profile, nor do I read them as 'for domestic consumption.' Rather, contrary to Trump's claims, I want to argue that the claim of regime change is indeed true regarding America," the senior analyst pointed out.

Since Trump has been saying that Iran's missiles and drones have been destroyed and its military capability been decimated, the Iranian armed forces have intensified firing missiles and drones at targets in Israel and U.S. military assets scattered in the West Asia region. Also, the U.S. and Israel no longer have air superiority. So far, Iran has downed an F-35 fighter jet, an A-10 Warthog over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, and an F-15E jet.

Elsewhere in his article, Hajarian stated that "Trump has completely torn apart the fabric of democracy". He added, "Trump has engaged in betrayal in his dealings with the world and has delegitimized international organizations. He rejected the Paris (climate) agreement on the grounds that it weakened America, deemed the JCPOA unsuitable for America, and in the recent war, by humiliating and belittling NATO allies, seeks to dissolve this security alliance as well... He has not only opposed the policies of Obama and Biden but has also broken traditions and effectively changed the regime."

In his first presidential term, Trump withdrew from the Iran 2015 nuclear deal - officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - and 2015 Paris climate accords.

He described the JCPOA as "the worst deal in history" and said "the Paris Accord is very unfair, at the highest level, to the United States."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Hezbollah puts up fierce resistance against Zionist forces

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Lebanese resistance movement has announced new operations targeting gathering points of Israeli soldiers as well as Zionist settlements and military bases.

According to a series of statements, Hezbollah fighters detonated an explosive device against Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) near the town of Shamaa, causing confirmed casualties. They then targeted an IOF rescue force that arrived at the scene with artillery shells.

The resistance fighters also launched rocket salvos at gatherings of IOF soldiers and vehicles in the town of Ainata and Maroun al-Ras. Another IOF unit was struck at a different location nearby.

In another statement, the resistance movement carried out consecutive rocket strikes targeting IOF soldiers and vehicles east of the Lebanese town of Khiam.

As part of an evacuation warning issued to several settlements in northern occupied Palestine, Hezbollah targeted the settlement of Nahariya with rocket fire, striking it twice. They also targeted the settlement of Metula with a rocket salvo.

The Lebanese resistance forces launched simultaneous rocket attacks on IOF infrastructure in the settlement of Karmiel, the city of Safed as well as the

Katzrin settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. It also targeted the Meron air surveillance and control base in northern occupied Palestine with a rocket salvo.

The Israeli regime's settlements of Nahariya, Shlomi, Hurfeish, Liman, Ma'a lot-Tarshiha have been struck with fresh rocket barrages.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah stated that its fighters launched a precision strike drone at an administrative logistics base belonging to the Northern Command of the IOF north of the occupied city of Acre.

Hezbollah stated that it targeted a gathering of IOF soldiers at Al-Malkiyya (northern Israeli settlement of Malkia) with rockets, followed by a direct drone strike on another group at the same location.

The resistance fighters also targeted a group of IOF soldiers north of the settlement of Kfar Yuval, using a swarm of attack drones.

The regime's Sanat Chin base north of ??? occupied Acre city was attacked with a swarm of loitering drones.

Multiple footage published by Hezbollah's media arm shows IOF soldiers being attacked in southern Lebanon using a loitering glider. IOF vehicles and soldiers at Fatima Gate on the Lebanese border have also been attacked.



In an earlier statement issued on Sunday, Hezbollah announced that it had targeted an Israeli regime warship located 68 nautical miles off the Lebanese coast, which was preparing to carry out attacks on Lebanese territory. The operation was carried out using a naval cruise missile after hours of surveillance, resulting in a direct hit.

Before that, the Lebanese resistance targeted another Zionist military base. Hezbollah stated that it attacked the "Mount Neria" base, affiliated with the Zionist regime's Meron military installation, responsible for monitoring and managing aerial operations in northern occupied Palestine, with a missile barrage.

Meanwhile, the Hebrew newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth described as "overconfident," the statements by the Israeli leadership about defeating Hezbollah and Iran, which the paper

described would "end in disappointment." It added that disarming Hezbollah would not be achieved, even if the so-called Defense Minister Israel Katz were to increase the frequency of his statements "from five per week to five per day."

Urban warfare is ongoing with reports pointing out the Lebanese resistance front anticipated the routes, which the IOF was expected to take during incursions, highlighting that Hezbollah's engineering units are entering the frontlines under fire to plant explosive devices and then directly engaging the IOF.

Reports further point out that Hezbollah's intelligence capabilities enabled it to reach rear points where the IOF gathers, and that it succeeded in drawing those forces into pre-prepared ambush zones and striking advancing units.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Iranians residing in Japan and local supporters gathered outside the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on April 5, 2026, to voice their strong condemnation of U.S.-Israeli aggression. Waving the flag of the Islamic Republic, the demonstrators demanded respect for Iran's sovereignty and national dignity.

Welfare Organization providing wide range of services during war

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the war on February 28, the Welfare Organization has been providing numerous services to its beneficiaries across the country with the help of benefactors.

The benefactors have donated two trillion rials (almost 1.45 million dollars) to the Welfare Organization so far. Thanks to their contributions, 140,000 packages of basic food have been so far distributed among the beneficiaries, IRNA quoted the head of the Welfare Organization, Javad Hosseini, as saying.

Currently, 5,200 centers affiliated with the Welfare Organization are operating across the country, providing round-the-clock services to some 200,000 beneficiaries including street children, the elderly, people with mental illnesses, disabled people, and kids, the official said.

In the beginning days of the war, 18 centers had to be relocated, and 22,000 individuals were united with their families. Some 10,000 centers are providing daily remoterehabilitation services, and community-based rehabilitation (CBR) groups are strengthened to support people in each neighbourhood.

They have so far provided 60,000 rehabilitation services in person. The groups have empowered 40,000 families through boosting their resilience.

Rebuilding damaged houses, evacuating and providing emergency shelters, supporting the treatment of 12,000 individuals, and distributing 60,000 items of clothing are among other measures carried out, Hosseini added.

Referring to psychological services, the official said 95,000 people have benefited from free psychological supports, out of which 6,000 were individuals affected by war impacts.

More than 10,000 teams have provided



emergency social services, conduction 3,000 missions since the war outbreak.

The official went on to say that the Organization has updated 70 guidelines for its centers, and has produced 46,000 educational contents nationwide for different groups such as children, the elderly, disabled people, pregnant women, and ordinary people.

With the beginning of the war, the Welfare Organization has organized a network of some 20,000 of volunteers to help provide a wide range of services, particularly medical and welfare services, to people affected by the US-Israeli aggression.

The network includes ordinary people, medical specialists, psychologists, and social workers.

The Welfare Organization has held several meetings with the volunteers in different provinces of the country to plan and coordinate their activities, and derive maximum benefits from their high capacity.

The result has been great, and the volunteers provide services to different strata of society.

The network of volunteers help to deliver generous donations faster and more targeted to the needy.

IRCS calls on ICRC to adopt measures to protect humanitarian assets amid war

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society has urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to take more practical measures to protect humanitarian facilities and assets and prevent further violence that would interrupt the provision of relief services during the US-Israeli assaults against Iran.

Subsequent to an airstrike that targeted an IRCS warehouse in Bushehr province on April 3, the IRCS head, Pirhossein Kolivand, sent a letter to the ICRC president, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, voicing deep concern over the gross violation of the fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

“On Friday, April 3, at approximately 05:30 a.m., the central warehouse of the Iranian Red Crescent Society in Choghadak county, Bushehr province, was subjected to an airstrike, resulting in extensive damage.

This facility, as a critical component of our operational support for relief and rescue activities, has been used exclusively for humanitarian purposes, including the storage of relief items and support for victims of disasters and emergencies, and has no military function whatsoever.

Nonetheless, the attack has caused significant damage to the infrastructure, equipment, and operational capacity of our Society in the region.

Regional music artists declare readiness to defend Iran against enemy attacks

TEHRAN– A group of Iran’s regional music artists voiced their condemnation of enemy crimes during the Ramadan War and declared their readiness to defend the country’s territorial integrity.

In a statement published on Sunday, the artists paid tribute to the country’s fallen national heroes and said Iran is “the land of epics and epic storytelling,” Mehr reported.

They added that, while the lullabies of Iranian mothers speak of peace and friendship, those same voices turn heroic when foreign aggression targets the homeland.

“We, the artists of Iran’s regional music, while condemning the attacks and crimes of the enemies of this land, stand shoulder to shoulder with other patriots and tune our instruments for the unity of Iran,” the statement read.

Preliminary assessments indicate that several emergency and logistical vehicles have been damaged.

Other essential support infrastructure, including a temporary (mobile) base, caretaker’s residence, guardhouse, and a water tank, has suffered considerable damage.”

The official went on to underscore the fundamental principles of IHL—particularly the principles of distinction between civilian and military objectives, proportionality, and precaution in attack—according to which all parties to a conflict are obliged, under all circumstances, to refrain from targeting civilians and civilian objects, including humanitarian facilities and assets.

Highlighting that pursuant to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as neutral and humanitarian entities, are entitled to special protection, and any attack on their facilities, vehicles, or personnel constitutes a serious breach of these rules.

“The attack on this humanitarian facility has not only caused physical damage but has also severely impaired our capacity to respond to the urgent needs of affected populations, thereby amplifying the potential human consequences beyond the immediate incident.”

The signatories said that if the enemy seeks to violate Kharg Island or the three Iranian islands, they would head to the Persian Gulf and defend the country to the last breath.

They also thanked Iran’s armed defenders for their sacrifice in safeguarding the nation’s territorial integrity and reaffirmed their support for national resistance.

Since the US-Israeli war on Iran began on February 28, several groups of artists across different fields have publicly voiced their support for the country, condemning the aggression and expressing solidarity with the nation’s defenders.

From musicians and writers to scholars and cultural figures, many have issued statements praising the resilience of the Iranian people, denouncing the attacks, and pledging to stand by the country in defense of its territorial integrity,

Health workers condemn US-Israeli attacks on medical centers

TEHRAN – Officials, academics, and employees of the health sector gathered in the front of Imam Khomeini hospital in Tehran on Monday to condemn US-Israeli assaults on the country’s health infrastructure.

“We, the health staff and academics, have come together today to underscore an undeniable fundamental principle: saving human lives, and protecting health, pharmaceutical, educational, and research centers are globally sacred, and attacking these centers has no justification under any circumstances,” they said in a statement.

“Our experiences in the health sector clearly show that universities and educational centers, hospitals, relief and rescue bases, medical teams, pharmaceutical networks, medical scientists have to be safeguarded from any military aggression. Damaging patients, the wounded, relief workers, doctors, nurses, and researchers, and destructing health and research infrastructures not only violates moral principles but also poses threat to universal health security, and the future of science, medical



technologies, and fair access to treatment.

We, regardless of geographical borders, political stances, and ideology, insist on following principles: 1. The life and dignity of any human are absolutely valuable and have to be protected. 2. Patients, the injured, children, mothers, the aged, and anyone who needs healthcare should never be the

victim of the situation that is out of their control.

3. Researchers, doctors, and all health workers need to conduct their missions to save people’s lives in full safety and security. 4. No excuses, including armed conflicts, or urgent situations, should deprive people from access to essential medical, medicinal, and rehabilitation services.

We expect international community, particularly the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and other international humanitarian organizations, to guarantee the security of educational, medical, pharmaceutical, and research centers, and to take clear stance against the destruction of health infrastructure. Health is a universal right, and the shared red line of humanity.”

Spanish artists, cultural activists, filmmakers condemn US-Israeli aggression on Iran

TEHRAN – Following a letter of protest from Hamed Jafari, the CEO of the Farabi Cinema Foundation, which operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, to international film production and distribution entities, global film festivals, and foreign filmmakers, Jose Cabrera, one of the managers of the Valladolid International Film Festival in Spain, announced that a group of Spanish artists, cultural activists, and filmmakers have signed a statement condemning the aggression of the United States and the Zionist regime and expressing sympathy with the Iranian people.

Cabrera, a well-known cultural figure in Spain, emphasized that Yorgos Lanthimos, Mike Figgis, and Ben Rivers are among the directors who have joined dozens of artists and university specialists in signing an open letter condemning the joint American-Zionist war against Iran and emphasizing Iranian sovereignty. They are among the first signatories of a letter that is being circulated and signed within filmmaking, cultural, artistic, and academic circles.

According to Mehr, parts of this statement, a copy of which has been provided to the Farabi Cinema Foundation, read:

“We, a group of artists, cultural activists, and filmmakers, issue this statement with full

awareness of our historical and moral responsibility to unequivocally condemn war, military violence, and all forms of political and military intervention”.

“We declare clearly and unambiguously that the destiny and future of Iran belong exclusively to the people of Iran, and no foreign power, no government, and no military coalition has the legitimacy to determine the political, social, or historical path for this land. The right to self-determination is a fundamental and undeniable principle that stems solely from the free and conscious will of every nation”.

Established in 1983, Farabi Cinema Foundation has operated in a wide range of activities which covers all aspects of cinema and film industry. It has produced films, supplied raw materials, lent camera equipment, provided post-production facilities, published various cinematic literature and sponsored film festivals.

Farabi is also responsible for promoting and marketing Iranian cinema all over the world. Introducing Iranian feature films to festivals, screening Iranian films in different countries, participating in film markets and world sales of Iranian motion pictures are among its international activities. Farabi enters co-production projects with foreign producers as well.

Through years of productive activity, Farabi Cinema Foundation has established itself as the major organization involved in domestic film industry and the main representative of Iranian Cinema abroad.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 and have so far martyred about 2,000 people including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, several officials, and military commanders as well as civilians, including women and children.

The aggressors’ objective in the recent attacks was the claim of preventing Iran’s nuclear program but later they revealed that their maximalist goal is the regime change in Iran. Therefore, besides some military targets, the US and Israel have launched organized attacks against civilian infrastructure, including residential homes, hospitals, refineries, power plants, schools, universities, art and cultural spaces, bookstores, museums, and ancient sites in several cities, causing total or partial damages and injuring innocent people, in a bid to force the regime to surrender to their unlawful wills.

The attacks prompted a swift response from the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), with missile and drone launches targeting Israel and several U.S. bases in the region, occurring less than two hours after the strikes, which have been intensified in recent days.

Virtuoso Ali Ghamsari takes symbolic stand at Damavand Power Plant against infrastructure attacks

TEHRAN– Renowned Iranian composer and tar virtuoso Ali Ghamsari has announced his decision to station himself at the Damavand Combined Cycle Power Plant—a critical facility providing nearly half of Tehran’s electricity—to serve as a symbolic human shield against ongoing aggressions targeting Iran’s national infrastructure.

In a video message released on Monday, the acclaimed musician stated that he would remain at the plant as an independent artist, away from any political factions, to create music in solitude while standing in solidarity with the Iranian people. “With my tar, I will become a shield for the electricity of 40 percent of Tehran,” Ghamsari declared, emphasizing his devotion to the country’s survival.

Ghamsari, recognized for his history of social activism, emphasized that his critical stance regarding the country’s internal challenges does not diminish his profound sense of patriotism.

“In these days, we are facing irreparable attacks on our country’s vital infrastructure, such as bridges and industrial factories;



an event that targets Iran and its people to push them back toward the Stone Age,” the artist remarked.

Expressing a deep fear for the nation’s future, he added: “I wish for the light of my own life to be extinguished before a more serious stage of infrastructural war turns off the lights of my country’s homes. I hope my eyes never see even an inch of our soil being separated.”

Addressing the current conflict, Ghamsari warned that “the goal

of war is by no means salvation,” urging the public to remain vigilant. He also touched upon the recent tragedy in Minab, stating that after mourning the victims of the unrests in January, the shedding of the blood of the girls of Minab made it impossible for him to remain silent.

“We have been hurt, but we will rise again,” Ghamsari concluded, expressing faith that the Iranian people, backed by thousands of years of history, will navigate this crisis through the guidance of their “only honest and impartial media”—their hearts.

Ghamsari founded the band Samad at the age of 18. Afterwards, he established the Hamnavazan-e Hesar Ensemble and the Iranian String Quartet. At the age of 22, he gained fame by composing the album Naghsh-e Khayal with Homayoun Shajarian. Since then, he has composed over 15 albums, collaborating with several traditional singers such as Alireza Ghorbani, Mohammad Motamedi, and Vahid Taj.

He has performed in many countries, including France, Morocco, Spain, the U.S., the Nether-

lands, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Canada.

The recent aerial strike by US-Israeli forces on a strategic bridge in Karaj has been condemned as a blatant violation of international law and a direct assault on the Iranian civilian population. This heinous act is viewed as part of the broader, unprovoked war of aggression imposed on Iran by the United States and the Zionist regime, which commenced on February 28.

These tactical strikes coincide with escalating threats from Donald Trump, who has openly called for the systematic destruction of Iran’s power plants and critical industrial infrastructure. By targeting the nation’s energy grid and water resources, the US administration seeks to dismantle the pillars of modern Iranian life, a move described by many observers as infrastructural terrorism. Such threats underscore the hostile intent to push the Iranian people toward an era of hardship by cutting off the very lifelines—electricity and water—that sustain the capital and its surrounding provinces.

10 Major Trump Blunders

Miscalculations that make war with Iran impossible to win



The following is a closer look at ten factors contributing to this miscalculation:

1. Leader's assassination leads to system collapse

The proposition that assassinating Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, would trigger systemic collapse represents less a strategic hypothesis than a category error. Western planners persist in projecting their own institutional fragilities onto structures they have not troubled themselves to comprehend.

Israel and the United States remain locked inside a repertoire of violence—assassination, attrition, invasion—that betrays not strength but imaginative exhaustion. Trump's inadvertent admission that America bombs Iran "out of habit" diagnosed the pathology: reflex masquerading as doctrine.

The so-called "decapitation" logic assumes leadership elimination produces organisational paralysis. This holds where power concentrates in irreplaceable individuals. Iran's system distributes authority across the Guardian Council, Assembly of Experts, military units, and clerical hierarchies embedded in provincial governance. The Leader arbitrates this ecosystem; he does not constitute it. The Assembly exists precisely to manage succession without existential rupture. Eighty-eight jurists represent not ceremony but institutional buffer capacity.

Western strategic thinking conflates political death with government failure because its own systems operate through personality-dependent hierarchies. Iran's architecture fuses theological legitimation with committee governance—a structure engineered to absorb shocks that would fracture personalised autocracies. Succession protocols refined over four decades do not evaporate when activated.

Crucially, assassination within value-rational frameworks does not merely remove individuals. It generates martyrdom capital the system metabolises into cohesion. Every assassination in Beirut, Gaza, and Tehran has validated this: military aggression cannot substitute for understanding the opponent's actual mechanics of resilience.

The decapitation playbook presumes all actors share Western cost-benefit calculations around self-preservation. It fails when confronting structures where sacrifice carries strategic weight, where institutions transcend individuals, where the very act of elimination becomes systemic fuel. Repeating the same violence while expecting different results is not strategy. It is ritual.

2. Iran to surrender after brief resistance

The prediction that sufficient military pressure would produce swift Iranian capitulation has now been tested across six weeks of sustained conflict. Tehran absorbed strikes, maintained command continuity, and preserved state cohesion without offering the political surrender Western strategists projected as inevitable. This outcome reflects deliberate institutional design, not circumstantial resilience.

Iran's state apparatus was engineered to endure precisely the coercion now applied against it. Distributed missile infrastructure, redundant command nodes, ideological mechanisms that convert external threat into legitimacy—these represent four decades of adaptation to sanctions, sabotage, and assassination campaigns. The system optimised for survival under pressure rather than performance under normalcy.

The conflict's political dimension has followed trajectories Western models failed to anticipate. External coercion rarely produces the internal realignments attackers project onto target populations. Historical precedent across the region—from Lebanon to Iraq—suggests bombing campaigns consolidate rather than fracture state authority, particularly when the target state possesses functional governance structures and mobilisation capacity. Tehran demonstrated both throughout the escalation.

Six weeks in, the conflict has settled into precisely the protracted grind Iran's structure was built to sustain. The United States and Israel retain kinetic dominance without achieving political objectives. Tehran maintains asymmetric leverage—geographic chokepoints, alliances, escalation thresholds adversaries cannot fully control—without securing relief from pressure.

Systems constructed to survive coercion do not surrender on schedule. Strategic planning that ignores an opponent's actual institution-

al mechanics produces expensive stalemates, not clean victories. Six weeks have demonstrated which assumption proved correct.

3. Public uprising to overthrow "regime"

The assumption that military strikes would catalyse popular insurrection against Iran's government has not been borne out. Bombardment did not translate into domestic uprising aligned with external strategic objectives. Instead, it coincided with a consolidation that cuts across political differences and reflects something more structural.

Opposition to specific policies and endorsement of foreign attacks on national infrastructure are distinct political positions. These positions have not collapsed into one another. The distinction between internal political disagreement and external campaigns directed at state capacity has remained operative. The expectation that Israeli strikes could reorganise Iran's political landscape rests on a misreading of how these boundaries function.

External coercion does not produce political change in a direct or predictable way. The destruction of infrastructure alters the conditions under which political life is conducted, but does not generate alignment with those producing that destruction. Political autonomy does not emerge from external force; it depends on the continuity of territorial and institutional frameworks that such campaigns place under strain.

Western strategic reasoning has often treated state vulnerability as an indicator of political availability. This assumption has limited empirical support. In contexts where infrastructure has been systematically targeted, populations have tended to attribute disruption externally rather than reassign responsibility inward.

Public mobilisation has taken place during the current conflict, but not in the direction the West anticipated. Demonstrations have not coalesced around demands for toppling the government, but around rejection of external intervention as a determining force in Iran's political future.

The expectation that bombardment would produce internally aligned political outcomes has not materialised. The response has instead followed a different trajectory, shaped by the distinction between external coercion and the conditions under which political life is sustained.

4. Iran's airspace quickly secured

The ongoing war in West Asia has begun to unsettle long-held assumptions among military analysts about the durability of U.S. technological and aerial dominance, prompting a gradual re-evaluation rather than a sudden reversal. For decades, U.S. fighter jets were described in near-abstract terms—platforms of stealth, speed, and precision capable of bypassing both geography and political constraint. At the outset of the U.S.-Israeli strikes, and in the immediate shock following the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, that framework appeared momentarily reinforced. Yet as the conflict has unfolded, the operational environment has become less legible through that lens.

Across the wider campaign, U.S. aerial systems—both manned platforms and unmanned drones—have experienced sustained attrition across multiple operational zones. Taken individually, these incidents do not alter aggregate capability. Taken together, they complicate the assumption that Iranian airspace can be traversed without persistent operational cost.

Iran's air defence posture is not organised around a single system but an assembled architecture of denial. Layered short-range interceptors, passive infrared tracking, and

distributed sensing nodes produce a field in which certainty is progressively reduced rather than structurally guaranteed. The objective is less interception as an event than the sustained compression of operational predictability.

Within this configuration, even intermittent engagements carry cumulative weight. They alter flight profiles, extend stand-off distances, and increase reliance on electronic warfare and suppression cycles. The effect is not episodic but accretive, reshaping the grammar of aerial movement over time.

What emerges is not a simple contest over air dominance, but a redefinition of the conditions under which it can be exercised. The Iranian theatre no longer accommodates the assumptions that once underpinned Western air planning. Movement remains possible, but it is no longer separable from constraint.

5. No sign of a limited military response

Iran's military response has diverged from early expectations that it would remain limited and defective, according to military analysts.

A defining feature of Tehran's multi-layered posture has been the continued use of missiles and drones for more than a month, hitting targets across Israel as well as US bases, assets and projects in host countries across the region.

Despite the deployment of multiple advanced air defense systems, analysts say not all incoming projectiles have been intercepted, allowing considerable numbers to penetrate and reach their targets.

Iran has also shown a willingness to carry out retaliatory strikes against adversary interests in the region, in line with what officials describe as a policy of reciprocal response. Observers say this approach has contributed to deterrence by increasing the potential cost of escalation and introducing caution among opponents, particularly regarding possible strikes on Iranian infrastructure.

At the same time, Iran has maintained elements of its defensive and offensive capabilities despite sustained airstrikes. This comes even as it has suffered significant losses, including the assassinations of senior commanders, damage to missile facilities and the destruction of launch platforms. These developments have unfolded in a context where the United States and Israel are widely seen as holding air superiority over the Iranian soil.

Also, the overall morale among Iranian fighters has been described as steady, with officials signaling that additional capabilities may still be brought into play.

Regarding the maritime posture, Iran has sought to sustain its influence at sea, despite losses to its naval assets, relying on asymmetric tactics and detailed knowledge on the geography of the region.

In a further development, Iran has claimed the ability to down advanced US aircraft, including stealth platforms, a claim that analysts say, if verified, would mark a notable shift in the conflict's dynamics.

It is crucial to note that, despite setbacks and the extensive damage caused, the operational tempo of Iran's forces has shown no significant signs of slowing in its war against these powerful military adversaries.

6. Strategic mastery over the Strait

One of the most significant miscalculations made by Washington and Tel Aviv was their underestimation of Tehran's ability to maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz. Initially, both believed that they could swiftly defeat Iran militarily, with the expectation that Iran would be unable to defend or block the strategic waterway that facilitates a substantial portion of the world's energy shipments.

This achievement has exerted significant economic pressure on global energy markets and, in turn, increased the costs of the war for the US and its allies.

One of the key factors behind this success lies in Iran's years of preparation for such a scenario. The Iranian military, with its deep understanding of the region's geography, has made the best use of domestically-developed assets such as fast attack boats, sea mines, and shore-to-ship missile systems to shift the power dynamics in the region. Rather than merely blocking the strait, Iran has managed to maintain control over it, ensuring that only ships linked to its enemies are barred from passage.

That sustained disruption, however, has prompted Donald Trump to diminish almost all his effort to "reopen" it by publishing an expletive-laden post on social media in which he threatened to destroy Iran's power plants and bridges if it failed to meet his Tuesday deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping.

The US president repeated an earlier threat to unleash "hell" but told US media there was a "good chance" of a deal being reached with Tehran.

7. Influence in determining the new Leader

The assassination of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei at the outset of the war was widely seen in Washington and Tel Aviv as a decisive turning point, one that could weaken Iran from within and potentially open the door for external influence over its political future.

Donald Trump soon appeared to believe that the removal of Iran's top authority would disrupt the political system, create internal divisions, and allow room to shape the succession process.

This expectation, however, proved to be a major miscalculation. Instead of producing a power vacuum, Iran activated a rapid and structured transition mechanism. Under its constitutional framework, an interim leadership arrangement was swiftly established, followed by the selection of a new supreme leader by the Assembly of Experts. Within days, Mojtaba Khamenei was appointed as successor, signaling continuity rather than rupture.

Reports and analyses suggest that US policymakers had also entertained broader ambitions of influencing the outcome of Iran's leadership transition, drawing comparisons to other geopolitical cases such as Venezuela. Public remarks attributed to Trump indicated a desire to play a direct role in shaping Iran's new political order, including opposition to certain candidates. His criticism of Mojtaba Khamenei's appointment, and his insistence on a leader aligned with U.S. preferences, underscored these intentions.

Analysts note that the swift appointment was not only a procedural step but also a political signal, demonstrating that the system remained intact and capable of reproducing leadership even under extreme external pressure.

Far from fragmenting, Iran's political structure showed resilience. The transition reinforced the perception of institutional continuity, with the new leader widely viewed as aligned with the policies and orientation of his predecessor.

Trump's public reactions, expressing dissatisfaction and questioning the durability of the new leadership, reflected frustration rather than influence. His remarks implicitly acknowledged that the anticipated "decapitation" of Iran's leadership had not occurred in any strategic sense.

8. An attack on Iran will have controlled impact on the global economy

This claim rests on a simplistic assumption: that global markets can absorb a major geopolitical shock in the Middle East without significant disruption. In reality, evidence suggests otherwise. Iran lies adjacent to the Strait of Hormuz, a critical passage through which a substantial share of the world's oil trade flows. Even the mere threat of instability in this corridor without a full-scale war has historically triggered immediate volatility in energy prices.

Rising oil prices are not just a standalone indicator; they mark the beginning of a broader chain reaction. Higher energy costs quickly spill over into transportation, manufacturing, and ultimately consumer prices. In a global economy still heavily dependent on fossil fuels, such shocks can fuel inflation and slow economic growth. Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund have repeatedly

warned that tensions in the Middle East represent one of the most significant systemic risks to the global economy. Moreover, oil is not the only commodity affected. Fertilizers, helium, and other goods that pass through the Strait of Hormuz are also exposed to disruption, and shortages in these materials can drive up prices in food, digital products, and other industries reliant on them.

In addition, financial markets are highly sensitive to geopolitical risk. In a conflict scenario, capital flight from riskier markets, increased demand for safe-haven assets, and sharp stock market volatility are all likely. Rising maritime insurance costs and disruptions to supply chains could further slow global trade.

In sum, the assumption that an attack on Iran would have little or controllable economic impact is inconsistent with both empirical evidence and the interconnected nature of the global economy. Such a miscalculation risks severely underestimating the true costs of a crisis.

9. Iran is like Venezuela!

Comparing Iran to Venezuela is a form of analytical oversimplification that ignores fundamental differences between the two. First and foremost is Iran's geopolitical position in the Middle East, a region that serves as the center of global energy and a focal point of great power competition. Venezuela, despite its oil wealth, does not occupy a similarly strategic position in the global system.

Another key factor is popular resistance. Historical experiences such as the Iran-Iraq War demonstrate that, under external threat, a form of social cohesion and mass mobilization can emerge in Iran. This type of resistance despite internal divisions can significantly increase the military and political costs of foreign intervention and prevent the realization of quick, decisive scenarios. Large-scale public mobilization and widespread willingness to defend the country are often cited as reinforcing this dynamic.

Alongside this is military capability, particularly in the form of asymmetric deterrence. In recent years, Iran has developed capacities in missiles, drones, and unconventional warfare that enhance its ability to impose costs on adversaries, especially in sensitive areas like the Strait of Hormuz. Venezuela does not possess this level of military depth or complexity.

Furthermore, Iran maintains a network of aligned actors across the region that could expand the scope of any conflict beyond its borders. Analyses by institutions such as the RAND Corporation suggest that such a scenario would likely evolve into a prolonged and costly conflict rather than a limited operation.

Ultimately, this comparison is not only inaccurate but potentially misleading, as it can lead to flawed assessments of the scale, complexity, and cost of any military action against Iran.

10. The United States can end a war whenever it decides

This claim is rooted in a traditional view of military power: that superiority alone is sufficient to control both the timing and outcome of war. Contemporary experience challenges this assumption. In conflicts such as those in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States, despite overwhelming military dominance, was unable to impose a swift and desired end to hostilities. These cases demonstrate that wars are shaped by far more complex variables than mere political will.

In the case of Iran, these complexities are amplified. The country's ability to employ asymmetric tools from disrupting energy routes to activating regional actors can extend both the scope and duration of conflict. At the same time, internal resistance can raise human and political costs, complicating efforts to secure rapid and lasting outcomes.

Moreover, wars are not decided solely on the battlefield. Domestic pressures including public opinion and economic burden play a critical role in determining when and how conflicts end. In an interconnected global economy, rising energy costs and market instability can directly influence political decision-making.

Finally, the end of active combat does not necessarily mark the end of a crisis. Instability, proxy conflicts, and economic repercussions can persist for years. The notion that a military power can simply decide when a war ends and bring it to a clean, controlled conclusion is less a practical reality than a theoretical simplification that overlooks the inherent complexity of modern warfare.

10 Major Trump Blunders

Miscalculations that make war with Iran impossible to win



By Afshin Majlesi, Maedeh Zaman Fashami, and Xavier Villar

TEHRAN - More than a month into the US-Israeli war against Iran, early expectations of a swift military victory have faded, exposing what analysts describe as a series of miscalculations about Iran's likely response.

What was initially framed as a short and decisive campaign has evolved into a prolonged conflict marked by continued exchanges of fire, damage to infrastructure and rising regional tensions.

At the outset, US and Israeli planners appeared to assume that the assassination of Iran's Leader would trigger internal fragmentation and weaken the political system.

Another assumption was that Iran's military resistance would be limited in

duration. Despite reported losses and sustained pressure, Iran has continued to mount military responses, indicating both operational capacity and a willingness to sustain a longer conflict. There has been no clear indication of an imminent surrender.

Expectations of domestic unrest have also not materialized. Rather than sparking protests, the conflict has, by most accounts, contributed to a degree of internal unity, with public sentiment shaped by the perception of external threat.

On the battlefield, assumptions about air superiority have also been tested. While US and Israeli forces maintain advanced aerial capabilities, Iran's air defense systems have complicated efforts to establish

full control over its airspace, according to military analysts.

Other projections have similarly come under strain. Early expectations that the Strait of Hormuz would remain unaffected, or that broader economic consequences could be contained, have been challenged by market volatility and heightened concerns over energy security.

Taken together, these developments point to a widening gap between initial expectations and the evolving realities on the ground. Analysts say the conflict now reflects a more complex and uncertain trajectory, with no clear path to a near-term resolution. ▶ Page 7