

'No Restraint'

IRGC warns of devastating response should Trump expand war crimes and target Iran's power plants



Iranian citizens form human chains on a bridge in the southern city of Ahvaz on April 7, 2026, following Trump's threat to strike Iranian infrastructure en masse

Russia and China veto UN resolution on Strait of Hormuz amid US threats

TEHRAN - Russia and China vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution on Tuesday that sought to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, hours before a US-imposed deadline for Iran to allow transit or face attacks on its infrastructure. The heavily watered-down measure, which passed with 11 votes in favor, two against, and two abstentions, had removed any language authorizing offensive action, limiting it to "defensive means necessary" for securing navigation. Even in its weakened form, the resolution was blocked by Moscow and Beijing, underscoring growing opposition to US and Israeli aggression against Iran. ▶ Page 3

'Heinous and cowardly': US-Israeli bombs level historic Tehran synagogue

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Nearly 40 days into the joint US-Israeli war on Iran, a Jewish synagogue in central Tehran was targeted in a devastating attack on Tuesday.

According to reporters on the scene, the Rafi-Nia Synagogue, located near Palestine Square in central Tehran, was demolished when an adjacent residential building was struck. The attack on this Jewish holy site has drawn fierce condemnation. Officials and community leaders say it underscores the enmity of the United States and Israel toward the Iranian people, with no distinction between ethnicity or religion. ▶ Page 2

The war that ended the old Middle East

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Five weeks after the United States and Israel started their unprovoked campaign of aggression against Iran on February 28, the Middle East stands transformed.

What opened with hundreds of joint strikes in the first twelve hours, the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and the deliberate targeting of civilian sites such the elementary school in Minab that claimed over 170 lives has backfired spectacularly, speeding up the very transformations the aggressors had hoped to bury forever.

Inside Iran, the war has produced a nationalist surge and has hardened the social contract. ▶ Page 5

Negotiations are 'theatre' as Trump seeks exit from war, says Ashish Prashar

LONDON— Ashish Prashar, political strategist, former advisor to the Middle East peace envoy, and director of the "Game Over Israel" campaign, has dismissed ongoing U.S. calls for negotiations with Iran as political theater, arguing that Washington is seeking a face-saving exit amid escalating military pressure.

Prashar, who has worked with Western political leaders including Tony Blair, Boris Johnson, and Barack Obama, launched the "Game Over Israel" campaign in 2025 to push for Israel's diplomatic and cultural isolation. ▶ Page 3

'Attack on critical infrastructure is a clear violation of international law'

TEHRAN- Iran's vice president and head of the Organization for Optimization and Strategic Management of Energy, referring to the attack on public infrastructure, emphasized: Even if military use is claimed, under international law such attacks are only permitted under very limited circumstances, and the principles of "proportionality" and "precaution" must be observed—principles that have been ignored in many of these attacks.

According to IRNA, Esmail Saghab Esfahani said on Monday in a television program, referring to the attack on certain critical infrastructure, especially in the country's energy sector. ▶ Page 4

Global economic fallout of US-Israeli war with Iran

TEHRAN- The ongoing US-Israeli military conflict with Iran has evolved from a geopolitical flashpoint into a systemic shock that is fundamentally altering the global economic landscape.

Five weeks into the crisis, with the Strait of Hormuz effectively blocked, the world is facing a supply shock reminiscent of the 1970s but with potentially more complex consequences.

The most immediate impact has been the decimation of global energy supplies. With approximately 20 percent of the world's oil passing through the Strait, its closure has sent prices soaring.

Brent crude recently settled at \$112.78 a barrel, with analysts at JP Morgan warning that a prolonged closure could drive prices toward \$150.

The International Energy Agency has admitted that even large-scale stockpile releases are merely a "painkiller," not a cure for the loss of 15-20 million barrels per day from the market.

However, the long-term threat extends beyond expensive petrol. ▶ Page 4

US-Israeli aggression continues in Iran, civilian death toll rises

TEHRAN - Israel and the United States continued their aggressive strikes against Iran on Tuesday, as the civilian death toll from the ongoing attacks steadily rises.

Several blasts were reported in Iran's capital, Tehran, following overnight strikes that killed at least 15 people across the country. The Israeli military claimed responsibility for a strike on an Iranian petrochemical compound in Shiraz.

Meanwhile, the governor of Mashhad, in the northeast of Iran, ordered the immediate suspension of all rail services departing from the city's central railway station. According to the Mehr News Agency, the suspension of all scheduled trains is a precautionary measure that will remain in effect "until further notice."

Mehr News Agency also reported that an Israeli strike hit the Yahya Abad railway bridge in the central city of Kashan. The agency quoted the Deputy Governor of Isfahan as saying that the strike killed two people. The attack came after the Israeli military issued a warning advising Iranians not to use trains. ▶ Page 2



Heroic Women

Examining the role of Iranian women in national resistance in the war with America and Israel

Guardians of strength and sacrifice

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - From early moments of the war, women and girls have borne a growing share of its human cost. Hundreds have been killed, injured, or displaced in consecutive airstrikes including the one in Minab, where more than 165 young schoolgirls between the ages of seven and twelve lost their lives. Yet, to view Iranian women solely through the lens of victimhood would be to overlook the breadth and depth of their contributions. This war is not fought exclusively on the battlefield; it is equally waged in hospitals, factories, schools, offices, and homes. Across all these arenas, women have stepped into roles that, historically, were often restricted to or under-recognized. On the home front, the burdens carried by women are immense and multifaceted. Many are raising children, managing households, and supporting extended families in the absence of husbands, fathers, or sons who are either at the frontlines or otherwise engaged in the war effort. These responsibilities require not only endurance but also ingenuity. In countless homes, women have become the anchors of stability, preserving a sense of normalcy amid disruption. Equally critical, though less visible, is the role women have played in maintaining social cohesion and psychological resilience. In what can be described as a parallel "media war," women have been at the forefront of countering fear, rumor, and disinformation. Through both formal and informal channels, ranging from professional media work to everyday communication within communities, they have contributed to a narrative of calm and continuity. Their efforts have been instrumental in neutralizing enemy's attempts to sow panic and unrest. ▶ Page 7

A revolution without women? Impossible! The war has a female narrative

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

Truly rare are statesmen who possess insight across multiple domains from politics and governance to military affairs and the foundations of civilization. Our martyred leader, Imam Khamenei, was one of them. A wise thinker who not only paid attention to the surface structures of society but also gave deep consideration to the roots and foundations of civilization-building. Perhaps one of the clearest reflections of this is his elevated perspective on women, their dignity, status, and rights. When examining major social and political transformations, one of the most important indicators is the extent and quality of women's participation in those movements. The Islamic Revolution of Iran is no exception. Although many official narratives tend to focus on male figures and visible political actions, a deeper look reveals that women were not on the margins, but at the very heart of this historic transformation. Their presence was not merely supportive; in many cases, it was driving, stabilizing, and even decisive. By emphasizing role models such as Lady Fatimah (peace be upon her), he sought to demonstrate that a Muslim woman can fulfill her responsibilities within the family while also playing an active role in broader social arenas. This perspective, in many ways, formed the theoretical foundation for women's participation in the Islamic Revolution. Women: The Hidden Yet Powerful Networks of the Revolution Before the Revolution, Iranian women played a crucial role in creating the groundwork for spreading ideas. ▶ Page 7

The conditional visibility of Iranian women

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - A young woman removing her headscarf on a Tehran street is often presented in Western media as an uncomplicated image of defiance. Yet such a scene, repeatedly extracted and circulated, belongs to a broader and more layered social reality in which women's choices, constraints, and political positions cannot be reduced to a single interpretive frame. These images circulate through Western social media feeds, accompany op-eds in major newspapers, and inform diplomatic statements about freedom and human dignity. Their visibility, however, is never neutral. It is organized within a circumscribed frame that renders Iranian women intelligible only insofar as their experiences can be absorbed into pre-existing narratives of "oppression" and secular emancipation. What happens when women fall outside this frame? When their suffering cannot be stabilized into the familiar figure that match Western narratives? The current moment, as military tensions escalate across the region, exposes the conditional structure of attention with unusual clarity. The same publications that once amplified images of unveiled Iranian women now maintain near silence as Iranian cities face bombardment, as women shelter under uncertain conditions, and as the infrastructure sustaining daily life comes under sustained pressure. This is not inconsistency in coverage. It reflects a more fundamental distribution of visibility in the contemporary visual economy of human rights. Recognition is not evenly allocated but structured through compatibility with dominant narrative forms. ▶ Page 7



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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

America is doomed to fail with its wrong strategy

Sobh-e-No, in an interview with Abolfazl Zohrevand, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Parliament, examined the strategic dimension of the US conflict with Iran. According to Zohrevand, from a strategic perspective, these developments show that the Americans have lacked a precise military strategy. They misjudged the battlefield with Iran — as even some American media have acknowledged — treating it as a simple and insignificant scenario. In reality, they had not made even the smallest accurate assessment of the capabilities and conditions of the opposing side and lacked a clear strategy for confrontation with Iran. At present, the United States is practically trapped in the quagmire of the Strait of Hormuz and the regional situation; it has neither an escape route nor a clear outlook for exiting this predicament. In other words, the continuation of this trend should be regarded as a defeat for the United States, and the only way out of this situation is to admit its mistake, offer an unconditional apology, accept responsibility for the attack on Iran, and pay compensation.

Iran: The path for exporting our country's black gold has opened further

The Iran newspaper, in an analysis, addressed India's oil purchase from Iran and wrote: After years of unprecedented restrictions and pressure on Iran's energy exports by the United States, an important development is now taking shape. India, one of the world's largest energy consumers, has made its first purchase of oil and petroleum products from Iran after nearly seven years. This development is not merely an oil transaction; it may mark the beginning of a new trend and signal Iran's gradual return to the official sphere of energy trade, as well as a significant breach in the structure of sanctions. Such a scenario, on a macro level, can be interpreted as a strategic setback for the US maximum pressure policy, whose goal was not only to reduce Iran's oil sales but to completely cut off Iran's access to the revenues derived from it. International experts' analyses indicate that this development could significantly increase Iran's oil income in the future.

Khorasan: Trump, Israel, and the monarchists were defeated

Khorasan, quoting political activist Sadeh Zibakalam, examined the issue of Iran and today's conflict. According to Zibakalam, the first surprising point was that none of the Iranian people — contrary to what those actors expected — came into the streets in a way that could be interpreted as a blow to the system. The second point that shocked the United States was Iran's military resilience during these six weeks. The third issue, which contradicted the assumptions of Tel Aviv and Washington, was that they did not expect Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz. Washington and Europe believed that Iran would not attack regional countries — which turned out not to be the case — and these four points have caused global astonishment and surprise.

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Donya-e-Eqtesad: Buying time through a peace agreement?

While the threats from Trump and Netanyahu against Iran have continued and reached unprecedented levels, diplomatic efforts to create a pause leading to an agreement between the involved parties seem to have taken on a new shape, and proposals for de-escalation have been raised. However, existing evidence indicates that the provisions of this agreement resemble a strategy of regrouping rather than a permanent solution to the current disputes. Analysts believe that the two-stage proposal for a 45-day ceasefire by the United States and Europe, with Pakistan's mediation, is more like a tactical maneuver by the Western side to manage the crisis and buy time, so that Iran's main deterrent, namely control over the Strait of Hormuz, is removed from the equation. Tehran has rejected any temporary ceasefire and believes that a temporary ceasefire is essentially a license for renewed war against Iran.

Hamshahri: Iran's strategic military blows to the US and Israel

Hamshahri examined the many achievements and successes that have increased the wave of admissions regarding America's defeat. Although the Washington-Tel Aviv axis tries, through rhetoric and media manipulation, to present itself as victorious in the confrontation with Iran, the reality is that today many Western and international experts acknowledge that the Islamic Republic, by imposing its own strategies on the opposing sides, has placed Trump and Netanyahu in a difficult position and forced them to search for a way out of the current situation. Iran's economic opportunities, strategic military strikes, strengthened national cohesion, US retreats, and regional awakening — including the demand for the expulsion of the United States — are among the achievements of this conflict that the world has recognized.

Zarif calls Trump's threats and insults 'sheer desperation'

Iran's former foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, has denounced President Donald Trump's repeated threats and vulgar remarks against Iran.

"Threats, war crimes, profanity and vile insults = sheer desperation," Zarif wrote on X in response to Trump's recent comments on

Truth Social, which drew widespread condemnation.

The former top diplomat added, "For millennia, Iranians have stood united against arrogant aggressors — even with personal rifles. Iran's demands are just and reasonable. Respect them. Cut your losses while you can."

'Heinous and cowardly': US-Israeli bombs level historic Tehran synagogue

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Nearly 40 days into the joint US-Israeli war on Iran, a Jewish synagogue in central Tehran was targeted in a devastating attack on Tuesday.

According to reporters on the scene, the Rafi-Nia Synagogue, located near Palestine Square in central Tehran, was demolished when an adjacent residential building was struck. The attack on this Jewish holy site has drawn fierce condemnation. Officials and community leaders say it underscores the enmity of the United States and Israel toward the Iranian people, with no distinction between ethnicity or religion.

The Jewish Association of Iran issued a statement denouncing the "heinous" attack.

"Following the relentless attacks by the Zionist regime on our beloved homeland, the Rafi-Nia Synagogue, one of Tehran's active and historic synagogues, was completely destroyed in an American-Zionist enemy assault. Once again, it has been shown that the rulers of the United States and the Zionist regime harbor enmity toward the Iranian people, without distinction of ethnicity or religion."

The association emphasized unity with the broader Iranian nation: "The Iranian Jewish community, while condemning the heinous attacks by the American-Zionist enemy on our beloved homeland and the Rafi-Nia Synagogue, affirms its historic unity with the Leader, the Iranian nation, and the courageous defenders of



A US-Israeli projectile demolished a synagogue in central Tehran on Tuesday. Photo: Tehran Times

our country. We declare, in a clear and resounding voice, that we stand alongside the people and the Islamic Republic of Iran in defending our homeland."

Homayoun Sameh, a Jewish representative in Iran's Parliament, criticized Israel for targeting the building during a sacred period: "The Zionist regime (Israel) showed no mercy towards this community during the Jewish holidays and attacked one of our ancient and holy synagogues... Unfortunately, during this attack, the synagogue building was completely destroyed, and Torah scrolls remain under the rubble," he told national broadcaster IRIB.

Adding an international perspective, American journalist and documentary filmmaker Max Blumenthal highlighted the geopolitical implications of the attack on X: "The Jews of Iran were safe... until the US-Israeli

terror coalition bombed them. Zionism seeks to destabilize the last major Jewish community in the region that's outside its control, pushing its members to relocate to the hate-filled, hyper-militarized frontiers of 'Israel.'"

Iran's Culture Minister Seyyed Abbas Salehi also addressed the attack on X, underlining its broader implications for Iranian society: "The damage and destruction of the Jewish synagogue in central Tehran is bitter and deeply distressing. American-Zionist warmongers have targeted Iran's religious sites and civilizational heritage; for them, there is no difference between Muslim, Christian, or Jew. They have targeted Iranians; Iran will endure, but they will not last."

Iran's Jewish population — one of the oldest in the world and the largest in the Middle East outside of Is-

rael — continues to live and worship openly, with its own synagogues, schools, community institutions, and a designated representative in the Iranian Parliament.

In this context, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref emphasized the historic coexistence of Iran's diverse religious communities.

"For centuries, Iran has been a safe home to the ringing of church bells and the prayers of Jews alongside the Muslim call to prayer. The attack on the synagogue in Tehran and the church in Isfahan is not an assault on one religion; it is an attack on the heart of Iran and on our legacy of tolerance. I am certain that the deep bond uniting the ethnic and religious communities of this land cannot be severed by such cowardly crimes," Aref said.

American journalist Max Blumenthal: Zionism seeks to destabilize the last major Jewish community in the region that's outside its control

The ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran, launched on February 28, has so far killed more than 2,000 people, with hospitals, schools, and other civilian sites also targeted.

Iran strikes Israeli petrochemical facility near Dimona

TEHRAN - In a sweeping retaliatory operation, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Iranian Army launched massive strikes against US-owned and Israeli-linked petrochemical and military targets, warning Washington, Tel Aviv, and their regional partners that any further aggression against Iranian infrastructure will meet with uncompromising retaliation.

The operation, dubbed Wave 99, was carried out by the IRGC's Naval and Aerospace forces starting at dawn Tuesday, according to an official statement. Iranian forces targeted US bases and interests across the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, as well as command-and-control hubs in Israel, using a combination of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones.

In the first phase of the attacks, Iran successfully struck major US-owned petrochemical complexes in the Jubail region of Saudi Arabia, including Sadara, ExxonMobil, and Dow Chemical facilities. Chevron Phillips' large petrochemical complex in Ju'aymah, Saudi Arabia, was also hit effectively with medium-range missiles and suicide drones.

In a critical strike against Israel, Iranian Army forces targeted the power and fuel storage units of the Dimona industrial region, home to the largest petrochemical complex in the Negev Desert.

The chemicals in this facility reportedly have applications for Israel's military industries, highlighting the strategic importance of the attack.

Iranian forces also carried out a precision operation against an Israeli container ship attempting to transport military equipment via the Khor Fakkan port in the UAE, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz. The ship was successfully neutralized, sending a clear warning to vessels cooperating with Tel Aviv and Washington.

The Iranian military further struck the American aircraft carrier strike group "CVN 72" in the Indian Ocean with long-range naval cruise missiles, showcasing Tehran's reach beyond the Persian Gulf.

"The foolish leaders of America, who have placed all their interests at the feet of the Zionists, cannot even calculate which critical assets are within the crosshairs of our warriors," the IRGC said in its statement. "If the terrorist army of America crosses our red lines, our response will extend beyond the region."

The statement emphasized that Iran will retaliate proportionally against assaults on critical infrastructure. "We will deal with the infrastructure of America and its allies in a way that deprives them of the region's oil and gas for years," it warned.



IRGC has launched missiles from twin launch systems for the first time in its retaliatory strikes against the US-Israeli aggression that began 40 days ago.

The operation also targeted the US Naval Maintenance Center in Jebel Ali port in the UAE and radar and military facilities at Ahmed Al-Jaber Air Base in Kuwait, key sites for American military logistics in the region.

The strikes mark a continuation of Iran's retaliatory response to the US-Israeli aggression launched on February 28, which included the assassination of senior Iranian military commanders. The Iranian government has emphasized that its successful counterattacks have inflicted significant losses on the US and Israel, underscoring the futility of their ongoing military operations.

US-Israeli aggression continues in Iran, civilian death toll rises

TEHRAN - Israel and the United States continued their aggressive strikes against Iran on Tuesday, as the civilian death toll from the ongoing attacks steadily rises.

Several blasts were reported in Iran's capital, Tehran, following overnight strikes that killed at least 15 people across the country. The Israeli military claimed responsibility for a strike on an Iranian petrochemical compound in Shiraz.

Meanwhile, the governor of Mashhad, in the northeast of Iran, ordered the immediate suspension of all rail services departing from the city's central railway station. According to the Mehr News Agency, the suspension of all scheduled trains is a precautionary measure that will remain in effect "until further notice."

Mehr News Agency also reported that an Israeli strike hit the Yahya Abad railway bridge in the central city of Kashan. The agency quoted the Deputy Governor of Isfahan as saying that

the strike killed two people. The attack came after the Israeli military issued a warning advising Iranians not to use trains.

In Alborz province, Iranian state media reported that US-Israeli air attacks on residential areas killed 18 people, including two children. The deputy governor of Alborz province confirmed the fatalities, adding that 24 others were wounded.

The human cost of the aggression is also reflected in Iran's education sector. Minister of Education Alireza Kazemi reported during a televised interview that 310 students and teachers have been killed, while more than 210 were wounded. Over 750 schools have sustained damage since the US-Israeli coalition launched its war against Iran in late February. The aggression has so far claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people.

The ongoing war has also caused widespread destruction to Iran's cultural heritage, scientific institutions, and research centers. While the United States



and Israel claim to be targeting military facilities, Iranian government data tells a different story: at least 56 heritage sites, 30 universities, and 55 libraries have been damaged.

The US and Israel began their military campaign on Iran on February 28 with the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and top military commanders, in a bid to dismantle Iran's political and military

leadership. Yet Iran's continued retaliatory attacks on Israel and US bases in the Persian Gulf, coupled with growing pro-government demonstrations across the country, indicate that the plans formulated by Tel Aviv and Washington have failed.

Despite the ongoing aggression, Iran remains steadfast in defending its sovereignty, people, and cultural heritage, standing resilient against the foreign invasion.

'No restraint'

IRGC warns of devastating response should Trump expand war crimes and target Iran's power plants

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – U.S. President Donald Trump has repeated his unhinged threats to commit mass war crimes against the Iranian nation, a move that would not only harm Iranians but also seriously damage the interests of Washington's Arab allies in the Persian Gulf, and force Tehran to take further actions that would restrict the flow of oil outside West Asia.

During a press conference held to explain what the U.S. calls a "historic rescue mission" of two ejected airmen in Iranian territory—but what Iranian media describes as a failed operation for something larger—Trump said he would destroy Iran's bridges, power plants, and other civilian infrastructure if the country does not accept defeat in his unpopular war by midnight Tuesday, Washington time.

"We have a plan, because of the power of our military, where every bridge in Iran will be decimated by 12 o'clock tomorrow night, where every power plant in Iran will be out of business—burning, exploding, and never to be used again," he said during a Monday press conference also attended by his War Secretary and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Trump added, "I mean complete demolition by 12 o'clock, and it will happen over a period of four hours."

"Do I want to destroy their infrastructure? No," he said. "It will take them 100 years to rebuild right now. If we left today, it would take them 20 years to rebuild their country, and it would never be as good as it was. And the only way they're going to be able to rebuild their country is to utilize the genius of the United States of America."

Over the past five weeks, the U.S. and Israel have primarily attacked Iran's civilian infrastructure, hos-



pitals, universities, schools, and residential buildings. In the early hours of Tuesday, they struck multiple sites in Iran's vast railway system, several major highways connecting key cities, and a synagogue in central Tehran.

Reporters attending Monday's briefing did not press the president on the sheer illegality of his threats to send Iran "back to the Stone Age." Only one or two referred to Trump's claims that his bombing campaign is meant to "free" the Iranian people, and asked how depriving Iranians of electricity would achieve that. However, they fell silent after Trump responded that the Iranian people "would be willing to suffer that for their freedom," and that they want U.S. strikes to continue.

Reporters also did not seem alarmed by the president's comments that he would like to take Iran's oil, referring to Iranian resources as potential "spoils" of war.

Most questions centered on rising gas prices in the United States, which have resulted from Iran's restrictions on navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. Questions were also asked about whether the U.S.

would be willing to expand its aggression by deploying ground troops to Iran.

Trump's war against Iran appears to have been launched on the assumption that Iran's political system would collapse within days of the assassination of Iran's Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, on February 28. Instead, the Islamic Republic has proven resilient and exacted staggering costs on the U.S., Israel, and their Arab allies who have enabled the aggression. Iran has been attacking U.S. bases across West Asia, rendering around 70% of military installations inoperable; pounding Israel daily; and preventing ships belonging to or linked to the U.S. and Israel from navigating the strait.

Both the U.S. and Israel have been censoring the damage and casualties of the war through heavy suppression of media and citizens. But the economic toll from the situation at the Hormuz—where over 20% of the world's energy and one third of the world's fertilizer used to pass through—has been impossible to conceal, despite extensive American efforts at market manipulation. Inside the U.S., gas prices have risen by 35%, and grocer-

ies by 6%. Energy prices have also skyrocketed in Europe and East Asia, and with the planting season approaching, food prices will likely rise sharply in the coming months.

Iran's restrictions at the Strait of Hormuz—which Trump allegedly dismissed as impossible before the war—and Washington's failure to force it open are the main obstacles preventing Trump from stopping his failed offensive and declaring victory. Iran is likely to maintain control of the strait even after the war ends.

Trump's recent expletive-laden threats, demanding that Iran open the strait or be "obliterated" as a nation reflect this frustration. According to sources speaking to Al-Mayadeen, Trump has contacted Iran through various intermediaries while simultaneously threatening the country. His demands for a ceasefire, however, have been called "illogical" and "nonstarters" by Iranian authorities, who have instead submitted a ten-point peace plan of their own to intermediaries. According to an IRNA report, this plan requires that the U.S. and Israel halt all aggression against Iran and its allies in the region, lift economic sanctions against Iran, respect its right to enrich uranium for civilian purposes, pay compensation, and recognize Iran's newfound and uncontested control of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran is unlikely to back down from these demands, even if the U.S. and Israel increase their crimes.

Should Trump widen his attacks on Iranian infrastructure, not only Israel but also Washington's Arab allies in the Persian Gulf would be extensively harmed as well. In the past, Iran responded to similar threats by stating it would "plunge the region into darkness."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has accused the United States and Israel of committing "unprecedented barbarism" by deliberately targeting Iranian universities and scientific institutions, calling the strikes war crimes that no amount of threats or military pressure can extinguish.

In a series of letters to the U.N. secretary-general and the Security Council this week, Ambassador Amir Saied Iravani detailed a systematic campaign of state terrorism. He cited an airstrike early on April 6 that severely damaged Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, including its faculties of civil engineering and electrical engineering, as well as research institutes for nanotechnology and environmental studies. That attack followed a similar strike on

April 3 that hit Shahid Beheshti University, damaging its Laser and Plasma Research Institute.

"The intentional targeting of scientific institutions and universities constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime," Iravani wrote.

The Iranian government's spokesperson, Fatemeh Mohajerani speaking at a news conference at Shahid Beheshti University, echoed that defiance. "The enemies cannot extinguish the lamp of Iranian science," the spokesperson said, adding that recent attacks were meant to undermine the achievements of the 47-year-old revolution and sever the bond between the nation and its homeland. "These miscalculations are wrong. Iran is the common denominator of all Iranians. Those who have a homeland will

stand behind their country, and Iranians living abroad will never give in."

Trump's threats draw sharp rebuke

In a separate letter, Iravani expressed "utmost alarm" over public statements by President Trump threatening to bomb Iranian bridges and power plants — infrastructure that is indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. "The deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian objects ... constitutes a war crime and represents a blatant act of state terrorism," Iravani wrote. "Even terrorist groups like ISIS were ashamed of making such reckless, horrible public statements."

U.S. Acknowledged Arming Opposition Groups, Iran Says

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

LATEST NEWS

President Pezeshkian vows to sacrifice his life for Iran

President Masoud Pezeshkian has joined the "Janfadaa (self-sacrifice) for Iran" movement, pledging to give his life for the nation amid US-Israeli threats of aggression and a possible ground invasion. In a post on X on Tuesday, he said he is always ready to sacrifice himself for the beloved country. More than 14.2 million Iranians have already volunteered to defend Iran's sovereignty, the president noted. The movement, launched to counter threats against Iranian coasts and borders, has become a symbol of national unity and patriotism.

Two French convicts leave Iran after swap deal

Two French nationals, Cécile Kohler and Jacques Paris, who were convicted in Iran on espionage charges, were released on Tuesday and have since left the country. Their release came as part of an agreement between Tehran and Paris.

In exchange, France committed to securing the full release of Mahdiah Esfandiari and to withdrawing its complaint against Iran at the International Court of Justice.

14 arrested for leaking sensitive site

data to foreign Persian TV

West Azerbaijan police arrested 14 people for allegedly leaking sensitive site data to foreign Persian TV, with the leaked information reportedly connected to Israeli-U.S. attacks, according to the provincial police information center.

Iran moves to close Bab al-Mandab, Reuters reports

Iran is seeking to close the Bab al-Mandab Strait, Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing an unnamed Iranian source. The source added that if the situation spirals out of control, Iran's allies would also move to shut the strategic waterway.

Iran to set new rules for Strait of Hormuz: MP

The spokesperson for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Ebrahim Rezaei, said that a framework for a new regime governing the Strait of Hormuz is being drawn up within the commission, adding that Iran is determined to exercise intelligent control over the management of the strategic waterway.

Oil prices climb 2% after US strikes on Kharg Island

Oil prices rose 2 percent globally after the

United States attacked Kharg Island, Agence France-Presse reported, citing market data.

Egypt, Iraq, Australia, Japan, and Portugal urge de-escalation in region

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Australia, Japan, and Portugal held telephone talks emphasizing the need to reduce tensions in the region. The ministers stressed the priority of diplomacy and dialogue to achieve a ceasefire. The developments come amid US-Israeli attacks on Iran and Iran's missile response.

Senator Kelly warns Trump's Iran threat could violate laws of armed conflict

US Senator Mark Kelly criticized President Donald Trump's threat to target bridges and power plants in Iran, saying such attacks on civilian infrastructure would be illegal. In a post on X, Kelly wrote: "Threatening to target power plants and other non-military targets is not a strength." He added that if those words became orders to destroy civilian infrastructure with no valid military purpose, "it's hard to see how they would not violate the laws of armed conflict." Kelly warned that illegal orders to make civilians suffer would be "a black mark on our military and our country."

Russia and China veto UN resolution on Strait of Hormuz amid US threats

TEHRAN – Russia and China vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution on Tuesday that sought to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, hours before a US-imposed deadline for Iran to allow transit or face attacks on its infrastructure. The heavily watered-down measure, which passed with 11 votes in favor, two against, and two abstentions, had removed any language authorizing offensive action, limiting it to "defensive means necessary" for securing navigation. Even in its weakened form, the resolution was blocked by Moscow and Beijing, underscoring growing opposition to US and Israeli aggression against Iran.

Iran has repeatedly emphasized that the Strait

of Hormuz remains under its sovereign control. Tehran allows commercial vessels from friendly or non-hostile countries to transit under approval, while excluding those it deems hostile or aligned with US-Israeli interests.

President Donald Trump had set an 8 p.m. Eastern deadline for Iran to comply, threatening attacks on power plants and bridges. Iran has vowed a harsh and decisive response to any such strikes, stressing that targeting civilian infrastructure would be an act of blatant aggression. Tehran insists that any navigation through the Strait must respect Iran's sovereignty and security, reaffirming its determination to defend the nation and its strategic waterways.

LatAms condemn U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran

TEHRAN — A broad coalition of Latin American governments and political movements has condemned recent U.S. and Israeli military strikes against Iran, voicing solidarity with Tehran and calling the attacks a violation of international law.

The coordinated diplomatic backlash, spanning from Cuba to Chile, draws on the region's historic anti-imperialist position and represents a unified challenge to U.S. and Israeli policy in West Asia.

Cuban Foreign Ministry described the strikes as a "blatant violation" of Iran's sovereignty and the United Nations Charter. President Miguel Diaz-Canel's government expressed full solidarity with Tehran, and the head of Cuba's National Assembly called the United States and Israel the principal threats to world peace.

Brazil's government, in an official statement, warned that the attacks undermined ongoing diplomatic efforts and posed serious risks to global energy and food security. Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira condemned the strikes in a call

with his Iranian counterpart. The left-wing Workers' Party and the Brazilian Communist Party also issued statements affirming Iran's right to self-defense.

Colombia's president described the aggression as a "massive" threat to humanity and called for an immediate ceasefire. Chile's Communist Party warned that the attacks endangered regional and international stability.

In Venezuela, the Fuerza Patriótica "Alexis Vive" movement called the strikes a continuation of imperialist aggression and praised Iran's resistance. Peru's leftist coalition Venceremos demanded an immediate halt to the attacks. Ecuador's Communist Party rejected any justification based on "imminent threat," accusing imperialist powers of hiding hegemonic aims behind security rhetoric.

Smaller statements came from the Dominican Republic's Communist Party of Labor, Uruguay's Communist Party, and Mexico, which called for de-escalation and political dialogue.

Iran calls on UNESCO to protect Trans-Iranian Railway from Israeli threats

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Salehi-Amiri, has formally urged UNESCO to condemn threats by the Israeli regime against the Trans-Iranian Railway (TIR), a UNESCO World Heritage site. In a letter to UNESCO Director-General Khaled al-Anani, Salehi-Amiri expressed deep concern that any attack on the railway would constitute an assault on global cultural heritage and endanger civilian lives.

The minister described the Trans-Iranian Railway as a masterpiece of modern engineering and architecture, built through decades of cooperation between Iranian and European specialists and later expanded using domestic expertise. Its outstanding cul-

tural and technical value led to its inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2021 with unanimous member-state support.

Stretching across eight provinces—including Golestan, Mazandaran, Tehran, and Khuzestan—the railway passes through diverse natural and cultural landscapes. Notably, it crosses the ancient Hyrcanian forests without causing environmental destruction.

Salehi-Amiri emphasized that the railway is not only a symbol of Iran's geographic and economic connectivity but also part of humanity's shared heritage. He called on UNESCO and the international community to adopt a clear and deterrent stance to protect this heritage.

Negotiations are 'theatre' as Trump seeks exit from war, says Ashish Prashar

London— Ashish Prashar, political strategist, former advisor to the Middle East peace envoy, and director of the "Game Over Israel" campaign, has dismissed ongoing U.S. calls for negotiations with Iran as political theater, arguing that Washington is seeking a face-saving exit amid escalating military pressure.

Prashar, who has worked with Western political leaders including Tony Blair, Boris Johnson, and Barack Obama, launched the "Game Over Israel" campaign in 2025 to push for Israel's diplomatic and cultural isolation, including calls to suspend Israel from international sporting events. The campaign gained global attention through advocacy efforts aimed at holding Israel accountable for its actions in Gaza and mobilizing international civil society pressure.

His remarks come as U.S. President Donald Trump issued new threats alongside calls for negotiations with Iran. On April 7, Trump warned that "a whole civilization will die tonight" if Tehran did not agree to his terms, while continuing to signal openness to diplomatic talks.

Against this backdrop, Prashar described the negotiation process as performative rather than substantive.

"The negotiations are theatre. It's theatre for Western media and for the ruling class to

show they're trying to resolve this diplomatically," he said.

He warned that Iran should not rely on diplomatic guarantees, arguing that the structural dynamics of the conflict make further confrontations likely.

"Iran should know that as long as Israel exists they will be attacked again and again, and the U.S. will help it, and everything they rebuild will be destroyed. It is their one chance to shape reality."

"They must not rely on any guarantee; it's all a lie. Every word of it."

Prashar also argued that Trump is attempting to shape a narrative of victory despite setbacks.

"Trump has us hanging regarding his so-called 'annihilation' of Iran. He is losing this war and is looking for a way to come out of it looking like the saviour and victor."

He added that Washington is aware of the risks of escalation.

"He knows well that if he carried out his threats, Iran would not hold back in their response, and what little support for Trump and America would be nonexistent."

Prashar further criticized both Israel and the United States, arguing that their historical trajectories influence current policies.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Trump's threats stem from a strategic deadlock: economic expert



TEHRAN- An economic expert, referring to the recent statements and threats by the US President against the Iranian nation, attributed these positions to behavioral instability and a lack of a clear strategy on the American side. He emphasized that the management of the Strait of Hormuz and recent war developments have exposed the global energy market and the economies of European and industrialized countries to serious inflationary pressures.

In an interview with IRNA, Hamidreza Jahani, commenting on Trump's recent threat to target the country's vital infrastructure, including bridges and power plants, and to "take Iran back to the Stone Age," stated: "What has happened during the recent aggression by the American-Zionist enemy, and what all the world's media now acknowledge, is that the US President's personality is unstable and marked by behavioral distortion."

He added: "Today we see that Trump adopts different positions at different times; sometimes he tweets something, and a few hours later in an official speech he expresses a different stance, and we also see frequent changes in his diplomatic behavior."

Trump's deceptive rhetoric is a means to avoid war

The economic expert continued: "Trump's positions and statements must be analyzed within an overall process, and our view should not be piecemeal or momentary, because in recent weeks we have seen several times that on one hand he speaks of military interventions and severe attacks and threatens Iran's economic and livelihood infrastructure, and on the other hand he talks about progress in negotiations!"

Jahani, referring to the intensification of Trump's threats in recent days, said: "Fortunately, the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with a 'tit-for-tat' approach, have delivered firm and deterrent reciprocal responses — for example, after the attack on the South Pars complex, the other side dared not continue its actions."

He added: "In my opinion, given Trump's recent remarks, he finds himself in a situation where he is looking for an exit window and an end to the war, but he has no clear solution. Therefore, he has begun using deceptive rhetoric and contradictory statements."

We need preemptive measures to counter enemy attacks on infrastructure

Jahani stated: "The important point for us is that while maintaining the deterrence equation, we must also put preemptive actions on our agenda. As we have seen, over two days three major steel complexes in the country were attacked — while the steel industry is one of the main infrastructures for the country's economic and industrial development, and targeting it could slow down Iran's future economic progress."

This economic expert emphasized: "It is essential that the armed forces and strategic policymakers of the country move toward preemptive actions against the other side's infrastructure. Overall, Trump's remarks must be seen within a general framework, and a piecemeal analysis is not correct, because his behavior and speech lack the necessary consistency, and even some American media have stated that he does not have accurate knowledge of the field situation."

What matters is the resistance and steadfastness of the Iranian nation

He added: "In fact, his statements are far removed from the realities of the war on the ground. What matters is the resistance and steadfastness of the Iranian people; their presence and endurance have caused the declared goals of the US and Israel not to be achieved. It now seems that their list of military targets has largely run out, which is why they have moved toward targeting infrastructure such as the Karaj bridge or steel complexes to slow down the country's industrial and economic progress in the future. Naturally, confronting this approach requires deterrent and preemptive measures."

Iran's main Trump card in this war has been smart management of Strait of Hormuz

Jahani, in response to a question about reports that Germany's economic growth has nearly halved since the beginning of the year, and given the protests of some European countries and the issue of managing the Strait of Hormuz, what effects this trend will have on the economies of European powers, said: "The important point is that Iran's main trump card in this war has been the smart management of the Strait of Hormuz. With the courage and bravery of the country's naval forces, intelligent control of this strategic passage has been established. About 30 to 35 percent of the world's energy passes through the Strait of Hormuz, and this has caused global financial markets to face a sharp increase in energy prices."

This economic expert added: "In some transactions, oil prices even reached around \$170. Such an increase puts severe inflationary pressure on the industrial infrastructure of various countries, and on the social side, with the rise in gasoline and diesel prices, direct pressure will be exerted on the people of European and industrialized countries."

The university professor noted: "A noteworthy point is that European countries were lucky in one respect: this war occurred after the winter season. If such a crisis had happened in winter, given Europe's heavy dependence on gas imports, the energy crisis could have created far more difficult conditions for them."

A wave of inflation from rising fuel prices is on the way

Jahani emphasized: "In my opinion, the inflationary wave caused by rising fuel prices will soon appear in other markets and economic goods in Europe, the United States, and even East Asia. Signs of it are already visible in countries like India and Australia, where the supply of gasoline, LPG, and fuel has encountered serious problems."

The economic expert added: "On the other hand, the steadfastness of the Iranian people and armed forces plays a decisive role in this battle because we saw that in the early weeks of the war, under pressure from the US government, oil futures contracts for April delivery were sold at much lower prices — around \$60–65 billion — in financial markets and paper oil transactions."

He concluded: "Now, if over the next one or two weeks the price of oil remains above \$100–110, financial institutions that sold oil at around \$75–80 will be forced to enter the market to secure physical delivery — an issue that could cause a new leap in the oil financial market. As we are now seeing in the spot market, oil prices are even trading at levels above \$150."

Global economic fallout of US-Israeli war with Iran

TEHRAN- The ongoing US-Israeli military conflict with Iran has evolved from a geopolitical flashpoint into a systemic shock that is fundamentally altering the global economic landscape.

Five weeks into the crisis, with the Strait of Hormuz effectively blocked, the world is facing a supply shock reminiscent of the 1970s but with potentially more complex consequences.

The most immediate impact has been the decimation of global energy supplies. With approximately 20 percent of the world's oil passing through the Strait, its closure has sent prices soaring.

Brent crude recently settled at \$112.78 a barrel, with analysts at JP Morgan warning that a prolonged closure could drive prices toward \$150.

The International Energy Agency has admitted that even large-scale stockpile releases are merely a "painkiller," not a cure for the loss of 15–20 million barrels



per day from the market.

However, the long-term threat extends beyond expensive petrol. The World Bank, IMF, and IEA issued a rare joint statement this week warning that the crisis is triggering one of the largest supply shortages in history. The "ripple effects" are disrupting industrial supply chains globally.

Persian Gulf-region exports of critical materials—such as heli-

um for MRIs and semiconductors, aluminum for construction, and phosphate for fertilizers—have been severely constrained.

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

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

dictable fossil fuels.

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

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

Economists fear a return to "stagflation." The OECD has already slashed the Eurozone growth forecast to 0.8 percent while raising inflation projections.

For developing nations, the crisis poses an existential threat. Higher fertilizer costs are translating into food insecurity, while tighter financial conditions risk a debt crisis across the Global South. As Dr. Sultan Al Jaber noted, "When Hormuz flows, economies grow. When it is disrupted, everyone pays". The world is now counting that bill.

'Attack on critical infrastructure is a clear violation of international law'

TEHRAN- Iran's vice president and head of the Organization for Optimization and Strategic Management of Energy, referring to the attack on public infrastructure, emphasized: Even if military use is claimed, under international law such attacks are only permitted under very limited circumstances, and the principles of "proportionality" and "precaution" must be observed—principles that have been ignored in many of these attacks.

According to IRNA, Esmail Saghhab Esfahani said on Monday in a television program, referring to the attack on certain critical infrastructure, especially in the country's energy sector: Sometimes targeting public facilities is justified on the grounds that they have been used for military purposes, but under Article 51 of the First Additional Protocol to international humanitarian law, such actions can only be considered under specific conditions.

He explained: Under these provisions, for an attack on a target to be considered legitimate, two essential conditions must be met: first, the facility must be making an "effective contribution to military action," and second, its destruction must provide a "definite military advantage."

Saghhab Esfahani stated: Even if these two conditions are met, the attack must still adhere to the two important principles of "proportionality" and "precaution." Under the principle of proportionality, it must be assessed that the harm caused to civilians and the public use of the facility does not outweigh the claimed military advantage.

The Vice President gave an example, saying: If a facility such as a steel plant is mostly used for civilian purposes, including automobile manufacturing, construction, or household appliances, the entire complex cannot be targeted on the pretext of very limited military use, because in that case the principle of proportionality would not be observed.

He also commented on pursuing this matter in international forums, noting: Although legal complaints and documentation should be pursued through legal and international

channels to inform world public opinion of the facts, experience shows that these bodies play a more theatrical role, and there is no guarantee that rights can be secured through them.

Saghhab Esfahani emphasized: Legal pursuit to prove the occurrence of a war crime is important, but the reality is that ultimately countries must defend their rights on the ground.

Attack on infrastructure triggers tsunami of inflation in the world

The Vice Chairman of the Macroeconomic Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture said: An attack on infrastructure leads to a tsunami of inflation not only for our country but for the world, although over the 47 years of the Islamic Revolution we have become accustomed to sanctions and threats and have adapted our economy.

Musa Ahmadzadeh, in an interview with IRNA, condemning the American-Zionist attack on the country's infrastructure and major industries and recent threats by Trump to commit war crimes against the Iranian nation, stated: Iran has adapted itself to economic shocks imposed by the West throughout all these years, but if the pattern of attacks continues and with the trump card of the Strait of Hormuz, these shocks will lead to economic instability and insecurity on a global scale, and its smoke will reach the eyes of countries not involved in the war.

He continued: We will get through this difficult situation, but hostile countries should know that any act of aggression against our country's infrastructure will not go unanswered by security and military bodies.

The Vice Chairman of the Macroeconomic Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, referring to the economic dimensions of these attacks, warned: Attacking infrastructure is an assault on countries' economies and far from professional ethics, even at the height of hostility in war. Moreover, one percent negative impact on Iran's infrastructure will send its

smoke into the eyes of the entire world.

He stated: Iran's economy is tied to the global economy. If our petrochemical industry is attacked, fertilizer prices in Australia, Brazil, and other parts of the world will rise by 40 to 80 percent. These price increases will fuel global inflation and affect the end consumer.

Economic security of all countries depends on Iran's economic stability

Ahmadzadeh stated that the economic security of all countries depends on Iran's economic stability and said: Our products—oil, gas, and petrochemicals—play a vital role in the world's green and modern economy and are dependent on the entire world. An attack on Iran's infrastructure endangers the economic security of all countries.

The Vice Chairman of the Macroeconomic Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, stating that these attacks affect the lives of innocent people, children, and the elderly, said: Attacks on infrastructure destroy hope for the future and are an unethical act contrary to the norms of warfare throughout human history.

He clarified: In war, one must fight military forces, not attack water, electricity, bread, a country's infrastructure, and people's livelihoods.

Ahmadzadeh referred to Iran's 7,000-year civilization and said: Whoever wants to take Iran back to the Stone Age does not know Iran. Iranian civilization, with its millennia-long history, cannot be turned back. No matter how much of the infrastructure is destroyed, we will rebuild it again; this demonstrates Iranian civilization and resilience.

He said: The Iranian nation has proven many times that it is present on the scene and, through resistance and effort, will be able to rebuild and renew its infrastructure.

The Vice Chairman of the Macroeconomic Committee of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture further stated: The Iranian nation is a hardworking nation that can overcome difficult conditions and rebuild the country once again.

Electricity industry ready to serve people

TEHRAN- The Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy of the Ministry of Energy emphasized the need for the electricity industry to maintain readiness under critical conditions to serve the people.

According to the Ministry of Energy's information portal, Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, while appreciating the efforts of operational electricity colleagues in all sectors, closely followed the process of supplying electricity to subscribers and the repair and reconstruction of the damaged electricity grid, and added: "Maintaining vigilance and readiness of transmission networks and substations, as well as the distribution sector's service to subscribers, is mandatory."

During this visit, after receiving a full report on the dedicated efforts of colleagues from the power outage response teams and the re-energization of transmission and distribution networks following enemy attacks, the Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy of the Ministry of Energy stated: "The courage and bravery of these colleagues, who in critical and dangerous conditions and shortly after

enemy airstrikes step in, secure the environment, and quickly stabilize the electricity grid with minimal facilities, are a source of pride and honor for this industry."

Rajabi Mashhadi said: "Continuity of electricity supply to all subscribers under special wartime conditions gives hope to the people, and the people's blessings will be the backbone of this dedicated effort."

During the continuation of this visit, reports were presented on the implementation of smartening projects and the installation of advanced equipment for real-time monitoring of network parameters, and important infrastructural activities were reviewed to utilize the maximum technical and specialized local electricity capacity to prevent instability in the face of threats to the electricity grid of the Tehran metropolis.

On March 15, the Minister of Energy announced that based on planned programs, the country's entire electricity grid will be made smart in the near future.

According to IRNA's report from the Ministry of Energy, Abbas Aliabadi stated during

the unveiling ceremony of the first center for studies, design, and project management in the electricity grid, the center for smartening comprehensive plans, as well as the unveiling of the Resilience Atlas document for Tehran electricity distribution network: Despite the country's special circumstances, the implementation of development projects in the country's electricity industry has not stopped.

He considered the operation of these centers a valuable step towards smartening the electricity grid and improving services to electricity subscribers, especially in the capital.

Aliabadi noted: The measures taken in the country's electricity industry are superior in many respects to the achievements of regional countries, and with the accomplishments in the field of smartening, we intend to soon surpass the milestone of installing 10 million smart meters nationwide.

The Minister of Energy stated: According to the planned program and with the efforts of our colleagues, we will witness the smartening of the entire country's electricity grid in the future.

The war that ended the old Middle East

How Washington and Tel Aviv unwittingly catalyzed a new strategic dawn

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — Five weeks after the United States and Israel started their unprovoked campaign of aggression against Iran on February 28, the Middle East stands transformed.

What opened with hundreds of joint strikes in the first twelve hours, the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and the deliberate targeting of civilian sites such as the elementary school in Minab that claimed over 170 lives has backfired spectacularly, speeding up the very transformations the aggressors had hoped to bury forever.

Inside Iran, the war has produced a nationalist surge and has hardened the social contract.

The region's old architecture has crumbled.

The Axis of Resistance, long a living force, has now cohered into something even more formidable and unified.

The illusions of rented security among the Arab states in the Persian Gulf have evaporated.

This is far more than a chapter of tactical damage and destruction; it represents the birth of a new strategic reality.

The mirage shatters in the Persian Gulf

Nowhere has the rupture been deeper than among the Arab monarchies in the Persian Gulf, where faith in the mirage of American protection and the "Idea of Dubai" has finally collapsed.

For decades, they hosted U.S. bases as ironclad insurance, marketing their cities as insulated oases while quietly enabling a hostile encirclement of Iran: funding Saddam in the 1980s, backing separatist groups, and, as leaked CENTCOM documents revealed in late 2025, expanding secret military ties with Israel under a U.S.-led "Regional Security Construct."

While publicly condemning Israel's genocide in Gaza, these Arab states privately facilitated aggression against Tehran; involvement that Trump himself openly acknowledged during the war through repeated praise of their "help."

Hezbollah targets Israeli warplanes, bombs tanks

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN — The latest escalation shows that the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement prioritizes high-value military targets belonging to the Israeli regime.

The Lebanese resistance movement has prioritized aerial confrontations and strikes on Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) concentrations after targeting a regime warship a few days ago.

This sequencing reflects a deliberate tactical approach aimed at weakening the regime's operational capabilities while maintaining pressure across multiple fronts.

A notable feature on Tuesday has been Hezbollah's engagement with the Zionist regime's aerial assets. Hezbollah reported that "resistance fighters targeted two hostile enemy helicopters in the airspace of Al-Bayyada town with surface-to-air missiles, forcing them to retreat."

In a similar vein, "fighters engaged a hostile enemy warplane in the airspace of southern Lebanon with a surface-to-air missile" and "fighters engaged a second hostile enemy warplane in the airspace of the Western Bekaa with a surface-to-air missile."

These operations signal a clear attempt to challenge the Zionist regime's long-standing air superiority and restrict its reconnaissance and strike capabilities over Lebanese territory.

On the ground, Hezbollah has concentrated significant firepower on IOF gatherings and military po-



The double game has been laid bare, met by Iranian retaliation throughout the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

At least thirteen U.S. bases have been rendered partially or wholly unusable.

Air defenses intercepted most missiles, yet the volume, cost, and drone penetration proved unsustainable.

Imports faced severe disruptions, driving price spikes of 40 to 120 percent. Kuwait and Qatar now stare at potential 14 percent GDP contractions even in a short war.

Off-the-record Persian Gulf voices speak of being "dragged into a war we did not start."

The Abraham Accords' military pact stands naked; U.S. assets invited retaliation, not protection.

The glass towers no longer feel safe; proximity to American power now equals vulnerability.

Hormuz rewrites global power

Economically, the crisis dwarfs any shock since the 1970s.

Iran's wartime management of the Strait of Hormuz, without total closure, has stranded 14 to 20 million barrels per day, sent Brent crude above \$110, and forced Qatar's force majeure on LNG.

Global GDP losses loom between \$330 billion and \$2.2 trillion.

Europe and Asia absorb the sharpest pain through energy and fertilizer shortages.

As Professor Robert A. Pape wrote in the New York Times on April 6, this war is turning Iran into a major world power—not through conventional parity but through control of 20 percent of global oil

situations. It stated that "resistance fighters targeted a gathering of enemy soldiers and vehicles at Fatima Gate on the Lebanese border with a rocket barrage," illustrating a focus on border points where the IOF is attempting to invade.

Similarly, the Lebanese "resistance targeted a gathering of enemy soldiers in Markaba town with a rocket barrage" and "resistance fighters targeted a gathering of enemy soldiers in Taybeh town with artillery shells," indicating sustained attacks on IOF troop formations.

Further intensifying these efforts, Hezbollah noted that "fighters targeted a gathering of enemy soldiers and vehicles in Taybeh town with a rocket barrage" and "fighters targeted enemy army soldiers and vehicles in Rashaf town and Beit Lif town with rocket barrages."

These coordinated strikes across multiple locations underscore a strategy of dispersing IOF resources and complicating their defensive responses.

Precision targeting has also played a role. Hezbollah declared that "resistance fighters targeted an enemy force east of Al-Khiyam detention center with appropriate weapons." It added: "In defense of Lebanon and its people, after monitoring a force from the (regime's) army inside one of the houses in Al-Bayyada town, fighters targeted it with a guided missile, achieving confirmed hits."

These operations point to intelligence-based targeting designed to

flows and an asymmetric toolkit that endurance renders unstoppable.

Iran has become the fourth pole alongside the United States, China, and Russia.

The rebirth of the Resistance

Before the aggression, Western analysts spoke confidently of a "degraded network."

In their minds, Hezbollah had supposedly lost irreparable commanders and supply lines. The Ansarullah operated under a fragile ceasefire, while Iraqi resistance groups supposedly faced internal fractures and growing nationalist pushback.

The entire front was portrayed as a spent force, Iran's forward-defense strategy as overextended.

The first waves of retaliation changed everything.

By March 2, Hezbollah opened a northern front with rockets and drones into Israel, forcing ground-incursion planning and the displacement of around a million Lebanese, yet its devotion to the Lebanese people and its bond to the Islamic Revolution proved stronger than any tactical loss.

Late March brought Yemeni ballistic strikes on Israeli airports and signals of renewed pressure on the Bab el-Mandeb, raising the prospect of the Red Sea becoming a second strategic pressure point after Iran's effective wartime management of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq persisted with drone and rocket operations against U.S. bases from Baghdad to Jordan, undeterred by underreported enemy aggression and the martyrdom of their forces.



inflict direct losses on IOF units.

Armored units have not been spared. Hezbollah reported that "resistance fighters targeted two Merkava tanks in Al-Taybeh project with two loitering gliders, achieving direct hits," and further emphasized that "Resistance fighters targeted a Merkava tank in Al-Bayyada town with a loitering glider, achieving a direct hit." The use of loitering munitions reflects a growing sophistication in anti-armor tactics against the occupation regime.

In addition to troop and armor strikes, infrastructure linked to a regime has been targeted. Hezbollah stated that "fighters targeted infrastructure belonging to the (Zionist regime's) army in Karmiel settlement with a rocket barrage," signaling that logistical and support facilities are also within range of its operations.

Following this wave of attacks on military targets, Hezbollah expanded its campaign to include settle-

What Western analysts once dismissed as a fragmented network now functions as a synchronized regional defense pact.

The Hormuz-Mandab lock is no longer a theoretical concept.

Hormuz now exerts real control, and the potential activation of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait positions the Resistance to wield a powerful geo-economic veto over global energy flows.

A civilizational and moral awakening

Philosophically, the war has clarified a deeper divide.

Iran's response, framed under Article 51 of the UN Charter and guided by necessity and proportionality, struck the enemy bases and their military enablers while offering off-ramps.

The complicity of some Arab states in the kill chain, from Al Udeid to Prince Sultan, forfeited any claim to neutrality under international law.

?More importantly, a civilizational shift is occurring.

The unprovoked nature of the U.S.-Israeli war has been viewed across the Global South as a final proof of Western lawlessness.

No wonder Trump, on April 7, openly threatened that "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again."

Iran is no longer viewed merely as a regional power; it is seen as a systemic pole standing against the return of colonial-style diktats.

This is a moral and philosophical victory.

Across the Global South, Iran is increasingly seen as the indigenous defender of sovereignty against extra-regional overreach.

?While the U.S. and Israel have suffered a strategic defeat, failing to achieve any of their political objectives, the war is far from over.

The aggressors remain dangerous in their desperation, and the effects of this war on global energy markets and internal Israeli stability are only beginning to manifest. However, the strategic map has already fundamentally shifted.

The sunset of the American era in the Middle East is no longer a prediction; it is the current reality.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

5

The world will keep seeking answers for Trump's war on Iran



The B1 bridge was damaged in U.S.-Israeli strikes in Karaj on April 3, 2026

TEHRAN — The world is asking why the United States and Israel started an unwarranted war against Iran. The world was surprised that the war began while the talks were underway between Iran and the U.S.

Donald Trump who was claiming he had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program during the 12-day war against Iran in June 2025, why did he decide to suddenly attack Iran again in coordination with the Israeli war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu?

The world is seeking answer for this irrational and unprovoked war that has so far caused many deaths that many of them constitute examples of war crime and crimes against humanity, as well as tens of billions of dollars in damages and great environmental mishaps.

The war has even dealt a great blow to civil society in Iran and made the people's economic problems worse.

The war on Iran has given credit to the words of those who say the law of jungle is dominant in the world.

Trump's National Counterterrorism Center director Joe Kent, who resigned his post in protest to the war on March 18, wrote on X that "Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation." He said, "I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran."

Netanyahu and Trump's deep hatred of Iran is incomprehensible. While the entire world greatly lauded the multilateral 2015 nuclear deal with Iran during Barack Obama's presidency, Trump, then the Republican presidential nominee, called it "the worst deal in history" and a "disaster" and threatened to tear it up if he won presidency. Netanyahu also described it as a "historic mistake" and pushed Trump to rescind it.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio claims that Iran is ruled by "radical Shia clerics" but it is his boss that is a puppet of extremist Christians and Zionists.

Writing an article in Middle East Eye on April 5, former Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said, "The Netanyahu-Trump alignment, supported by Zionist and Christian-Zionist ideological networks, has replaced geopolitical rationality with a theopolitical war logic."

Davutoglu, a political theorist, also believes the world is not convinced about the logic of this war.

"Today, both the American public and much of the world are asking a simple question: by what logic did U.S. President Donald Trump follow Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into a war with unclear objectives and potentially catastrophic consequences?"

Davutoglu, who was foreign minister from 2009 to 2014, says, "This war is not grounded in geopolitical rationality but in a form of theopolitical irrationality."

In his resignation letter on X, Kent also said, "It is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby."

The world, including Washington's allies in the West and the East, are noticing that the U.S. is being ruled by a mindless bully.

As the ideologically-driven Netanyahu says he feels he has a divine mission to create a greater Israel, Trump is also thinking of expanding the U.S. territory. Describing Canada as the 51st American state and threatening to capture Greenland by force if necessary are clear examples. Likewise, he has a covetous eye on the oil riches of countries it considers adversary.

Just on Monday, April 6, Trump said he would like to "take" Iran's oil but Americans, whom he

called "foolish," want to see the war brought to a close.

"Unfortunately, the American people would like to see us come home. If it were up to me, I'd take the oil, I'd keep the oil, it would bring plenty of money," he shockingly told reporters at the annual White House Easter egg roll.

Allies rebuff Trump's appeal for help

Despite all the bravo about his handling of war on Iran, Trump sees himself in a quandary and makes confusing and insulting remarks.

First, he imagined that the war on Iran would last just a few days. He still fails to understand that any nation that comes under illegal and cruel war it will react strongly. It is for this reason that former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who proposed "dialogue among civilizations" and is internationally famous as a thinking and moderate person, said on April 6 that "In this critical situation, I kiss the hands and arms of the warriors and defenders of dignity, independence, and territorial integrity who have become a source of pride for our country and respect for the free people of the world."

Now that Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz to oil and gas tankers in response to this unlawful war, he is pressing American allies and other countries around the world to help open the strategic waterway that is the conduit for a fifth of the global oil and gas supplies. He has caused the closure the transit route but wants others to open it. Trump speaks and behaves in a way as if the entire world is owed to him.

Now many countries in the world, including American allies or friends, see Trump him as a bully and unpredictable person who may one day fall victim to his rash behaviors. His threats against Canada and Greenland proved that Trump does not make a distinction between a friend and a foe. He only cares about his Zionist inspirers. For example, in his remarks on April 6, he again castigated Obama for the 2015 nuclear deal and claimed "Obama chose Iran over Israel".

That allies have refused to join Trump's war of choice is that they are not convinced why this war began and don't want to put the lives of their soldiers in jeopardy.

Britain, a country that was considered the closest U.S. ally in Europe, has rebuffed Trump's plea to join the war to open the Strait of Hormuz.

Facing weeks of taunts from Trump over London's stance on the war, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told a press conference on April 1, "Whatever the pressure on me and others, whatever the noise, I'm going to act in the British national interest."

Starmer signaled that his country will pivot towards the EU. He said building stronger economic and defense ties with Europe would be at the center of an EU-UK summit in Brussels in the summer, describing the move as "in our long-term national interest."

Kaja Kallas, the European Union chief diplomat, also told Trump: "It is not our war. We did not start it." In a post on social media, she also said, "It is TRUMP'S WAR AND NETANJAHU'S WAR."

Trump's reckless moves and approaches is even pushing Europeans to rethink their military dependence on the U.S.

The more the world feels the economic pains of the war due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the crimes being committed it becomes more hateful of Trump, his inner circle and the Israeli prime minister.

And the world will keep asking the reasons for the start of this unprovoked and unwarranted war.

DOE warns UNDP about environmental impact of striking peaceful nuclear plants

TEHRAN – The head of the Department of Environment (DOE), Shina Ansari, in a letter to the executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Inger Andersen, has warned about the detrimental consequences of brutal attacks on Iran's nuclear plants.

Referring to their corresponding before and after the beginning of the US-Israeli war against the country, Ansari voiced her deep concerns regarding the ongoing violation of the International Humanitarian Law by the two aggressors.

"Following our previous correspondence prior to and after the onset of the illegal and unprovoked aggression by the two outlaw regimes of the United States of America and the Zionist regime regarding the dangerous environmental dimensions of these aggressive acts, it is with deep regret and profound concern that I wish to inform you that during the days of this blatant international lawbreaking, and in continuation of other committed war crimes, these two regimes have carried out seven airstrikes against peaceful nuclear facilities of which three have been on Bushehr nuclear power plant," Ansari said.

"As you are well aware, any military action against active nuclear facilities is strictly prohibited under all laws of the civilized world and the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Such actions can lead to catastrophic consequences resulting from the leakage and radiation of nuclear materials, causing lasting and irreversible damage to the environment. The natural life cycle and environment in two of the world's highly important bodies of water, the Persian Gulf and

the Sea of Oman, have been exposed to damage for years due to the presence of extra-regional military forces.

Furthermore, the entire West Asia region has been severely affected over the past month by the military campaigns and illegal military aggression of these two regimes.

Experts estimate that the carbon footprint generated in just the first two weeks of the war is equivalent to the carbon footprint of 60 countries for an entire year. Unfortunately, the international institutions responsible for safeguarding global peace and security, and the environment have thus far refrained from even condemning this illegal military aggression.

Instead of an explicit and clear condemnation of the aggressor, their highest efforts have merely amounted to expressing concern. However, in a situation where peaceful nuclear facilities are not only threatened but recklessly attacked, silence and inaction are largely considered complicity with the aggressor and a betrayal of the ideals and principles of the civilized world.

This will be recorded as a dark mark on the record of international institutions, particularly those responsible for the environment, and will destroy the trust of nations in them. Hereby, while expressing our gratitude for the initial statement issued, we urgently request that, alongside explicitly and clearly condemning these aggressions, you take immediate action to convene emergency meetings of the world's environment ministers and to compel the aggressors to halt their war crimes."

World Health Day: securing health against politicization, military threats

TEHRAN – Observed on April 7 annually, World Health Day 2026 calls on people everywhere to stand with science under the theme 'Together for health. Stand with science.'

This year's theme indicates that science lays the foundation of fighting emerging health challenges such as microbial resistance, climate change, noncommunicable diseases, and the risk of pandemics, deputy health minister Alireza Raeisi has said.

However, the realization of the 2026 theme is impossible without securing health against politicization, sanctions, and military aggressions, he noted.

Referring to the recent violent attacks by the US and Israel on Iran's civilian and health infrastructures, which have led to the destruction of medical centers, and the martyrdom of people and health workers, Raeisi underlined the importance of ensuring the safety and security of the health system during conflicts.

"As long as access to medicine, critical devices, and scientific interactions are used as a lever to achieve political aims, as long as military aggressions threaten the safety of health infrastructure, and the lives of medical staff, we cannot claim that we stand with science," the official added.

"These days we have been witnessing the widespread destruction of non-military units, airstrikes on universities, scientific, research, and healthcenters by our enemies; a large number of our dear fellow men including women,

children, and health workers have lost their lives.

Today, we announce that standing with science is only possible when political and military pressures can no longer exert pressure on health sector. Respecting science requires respecting independence, security, and wellbeing of the countries," Raeisi further noted.

The official went on to say that scientific achievements of the domestic researchers and the exchange of knowledge with international community are the best way to realize universal health coverage (UHC), and reduce inequality of opportunity to have access to health services.

The World Health Day 2026 launches a year-long campaign celebrating the power of scientific collaboration to protect the health of people, animals, plants, and the planet.

The campaign spotlights both scientific achievements and the multilateral cooperation needed to turn evidence into action – through a strong focus on the One Health approach.

It invites people everywhere to participate – by celebrating scientific achievements, engaging with evidence, sharing personal stories of how science improves lives.

The campaign calls on governments, scientists, health workers, partners, and the public to stand with science by engaging with evidence, facts, and science-based guidance to protect health; rebuild trust in science and public health; and support science-led solutions for a healthier future.

Turkish scholar Nimet Yıldırım expresses solidarity with Iran

TEHRAN- Professor Nimet Yıldırım, the Head of the Persian Language and Literature Department at Atatürk University in Erzurum, Turkey, has released a message of solidarity with the Iranian people following the recent US-Israeli aggression and the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

In his message, the prominent Turkish scholar expressed his deep condolences, describing the martyrs as "eternal stars in the sky of faith and freedom," ISNA reported on Monday.

"Beloved Iran today mourns stars who shone in the firmament of dignity and, through their martyrdom, lit an everlasting lamp in the heart of history," Yıldırım wrote. He paid tribute to the late Leader and his companions, specifically mentioning the daughter of Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, the Leader's daughter-in-law, who was martyred along with Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Extending his sympathy to the Iranian nation, Muslim communities, and all seekers of justice, he underscored the immortality of those who sacrifice

for love and truth.

Yıldırım emphasized that Persian language and literature scholars in Turkey share in this grief. "This agonizing loss has left a deep wound in the hearts of the Iranian people and all lovers of truth. We, as professors of Persian literature, consider ourselves partners in your sorrow," the message read.

Concluding his message, the Turkish academic prayed for the highest spiritual ranks for the martyrs and patience for their families.

Following the Zionist regime and the US's a coordinated attack on Sunday morning, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, was martyred. Also, in a deadly strike on a girls' school in southern Iran – Shajareh Tayyebah elementary school in Minab, a city in Hormozgan province, 168 children were martyred and 95 were injured.

In response, Operation "True Promise 4" has begun and will continue until the defeat of enemies.

Director of TMOCA calls for international solidarity to protect shared human heritage

TEHRAN – The Director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) has reported extensive damage to over a hundred historical artifacts and several museums and palace-museums in Iran over the past 38 days during the US-Israeli aggressions on Iran in an open letter to the heads of prestigious museums worldwide and the international museum community, calling for global solidarity to protect the shared heritage of humanity.

In the letter, Reza Dabirinejad has expressed deep concern about the continuous threats to Iran's cultural and artistic treasures, emphasizing that these works are not only part of Iran's national identity but also belong to all of humanity, IRNA reported.

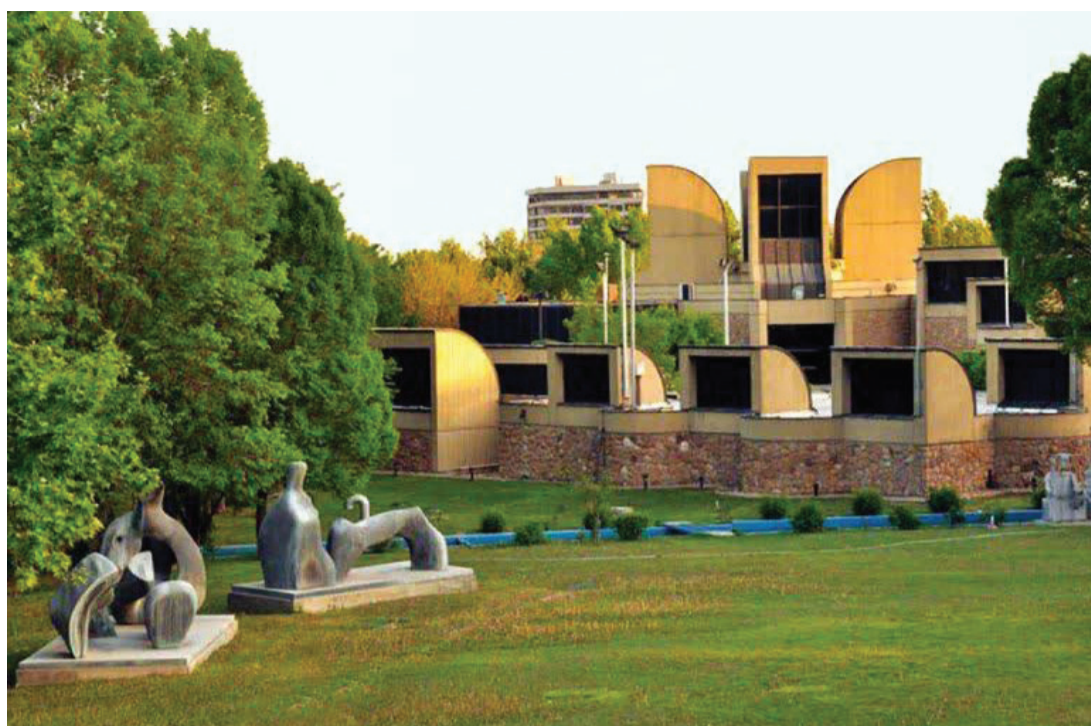
"Museums are not merely repositories of humanity's unique treasures; they serve as mirrors reflecting humankind's journey from prehistory to the modern age. They narrate the stories of how civilizations were formed, laws were codified, and the principles of peaceful coexistence among people were established," he noted.

"However, museums also bear witness to another, lamentable reality: wars, which have repeatedly devastated great civilizations and their cultural and artistic achievements. The historical artifacts preserved in museums are shared heritage of humankind, having survived assaults and crises," he added.

Referring to the historical role of museums in strengthening peace, dialogue, and coexistence, Dabirinejad has asked his colleagues around the world to prevent the recurrence of another tragedy in the world's cultural history.

"By safeguarding these treasures – whether in the cultural, artistic, or scientific spheres – museums strengthen the bonds between people. Their aim is to create a platform for dialogue, reflection, and mutual respect, thereby building a peaceful and beautiful world," he stated.

"Museums are not just keepers of objects; they are guardians of human cultures, arts, and knowledge. Conversely, those who pursue war show no regard for the values of art, culture, and human coexistence. They demolish the bridges of connection between cultures and societies and oppose



diversity and difference. In times of war, no place, not even museums, is safe from threats," he said.

"The museums of Iran, from ancient times to the present, signify the vital and unparalleled role of this land in the formation of human civilization and the enrichment of global culture and artistic dialogue. They stand as testament to the unyielding resilience of Iranian civilization against threats and invasions," Dabirinejad underlined.

"Regrettably, over the past 38 days, Iran has once again been subjected to extensive attacks. These attacks have caused serious and irreparable damage to over a hundred historical artifacts and a number of museums and palace-museums across the country. These items are not only a part of Iran's national heritage but also belong to the shared heritage of humanity," he rued.

"Any damage to these artifacts is an irreparable blow to human heritage. Museums and cultural heritage, transcending borders, are built for peace, coexistence, and dialogue. The doors of museums are always open to the public, but in the cacophony of war, the gentle voice of culture and art often gets lost," he stressed.

At the end of the letter, Dabirinejad has emphasized the necessity of immediate notification to the global museum community about the critical situation of Iran's cultural heritage and expressed hope that the collective solidarity

of museum professionals can be a barrier against the devastation of war.

"I appeal to you, my esteemed colleagues and custodians of our shared global heritage, to pay special attention to the civilizational and artistic treasures of Iran during this difficult period. Let us, with a unified and resounding voice, prevent further damage to these precious human legacies embedded within this historic land," he said.

"Furthermore, I request your assistance by informing the global museum community and raising their awareness about the critical situation of Iran's museums and cultural heritage. I firmly believe that the collective voice of the world's museums is a voice for peace and coexistence, and only through the global solidarity of museum professionals can we defend our shared human heritage against war and destruction," he concluded.

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is among the largest art museums in Iran. It has collections of more than 3,000 items, including 19th and 20th century's world-class European and American paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, and sculptures. TMOCA also has one of the most significant collections of Iranian modern and contemporary art.

The architecture of the Museum is also remarkable. While the exterior design of the Museum represents the traditional wind

catchers of Iran, the interior design of the Museum resembles the modern Guggenheim Museum in New York.

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 numerous civilians, including women and children.

The aggressors claimed at the beginning that the attacks were aimed at preventing Iran's nuclear program but they later revealed their real objectives. For Israel, the maximalist goal is the regime change in Iran and the US seeks to seize the oil and gas resources of that country.

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 an attempt to force the country to surrender to their illegitimate demands.

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, which have been intensified in recent days.

National theater event honors Minab schoolchildren



A poster for "To Which Sin?" national theater event

TEHRAN-The national theater event "To Which Sin?" is being staged across multiple Iranian provinces to honor the memory of the Minab schoolchildren who lost their lives in a coordinated attack by the Zionist regime and the US.

The initiative aims to bring together child and youth theater artists from across the country, Mehr reported on Monday.

Held as part of the "Iran Together" cultural campaign, the event marks the 40th day since the martyrdom of the students and is currently underway in 21 provinces. It started on Friday and is expected to continue until mid-April.

Under this initiative, children's and youth theater groups in different parts of the country are

performing the same play to pay tribute to the students of Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab.

Over a 10-day period, the event will feature about 220 performances by 21 selected theater groups in various cities. The performances are being held in different provinces and at nightly public gatherings, offering an artistic portrayal of the grief and innocence of the Minab children while reflecting the solidarity and sympathy of the public with their families.

According to organizers, the event has received a strong public response, particularly because many performances are taking place during evening community gatherings, creating an atmosphere of broad empathy and support among audiences.

The theater event is part of the same broader artistic project designed by the Soore-ye Omid Institute, which earlier unveiled a multilingual collection under the same title in Persian, Arabic and English. Together, these initiatives aim to honor the memory of the Minab schoolchildren and other child victims of recent aggression against Iranian soil, while presenting their innocence and suffering through different artistic forms.

While the first phase of the project used graphic posters and video productions to amplify the voices of the children killed in the attacks by the Zionist regime and the United States, the newer theater campaign has expanded that message into live performances across 21 provinces, turning remembrance into a nationwide cultural movement.

On February 28, the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan province, became the site of a devastating massacre as the United States and Israel initiated their strikes against Iran.

While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a missile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 168 people, with at least 95 others wounded, marking one of the most harrowing incidents of the conflict's opening day.

Despite attempts by US and Israeli authorities to distance themselves from the carnage as images of the tragedy spread across social media, detailed forensic and digital investigations have painted a starkly different picture.

An analysis by Al Jazeera's digital investigations unit, utilizing over a decade of satellite imagery and recent video clips, revealed that the school was a clearly distinct civilian facility, separated from any adjacent military sites for at least ten years. Furthermore, witness accounts and satellite-based analyses confirmed that the school was triple tapped by three separate, deliberate strikes, leaving no doubt about the nature of the attack.

The international community has faced mounting evidence regarding the responsibility for this atrocity, with investigations from major global outlets including The New York Times, BBC Verify, CBC, and NPR all concluding that the United States was responsible for the strike.

These findings have raised fundamental questions about the intelligence used to justify the bombing, as the patterns of the strike suggest a direct targeting of a civilian educational institution. The Minab school tragedy now stands as a somber testament to the immense human cost of the aggression and a focal point for those demanding international accountability.

Guardians of strength and sacrifice

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – From early moments of the war, women and girls have borne a growing share of its human cost. Hundreds have been killed, injured, or displaced in consecutive airstrikes including the one in Minab, where more than 165 young schoolgirls between the ages of seven and twelve lost their lives.

Yet, to view Iranian women solely through the lens of victimhood would be to overlook the breadth and depth of their contributions. This war is not fought exclusively on the battlefield; it is equally waged in hospitals, factories, schools, offices, and homes. Across all these arenas, women have stepped into roles that, historically, were often restricted or under-recognized.

On the home front, the burdens carried by women are immense and multifaceted. Many are raising children, managing households, and supporting extended families in the absence of husbands, fathers, or sons who are either at the frontlines or otherwise engaged in the war effort. These responsibilities require not only endurance but also ingenuity. In countless homes, women have become the anchors of stability, preserving a sense of normalcy amid disruption.

Equally critical, though less visible, is the role women have played in maintaining social cohesion and psychological resilience. In what can be described as a parallel “media war,” women have been at the forefront of countering fear, rumor, and disinformation. Through both formal and informal channels, ranging from professional media work to everyday communication within communities, they have contributed to a narrative of calm and continuity. Their efforts have been instrumental in neutral-



izing enemy's attempts to sow panic and unrest.

The symbolic dimension of women's participation is also noteworthy. In public gatherings and demonstrations across cities such as Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd and Mashhad, women have also a great share, some adhering to traditional dress codes, others without headscarves, yet united in their expression of national solidarity. Many carry Iranian national flags, as well as images of their assassinated Leader and commanders. Their presence sends a strong message: that internal differences, including those related to social and cultural issues, are secondary to the defense of national sovereignty.

This unity has, in many ways, disrupted external expectations. Part of the strategic calculation behind the war, as perceived by observers within Iran, was the assumption that sustained pressure would lead to internal fragmentation, forming in public unrest or a breakdown of social order. Instead, what has emerged is a form of cohesion that transcends existing threats.

Another most visible contributions have come in the field of health-

care. Thousands of women serve as nurses, doctors, and support staff, working under immense pressure to care for wounded soldiers and civilians alike. Their work is not limited to physical healing; it extends to emotional and psychological support, often provided in conditions of fatigue and uncertainty. In many cases, these women have become the backbone of emergency medical response, ensuring continuity of care even as infrastructure is strained.

Moreover, psychologists, many of them women, have been actively engaged in strengthening public resilience. Through counseling, outreach programs, and community initiatives, they have sought to mitigate the psychological toll of war, helping individuals and families cope with trauma, anxiety, and loss.

Parallel to this, women have assumed critical roles in sustaining the civilian economy. In factories, administrative offices, and small businesses, they have helped maintain production and services disrupted by war. At the household level, their role as managers of family resources has proven particularly significant. Despite fears of shortages, there have

been no widespread reports of panic buying or so. Instead, many families have adhered to measured consumption, an outcome widely attributed to the caution and foresight of women overseeing domestic needs.

Even in spheres seemingly distant from conflict, such as sports, the imprint of this solidarity is evident. For example, members of Iran's national women's soccer team, who were in Australia when the war began, recognized enemy plots, aiming to force players into seeking asylum. Yet, all but two chose to return to Iran, rejecting the choice to remain abroad. Their decision, widely discussed in mass media, was interpreted as an act of loyalty and identification with the broader national experience.

Beyond the immediate violence, women are also confronting longer-term environmental and health consequences. The targeting of oil and gas infrastructure has led to pollution that poses serious risks, including reproductive complications. In this sense, the war extends into the future, shaping not only the present generation of women but potentially those yet to be born.

It is also important to take a closer look into the historical context of these developments. Over the past decades, Iranian women have undergone significant social transformation, gaining education, professional experience, and a more prominent role in public life. The current crisis has, in many ways, brought these capacities into sharper focus. The resilience, adaptability, and leadership displayed today are not spontaneous; they are the result of a long process of social evolution.

A revolution without women? Impossible! The war has a female narrative

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

Truly rare are statesmen who possess insight across multiple domains from politics and governance to military affairs and the foundations of civilization. Our martyred leader, Imam Khomeini, was one of them. A wise thinker who not only paid attention to the surface structures of society but also gave deep consideration to the roots and foundations of civilization-building. Perhaps one of the clearest reflections of this is his elevated perspective on women, their dignity, status, and rights.

When examining major social and political transformations, one of the most important indicators is the extent and quality of women's participation in those movements. The Islamic Revolution of Iran is no exception. Although many official narratives tend to focus on male figures and visible political actions, a deeper look reveals that women were not on the margins, but at the very heart of this historic transformation. Their presence was not merely supportive; in many cases, it was driving, stabilizing, and even decisive.

By emphasizing role models such as Lady Fatimah (peace be upon her), he sought to demonstrate that a Muslim woman can fulfill her responsibilities within the family while also playing an active role in broader social arenas. This perspective, in many ways, formed the theoretical foundation for women's participation in the Islamic Revolution.

Women: The Hidden Yet Powerful Networks of the Revolution

Before the Revolution, Iranian women played a crucial role in creating the groundwork for spreading ideas, organizing forces, and sustaining the movement. Women, by making use of their social positions within families and communities, became key agents in expanding the revolutionary discourse.

Homes, as primary hubs of communication, were often managed by women. Religious gatherings, community circles, and cultural meetings became spaces for articulating revolutionary ideas and women played a central role in sustaining and expanding these spaces. Although this role is less visible in official accounts, in practice it was one of the key factors behind the Revolution's success.

Ayatollah Khomeini has repeatedly emphasized this point, describing women's presence in the formation and victory of the Revolution as “genuine

and decisive.”

Elsewhere, he stated:

“Women active in the revolutionary front once played remarkably prominent roles both in the period leading up to the victory of the Revolution, in its early years, and during the imposed war. They demonstrated a visible and impactful presence. Do not allow this visible presence of active women in the revolutionary front to fade. Those opposing the Revolution seek to use capable women for their own purposes. The revolutionary front has far more capable, active, articulate, and knowledgeable women, women who think, write, speak, and take initiative. They must not leave the field of defending the Revolution empty.”

Women's participation in the Revolution was not limited to cultural and social arenas. Many were present in more difficult and dangerous fields from enduring imprisonment and torture to engaging in security-related and even military activities. This reflects a significant shift in women's roles from “supportive presence” to “leading presence.”

Among these figures, individuals like Marzieh Hadidchi Dabbagh stand as clear examples of this transformation. She was not only active in underground revolutionary efforts but also played roles in military and managerial fields. Her command of the Hamadan Revolutionary Guard Corps and her responsibilities in the post-revolutionary structure reflect the trust placed in women's ability to manage crises.

The martyred leader, Imam Sayyid Ali Khomeini, said about her:

“This lady is among those who can represent the true orientation of women in an Islamic society not only in our Islamic Republic, but in the perspective of Islam, its logic, and its culture.”

The importance of such figures lies in the fact that they should not be seen as exceptions, but rather as representatives of a broader capacity among revolutionary women, women who, under difficult circumstances, took on diverse and complex roles and contributed significantly to advancing the goals of the Revolution.

Women's role did not end with the victory of the Revolution; rather, it entered a new phase. In this stage, women played a key role in consolidating and institutionalizing the Revolution's achievements. Their presence in cultural, educational, social, and even political institutions demonstrates

the continuity of their active participation.

During the eight-year imposed war against Iran, women played active and effective roles both at the frontlines and behind them from working as journalists, doctors, and nurses to supporting the war effort in various ways behind the lines.

Examples such as women's presence in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, their cultural work in schools and universities, and their participation in social institutions all demonstrate that women were an inseparable part of building the new system.

Figures like Mrs. Dabbagh, who moved from revolutionary struggle into leadership and legislative roles, symbolize this continuity showing that women were not only present at the moment of the Revolution, but also in the processes of state-building and nation-building.

In more recent developments, including the short-term imposed conflict and the recent hostilities attributed to American and Israeli adversaries, women have once again demonstrated active and revolutionary presence. From working in sensitive professions such as medicine and media to participating in mosques and support networks much like during the eight-year war they continue to play vital roles.

This conflict also carries another, distinctly female narrative: the visible presence of women in public spaces and fields, standing actively in defense of their homeland.

Ultimately, examining the role of women in the Islamic Revolution of Iran shows that their contribution was not marginal, but fundamental and decisive. Women, with their presence across multiple arenas from family and society to struggle and governance, played a crucial role in both the victory and consolidation of the Revolution.

Ayatollah Khomeini's views, with their emphasis on dignity, identity, and women's capabilities, provide a theoretical framework for understanding this role. Within this framework, women are not merely active participants in society, but one of the essential pillars in the formation of an Islamic society and civilization.

From before the Revolution to the present day, Iranian Muslim women have stood not at the margins of history, but at the center of major transformations, playing a vital role in shaping the future of their society.

The conditional visibility of Iranian women



Aid worker comforts an Iranian women after a U.S.-Israeli airstrike in Tehran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – A young woman removing her hijab on a Tehran street is often presented in Western media as an uncomplicated image of defiance. Yet such a scene, repeatedly extracted and circulated, belongs to a broader and more layered social reality in which women's choices, constraints, and political positions cannot be reduced to a single interpretive frame. These images circulate through Western social media feeds, accompany op-eds in major newspapers, and inform diplomatic statements about freedom and human dignity. Their visibility, however, is never neutral. It is organized within a circumscribed frame that renders Iranian women intelligible only insofar as their experiences can be absorbed into pre-existing narratives of “oppression” and secular emancipation.

What happens when women fall outside this frame? When their suffering cannot be stabilised into the familiar figure that match Western narratives? The current moment, as military tensions escalate across the region, exposes the conditional structure of attention with unusual clarity. The same publications that once amplified images of unveiled Iranian women now maintain near silence as Iranian cities face bombardment, as women shelter under uncertain conditions, and as the infrastructure sustaining daily life comes under sustained pressure.

This is not inconsistency in coverage. It reflects a more fundamental distribution of visibility in the contemporary visual economy of human rights. Recognition is not evenly allocated but structured through compatibility with dominant narrative forms. The Iranian woman becomes visible when her image can be absorbed into an existing interpretive architecture, when her experience stabilises familiar assumptions about cultural difference. She recedes when her reality exceeds that architecture, when the source of her vulnerability cannot be contained within the internal boundaries of her society.

Selective visibility and the Western gaze

The Western gaze does not merely observe suffering. It formats it. It converts events into legible units of meaning while maintaining distance from their conditions of production. Visibility is structured as controlled proximity, where concern can be expressed without implication. Images that circulate within this regime tend to follow a narrow grammar, individual resistance against internal authority, legible without requiring sustained attention to geopolitical or material conditions.

The limitation becomes clearer when the source of violence cannot be isolated within internal dynamics alone. What kind of narrative can be constructed from Iranian women affected by layered forms of pressure that include military escalation, economic constraint, and infrastructural strain. The dominant language of human rights struggles here, because it tends to isolate visible suffering from the systems that generate it. What remains visible is the surface of harm, while its conditions of production remain analytically peripheral.

This selectivity suggests that earlier visibility was never anchored in Iranian women as political subjects. It functioned instead within a representational economy in which images operate as stable signs. Within this economy, complexity is reduced to recognisable figures.

As the context shifts toward war or heightened geopolitical tension, this stability weakens. The discourse reorganises it-

self. The language of rights gives way to security, strategy, and risk calculation. Iranian women are no longer primarily constructed as agents of visible resistance, but as part of a population exposed to uncertainty. Their experiences are aggregated rather than differentiated, and the structure of attention becomes uneven by design rather than accident.

War, recognition, and the reversal of attention

Periods of heightened tension reveal the instability of earlier forms of visibility. As attention shifts toward questions of security and regional order, Iranian women recede from the centre of representation. Their presence becomes less individuated, their experiences less narratively distinct. What was previously framed through symbolic acts of visibility becomes absorbed into a more general field of vulnerability.

At the same time, moral intensity diminishes without formal withdrawal. Civilian harm remains acknowledged, but it no longer occupies the same level of sustained attention that characterised earlier moments of visibility. When deaths occur, they do not circulate with equivalent narrative force. They are integrated into broader accounts of instability rather than isolated as ethically central events.

This asymmetry is not contingent. It reflects a deeper principle of selection. Visibility depends on narrative compatibility, on whether events can be stabilised within established interpretive structures. When that compatibility weakens, attention does not adapt proportionally. It disperses. The result is a form of engagement that is temporally uneven, shaped more by coherence than by persistence of suffering.

A more consistent engagement with Iranian women would require moving beyond this conditional structure of visibility. It would require recognising that their lives are shaped simultaneously by internal dynamics and external pressures that cannot be cleanly separated without distortion. It also requires acknowledging that they are not passive objects of representation but participants in social and political processes that exceed the frames through which they are typically rendered legible.

Sustaining this form of attention is more demanding than circulating symbolic visibility. It requires resisting the pull of images that compress complexity into immediate readability, and instead engaging with slower and less stabilised forms of reality. It also requires recognising that external positions are never neutral, and that attention itself is structured by institutional and political priorities that determine what can be seen and what must remain backgrounded.

The alternative is a cycle in which Iranian women appear intermittently as visible subjects, only to recede when their experiences no longer align with dominant narrative requirements. In that cycle, presence does not disappear, but loses continuity. Recognition becomes episodic rather than sustained, dependent on framing rather than on consistency of attention.

A more adequate account would break with this conditionality. It would treat Iranian women not as symbolic units within a global discourse of visibility, but as subjects whose lives unfold continuously within layered and shifting conditions. Their visibility should not depend on narrative alignment, but on an uninterrupted commitment to engaging the full complexity of their lived reality.



Heroic Women

Examining the role of Iranian women in national resistance in the war with America and Israel

Guardians of strength and sacrifice

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – From early moments of the war, women and girls have borne a growing share of its human cost. Hundreds have been killed, injured, or displaced in consecutive airstrikes including the one in Minab, where more than 165 young schoolgirls between the ages of seven and twelve lost their lives.

Yet, to view Iranian women solely through the lens of victimhood would be to overlook the breadth and depth of their contributions. This war is not fought exclusively on the battlefield; it is equally waged in hospitals, factories, schools, offices, and homes. Across all these arenas, women have stepped into roles that, historically, were often restricted or under-recognized.

On the home front, the burdens carried by women are immense and multifaceted. Many are raising children, managing households, and supporting extended families in the absence of husbands, fathers, or sons who are either at the frontlines or otherwise engaged in the war effort. These responsibilities require not only endurance but also ingenuity. In countless homes, women have become the anchors of stability, preserving a sense of normalcy amid disruption.

Equally critical, though less visible, is the role women have played in maintaining social cohesion and psychological resilience. In what can be described as a parallel “media war,” women have been at the forefront of countering fear, rumor, and disinformation. Through both formal and informal channels, ranging from professional media work to everyday communication within communities, they have contributed to a narrative of calm and continuity. Their efforts have been instrumental in neutralizing enemy’s attempts to sow panic and unrest. ▶ Page 7

A revolution without women? Impossible! The war has a female narrative

By Maedeh Zaman Fashami

Truly rare are statesmen who possess insight across multiple domains from politics and governance to military affairs and the foundations of civilization. Our martyred leader, Imam Khamenei, was one of them. A wise thinker who not only paid attention to the surface structures of society but also gave deep consideration to the roots and foundations of civilization-building. Perhaps one of the clearest reflections of this is his elevated perspective on women, their dignity, status, and rights.

When examining major social and political transformations, one of the most important indicators is the extent and quality of women’s participation in those movements. The Islamic Revolution of Iran is no exception. Although many official narratives tend to focus on male figures and visible political actions, a deeper look reveals that women were not on the margins, but at the very heart of this historic transformation. Their presence was not merely supportive; in many cases, it was driving, stabilizing, and even decisive.

By emphasizing role models such as Lady Fatimah (peace be upon her), he sought to demonstrate that a Muslim woman can fulfill her responsibilities within the family while also playing an active role in broader social arenas. This perspective, in many ways, formed the theoretical foundation for women’s participation in the Islamic Revolution.

Women: The Hidden Yet Powerful Networks of the Revolution
Before the Revolution, Iranian women played a crucial role in creating the groundwork for spreading ideas, ▶ Page 7

The conditional visibility of Iranian women

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – A young woman removing her hijab on a Tehran street is often presented in Western media as an uncomplicated image of defiance. Yet such a scene, repeatedly extracted and circulated, belongs to a broader and more layered social reality in which women’s choices, constraints, and political positions cannot be reduced to a single interpretive frame. These images circulate through Western social media feeds, accompany op-eds in major newspapers, and inform diplomatic statements about freedom and human dignity. Their visibility, however, is never neutral. It is organized within a circumscribed frame that renders Iranian women intelligible only insofar as their experiences can be absorbed into pre-existing narratives of “oppression” and secular emancipation.

What happens when women fall outside this frame? When their suffering cannot be stabilized into the familiar figure that match Western narratives? The current moment, as military tensions escalate across the region, exposes the conditional structure of attention with unusual clarity. The same publications that once amplified images of unveiled Iranian women now maintain near silence as Iranian cities face bombardment, as women shelter under uncertain conditions, and as the infrastructure sustaining daily life comes under sustained pressure.

This is not inconsistency in coverage. It reflects a more fundamental distribution of visibility in the contemporary visual economy of human rights. Recognition is not evenly allocated but structured through compatibility with dominant narrative forms. ▶ Page 7