

After 40 Days of Iran's Resistance a Fragile Two-Week Ceasefire

US and Israel break ceasefire hours after announcement, leaving Iran doubtful they're serious about peace



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Photo shows wreckage of destroyed U.S. aircraft in southern Esfahan

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100th wave of True Promise 4: IRGC warns any miscalculation will be met with escalated retaliation

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned the United States and Israel that any further miscalculation will be met with an escalated level of retaliation. Iran carried out major strikes against US and Israeli targets in the region before President Donald Trump agreed to suspend attacks on Iran for a two-week period.

On Wednesday, the IRGC announced that it had launched the 100th wave of Operation True Promise 4. In a statement, the IRGC said it "dealt crushing blows to more than 25 strategic targets of the malicious and aggressive enemies, including 13 energy complexes and oil pipelines linked to the US and the Zionist regime, 10 military, security, and logistical targets, as well as several technological and infrastructure sites." ► Page 2

Iran declares 'victory' as ceasefire with US takes hold, but warns Israel over strikes on Lebanon

TEHRAN — One day after a cease-fire with the United States took effect, Iran's leadership on Wednesday proclaimed a historic victory born of national sacrifice and resilience, even as senior officials warned that continued Israeli attacks on Lebanon would be treated as an assault on Iran itself — a threat that could quickly unravel the truce.

The war erupted on Feb. 28 after a coordinated U.S. Israeli campaign that included the assassination and martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, along with several top commanders. Over more than a month of fighting, Iran absorbed heavy losses in civilian areas while also inflicting significant blows on enemy positions, fundamentally reshaping the strategic balance in the region, according to Iranian officials.

"The fruit of the blood of our martyred leader"

President Masoud Pezeshkian described the ceasefire as "the fruit of unity and sacrifice," saying it reflected both the will of the Iranian people and the enduring legacy of the martyred leader. ► Page 3

'In Memory of the Butterflies of Minab': Tehran hosts massive mourning ceremony for martyred students

TEHRAN- A grand commemorative ceremony titled "In Memory of the Butterflies of Minab" was held in Tehran on Tuesday to mark the 40th day since the martyrdom of schoolchildren in Minab.

The special program was organized by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA)-Kanoon in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

In a poignant tribute, hundreds of Tehran's students attended the ceremony wearing their school uniforms and holding Iranian flags to honor their fallen peers from Minab.

Addressing the crowd, world-renowned filmmaker Majid Majidi expressed his gratitude to the Iranian armed forces and praised the public's resilience. "The enthusiastic and spontaneous presence of the Iranian people in these gatherings is no less significant than being on the front lines of the war against the American-Zionist regime," he stated.

Expressing deep sorrow over the tragedy in Minab, Majidi added: "I am certain that Iran's warriors will avenge the blood of these innocent children and citizens." ► Page 8

Israel violates ceasefire with brutal attacks on Lebanon; Iran closes Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN - Israel is openly violating the ceasefire reached between Iran and the United States by carrying out deadly attacks in Lebanon, despite the truce being intended to pause regional hostilities.

The ceasefire was agreed upon between Tehran and Washington through mediation by Pakistan.

"With the greatest humility, I am pleased to announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America, along with their allies, have agreed to an immediate ceasefire everywhere, including Lebanon and elsewhere, effective immediately," Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in the early hours of Wednesday.

Under the agreement, Israel was expected to halt its attacks on Lebanon. The ceasefire was based on Iran's 10-point proposal, which US President Donald Trump described as "a workable basis on which to negotiate." Iran and the United States are scheduled to begin talks in Islamabad on Friday after Trump announced a two-week halt to all attacks.

Nonetheless, on Wednesday, the Israeli military car-

ried out a large wave of airstrikes across Lebanon, with reports of high casualties nationwide. Hospitals have been overwhelmed, and many people are believed to be trapped under collapsed buildings. Israel described the operation as the largest wave of airstrikes in the current conflict.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's continued warmongering has drawn sharp criticism, including from Iran's former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"The wanted Israeli war criminal and his accomplice in the Persian Gulf are terrified of peace. They blackmailed and bribed the US, dragging it into this war, and are now desperately sabotaging the ceasefire, pulling the world back into the abyss. Stop them before they succeed!" Zarif wrote on X.

Late on Wednesday, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement warning of a regret-inducing response if Israel does not stop its attacks in Lebanon.

"We strongly warn the treacherous United States and its murderous Zionist partner: if acts of aggression

against Lebanon are not immediately stopped, we will fulfill our duty and respond in a way the wicked aggressors in the region will regret," the IRGC said.

Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Mousavi, commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, confirmed that the military is preparing a strong response to Israeli attacks.

"Aggression against Hezbollah is aggression against Iran. The battlefield is preparing a heavy response to the regime's brutal crimes," he said.

Meanwhile, an informed source told Tasnim News Agency that Iran may exit the ceasefire agreement with the United States if Israel continues its attacks on Lebanon, describing them as ongoing violations of the truce.

In a rebuke to Netanyahu's warmongering, the source added: "If the United States cannot restrain its rabid dog in the region, Iran will exceptionally assist it in doing so — by force." ► Page 2

Failure to condemn attacks on Iran's heritage makes the world complicit, Italian archaeologist warns

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN - The recent U.S. and Israeli military strikes on Iran, which began on February 28, have triggered widespread concern over the safety of the country's historical and cultural heritage. Reports indicate that prominent sites, including the Golestan Palace and the Naqsh-e Jahan Square, have sustained damage, highlighting the potential for irreversible losses to monuments that reflect centuries of Iranian civilization.

In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Pierfrancesco Callieri, a professor of Iranian archaeology ► Page 6



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Members of Iran's Christian minority gather at the Saint Sarkis Church in Tehran to mark the fortieth day of mourning for the martyrdom of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on April 8, 2026.

Iranians prepare to mark late Leader's 40th day of martyrdom

TEHRAN - Iranians from all walks of life are preparing to commemorate the 40th day since the martyrdom of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated during the first day of the joint US-Israeli strike on Iran on February 28.

On Wednesday, the official ceremony marking this solemn occasion was held at the historic Saint Sarkis Church in Tehran, attended by prominent figures including Seyyed Abbas Salehi, Iran's Minister of Culture. Similar ceremonies were observed across the country in the days leading up to the 40th day, reflecting the deep respect and reverence Iranians hold for the late Leader. ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Unlawful war against Iran

Shargh, in its editorial, refers to the illegitimate US-Israel war against Iran. They have left nothing of international law intact in this war and have not refrained from committing any war crime against Iran. The attack on Iran cannot be justified under any legal basis: it was not authorized by the UN Security Council, it cannot be considered legitimate self-defense because Iran had not attacked the United States, and it cannot be framed as a pre-emptive strike because Iran had taken no action that could be interpreted as a clear indication of an imminent attack. Under the Convention on the Law of the Sea, Iran has the right to close the Strait of Hormuz. The United States or any other government has no legal right to use force to reopen the strait or use such a claim as a pretext for war. The editorial concludes that the US-Israel war against Iran and its people is unlawful in every respect and constitutes a broad, explicit violation of humanitarian law.

Etemad: Negotiation is not a sign of weakness but the result of a shift in the balance of power

Etemad, in an interview with political activist Mohammad Mohajeri, discusses the war and Iran's approach to it. Mohajeri argues that Iran has moved its military capabilities from the theoretical realm into real battlefield testing. Iran not only did not collapse under pressure but continued its counterattacks, demonstrating that external military threats cannot easily dismantle the country's political and security structure. No war can continue indefinitely; eventually, every conflict reaches a point where the parties must discuss a ceasefire or an agreement. Iran, by relying on its deterrent power and by exerting pressure on US and Israeli interests, has established itself as an actor that cannot be ignored. Under such conditions, negotiation is not a sign of weakness but the outcome of a changed balance of power.

Farhikhtegan: Iran's plan; using the geopolitical lever to achieve a sustainable end to the war

Farhikhtegan examined Iran's plan for ending the war. The newspaper stated: Based on Iran's general positions throughout the war, Iran's demands likely include the following: a complete halt to the war, benefiting from the Strait of Hormuz, lifting of sanctions, and flexibility in the nuclear file. The core of Iran's plan is preserving the leverage of the Strait of Hormuz. The Strait of Hormuz guarantees

'No to War': Former diplomats condemn Argentina's Middle East policy

A statement spearheaded by former Argentine ambassador Alicia Castro, issued before Iran and the United States agreed to a two-week ceasefire, brings together former ambassadors, scholars, and activists under the slogan "No to War" to denounce Argentina's Middle East policy and the government's alignment with the United States and Israel, warning of its institutional and geopolitical consequences.

The document expresses rejection of the stance taken by the government of Javier Milei regarding the conflict in the Middle East and warns of a potential break with the historical principles of Argentina's foreign policy. The statement gathers more than twenty signatures from former Argentine diplomatic representatives, alongside Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and human rights leaders such as Taty Almeida, among others. The signatories express "deep concern" over statements attributed to the President, the Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno, and the Minister of Defense, which—according to the document—suggest the country's involvement in a war without institutional authorization. The seriousness is not rhetorical. Phrases such as "Iran is our enemy" or "we are going to win the war" imply, in political and legal terms, a level of commitment incompatible with Argentina's formal status: the country is not at war and has not fulfilled the constitutional procedure required to declare one. The warning is clear: any decision of that nature requires the intervention of the National Congress, in accordance with Articles 75, subsections 22 and 25 of the Constitution. The document also denounces an

automatic alignment with the United States and Israel that, lacking parliamentary backing, compromises the country's strategic autonomy and conditions its sovereign decision-making. In this regard, it questions the Foreign Ministry's support for military actions in the region, arguing that such positions contradict core principles of international law: the prohibition of the use of force and the obligation to resolve disputes through peaceful means. But the critique goes beyond legal concerns. The signatories warn of a political drift: the abandonment of a diplomatic tradition grounded in non-intervention, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and respect for state sovereignty. What is at stake is not merely a specific situation, but a shift in paradigm. Concern deepens in light of reports about a potential deployment of troops or the conduct of military exercises without legislative authorization. In this context, the statement describes as "irresponsible" those official remarks that downplay the risks of involvement in the conflict. The document also situates this shift within a broader framework: the government's position regarding the situation in Gaza and its silence in the face of other episodes of violence in the region. Here, the denunciation becomes even sharper: this is not only a diplomatic deviation, but a possible discursive complicity with state violence. The statement concludes with a direct appeal: to Congress, to society, to Argentina's political history. A call to reaffirm a principle that, in this context, ceases to be a slogan and becomes an urgent necessity.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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Nonetheless, on Wednesday, the Israeli military carried out a large wave of airstrikes across Lebanon, with reports of high casualties nationwide. Hospitals have been overwhelmed, and many people are believed



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli attack that targeted an area in Tyre, southern Lebanon, on April 8 [AFP].

to be trapped under collapsed buildings. Israel described the operation as the largest wave of airstrikes in the current conflict.

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Under the 10-point plan, Iran agreed to allow normal transit of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz via coordination mechanisms. Ship-tracking service MarineTraffic reported that the first vessels passed through the strait on Wednesday.

However, later on Wednesday, Fars News Agency reported that Iran had once again closed the Strait of Hormuz, blocking oil tankers in retaliation for Israeli strikes on Hezbollah.

Since the outset of the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which began on February 28, Iran has maintained full control of the waterway, allowing passage only to vessels not affiliated with the US or Israel and those uninvolved in the aggression against Iran.

'Military moron': International community praises Iran-US ceasefire following Trump's missteps

TEHRAN – In a diplomatic triumph for Iran, the United States has agreed to a two-week suspension of all attacks, following President Donald Trump's capitulation to Tehran's comprehensive 10-point peace plan. The announcement comes after a failed joint military operation by the US and Israel against Iran on February 28, highlighting Tehran's ability to dictate terms and assert its strategic position in the region. Analysts note that the ceasefire underscores Iran's growing influence and the limits of American military intervention.

The ceasefire has drawn responses from leaders and organizations around the world, highlighting both Iran's diplomatic leverage and the international community's emphasis on negotiation over military escalation.

Reactions in the US

The war on Iran has become increasingly unpopular in the United States, even among Trump supporters and segments of the Republican Par-

ty. Democratic lawmakers have voiced strong opposition, with some calling for the president's removal from office. Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer delivered a scathing critique on X, saying: "Trump is a military moron. His war, with a price tag of \$44 billion and \$4+ gas, made us worse off today than we were when he started it. And if he restarts this war we will be in even worse shape. We must pass our War Powers Resolution to end this war for good."

Pakistan leads regional mediation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country mediates the truce, thanked Pakistan's partners—including China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, and Qatar—for their "invaluable and all-out support" in facilitating the ceasefire. Sharif highlighted that the collective diplomatic effort allowed for a "comprehensive and conclusive end to the conflict" and demonstrated the effectiveness of regional cooperation over external military pressure.

India calls for diplomacy

India welcomed the ceasefire and stressed the importance of dialogue and de-escalation. The Indian Foreign Ministry underscored the need for uninterrupted navigation and trade through the Strait of Hormuz, noting that regional conflict had already disrupted global energy supplies and trade networks.

China supports peace efforts

China hailed the ceasefire and voiced support for the mediation led by Pakistan. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning reiterated that disputes in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf must be resolved through political and diplomatic channels, ensuring long-term stability. Mao emphasized that China had also actively contributed to mediation efforts.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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The statement emphasized that Iranian forces remain ready and "have their fingers on the trigger," calling on US allies in the region to

witness the impotence of Washington and Tel Aviv, and to end collaboration with the "enemies of Islam." The IRGC vowed to respond to any aggression with an even greater level of force.

Targets struck by missiles and drones

Chevron's Ras al-Ju'aymah Facility (Saudi Arabia): Largest NGL fractionation plant and a key US energy supplier

ExxonMobil & Dow Chemical (Jubail, Saudi Arabia): Major petrochemical and oil facilities

Yanbu Facilities (Red Sea Coast, Saudi Arabia): US-linked oil plants with 250,000 bpd capacity

Habshan-Fujairah Pipeline: Strategic asset designed to bypass the Strait of Hormuz

ExxonMobil Ras Laffan (Qatar): Oil and gas facility, 146,000 bpd capacity

BAPCO (Bahrain): US-linked refinery producing 267,000 bpd

Das Island Refinery (UAE): Pro-

cesses 60,000 bpd of crude

Fujairah Storage Hub (UAE): US oil storage facilities, 1 million cubic meters capacity

Al-Ahmadi Refinery (Kuwait): Strategic refinery, 346,000 bpd capacity

Dolphin Energy (Qatar): US-linked gas export company, 2 billion cubic feet/day

Zirku Island (UAE): Oil production hub, 750,000 bpd capacity

SATORP Refinery (Saudi Arabia): 460,000 bpd plant providing fuel for power stations

Manifa Gas/Oil Plant (Saudi Arabia): Major separation facility, 900,000 bpd capacity

Beersheba Technology Centers (Israel): Advanced IT and industrial sectors

Tel Aviv Intelligence Hubs (Israel): Military and SIGINT centers in Azrieli and Diamond Towers

CENTCOM HQ (Al-Azraq, Jordan): Key command infrastructure destroyed

Ben Gurion Airport (Lod/Jaffa, Israel): Primary logistics hub targeted

Haifa Refinery (Israel): Oil processing plant, 300,000 bpd

Governmental Quarter (Occupied Al-Quds/Jerusalem): Command and control centers of the "Zionist regime"

Maritime and military strikes

The statement noted that the IRGC Navy continues to exercise control over maritime passages in the Strait of Hormuz. Additional targets struck include:

USS Tripoli (LHA-7): Hit by cruise missiles; reported fire on deck and retreat to the Indian Ocean

USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74): Hit by multiple drones; sustained hull damage and retreated

Israeli Drone Factory (UAE): Completely neutralized

US-linked oil facilities in Kuwait

Ali Al Salem Air Base (Kuwait): Targeted as a hub for US military operations

Iranians prepare to mark late Leader's 40th day of martyrdom

TEHRAN – Iranians from all walks of life are preparing to commemorate the 40th day since the martyrdom of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated during the first day of the joint US-Israeli strike on Iran on February 28.

On Wednesday, the official ceremony marking this solemn occasion was held at the his-

toric Saint Sarkis Church in Tehran, attended by prominent figures including Seyyed Abbas Salehi, Iran's Minister of Culture. Similar ceremonies were observed across the country in the days leading up to the 40th day, reflecting the deep respect and reverence Iranians hold for the late Leader.

Religious institutions and media outlets across Iran have also organized commem-

orations, highlighting Ayatollah Khamenei's enduring legacy and his lifelong dedication to the nation and the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

These ceremonies underscore the unity and resolve of the Iranian people, who continue to honor their Leader's vision and sacrifice while reaffirming their commitment to the country's sovereignty and independence.

After 40 days of Iran's resistance a fragile two-week ceasefire

US and Israel break ceasefire hours after announcement, leaving Iran doubtful they're serious about peace

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN — After 40 days of war, Iran and the United States have agreed to a two-week ceasefire to negotiate based on a 10-point peace plan that Iran submitted through Pakistan last week. The first round of talks is scheduled for Friday in Islamabad—provided that Israel does not succeed in destroying the ceasefire, which it began violating just hours after the agreement was announced by Pakistan and the warring parties.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, a country that maintains good relations with both Iran and the United States, was the first to break the news. In a post on X, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated that the ceasefire halts the exchange of fire between Iran and the United States, as well as Israeli bombing of Lebanon. He expressed hope that the Islamabad Talks would achieve “sustainable peace” in West Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump said in a social media post that Washington had deemed Iran's 10-point plan “a workable basis on which to negotiate.”

U.S. War Secretary Pete Hegseth claimed during a press conference on Wednesday that the Trump administration had achieved all of its war objectives, which included preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. He added that Iran no longer has “any sort of a comprehensive air defense system” and that “their missile program is functionally destroyed.”

Iran has never moved toward developing nuclear weapons—a fact confirmed by the most comprehensive inspection regime of the IAEA, which had been ongoing since 2015 until the U.S. bombed Iran's nuclear facilities in June and claimed to have “obliterated” them. Iranians participated in a second round of negotiations with Washington in February to reach a deal that



would limit their nuclear program and ensure it would not develop nuclear weapons, but the Trump administration derailed those talks as well by launching the recent war on February 28. According to a fatwa (religious decree) issued by the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Iranians are not permitted to develop nuclear weapons. His son, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, who now succeeds him, has yet to repeal that decree.

Hegseth's claims about degrading Iran's missile program and air defense systems also lack evidence on the ground. Iran continuously fired missiles and drones at U.S. bases across seven countries, as well as at Israel, since the war began. In its latest wave of attacks—the 100th, conducted on Wednesday—it struck 25 positions across Israel and the Persian Gulf. Iran also kept the Strait of Hormuz closed to ships belonging to hostile governments throughout the entire war, and for the next 14 days, vessels will only be allowed passage in coordination with Iran's military.

During his briefing, Hegseth asserted, “Iran begged for this ceasefire—and we all know it... Operation Epic Fury was a historic and overwhelming victory on the battlefield.” However, sources

have told the Tehran Times that the U.S. War Secretary's remarks are completely false, and that it was Washington that “begged” Iran for a ceasefire.

US lost a war it began due to delusions

Analysts say Trump's war was based on a miscalculation: by assassinating Ayatollah Khamenei on the first day of the war and carrying out a relentless bombing campaign on civilian sites, they believed either the Iranian people would topple the Islamic Republic or the government would be forced to capitulate. Some reports suggest Israel was the mastermind behind the war.

Instead, Iranians rallied behind the Islamic Republic, taking to the streets nightly to express support for their government despite non-stop U.S.-Israeli bombardment. Iranian officials also refused to back down, and despite the constant threat of assassination, stated they would carry out their duties and gladly die for their country. Multiple high-ranking Iranian officials, including Security Chief Ali Larjani, were assassinated over the past 40 days, but each was replaced by an equally determined successor.

The Trump administration also grossly underestimated Iran's

military strength, analysts say. Reports suggest at least 70% of American bases across West Asia now lie in ruins. Energy prices have increased significantly due to the situation at the Strait of Hormuz, and the global economic fallout is expected to persist even if the war ends indefinitely.

Iran has stated it remains ready to resume all-out war against U.S. and Israeli interests should it determine that Americans are once again not serious about diplomacy. In a statement, the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the body overseeing the war, said it would await the outcome of the negotiations but affirmed that it has its “finger on the trigger.”

Hebrew media reports indicate that Israel is unhappy with the ceasefire and the prospect of an agreement. The regime's actions have confirmed those reports. Israel attacked an oil refinery on southern Lavan Island on Wednesday morning, to which Iran responded by striking U.S.-linked energy sites in the UAE and Kuwait.

Israel also carried out one of its deadliest massacres against Lebanon after the ceasefire was announced, killing and injuring hundreds of people in bombings across Beirut. Sources have told Fars News Agency that Iran is preparing to respond to those attacks as well.

Joe Kent, former director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Centre, who resigned in March in protest of the war against Iran, said in a video message posted on X that Washington must ensure that “Israelis do not sabotage” the ceasefire agreement between the U.S. and Iran.

“The last thing we need is the Israelis doing what they have done in past negotiations—targeting the negotiators or taking a series of strikes that escalates the conflict,” Kent stated.

Japan and Pakistan PMs call Iranian president as ceasefire holds; Tehran Confirms Attendance at Islamabad Talks

TEHRAN — In separate telephone calls following the temporary ceasefire between Iran and the United States, the prime ministers of Japan and Pakistan have spoken with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. While Japan stressed the urgency of reducing tensions and ensuring safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, Pakistan received Tehran's formal confirmation that it will take part in upcoming negotiations in Islamabad.

According to a statement from the Japanese Prime Minister's office, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi welcomed the recent

joint announcement by the United States and Iran on a ceasefire as a positive development.

The Japanese leader further noted that the most critical issue now is to steadily achieve reduced tensions, including ensuring navigational safety through the Strait of Hormuz. She expressed hope that a final agreement would be reached swiftly through diplomatic channels.

In a separate call, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked Iran for its wisdom and constructive stance in accepting Pakistan's proposal for a temporary ceasefire

and subsequent negotiations with the United States.

President Pezeshkian, in turn, appreciated the efforts of senior Pakistani officials in helping to broker the temporary truce and extended his best wishes to the people of Pakistan.

Crucially, the Iranian president confirmed that the Islamic Republic will participate in the upcoming talks scheduled to take place in Islamabad, paving the way for the next phase of diplomatic engagement between Tehran and Washington.

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.”

Iran declares ‘Victory’ as ceasefire with US takes hold, but warns Israel over strikes on Lebanon



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The war erupted on Feb. 28 after a coordinated U.S. Israeli campaign that included the assassination and martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, along with several top commanders. Over more than a month of fighting, Iran absorbed heavy losses in civilian areas while also inflicting significant blows on enemy positions, fundamentally reshaping the strategic balance in the region, according to Iranian officials.

‘The fruit of the blood of our martyred leader’

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“The ceasefire is the fruit of the blood of our martyred leader and the achievement of the presence of all the people on the scene,” Pezeshkian said, adding that national solidarity across diplomatic, military and social fronts had been the decisive factor in ending the war. “From today onward, we will continue to stand side by side. Our unity is a victory.”

Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref called the past 40 days a defining chapter in modern Iranian history. While confirming that Iran would take part in upcoming negotiations in Islamabad, he stressed that Tehran would enter the talks with “absolute pessimism” about American intentions.

“The enemy believed that by removing a great leader, they could bring an end to this path,” Aref said. “But the Iranian nation showed that this path is rooted in faith, unity, and resistance. The calculations of the enemy have been disrupted.”

‘A clear Strategic defeat’ for Washington

Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to the leader, described Washington's acceptance of the cease fire as “a clear strategic defeat.” He emphasized that Iran's armed forces remained on full alert, warning that any violation of the truce would be met with a “decisive and deterrent response.”

Velayati framed the outcome within a broader global transformation, asserting that in the emerging multipolar world, Iran was no longer merely a state but “an axis of power” shaping new geopolitical realities.

‘Finger on the trigger’

In a post on X on Wednesday, Mohsen Rezaei, a member of Iran's Expediency Discernment Council, said that after “retreating three times, the bully US President Trump was finally forced to accept Iran's 10-point plan as the basis for negotiations.” He credited the resistance of the Iranian people, the bravery of the armed forces, and the guidance of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, the new leader.

“Nevertheless,” Rezaei added, “the armed forces’ fingers are on the trigger to ensure that the country's interests are fully secured.”

‘True victory lies in vigilance’

The theme of continued readiness was

echoed by Mohammad Mokhber, a senior adviser to the leader. In remarks, he said that true victory lay in vigilance. Citing a few factors, the wisdom and guidance of the leader, the sacrifice and courage of the armed forces, and the dignity of the Iranian people, he said these elements had placed “global arrogance” in such a condition.

Mokhber affirmed that the Islamic Republic's strategy remains steadfast, emphasizing the continued presence of the people and the active engagement of the armed forces under the commander-in-chief's direction. He concluded that vigilance is key to true victory.

Israeli strikes on Lebanon: ‘An attack on Iran’

Even as the ceasefire with Washington held, a new flashpoint emerged. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, a member of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, declared that continued Israeli attacks on Lebanon, despite the ceasefire agreement, constituted a clear violation of commitments and should be regarded as an attack on Iran itself.

Speaking to the Mehr News Agency, Boroujerdi noted that the 10-point ceasefire text explicitly stated that none of the countries in the “resistance axis” should be targeted. “The Zionist regime's recent action in striking Lebanon shows its complete disregard for its obligations and the rules of the ceasefire,” he said.

He called for a decisive response, stating that Iran's Supreme National Security Council must make the necessary decisions. “Any action — political, propaganda or even military — should be taken in defense of the resistance and in support of Lebanon's Hezbollah,” he emphasized.

Boroujerdi added that other resistance axis countries, including Yemen and Iraq, should also take measures to defend the Lebanese people. Referring to recent attacks on infrastructure and various areas of Lebanon, including the capital, he said the Lebanese army must act to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Commenting on an assassination attempt against Nabih Berri, the speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, Boroujerdi said: “These actions show that the Zionist regime recognizes no boundaries or red lines. Such behavior, more than anything, reflects the regime's defeat in the court of public opinion — even within the occupied territories and among Israel's own internal parties.”

As the dust of war begins to settle, the dominant narrative inside Iran is one of defiant unity. But with Israeli strikes continuing on Lebanon and Tehran vowing to treat them as attacks on Iranian soil, the ceasefire remains dangerously fragile — and the region is watching closely.

Iranian officials have repeatedly stressed that the ceasefire does not mark the end of confrontation but rather a shift in the battlefield — from military engagement to a diplomatic struggle. The upcoming negotiations, mediated by Pakistan and scheduled for Islamabad, are expected to focus on Iran's proposed framework, including sanctions relief, regional security arrangements, and guarantees of non-aggression.

Turkey, 3rd top non-oil export destination of Iran in a year

TEHRAN- According to a report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Turkey was the third top destination of Iran's non-oil products in the past Iranian calendar year 1404 (ended on March 20).

In early December 2025, a Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) delegation, visiting the Plast Eurasia 2025 exhibition in Istanbul, met with a group of board members and managers of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

In this meeting, both sides, referring to the longstanding friendly, cultural, and economic relations between Iran and Turkey, emphasized strengthening connections through the exchange of trade delegations, participation in exhibitions, and joint investment.

Munur Ustun, a member of the executive board of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, referring to the memorandum of understanding signed between the two chambers last year, described the presence of Iranian companies in Turkey and specialized exhibitions as valuable and stated: "The current volume of trade between the two countries falls short of the existing potential."

He then addressed the impact of global economic developments and the constraints caused by sanctions, and emphasizing the need to facilitate the foreign trade environment and create a secure path for private sector cooperation, said that direct meetings between merchants are an important step to compensate for shortcomings.

Addressing the meeting, Hervik Yarijanian, head of the TCCIMA Industry and Mining Committee, stated that with over 47,000 members, this chamber has extensive capacity for cooperation with Turkish economic actors, adding: "The social, political, and cultural relations between the two countries are at a high level, but the level of trade exchange does not correspond with these realities. Therefore, through the exchange of trade delegations, participation in exhibitions, and joint investment, cooperation between the two countries can be strengthened."

He also invited the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce to travel to Tehran as a trade delegation to further expand the grounds for joint cooperation.

Subsequently, Hesameddin Hallaj, deputy for international affairs and trade development at the TCCIMA, referring to the continuous dispatch of trade delegations in recent years and the active presence of the Tehran Chamber at Plast Eurasia 2025, said: "Face-to-face dialogues between Iranian and Turkish actors can lead to the development of economic relations."

He also announced the continuation of cooperation between the two chambers based on last year's memorandum of understanding and expressed hope that the Tehran Chamber would soon host a delegation of Turkish merchants.

During this meeting, Kamran Davari-Nikou, Consul General of Iran in Istanbul, referring to the increase in the trade between the two countries to \$19.4 billion, said the diversity of Iran's export goods to Turkey has increased from 700 items in previous years to 1,383 items.

Referring to the presence of 45 Iranian companies at the Plast Eurasia exhibition and several dispatched trade delegations, he described this trend as a sign of the high potential for economic cooperation between Iran and Turkey.

Uzcan Tokul, Deputy Secretary General of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, in his remarks, deemed the current trade volume between Iran and Turkey insufficient and stated that the Istanbul Chamber would seriously continue its policy of receiving and supporting Iranian trade delegations.

At the end of this meeting, it was also decided that the Tehran Chamber of Commerce would prepare the groundwork for a trade delegation to travel to Tehran through official correspondence.

The TCCIMA delegation, visiting the Plast Eurasia 2025 exhibition, also met with senior officials of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry, proposing strategic partnerships between Iranian and Turkish private-sector compa-



nies, particularly in technology-driven sectors.

During the joint session, both sides highlighted the long-standing commercial ties between Iran and Turkey and agreed to strengthen industrial cooperation through B2B meetings and reciprocal expert delegations.

Mehmet Akif Meral, director of international and EU affairs at the Istanbul Chamber of Industry, introduced the body as an institution with 23,000 members established in 1923. He described past cooperation with Iran as positive, citing a 2013 business mission to Tehran and multiple meetings in recent years on technology, energy and industry.

He said the chamber maintains extensive links with Europe and neighboring markets and actively participates in global exhibitions, including major events in Chicago and the Netherlands.

Meral outlined measures taken in response to U.S. tariff shifts, noting that the chamber supports Turkish manufacturers through market advisory services, specialized training and e-commerce development programs. He added that 40 percent of Turkey's exports go to Europe, where the chamber plays a central role in maintaining industrial ties.

Hervik Yarijanian, head of the TCCIMA Industry and Mining Committee, said current trade levels fall short of the two countries' long-standing economic links. He called for closer coordination between the Tehran Chamber and the Istanbul Chamber of Industry and invited a Turkish industrial delegation to visit Tehran.

Also, business delegations from Turkey's Van province and Iranian industrial representatives held talks in Tehran in mid-December 2025 on ways to remove trade barriers and expand bilateral industrial and commercial cooperation, officials said.

The meeting brought together members of a Van-based trade delegation, Iranian industrialists and the head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s industry and mining committee.

Hervik Yarijanian, head of the committee, said the Iranian and Turkish economies are both on a path of growth and that closer links between private-sector players could boost trade, encourage joint investment and help both sides make better use of existing capacities.

He proposed exchanges of industrial experts and engineers, the removal of customs obstacles and a stronger role for Van as a transit hub for goods moving between the two countries.

Mehrdad Saadat Dehghan, head of the Iran-Turkey Joint Chamber of Commerce, said the two countries have nearly three decades of experience in cross-border trade but that the scale of exchanges has fallen short of expectations. He said broader cooperation, with the Tehran chamber playing a central role, could help unlock new opportunities.

Ali Sadri, vice head of the Tehran chamber's industry and mining committee, said Tehran province is home to around 19,000 industrial and mining operators, including companies active in agro-processing, metals and non-metallic minerals. He said there is scope to connect Turkish traders and industrialists from Van with Iranian companies based in Tehran's industrial zones.

Mehmet Tashan, head of the Van branch of the HAKSIAD industrialists and traders association, said businesses in the province, Turkey's closest region to Iran, are keen to raise trade volumes with Iranian partners.

He stressed the need to address transport and connectivity challenges and said commercial ties could be expanded through HAKSIAD's representation in Iran.

Global economic bodies unite to assess US-Israeli war with Iran fallout on energy, food

TEHRAN- After the US and Israel attacked on February 28, Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, sending the price of crude oil and liquefied natural gas sharply higher.

The international Brent crude benchmark settled near \$110 on Monday, with cash benchmarks sourced to the West Asia at a substantial premium to that price.

The war in the West Asia will lead to higher inflation and slower global growth, the head of the International Monetary Fund told Reuters on Monday, ahead of a forecast for the world economy planned by the global lender for next week.

The war has triggered the worst-ever disruption in global energy supply, with millions of barrels of oil production shuttered due to Iran's effective blockage of the Strait of Hormuz, crucial for shipping one-fifth of the world's oil and gas. Even if the conflict is swiftly resolved, the IMF is set to reduce its forecast for economic growth and bump up its outlook for inflation, Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the IMF, said.

"We are in a world of elevated uncertainty," the IMF chief said, citing geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, climate shocks and demographic shifts. "All of this means that after we recover from this shock, we need to keep our eyes open for the next one."

The war has shrunk global oil supply by 13%, Georgieva said, with the impact rippling through oil and gas shipments and into related supply chains such as helium and fertilizers.

Even a rapid end to hostilities and a fairly rapid recovery will result in a "relatively small" downward revision of the growth forecast and an upward revision of its inflation forecast, she said. If the war is protracted, the effect on inflation and growth will be greater.

Poor, vulnerable countries with no energy reserves will be hardest hit, Georgieva added,



noting that many countries had little to no fiscal space to help their populations weather the price increases caused by the war, which in turn also increased the prospects of social unrest.

Broad energy subsidies were not the answer, she said, urging policymakers to avoid government payments that could further inflame inflationary pressures.

"Even if the war is to stop today, there would be a lingering negative impact to the rest of the world," she said.

The heads of the IMF, IEA and World Bank said last week they would form a coordinated effort to assess the energy and economic effects of the war.

Georgieva said the IMF was also engaging with the United Nations' World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization on food security.

The World Food Program said in mid-March that millions of people will face acute hunger if the war continues into June. Georgieva said

the IMF did not see a food crisis yet, but that could happen if the delivery of fertilizers was impaired.

Without steady fertilizer supplies, crop yields would drop sharply in the coming seasons, driving up food prices worldwide. Developing nations that rely on grain imports are especially vulnerable, as they already face high debt and weak currencies. The IMF, IEA and World Bank plan to release a joint assessment within weeks, aiming to identify the most exposed regions and propose emergency measures.

These could include targeted food aid, fertilizer distribution corridors, and temporary waivers on agricultural trade barriers. Officials stress that early coordination is key to preventing a full-blown hunger catastrophe. "We have a narrow window to act before planting cycles are disrupted," a World Bank spokesperson said. The three institutions have also invited agriculture ministers from G7 nations to a special session on fertilizer access next month.

Iran's engineering capabilities, pillar of resistance, reconstruction

TEHRAN- The Federation of Iranian Machinery and Equipment Industries announced in a statement: Engineering capabilities are the pillar of resistance and reconstruction, and the destruction of infrastructure will never be able to stop the national will for progress and self-reliance.

According to IRNA, the Federation of Iranian Machinery and Equipment Industries, in a statement on behalf of the industrial manufacturing sector of the country, while offering condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs resulting from the brutal aggression against our beloved homeland, condemned any attack on Iran's territorial integrity and vital in-

frastructure.

The federation considers the attack on the country's industrial infrastructure not only a crime against the national economy but also a declaration of war against the determination and constructive spirit of the Iranian nation.

"As a national umbrella organization in this field, we proudly declare that the main capital of Iran's machinery and equipment industry is not merely machines and hardware, but deep technical knowledge, engineering creativity, indigenous design capability, and skilled, experienced human resources. These are the capabilities that have built the country's industrial foundations over

decades, and today they will also be the pillar of resistance and reconstruction."

Although industrial infrastructure has been targeted by the enemy's blind attacks, what can never be destroyed is the collective wisdom, expertise, and national determination of Iranian industrialists. The Federation of Iranian Machinery and Equipment Industries, relying on human capital and technical knowledge, declares with full authority that, in cooperation with all members, specialized associations, and affiliated companies, it is ready to not only rebuild damaged factories, production lines, and equipment in the shortest possible time, but also revive them with higher standards and more

advanced technologies.

"We believe that Iranian engineering and construction capability can turn any ruin into an opportunity for a leap forward. This time, as always, the industrialists of this land, with their capable hands and up-to-date knowledge, will show that infrastructure destruction can never stop the national will for progress and self-reliance."

This statement is not merely an announcement of readiness; it is a historic commitment from Iran's machinery and equipment industry community to safeguard the country's industrial value chain and turn threats into golden opportunities for reconstruction.

'Private sector, flag bearer of food security, people's livelihoods during wartime'

TEHRAN- The Minister of Agriculture said that private sector traders and entrepreneurs have become the standard-bearers and frontrunners in protecting the people's food security and livelihoods during wartime conditions.

According to IRNA from the Ministry of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji met at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture with Samad Hassanzadeh, the chamber's president, board members, and other members. They discussed the process of producing and supplying basic commodities, the status of warehouse reserves, the registration process for essential goods, and market conditions.

The Minister of Agriculture, expressing gratitude for the efforts and support of traders and entrepreneurs, especially in the agricultural sector during the third imposed war period, stated: "The private sector once again stood alongside the government and the people at a historic and critical juncture, fully supporting the people's livelihoods and food security."

Noting that all basic commodities are now abundantly available in the market, he added: "Many entrepreneurs, during both the 12-day war and the Ramadan war, distributed basic goods widely in the market with minimal profit margins and even at no profit, so that the market would not face a price shock due to the war."

Nouri Ghezleji praised the sense of responsibility and the role played by the pri-

private sector in the country's crisis conditions, saying: "Private sector traders and entrepreneurs have become the flag bearers and vanguard in protecting the people's food security and livelihoods during wartime, and they did not allow the market's calm and stability to be disturbed in the slightest."

Referring to the favorable state of the country's basic commodity reserves, he said: "The strategic policy of the government is to support the private sector. Relying on this strategy, with the help of the people and economic activists, and through the cooperation and consultation of the Chamber of Commerce, just as we managed the difficult years of sanctions over the past four decades, we will also overcome the steep pass of this imposed war."

During the meeting, the president and a number of chamber members presented an analysis of the situation of basic commodities in global and domestic markets. They expressed appreciation for the support of the government and the private sector, the facilitation of the registration process for orders, imports, and customs clearance of goods at the country's ports, the implementation of the preferential foreign exchange rate plan, as well as the programs and actions of the Ministry of Agriculture in facilitating and accelerating trade affairs, market management, and ensuring food security during wartime conditions.

Also on April 5, the Minister of Agriculture, referring to the experience of a challenging

year marked by two wars, stated that despite having a population of 90 million, Iran has so far faced no shortage in the supply of essential goods and food.

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

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

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

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

The art of American capitulation

The world reacts to the ultimate TACO; threats of 'civilizational death' collapses into a humiliating negotiated retreat

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN — The announced two-week conditional ceasefire between Iran and the United States on April 8 stands as one of the most telling reversals in recent geopolitical history.

Only hours after U.S. President Donald Trump issued a final, bellicose ultimatum to "obliterate" the foundations of Iranian civilization, he stunned parts of the world by announcing a two-week conditional ceasefire.

This sudden pivot, mediated by Pakistan and built almost entirely upon Tehran's own 10-point framework, has been characterized by many observers around the world as a historic capitulation.

While global markets reacted with frantic relief, sending oil prices tumbling back below the \$100 mark, the analytical verdict is far more sobering for the West.

This is a definitive TACO moment, Trump Always Chickens Out, where maximalist threats of annihilation collapsed into a desperate search for an exit ramp.

'The biggest loss since Vietnam'

In the halls of the U.S. Congress and among the high priesthood of the foreign policy establishment, the sense of failure is palpable.

This was supposed to be the "final reckoning" for the Islamic Republic; instead, it has become a masterclass in American overreach.

Robert A. Pape, a preeminent voice on strategic air power, did not mince words, labeling the outcome a "huge strategic defeat for the U.S., the biggest loss since Vietnam."

The consensus among the adults in the room is that by accepting a deal on Tehran's terms, Washington has effectively crowned Iran as a fourth pole of world power.

The domestic backlash across the aisle highlights the depth of the humiliation.

Senator Chris Murphy slammed the administration for handing a "history-changing win to Iran," questioning how a campaign that began with threats of total destruction ended with the U.S. begging for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Even former Trump allies such



as former Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, Joe Kent, Alex Jones, and commentator Tucker Carlson have accepted the truth.

Former Congressman Adam Kinzinger called it the "biggest humiliation in American history," while Ben Rhodes described the entire episode as "profoundly shameful."

On social media, the acronym "TACO" trended globally as X users pointed out that Trump's "Art of the Deal" had transformed into the "Art of the Capitulation."

As veteran negotiator Aaron David Miller put it with weary resignation: "Iran has won another round."

'Donald, you came out looking like a duck'

If the mood in Washington is grim, the atmosphere in Tel Aviv is borderline apocalyptic.

The Israeli security establishment feels abandoned, left to pick up the pieces of a "security doctrine" that has been exposed as hollow.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's desperate attempt to frame the truce as a victory by excluding Lebanon and launching barbaric attacks on its civilians despite the ceasefire was immediately seen through by his rivals.

Yair Lapid, the leader of the opposition, delivered a scathing autopsy: "There has never been such a political disaster in all of our history. Netanyahu failed politically, failed strategically, and did not meet a single goal."

A stinging rebuke came from the Chairman of the Knesset National Security Committee, Tzvi Foghel, who mocked the Trump's sudden soft-pedaling: "Donald, you came out looking like a duck!"

This sentiment reflects a broader realization within Israel: they cannot fight Iran without

a total U.S. commitment that Washington is no longer willing or able to provide.

Former intelligence officials such as Danny Citrinowicz have observed that the 10 points Iran secured are not just concessions; they are a blueprint for a new regional architecture where Tehran is the primary architect.

Global relief, subtle rebuke

World leaders welcomed the de-escalation but framed it as a necessary step back from American brinkmanship.

French President Emmanuel Macron called it "a very good thing." German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and EU officials Ursula von der Leyen and Kaja Kallas spoke of "much-needed de-escalation" and a "step back from the edge."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer described "a moment of relief," while Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez condemned Trump's campaign outright.

Some of the Arab states in the Persian Gulf expressed cautious hope for a "comprehensive and permanent settlement."

China highlighted its diplomatic role, and Russia's Dmitry Medvedev declared the U.S. "one-track, aggressive, unprovoked attack" had suffered a "crushing defeat."

Pakistan's mediation itself with Beijing's involvement underscored a shifting order: non-Western actors now broker what Washington could not dictate.

A sovereign toll booth

Iran's defense strategy has masterfully highlighted that the global economy is the ultimate victim of Western aggression, ensuring that the world recognizes U.S. bellicosity as the primary threat to international

stability.

Tehran's management of the Strait of Hormuz has rendered the Carter Doctrine obsolete. This doctrine, built on the threat of military intervention and unilateral aggression to protect Washington's energy interests, no longer holds weight in the region.

During the 40 days of U.S.-Israeli aggression, oil surged past \$120 a barrel, threatening to bankrupt the very voters Trump needs for his political survival.

Iran's mosaic defense, a decentralized, resilient military structure, absorbed the impact of thousands of strikes while maintaining the capability to strike back at will.

This resilience forced the U.S. to realize that Maximum Pressure had no ceiling, while Iranian Maximum Resistance had no floor.

Now that the Islamabad talks are bound to begin, it is the U.S. that is negotiating from a position of exhaustion.

Analysts now refer to the Strait of Hormuz as Iran's sovereign toll booth, a reality that has accelerated the global move toward de-dollarization and shattered the myth of Western energy security. There is no turning back.

A stall in aggression

Despite the victory, the Iranian people and their leadership remain under no illusions: the war is not over.

This two-week pause may merely be a temporary stall in aggression, not a permanent peace.

The deep state in Washington and the wounded psychotic bloodthirsty hawks in Tel Aviv are already looking for ways to sabotage the ceasefire.

Vice President JD Vance, Washington's top negotiator, has already labeled the truce "fragile," and with Israel continuing its barbaric strikes in Lebanon, the sparks for a renewed conflagration are everywhere.

Morally and civilizationally, however, the damage to the Western ego is permanent.

The world has watched a sovereign, resilient nation stand its ground against a genocidal campaign of civilizational death and emerge with its dignity intact.

Resistance and power finally herald hope and permanent deal



TEHRAN — Iranians woke up on Wednesday morning with the good news of a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States mediated by neighboring country of Pakistan. The sides agreed to the ceasefire at the 11th hour, when most people in Iran were in asleep. However, some citizens stayed awake until late at night to see what would come out of the mediation talks.

During the two-week ceasefire that Iran also opens the vital Strait of Hormuz, delegates from Iran and the U.S. are going to hold talks on Iran's "10-point peace plan" that the U.S. has said is "a workable basis to negotiate."

That Iran strongly rejected some points in the initial U.S. 15-point proposal and finally Iran's plan was agreed as the cornerstone of the talks marks a victory for the Islamic Republic.

Iran's 10-point plan includes key issues that if the sides fully agree on it during the talks and if Israel does not violate the truce to undermine the talks, it will most likely put an end to nearly five decades of tensions between Iran and the United States that started to intensify over the last two decades.

The most important points in the plan are to recognize Iran's legitimate right to nuclear enrichment, termination of sanctions on the country by abolishing all UN sanctions resolutions, and non-aggression guarantees.

Iran succeeded to force the United States to consider its proposal through its 40 days of heroic resistance against relentless and heavy aerial attacks by the U.S. and Israel. The aggressors used bombs against Iran which are unprecedented in human history. They used different types of fighter jets, including F-35 warplanes that are the most sophisticated in the world. The U.S. also used B-2, B-1, B-52, A-10 and other advanced fighters as well as bunker busters and 5,000-pound bombs. The U.S. dropped \$5.6 billion worth of bombs on Iran in the first two days of war alone

Iran, as a country that came under attack suddenly and illegally, responded strongly and proportionately with its different types of highly-advanced precision guided missiles and drones to every kind of attack by the invaders.

Iran's resistance and response to the U.S. as the world's greatest superpower and Israel as a regional power have put Iran among the most powerful countries in the world.

Iran showed great resilience though it lost senior political, military and intelligence officials in the assassinations conducted by Israel and the United States. Even Iranian opposition figures, that some of them are now in jail or jailed before, as well as some Iranian opposition figures abroad wrote articles or issued messages or composed poems strongly backing resistance against the aggressors.

Writing an article in the New York Times on April 6, Professor Robert A. Pape from the University of Chicago said "the war is turning Iran into a major world power"—not through conventional parity but through control of 20 percent of global oil flows and an asymmetric toolkit that endurance renders unstoppable.

After the declaration of the ceasefire, Professor Pape also wrote on X: "Huge strategic defeat for the US, biggest loss since Vietnam. Shows the surge of Iran as the emerging 4th center of world power."

Ahmad Zeidabadi, a reformist political activist, wrote on his Telegram channel: "This ceasefire is a shining political victory for Iran,

which will be recorded not just in history but opens a prospect full of hope and confidence for our future days."

Hossein Mar'ashi, also a former pro-reform lawmaker, said in this war the Americans realized that they are facing "a strong Iran."

"Iran put on show defense capability, response to the enemy strikes and counter against U.S. (military) bases in the neighboring countries, and with its effective presence in the Strait of Hormuz proved that the world should react to the U.S. aggression," Mar'ashi told ISNA.

He also praised people's resistance, adding, "We should kiss the hands of armed forces."

Though we should wait and see what will finally come out from the planned negotiations in Islamabad, Iran surely will not compromise and must never compromise on certain key points, including an end to the illegal crippling sanctions against its citizens.

Iranians have been penalized for no crimes. They were subjected to war crimes and crimes against humanity in the now-suspended current war and 12-day war in June 2025. The attack on a primary school in Minab in the first day of the war on Feb. 28, the sinking of an unarmed warship in the Indian Ocean with 170 service members aboard, and attacks on residential houses are clear examples of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Iranian citizens have been under economic terrorism and suffered from shortage or lack of certain medicines which are available in the market in other countries. For example, some children suffered from butterfly skin disease due to economic and financial sanctions.

That Iran must never back down from insisting on the removal of unfair sanctions is that the United States has even introduced limits on foreign nationals who intend to visit Iran as tourists.

To choke off Iran economically, the Trump administration, in his first and second administration, has left no stone unturned.

Economic experts have given astounding figures about the costs of primary and secondary sanctions on Iran. The figures vary from about 1.5 to about 3 trillion dollars.

Iran has been punished for its nuclear program which was under the strict investigation of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Iran just suspended cooperation with the IAEA after Israel's Netanyahu with the help of the Trump administration struck Iran's nuclear facilities in June 2025. Again, Iran permitted the IAEA to inspect nuclear-related activities in sites other than those struck by Israel and the U.S.

In its 10-point ceasefire plan, Iran has again insisted said it is committed to the principle of not producing nuclear weapons.

Only extremists in Israel like Netanyahu and Christian-Zionist fanatics in the U.S. kept claiming that Iran was seeking to build nuclear arms, and unfortunately President Donald Trump repeated their claims like a parrot. And they finally pushed him toward a full-fledged war against Iran.

If Iran was really seeking to build nuclear arms, it had not accepted intensive inspections by the IAEA and had not held two years of intensive talks that led to the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) that was unexpectedly revoked by Trump in his first term.

What can be learned from this unprovoked and illegal war is that resistance brings hope and victory, and hopefully a permanent deal.

Can Israel Gaza strategy work in Southern Lebanon?

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN — Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the Israeli regime supports the Iran-U.S. ceasefire, but it does not include Lebanon.

His remarks contradict the statements by Iran and mediator Pakistan. They both insisted any ceasefire would include an end to the regime's aggression in Lebanon and Iran's allies.

Amid the regime's ongoing and indiscriminate aggression, Zionist officials claimed to have struck 100 targets in Lebanon on Wednesday and have previously vowed to occupy all Lebanese territory south of the Litani River.

Hezbollah meanwhile put out the following statement addressed to the Lebanese people: "Today, we stand on the threshold of a great and historic victory, one that will be achieved thanks to the sacrifices of the fighters, the blood of the martyrs, and your unmatched perseverance and endurance."

It added, "The treacherous and brutal enemy, seeking to escape the image of its defeat, may resort to deceptive acts in an attempt to fabricate the illusion of an achievement it failed to se-

cure on the battlefield."

Also on Wednesday, new evacuation orders were issued by the regime's military to the residents of southern Lebanon. These orders are becoming increasingly similar to the regime's genocidal war on Gaza.

When comparing Lebanon and Gaza in favor of Lebanon, and considering the superiority of the Israeli regime's military power in both situations, it is hard to imagine how this power can overcome the differences when applying a repeated plan in a different context.

Maneuvers by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in its continuous aggression in southern Lebanon, following a strategy of rapid movement with intense penetration south of the Litani River combines three military doctrines:

Maneuver warfare: This aims to disrupt Hezbollah's military power by using rapid movement as an alternative to the doctrine of a decisive blow. It differs from gradual destruction tactics and relies on fast, multi-pronged advances, seeking weak points to strike while avoiding direct confrontation.



This is accompanied by tactical withdrawals and repositioning without the need for permanent occupation, especially in the deep southern towns, except for certain areas that the regime has occupied since the 2024 ceasefire, which can be controlled due to their strategic depth in protecting the continuous movement of the occupation regime's airborne forces, who cannot dig trenches or establish infrastructure, even temporarily.

The IOF had previously applied this model during its phases of aggression in the Gaza Strip, especially during the conquest of northern Gaza City after Eyal Zameer became Chief of Staff,

following the resignation of Herzl Halevi. It now seems that this same combat doctrine is being followed in southern Lebanon, albeit with relative differences.

Dynamic maneuver-based deployment

This involves positioning at key intersections to prevent Hezbollah from organizing according to field plans suited to the region's geography. It requires near-fixed positioning but allows for quick redeployment along relatively protected movement lines. The IOF followed such a combat pattern in Gaza before implementing the current ceasefire.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Isfahan calls on Christian leaders to speak out against war crimes

ISFAHAN - In a move that blends diplomacy, symbolism, and public appeal, the governor-general of Isfahan has released two open letters to senior Christian leaders, calling on them to "raise [their] voice against this oppression and injustice" and express solidarity with the people living in Iran amid rising tensions involving the United States and Israel.

The letters—written in both Persian and English, sent directly to the recipients and simultaneously published in media outlets—were addressed to Aram I, the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, and Pope Leo XIV, the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church.

Governor-general Mehdi Jamalnejad frames his appeal not only as a political message, but as a call rooted in shared religious and civilizational heritage. Describing Isfahan as "a valuable compendium of civilization, history, cultural heritage, and the handicrafts of the world," he underscores its longstanding identity as a meeting point of faiths.

"Isfahan... has long been recognized as a center of peaceful coexistence and a focal point of solidarity and dialogue among the monotheistic and divine religions," he writes, pointing to the historic New Julfa district—home to Armenian Christians—and the Safavid-era tradition where "the sound of church bells has blended with the call to prayer from magnificent mosques."

The timing of the letters is closely tied to recent developments on the ground. Jamalnejad notes that he is writing after attending the funeral of an Armenian Christian citizen, Avanes Simonian, whom he describes as "a committed Armenian Christian citizen



Funeral ceremony of an Armenian-Iranian soldier martyred in the recent US-Israeli war on Iran, Saint Mary Church in Isfahan.

who was martyred in a brutal and merciless American-Israeli attack."

The funeral and farewell for the Armenian martyr was held with the participation of Muslims and Christians at the 400-year-old Saint Mary Church in the New Julfa district of Isfahan, where Christian religious rites were formally observed and church bells rang in tribute—an image that echoes Iran's emphasis on coexistence and shared humanity.

Both letters explicitly call for moral solidarity: "Our specific request is that Your Holiness raise your voice... so that this cry against injustice may resonate more powerfully," he writes, adding that such support would reflect solidarity with "the dear people of Iran and Isfahan" and help protect their "precious and magnificent world heritage, which belongs to all humankind."

Golestan Palace's Takht-e Marmar undergoes emergency restoration

TEHRAN - Cultural heritage restorers have completed emergency conservation and documentation work on parts of the Takht-e Marmar (Marble Throne), which was once a royal portico at the Golestan Palace after it was damaged by shockwaves from recent airstrikes, officials said.

The damage followed explosions near Tehran's Arg Square on March 1, during U.S.-Israeli strikes that affected sections of the UNESCO-listed complex, one of Iran's most significant historic sites.

On Wednesday, Afarin Emami, director of the Golestan Palace World Heritage complex, said specialists had finalized "emergency protection and documentation" of scattered decorative elements from the Ivan (portico) of Takht-e Marmar, ISNA reported.

"Following the damage caused by blast waves and resulting vibrations, expert teams carried out specialized rescue and documentation operations on fragmented architectural and decorative components," Emami added.

She said the impact had affected delicate features including mirror work, wooden frames, intricate lattice structures, marquetry, and traditional sash windows, all characteristic of Qajar-era craftsmanship.

Despite ongoing hostilities at the time, restoration experts and museum staff remained on site to secure and catalogue damaged elements, she added.

The portico of Takht-e Marmar, commissioned under Fath Ali Shah Qajar in the early 19th century, is among the palace's most iconic spaces. It features elaborate ornamentation combining painting, calligraphy, stucco, carving, enamel, mirror mosaics and tile work.

At its center stands the Marble Throne itself, composed of 65 pieces of yellow marble from Yazd, intricately carved and originally designed by court artist Mirza Baba Naqqash Bashi. The structure was overseen by master stonemason Mohammad Ebrahim and a team of craftsmen.

The terrace historically served as the coronation site for Qajar rulers and later hosted the 1925 coronation of Reza Pahlavi.

Emami said conservation efforts began with detailed documentation of the damage, followed by the collection and classification of fragments. Further documentation will continue before, during and after full restoration, in line with international conservation standards.

She emphasized that original materials would be reused wherever possible to preserve the site's authenticity, and that the use of new materials would be minimized.

Authorities also plan to establish a permanent exhibition displaying fragments that cannot be reintegrated, both to preserve historical evidence and to illustrate the impact of the attack.

Dating back to the 17th century and expanded significantly during the 19th-century Qajar dynasty, Golestan Palace comprises a complex of ornate buildings set around gardens and courtyards. It served as the ceremonial residence of Iran's royal court and remains renowned for its fusion of Persian architectural traditions with European influences.

Experts say such historic structures are particularly vulnerable to shockwaves, with intricate decorative elements at high risk from nearby explosions. Relevant officials noted that further details on the next phases of restoration would be announced following the completion of technical assessments.

Bukhara demolitions resurface as developer faces financial trouble

Concerns over demolition works linked to the "Eternal Bukhara" tourism project have resurfaced following renewed questions directed at Uzbekistan's Cultural Heritage Agency, as the project's main developer faces financial difficulties.

In 2024, The Times of Central Asia reported that construction of the large-scale tourism complex near the historic center of Bukhara had drawn criticism from local residents and UNESCO. The project, located in the buffer zone surrounding the ancient city, was seen as a po-

tential threat to the integrity of one of Central Asia's most significant cultural sites.

According to Uzbek outlet Uzdiplomat, the issue was raised again during a recent briefing, where journalists questioned officials about the consequences of last year's demolitions. The project's main investor, Enter Engineering, has since encountered financial problems and is reportedly selling assets to repay debts to banks, the government, and employees. While construction has slowed, concerns remain over the damage already caused to the cultural en-

Failure to condemn attacks on Iran's heritage makes the world complicit, Italian archaeologist warns

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN - The recent U.S. and Israeli military strikes on Iran, which began on February 28, have triggered widespread concern over the safety of the country's historical and cultural heritage. Reports indicate that prominent sites, including the Golestan Palace and the Naqsh-e Jahan Square, have sustained damage, highlighting the potential for irreversible losses to monuments that reflect centuries of Iranian civilization.

In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Pierfrancesco Callieri, a professor of Iranian archaeology at the University of Bologna and director of numerous Italian-Iranian archaeological missions at Persepolis and Pasargadae, examines the symbolic and psychological dimensions of targeting cultural landmarks, the challenges of restoring blast-damaged monuments, and the obligations of the international community under conventions such as the 1954 Hague Convention. Callieri also reflects on the broader implications of these attacks for Iran's national identity and global cultural heritage.

The following is the text of the interview:

Following reports of damage to sites such as the Golestan Palace and historic areas in Isfahan, how would you assess the global cultural significance of these sites and the potential consequences of their damage?

These are two important sites, both located in cities that served as the capital of Persia (as Iran was known internationally until 1934) during two different periods: the Golestan is in Tehran, the capital of Persia during the Qajar era (late 18th to early 20th century), while the Naqsh-e Jahan Square, with the splendid buildings lining its sides, is attributed to Shah Abbas, the principal ruler of the Safavid dynasty (15th–18th centuries), to whom we owe the construction of the precursor to modern Iran.

Do you think the targeting of cultural landmarks during the conflict is part of a broader psychological or symbolic warfare strategy?

The aggression against Iran by Israel and the U.S. is so reprehensible that we would be tempted to answer in the affirmative without any hesitation. However, since my university days, I have adopted the principle articulated



by the great historian of ancient art, Gisela Richter, who asserted that an artifact strongly suspected of being a forgery remains authentic until proven otherwise—just as in a court of law: so I will attempt to assess whether any evidence is available. The main incriminating factor is the undoubtedly symbolic choice of the two Persian capitals for the first two attacks; but even more decisive is the fact that as early as 2020, Donald Trump had threatened to destroy 52 cultural sites in Iran. For a cultured people as interested in their history as the Iranians, the threat was unbearable, revealing Trump's intent to wage psychological warfare.

Many analysts argue that attacks on cultural heritage represent an attempt to undermine national identity. Based on your expertise, how valid is this interpretation in the context of Iran?

It could be, since the U.S. has always conducted flawed analyses, causing situations to worsen following its intervention. However, we know that Iranians are very proud of their nation and acted accordingly, remaining loyal to the unity of the nation.

How difficult is it to restore ancient structures that have suffered blast-related damage?

The restoration of damaged ancient structures is a specialized branch of architecture, in which the first and foremost step is the documentation of existing fragments and a study of traditional building techniques.

My country, Italy, has had a significant influence on the development of restoration practices in Iran, thanks to the commitment of the Italian Institute for Middle and Far East-IsMEO, both regarding Islamic monuments—with the establishment in Esfahan of a school led by Eugenio Galdieri—and archaeological monuments, thanks to the work of Giuseppe

Tilia at Persepolis, which resulted in the training of the foremost Iranian expert in this field, Hassan Rahsaz. The fact that restoration, within the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization and later the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, was overseen by specialists of the caliber of Mohammad Hassan Talebian and Rasul Vatandust, has placed Iran among the countries with the highest standards of restoration. In the current century, there have also been Iranian-Italian joint restoration activities at Persepolis.

However, these are extremely costly restorations, which in the event of war enter into an unfair competition with the dramatic emergencies faced by populations affected by bombing. Given that these are UNESCO World Heritage sites, international collaboration is expected for carrying out the restorations.

Do attacks that damage cultural heritage sites violate international frameworks such as the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property?

Certainly, the attacks violate the 1954 Hague Convention, which you mentioned, and subsequent updates such as the 1972 Paris Protocol. The contempt shown by the U.S. and Israel toward these documents—created precisely to prevent the recurrence of damage like that of World War II—confirms, however, that the two countries place themselves outside the bounds of civilized norms and should therefore be isolated: Israel's position is even more serious, as they have used archaeology to construct its own expansionist ideology in the Middle East and therefore undoubtedly possesses an awareness that is certainly rare in the U.S. (and especially in the White House).

What role should organizations such as UNESCO play in

documenting and responding to such incidents?

The role that UNESCO and other international organizations must play and do play in such situations is twofold, because in addition to the more technical functions related to the conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of each member country, they must carry out a fundamental political effort to persuade governments that do not follow the appropriate guidelines.

Finally, based on your experience and expertise in Iranian archaeology, is there any additional point or perspective you would like to share regarding the recent attacks and their implications for Iran's cultural and historical heritage?

I have sent this message to the Vice Rector for International Relations at my university and am awaiting a response:

Following the release by the Iranian Ministry of Culture of the official report—sent to cultural institutions across Europe—on the damage to architectural heritage caused by the aggression against Iran by Israeli and U.S. armed forces, which also affected monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List, such as the Golestan Palace in Tehran and Naqsh-e Jahan in Esfahan—I urge our University, if it has not already done so, to issue a press release condemning the aggressors' actions, which violate the 1954 Hague Convention and the 1972 Paris Convention, and to express solidarity with the Iranian people, who find themselves having to defend—in addition to their own lives and culture - the 29 World Heritage sites located on its territory.

I recall that as early as January 2020, the U.S. president had threatened to destroy 52 cultural sites in Iran, but the outcry of protests around the world had forced him to back down.

If, in this case, we fail to act concretely and promptly—condemning in every form this behavior that violates every rule of international law, which, unfortunately, in other situations the pernicious propaganda of Western media vainly attempts to legitimize, and which in this case risks depriving all of us, citizens of this planet, of OUR heritage—we will be complicit in this crime, which adds to the many already perpetrated with our passive complicity.

US, Israel wreak more damage on Iran's cultural heritage

TEHRAN - The U.S. and Israeli strikes have damaged more than 130 cultural and historical sites across Iran, including museums, palaces and UNESCO-listed landmarks, according to the country's minister of cultural heritage.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Iran's minister of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts, said on Sunday that 131 historical sites had been affected, with the heaviest damage recorded in the capital, Tehran.

"During these attacks, 131 historical sites across the country were damaged, with the greatest losses registered in Tehran," he said.

Among the sites affected were parts of the Golestan Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site dating back to the Qajar dynasty, which sustained

structural and decorative damage, and the Saadabad Palace Complex, where 14 museums were impacted, he said.

In the central city of Isfahan, the Chehel Sotoun pavilion, a 17th-century Safavid-era structure, suffered significant damage, Salehi-Amiri added. Other sites in and around UNESCO-listed Naqsh-e Jahan Square, including the Shah Mosque and the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, were also hit, with cracks reported in their structures and damage to decorative elements.

Iranian authorities said damage was also recorded in several provinces, including Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Fars, and Kordestan.

In the city of Kashan, the historic Fin Garden, one of Iran's oldest surviving gardens dating to

the late 16th century, sustained damage to its pavilions and water features.

Salehi-Amiri said Iran had contacted international bodies including UNESCO, ICOMOS, and the United Nations, but that responses had largely been limited to expressions of concern.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also said dozens of universities and research centers, including the Iran University of Science and Technology and the Isfahan University of Technology, had been struck in the attacks.

Cultural heritage sites are protected under international conventions, including those overseen by UNESCO, which designate certain locations as having outstanding value to humanity.

vironment.

The demolitions carried out in 2024 sparked strong reactions from the public, architects, and international organizations. Several buildings, including administrative and social facilities in central Bukhara, were reportedly demolished as part of preparations for the tourism complex. At the time, international heritage group Alerte Héritage called for a halt to the process, arguing that it could contradict global preservation commitments.

Responding to questions, a representative

of the Cultural Heritage Agency said the works were conducted outside UNESCO's core protected area and instead took place in the buffer zone. According to the agency, all required documentation, including a master plan and impact assessments, was submitted, and UNESCO was informed of the process.

Officials also addressed criticism over the demolition of buildings that, while not officially listed as cultural heritage, were considered by some to have historical value. Deputy head of the agency Tursunali Kuzyiev said the agency

can only intervene in cases involving officially registered heritage sites. He added that granting such status requires a formal scientific review and legal procedure.

Questions about whether the agency could take a broader stance in defense of the public interest were met with similar responses. Officials reiterated that decisions regarding non-listed buildings fall under the authority of local governments and urban planning bodies.

(Source: The Times of Central Asia)

US-Israeli missiles fail to block flow of science in Iran

TEHRAN – Just a day after the United States and Israel conducted an airstrike on Sharif University of Technology in Tehran on Monday, Alireza Zarei, a faculty member of mathematics department decided to continue teaching online at his office which had been almost reduced to rubble.

Debris had littered the floor. Potted plants were muffled in dust. A jagged crack ran up the wall, exposing the bricks beneath.

That was what reporters saw one day after the US-Israeli airstrike hit the university, one of Iran's leading scientific institutions, badly damaging the IT Center building and a nearby gas substation by the campus mosque, Xinhua reported.

Parts of the campus had been reduced to rubble. Scattered debris, twisted steel rebars, and the exposed skeletons of buildings made the scene look less like a university than a battlefield.

Yet even amid such ruins, the place remains unmistakably academic. Textbooks and documents lie scattered among broken equipment. And above all, there are the steady, resolute voices of teachers carrying on their lessons.

Zarei is one these professors. On Tuesday, he began teaching to postgraduate students who had joined the class online, as they cannot make it in person due to current situation.

Zarei started the lesson by wishing glory, honor, and dignity for Iran, and health for his students.

"On Sunday, I wished to teach the next lesson in the classroom on Tuesday. It didn't seem to be possible back then. Now, I am



proud of holding my class here in Information and Technology center, the beating heart of research and education in Sharif University of Technology."

The professor underlined that the enemies did not just destroyed the buildings, they targeted the [country's ancient] civilization, a measure that could be taken up only by a stone age brain, the ones who call themselves human, while have no sense of humanity.

"We believe in God. We believe we will win," Zarei highlighted.

To Masoud Tajrishi, president of the university, every part of the campus was once familiar. But as he walked reporters through the damage in the aftermath of the bombing, even he had to stop from time to time to identify what used to stand there.

"I ask you and I expect that you do not see this destruction as decline or weakness," Tajrishi told reporters, but rather as a manifestation of "the enemy's hostility" toward Iran's scientific and technological progress.

"We, the universities, are moving hand in hand towards this great victory," he added. "We will build this country again."

Sharif University of Technology was not the first educational institution to be struck in recent US and Israeli attacks.

On April 7, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations 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. secretary-general and the Security Council this week, Ambassador Amir Saeid Irvani 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 vi-

olation of international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime," Irvani 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 spokeswoman 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."

On Saturday, Minister of Science, Research and Technology Hossein Simaei-Sarraf said over 30 Iranian universities had been directly attacked by the United States and Israel since the war began in late February.

Five university professors and more than 60 students had been killed in the strikes, added Simaei-Sarraf, describing attacks on Iranian infrastructure as "crimes against humanity."

"The main reason the enemy targeted this sensitive infrastructure was that they did not want us to gain access to this technology," he said, adding that many Iranians abroad have contacted the university, offering to help fund its restoration.

To the foreign attacks, said Tajrishi, Iranian scholars will respond in their own way – in the arena of science and knowledge, just as others are answering "in the streets" and "on the battlefield."

Chinese minister condemns attacks on Iran's civilian facilities

TEHRAN – China's Minister of Education, Hui Jinpeng, has condemned the US-Israeli attacks on civilians and civilian facilities across Iran, particularly universities and educational centers.

China condemns any indiscriminate attack on civilians and civilian facilities. Attacking schools and universities and harming children is a clear violation of international humanitarian law and goes beyond the red line of human moral conscience, the Chinese minister said in a letter to Iranian Science Minister Hossein Simaei-Sarraf, ILNA reported.

"With deep regret over the attack on Shajarah Tayyebeh School in Hormozgan Province, and other educational centers and universities, and the killing and wounding of a large number of people in Iran, I express my deepest condolences and sympathy on behalf of myself and the Ministry of Education of China, and extend my most sincere sympathies to the families of the deceased students.

The Chinese Ministry of Education attaches great importance to scientific exchanges with Iran. In recent years, inter-university cooperation relations have been established between many universities on both sides, and educational and research cooperation has made positive progress.

At the same time, it has paid attention to and is concerned about the situation of Iranian students studying in China, and based on humanitarian principles, has provided necessary support to Iranian students so that they can successfully complete their studies in China."

On March 7, Alireza Kazemi, the Minister of Education, wrote separate letters to Salim bin Mohammed Al-Malik, the director general of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Khaled El-Enany, the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and Catherine Russell, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), urging them to condemn the U.S.-Israeli attacks to educational and cultural organizations in the country.

"As the Minister of Education of the Islamic

Republic of Iran, I wish to express my deepest regret and strongest condemnation regarding the crimes committed by the United States of America and the Israeli Regime.

These acts, characterized by illegal aggression and the deliberate bombing of residential zones, healthcare facilities, and vital educational infrastructures, particularly schools, constitute a grave assault on my nation," Kazemi wrote to El-Enany.

"As you are aware, these targeted attacks represent a flagrant violation of the principles of international law, fundamental human rights, and the numerous international conventions and recommendations established to protect civilians, especially children and vulnerable populations.

The international targeting of schools and students is an inhumane and calculated act designed to devastate the future generations of our country."

"Beyond the tragic loss of these oppressed martyrs and victims, approximately 20 educational centers have sustained severe damage, with some being completely destroyed. These attacks have severely disrupted the educational process for thousands of students, depriving them of their fundamental right to learn in a safe environment."

"In light of UNESCO's crucial mission to support education and promote peace, I urgently request that your organization firmly condemn these anti-human crimes. I further call upon you to demand that the aforementioned aggressors cease their attacks against educational infrastructure, schools, and students immediately," the letter reads.

Since the beginning of the aggressive attacks by the US-Israeli coalition on Iran, a series of extensive assaults on Iranian scientific and academic centers including the Iran University of Science and Technology, Shahid Beheshti University, the Iranian Space Research Institute, Abbaspoor University, and the Pasteur Institute of Tehran, have drawn global attention.

These attacks, carried out mainly by American and Israeli forces, go beyond conventional



military operations and carry broad strategic, cultural, and scientific implications. Analyzing these strikes highlights both the fear of foreign powers toward Iran's scientific progress and the necessity of emphasizing the resilience of local science and knowledge in the face of violence and bombing.

Targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure on such a scale can, according to credible legal sources, constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law. Under the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law, civilian locations, including schools and universities, are generally protected from attacks.

The strike on the Pasteur Institute of Tehran, a research and public health center with over a century of history and a member of the international Pasteur network is a prime example of targeting scientific institutions as part of modern warfare. Established in the 1920s, the institute has been a regional pioneer in vaccine production and has played a key role in controlling deadly diseases, particularly plague originating from wildlife in the region.

In the context of modern warfare, destroying such institutions constitutes an attack on the human capital of the future. Education, research, and technology production form a continuous cycle of national development, and targeting universities, especially those engaged in research related to defense, energy, and strategic technologies is, in effect, an effort to dismantle national scientific infrastructure and knowledge production.

Northwestern wetland hosting first flock of flamingos



TEHRAN – Thanks to the restoration of Nowruzlu wetland in northwestern West Azarbaijan province, the first flock of flamingos have been spotted in the wetland.

Stretching about 1.2 thousand hectares, the wetland is home to many unique animals and birds, and plants like nettle, cypress, and reeds; it hosts different native and migrant bird species annually.

For the first time over the past two decades, the wetland has been fully revived thanks to good precipitation in recent months. Within the next few days, a large number of migratory birds are expected to fly here to nest and lay eggs, IRNA quoted Mousa Jasour, the head of the provincial department of environment, as saying.

Birds fly here to rest and feed because of strict security, sufficient food, abundant water in the wetland, he added.

In the Iranian year 1391 (2012-2013), the wetland became a part of the protected areas in the country.

Iran's geography is distinct, teeming with diverse landscapes. In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value, with an area of over 3 million hectares, have been identified, 27 of which were listed in the International Ramsar Convention.

The Department of Environment has announced the beginning of a new phase of the wetlands conservation project (2025-2028) to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and alleviate pressure on the wetlands ecosystem.

Backed by successful experiences in Lake Urmia, the basins in Gilan, Fars, Parishan, and those in East and West Azerbaijan provinces, the project has provided the basis for promoting wetland

protection and improving sustainable resource utilization, IRIB quoted Fereshteh Jadori, an official with DOE, as saying on November 25.

The pilot implementation of the project in Shadegan and Behbahan in the previous phase yielded significant results, and these achievements led the project to enter a new phase with the support of international institutions and domestic agencies, she added.

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value have been identified, 27 of which are on the Ramsar Convention list.

The official went on to highlight the role of technical and vocational education and training in empowering local people to protect wetlands and improve their income.

The most recent strategies taken for the conservation of the wetlands are as follows. In June 2025, the DOE and the Ministry of Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to launch a national plan for empowering local communities to protect and promote the sustainable use of wetlands.

In February 2025, the DOE and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) extended their partnership by signing a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) to conserve Iranian wetlands projects in the country.

The MOU was signed by the head of DOE, Shina Ansari, and Resident Representative ad interim for UNDP in Iran, Ayshanie Medagangoda-Labé, in a meeting in Bushehr province, ISNA reported.

El Niño can lead to normal precipitation in fall

TEHRAN – As Iran has entered El Niño phase, particularly in spring and summer, precipitation is forecast to be low in southeast of the country in summer, but normal in fall, Ahad Vazifeh, the head of the Meteorological Organization, has said.

Currently, El Niño, and La Niña phases are in neutral conditions, that is the difference between the temperature of the water in the surface of Pacific Ocean and 200 meters below the surface of the ocean, in central and eastern parts, is less than 0.5 degrees cooler compared to normal situation which indicates neutral condition, he added.

However, based on simulated models, the temperature of water at the surface of the ocean is predicted to get more than 0.5 degrees warmer, and enter El Niño Southern Oscillation phase, ISNA quoted Vazifeh as saying.

The situation is not expected to affect summer much as summers are mostly dry in the country; rainfalls in southern half of Sistan-Baluchestan, east of Hormozgan, and south of Kerman will be less than normal.

Precipitation in fall will be influenced by El Niño and are projected to be normal, unlike last year in which rainfall dropped significantly.

Referring to the provinces that have received less-than-normal rainfall, the official said precipitation in Alborz province and Tehran province has been less than normal.

The average rainfall in Alborz province from September 2024 till April 2025 amounted to 219 mm; this year, during the same period, the province received 234 mm of rain on average, while the long-term rainfall is about 263 mm.

Since the beginning of the new water year, started in September 2025, till April 6, the aver-

age rainfall in Qom, Markazi, Gilan, and Mazandaran provinces have been 27 percent, 30 percent, 24 percent, and 20 percent less than normal, the official added.

Earlier, Vazifeh predicted that in April the temperature will be up to one degree higher than normal in northern part of the country. In some parts in Hormozgan province, the temperature is forecast to be three to six degrees less than normal. It will be one to three degrees less than normal in southern parts, and east of the country. In other parts, the temperature will be normal.

In the second week of April, rainfall in the coasts of the Caspian Sea, northern half of northwest and middle Zagros, parts of northern and southern Zagros and other parts will be normal, and/or above normal.

From April 13 to 19, precipitations will be normal and in the next two weeks (April 20 to May 3), it is forecast to be normal and/or less than normal.

From April 6 to 19, the temperature in the Persian Gulf is projected to be three to six degrees less than normal. It will be one to three degrees less than normal in southern parts, east, southwest, and west of the country. It will be normal in other parts.

From April 20 to 26, the temperature will be one to six degrees less than normal in southern half of the country, northern and middle Zagros. In Khuzestan, Bushehr, and southwest of Fars provinces, the temperature will drop by three to six degrees.

The temperature will be normal in most parts of the country from April 27 to May 3. It will be one to three degrees less than normal in Khuzestan, Bushehr, south of Fars and Kerman, Hormozgan, and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces, as well as eastern parts of the country.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is two in kind: one against what you dislike, and the other before what you like and seems beautiful.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:06 Evening: 18:51 Dawn: 4:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:39 (tomorrow)

Iranian painter Ali Mirfattah unveils new painting honoring Martyr Leader on 40th-day anniversary



TEHRAN- Renowned Iranian painter and veteran journalist Seyyed Ali Mirfattah has released a new artwork to commemorate the 40th day since the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The piece features the martyred Leader's hand, a symbol of guidance and resilience that has resonated deeply with the Iranian public following his martyrdom in a US-Israeli strike, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

Mirfattah has been active in documenting the spirit of the nation through his art. Since the onset of the aggression against Iran by the United States and the Zionist regime, he has produced several significant works focusing on the martyred Leader, the resilience of the Iranian people, and the defense of the homeland.

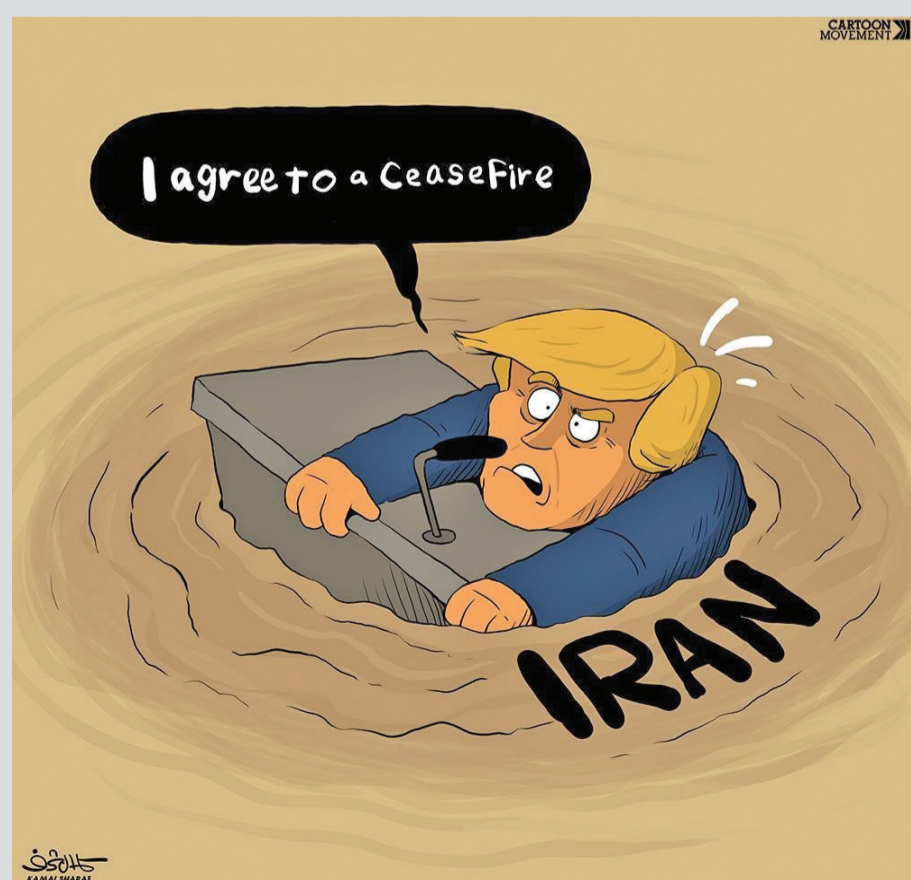
Following the coordinated US- Israeli attack on February 28, which targeted key national facilities in Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, was martyred. Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei has since

been appointed as the new Leader by the Assembly of Experts.

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

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

Cartoon of Day



Ceasefire
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

International artists, cultural figures acknowledge Iran's victory against US, Israel

TEHRAN – After announcing the acceptance of Iran's conditions by the US President Donald Trump and the announcement of a ceasefire on April 8, which marked a definite failure of the US and Israel in the war against Iran, several international artists and cultural figures have reacted on social media.

Robert A. Pape is Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago posted on X: "Here's the 10-point peace plan found 'acceptable' by Trump now circulating. Huge strategic defeat for the US, biggest loss since Vietnam. Shows the surge of Iran as the emerging 4th center of world power".

Iran's 10-point peace plan is as follows: Guarantee that Iran will not be attacked again, permanent end to the war not just a ceasefire, end to Israeli strikes in Lebanon, lifting of all US sanctions on Iran, end to all regional fighting against Iranian allies, Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Iran would impose a \$2m fee per ship transiting Hormuz, Iran would split these fees with Oman, Iran would establish rules for safe passages through Hormuz, and Iran would use Hormuz fees for reconstruction instead of reparations.

Also referring to the plan, Owen Jones, British columnist, commentator, journalist, and author, wrote on X: "This is Iran's 10-point plan, which Trump has accepted as 'a workable basis on which to negotiate'".

"Have no doubt: This is the biggest strategic defeat suffered by the US since its emergence as a superpower".

American author Don Winslow wrote on X: "Donald Trump created an international disaster over absolutely NOTHING and then entered into a negotiation in which he gave up EVERYTHING".

This guy is a massive loser elected by 77 million lost and misguided Americans. America is weak under Trump," he added.

Canadian journalist Mark Slapinski wrote on X: "History was made tonight. The United States LOST the war in Iran".

Max Burns, a political columnist for MSNBC, The Hill, US News & World Report and DAME Magazine, wrote on X: "So Donald Trump fought this disastrous war in Iran and the end result is a deal in which Iran gets: Control of Strait of Hormuz, unlimited uranium enrichment, all US sanctions lifted, all UN resolutions against it lifted, and cash compensation from the US. Who won again?"



Janice Stein, professor of conflict management at the University of Toronto, said: "This is frankly a huge strategic defeat for the United States, no matter what".

She added that "neither the US nor Israel have reached their goals, and Iran now controls twenty percent of the world's oil and natural gas, which is an incredibly great victory for the Iranians.

Well-known American author Stephen King wrote on X: "In February, the average price of a gallon of regular gas in the United States was \$2.91. Now it's \$4.22".

"That's what you get when you elect an idiot the president of the United State, allow him to start a war without congressional approval," he added.

Amr Waked, celebrated Egyptian actor, appreciated Iranian resistance in the US-Israeli imposed war and wrote on X: "... Oh God, bless the Iranian nation and their missiles upon us."

Italian film producer Robin Monotti, publishing an image of the graves of the student martyrs of Minab, wrote on X: "Melania on the children in Iran: 'All of this is happening for their future so they will be safe in years to come'".

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 and for 40 days

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 was the regime change in Iran and the US sought to seize the oil and gas resources of the country.

Therefore, besides some military targets, the US and Israel 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.

On the first day of the attacks, the Shajareh Tayyebah elementary school in Minab, Hormozgan Province, became the site of a devastating massacre. While dozens of girls and boys aged between 7 and 12 were beginning their lessons, the school was targeted by a mis-

sile strike that caused the building to collapse, trapping children and teachers beneath the rubble. Iranian authorities confirmed a final death toll of 185 people, with about 100 others wounded.

The attacks prompted a swift response from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), with missile and drone launches targeting Israel and several U.S. bases in the region, which were gradually intensified.

The Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced in a statement on April 8 that Iran had achieved a great victory and forced the US and Israel to accept its 10-point plan.

Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, wrote on X: "Considering the request by the US for negotiations and acceptance of the general framework of Iran's 10-point proposal as a basis for negotiations, I hereby declare on behalf of Iran's Supreme National Security Council: If attacks against Iran are halted, our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations. For a period of two weeks, safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces and with due consideration of technical limitations".

"In Memory of the Butterflies of Minab": Tehran hosts massive mourning ceremony for martyred students

TEHRAN- A grand commemorative ceremony titled "In Memory of the Butterflies of Minab" was held in Tehran on Tuesday to mark the 40th day since the martyrdom of schoolchildren in Minab.

The special program was organized by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA)-Kanoon in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

In a poignant tribute, hundreds of Tehran's students attended the ceremony wearing their school uniforms and holding Iranian flags to honor their fallen peers from Minab.

Addressing the crowd, world-renowned filmmaker Majid Majidi expressed his gratitude to the Iranian armed forces and praised the public's resilience. "The enthusiastic and spontaneous presence of the Iranian people in these gatherings is no less significant than being on the front lines of the war against the American-Zionist regime," he stated.

Expressing deep sorrow over the tragedy in Minab, Majidi added: "I am certain that Iran's warriors will avenge the blood of these innocent children and citizens. These child-killing Zionist regime and the US will eventually be held accountable for their crimes against humanity in international forums."

He emphasized that national unity is the key to victory, noting that "the enemy's back

has been bent by your round-the-clock gatherings."

The ceremony featured emotional performances, including choral hymns and a puppet show led by popular IRIB presenters Sara Roostapour and Fatemeh Amini. During the event, a new campaign titled "The Sapling of Hope" was launched, inviting children to plant fruit trees across Tehran in memory of those martyred during the Ramadan War.

The gathering also included mobile theaters and various art workshops, including painting and mural crafts, organized by Kanoon instructors to provide a space for creative expression for the children in attendance.

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 author-

ities 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.